



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER  
AUTUMN TERM

Dear Parents

We had a very successful Open Morning on Saturday with a significant number of visitors. Without exception they praised our super Year 5 and 6 tour guides for their enthusiasm - they did a marvellous job and thank you for allowing us to have them in school! Our catering team put on a tempting spread of homemade bakes, and I am also grateful to all the teaching staff for their imaginative displays of the children's work all over the school, and for all the staff who gave up their Saturday mornings to be here in School.

On Wednesday, we were pleased to welcome Reception and Year 1 parents to a presentation by Mrs Meredith-Smyth, (Acting Head of Early Years and Reception teacher), on our new Essential Letters and Sounds phonics scheme. We are delighted with the progress our children are making with their reading and writing, and it was enlightening for us all to witness the animated way in which Essential Letters and Sounds are taught here at Berkhampstead. Mrs Macpherson-Light, (Year 1 teacher) and Miss Evans (Head of English) were also on hand to meet the parents and answer questions. This same afternoon, we also invited Kindergarten and Reception parents to a 'Wednesday Wander' to be shown round the children's classrooms by their offspring; it was a joy to hear the children bursting with pride when talking about their work and the activities they take part in during the day. Year 6 Parents' Evening also took place this week; it was lovely to see you all.

Following the success of his visit to school last year, we welcomed back award-winning children's author Christopher Edge. He delivered a very animated and interactive presentation to our Year 3 children about his latest book 'Escape Room', which involved the children excitedly working through some of the challenges in the book. Year 1 children also enjoyed a brilliant extra-curricular activity this week with a trip to The Wild Place; our young explorers took part in an exciting African Safari workshop. And all the children in the school benefitted from the PTA's 'Cake at Break' on Tuesday - thank you to the parents from Reception and Year 4 who were responsible for the delicious, autumn-themed bakes.

## DIARY DATES

### THE WEEK AHEAD

#### Monday 6th November

School returns  
Year 1 African Drumming and Dance workshop  
Year 6 IT Rivers Trip  
Poppies for sale

#### Wednesday 8th November

Year 2 UK Dance Workshop  
2:15pm U10A and U11A Hockey v Cricklade Manor (away)  
2:30pm U11A & U10 Rugby v Cricklade Manor (away)  
2:30pm U9A & B Rugby v Beaudesert (away)  
3:00pm U10/11B Hockey v Cricklade Manor (away)  
5:30pm 5B Parents' Evening

#### Thursday 9th November

2-3.30pm Girls' Football Competition, Holy Apostles school  
5:30pm 5K Parents' Evening  
Code Show Workshop  
Years 1-6 - Parents are invited from 4.00pm

#### Friday 10th November

9:00am SchoolBeat Officer visiting Year 6 - Online Relationships Workshop  
9:30am Early Years Open Morning  
2:15pm U8 Hockey v King's, Gloucester (away)  
2:15pm U9 Hockey v Rendcomb (away)  
2:45pm U8 Rugby v The Richard Pate School (away)





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

We are pleased to announce a measure that we are introducing after half term to help keep our children even safer online. Although the internet is an integral and important part of our lives, there are some risks, and it is vital that teachers, parents and pupils all work together to ensure its safe use. We educate our children about e-safety issues, teaching them the appropriate behaviours to enable them to remain safe when using the internet, and in addition to this - as well as internet network filters - we will be working with SchoolsMobile, a digital safeguarding platform, to ensure that our children are further protected online and given an age appropriate digital experience. SchoolsMobile has developed an app that will be added to your children's school devices, and these will be installed on all 1:1 iPads (Year 4-6) that are managed by school but go home with the children. As school are purchasing a licence for each child in Years 4 to 6, parents of these pupils will then be able to use SchoolsMobile on non-school devices - free of charge - if they wish. We will be hosting an information session for parents, with staff from SchoolsMobile, on Thursday 16th November at 8.30am and 4pm in the Andrews Centre gym.

I am looking forward to our final event for this half term - Harvest Festival, at All Saints' - this afternoon. The Prep children have been practising their readings and I have enjoyed hearing VoxBox rehearsing 'Streets of London,' and Early Years and Pre-Prep children practising 'Nsawe', a rhythmical African harvest song. It should be a lovely event; donations will be sent to the Thomas Franks Foundation who provide essential food provisions and healthy meals to food banks and families struggling with food poverty. ([www.thethomasfranksfoundation.org](http://www.thethomasfranksfoundation.org))

All that there is left for me to say is that I wish you all a very happy and restful half term break, and I look forward to seeing everyone on Monday 6th November.

Kind regards

*Michelle Bareham*

Michelle Bareham  
Head of School





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

This week has seen Year 2 in fine tune as they have been busy practising their songs for Friday's harvest service. They always look forward to their music lessons with Mrs Sallis and it's such a delight to listen to them sing snippets of songs she has taught them. This week the Year 2 classrooms have been ringing with the sounds of "Nsawe" the African song they have been learning and looking forward to performing.

CWB lessons have been helping us to think about our emotions and this week we have focused on the people and things that make us happy. It has been so encouraging to see the children recognise the breadth of items that make them happy. Y2 have been busy mathematicians focusing on using their knowledge of the number bonds to twenty to help them develop a range of calculations to support their addition and subtraction strategies. They have worked on their fluency and their problem solving and have co-operated beautifully in pairs to crack tricky questions in our maths lessons.

Year 1 have braved the elements to take part in an African safari. Their exciting trip took place at the Bristol Zoo project and the photos of their delighted faces show just how much fun they had. GS





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



### YEAR 5 & 6 ART CLUB

Art Club - with Mrs Hartley - will continue on Monday afternoons after half term, from 3.45 - 4.40pm. Pupils who attended this half term will continue with their sewing projects, and then the whole group will explore drawings of their favourite book characters to be displayed in the Prep library. There are 10 places available.

Please email the school office if your child would like to take part.



### ECO NEWS

The Prep School Eco-Committee met this week, and much animated discussion ensued. The conscientious team are keen for crisp packets from school trips to be brought back to school for recycling, and they would also like to recycle empty blister medicine packets. Please bring these items to school, and our green team will do the rest!



### SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

A massive thank you to Becky, Eva and Selina, our new Uniform Shop volunteers (as well as Petya who opens the shop every Monday morning).

They've done a brilliant job this half term and we're really grateful for their time and help.

It also means we're open a lot more, so if you see the door open at drop off or pick up, please do pop in!

Also, exciting news... our refurb is happening over half term so the shop will be freshly painted and deep cleaned ready for when we get back.

Thank you new team members.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

The Prep School Council - led by Mrs Holland - discussed which charities the school will support this year. Popular causes included charities to protect rainforests, organisations that help fund education for children in Africa and local charities that help sick and disabled children. Having researched the charities in more depth, decisions will be made in the next meeting, with one local charity and one international charity. Well done to Year 6's George J for chairing this week's meeting.

**Date for the Diary:  
Odd Socks Day  
Monday 13th November**

Come to school wearing your odd socks or jazzy tights to celebrate what makes us all unique!





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## SPORTS REPORTS

### GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The Year 5 and 6 girls' football teams took part in the Cheltenham Schools' Football Tournament last week at Ashley Manor:

The Year 6 had 3 wins and a draw and the Year 5 team had 2 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss. The only loss was a 2-1 defeat against our Y6 team, which was a very close game.

This meant that in our group we finished first and second, with both teams qualifying for the final stages of the competition. This is the first time both teams have gone through, which is an amazing achievement.

As we began our first match of the final stages, the heavens opened and the matches had to be abandoned. A new date has been set for Thursday 9th November at Holy Apostles School.

I was absolutely delighted with the performance of both teams. The girls worked brilliantly as a team and played some excellent football, scoring lots of goals and provided much entertainment for our large band of fans. I know they all thoroughly enjoyed it!

Well done to all of the girls! P McC





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## SPORTS REPORTS

### RUGBY

#### U8 v Hopelands and Rendcomb

Last Friday, the U8 team had home games against Hopelands School and Rendcomb. The 'Bisons' played very well as a team and recognised individual strengths. Jonah, Arturo and Ralph were great at defence, chasing down attackers and grabbing tags. Ned, Ezra and Guy showed good speed in attack and many of the boys scored tries. Jack and Rocco made really good contributions and they supported each other well. Two tough games, but in both cases the Bisons edged a win. Well done, boys! RC

#### U9B v Ashley Manor

The U9B team had a fantastic game against Ashley Manor a couple of weeks ago. We were superb in attack, creating lots of space with good footwork and excellent running. In defence we worked as a team and always made our opponents work hard for their tries. Our hard work paid off, gaining 12-8 victory. Well done to all of the boys. P McC

#### U11A v The Elms and Kitebrook

The U11A team have made great strides this half term, even if the results have not gone their way. Last week, we had a close tussle against the Elms. It was nip and tuck for most the match, and at half time we were two tries apiece. The second half a couple of breakaway tries were the difference, with the final score being 5 tries to 3 in favour of the Elms.

This week we played Kitebrook. Again, this was another close match and the teams were evenly matched for most of the game. We had some fantastic phases of attacking play and our defence showed tremendous commitment. A couple of big, fast boys in the opposition enabled them to score three tries, two in the first half and one in the second, resulting in a 3-0 loss. Again there was much to be positive about, and I have been very pleased with the effort of all of the team. Well done, boys! P McC

#### U11B v Kitebrook and Rendcomb

On Wednesday, the U11B team travelled to Kitebrook for a triangular against Kitebrook and Rendcomb. The first game started very evenly with scores from Ben W and a couple from the Kitebrook team. The difference came with the rucking, where Luis and Tom R were superb in winning the ball even when Kitebrook were in possession. This set up more scores from many of the boys including Hugo, Isaac and Ben. The result was good win. In the second game, the boys were up against the Rendcomb A team, and this was much tougher. They responded very well and throughout the team they made some good tackles - the 'champagne' tackles coming Ben R and Freddie. Rendcomb scored several tries, but towards the end of the game, determined runs from Luis, Ben and Tommy set up a score for Berky. Well done boys - two great games! RC

