



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

Once again it has been a week full to bursting with events. It was a pleasure to be able to have parents at the Prince of Wales Stadium to watch the Prep Sports on Tuesday. The athletes performed brilliantly especially considering that for the Year 3 and 4 pupils it was their first time on the 400m running track. The weather behaved and a couple of records were broken, but the highlight was the support of the parents and the children of each other as they competed. I look forward to welcoming parents (one each!) to the Pre-Prep and Early Years Sports Day next week.

The Pre-Prep and Early Years play rehearsals have all been in costume recently and many have been filmed now too. The Kindergarten and Reception children have performed 'The Porridge Monster', Year 1 'The Smartest Giant in Town' and Year 2 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children have been brilliant and so excited about their performances with many approaching me to tell me which part they are playing. I have been so impressed with how well they have performed without an audience and look forward to seeing the fully edited film release!

In Prep, the Year 6 Production of 'Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits' is close to being performed for the camera, and it is hilarious - a great script and score which the children are thoroughly enjoying and relaying to me over the lunch table each day! Enormous thanks to all the staff involved in preparing the children so well for these productions; they are such an important part of school life and the children's education, and the staff are extremely skilled at getting the best out of the children at all ages.

A real highlight this week has been the postponed 'Berky's Got Talent' final, ably hosted by John Senior... a talented chap himself. This year, the stage was erected on the Prep playground and although only the Prep children were able to attend, the Pre-Prep certainly heard the performances too. It showcased the huge range of abilities that Berky children have but, more importantly, it showed the super level of confidence of the children. My thanks also to Matilda and Mateo, Mrs Bareham and Mrs Agg who had the delight of judging all the auditions at various break and lunchtimes over the last few weeks - there were some comical moments! The intermission included an ice lolly - for the children in Pre-Prep and Early Years too - courtesy of the PTA. Thank you to Joey Bowden and Steve Jenkins for organising this - it was a big hit. What shone through for me was the talent on show and the delight the children have in performing to others and seeing others perform too. Well done to all!

Speech Day next Friday is a wonderful Berky occasion; it is sad that again this year only Year 6 and their parents are able to attend. It is a time to reflect upon and revisit some of the year's events and to say farewell to the Year 6 Leavers; it also gives me the opportunity to thank publicly the many people whose enthusiasm and professionalism make it all possible. This year, it will be socially distanced on the Pre-Prep lawn - fingers crossed for the weather - and I look forward to welcoming Year 6 parents to this. Please arrive for 10am for a 10:30am start, and the speeches will be followed by a socially distanced picnic.

*Richard*  
Richard Cross  
Headmaster

FRIDAY 2ND JULY  
SUMMER TERM

## Diary dates

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Mon 5 July

Year 6 ICT Geography Field Trip  
2.00pm - Kindergarten to Year 1  
Moving up Afternoon

#### Tue 6 July

**Early Years & Pre-Prep  
Sports Day** - timings as follows:

*Kindergarten 9:00-9:40*

*Reception 9:45-10:25*

*Year 1 11:00-11:40*

*Year 2 2:15-3:00*

Year 3 trip to Crickley Hill

1.00pm Year 6 Picnic

#### Wed 7 July

Year 4 trip to Crickley Hill

Year 6 Music Workshop

#### Thurs 8 July

Prep Cross Country

**End of Term for KG to Year 5**

#### Fri 9 July

10.30am - Year 6 Leavers' Service,  
Pre-Prep Lawn





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## STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception  
Leo D, Ivy B and all of Reception for performing so beautifully in their concert.



Kindergarten  
Katherine L, Alba H, Penny L

## News from Early Years

Wow! What another busy few weeks! There have been so many activities and we've had so much fun that the last few weeks have flown by and now we are nearly at the end of another successful year.

The Early Years' Summer Concert "The Porridge Monster" was a great success. The children took to the stage on the hunt for the Porridge Monster! Little Bear and Little Billy Goat Gruff went on an adventure on which they met some very well-known characters. Reception children did an amazing job speaking their lines and using musical instruments to accompany their chants. The Kindergarten children remembered all their actions and words for their rhymes and were so confident. Thank you so much for the wonderful costumes you provided; each child looked the part!

In readiness for next week's Sports Day, Kindergarten have been practising their races and thinking of different ways to stay healthy. The children describe keeping healthy as: "bathing, playing lots of sport, being in the fresh air, eating fruit and vegetables and (believe it or not) sleeping!" They described how their bodies felt different after playing a sport or undertaking a form of exercise by saying, "My heart is thumping, my body is wet and I'm hot".

We have been reading and watching the story 'Rosie's Walk' by Pat Hutchins; the children created their own obstacle courses and we linked their ideas to our maths activities this week as the children have been using lots of positional language during their play, such as: under, over, in, out, behind and in front.



The end of an academic year is always met with a mixture of feelings by staff: sadness at saying goodbye to the children who are moving up a year and excitement at meeting the new children for next year. The Reception children have progressed very well in all Areas of Learning this year; Mrs Gargan, Miss Watkins and myself are so proud of them. They are ready to move up to Year 1 and are very excited about Moving Up Afternoon on Monday 5th July.



During this term, the children have really enjoyed participating in the Wildlife Challenge 2021. This is the UK's biggest nature challenge! Miss Watkins undertook the challenge with great enthusiasm; during Forest School, the children engaged in simple, fun and exciting 'Random Acts of Wildness' which ranged from going on a wildflower hunt and finding as many as they could to creating their own wildlife landscape. Their favourite challenge was definitely scattering wild flower seeds to attract wildlife! We cannot wait to receive our Wildlife Challenge 2021 certificate.

The children are looking forward to Sports Day on Tuesday 6th July. During PE, they participated in a carousel of field events such as long jump and javelin. The children are also looking forward to the track events - also next Tuesday - and are busy practising the sack, egg and spoon and relay races.

The Reception children had great fun on their party day. During the morning, they took part in a carousel of activities including lotto and a disco. A picnic party lunch followed and in the afternoon, they had fun playing with their friends in the classrooms and outside. Everyone had a fantastic day!



Kindergarten  
Neala K-C, Tobias L, Maddie LG, Harvey M, Finley S, Jeremiah T, Ayla A





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**Missing**  
School raincoat and Jumper named  
E Macpherson-Light

## News from around the school



### ECO TIP COMPANION PLANTING - DETECTING PESTS IN A NATURAL WAY

- Zoe B, a recent Eco Warrior badge-winner, mentioned in her submission that she planted garlic next to her carrots as this deters blackfly.
- Having done a bit of research, I have found out that marigolds protect other vegetables because aphids hate the smell of them. Lavender and nasturtiums are also useful companion plants.
- Here are some more:
  - Asparagus - prevents microscopic nematodes from attacking the roots of tomatoes
  - Chervil - keeps aphids off lettuce
  - Chives - onion scent wards off aphids from chrysanthemums, sunflowers and tomatoes
  - Coriander - helps to repel aphids
  - Dill - attracts aphid eating beneficial insects likes hoverflies and predatory wasps
  - Garlic - deters aphids and is particularly good planted with roses
  - Tansy - strongly scented plant deters ants
  - Plants in the pea family - lupins, peas, beans and sweet peas benefit the soil by taking nitrogen from the air and storing it in their roots
  - Yarrow - this boosts vigour in other plants and accumulates phosphorous, calcium and silica, which can benefit homemade compost when plants are added to the heap. It attracts many beneficial creatures such as hoverflies and ladybirds.





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*A week of productions...*

