



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It's been chilly, but the cold certainly didn't prevent lots of events and fixtures from going ahead - it was a busy week. There were some splendidly contested matches - and I am looking forward to seeing our U9 and U8 footballers play this afternoon. Do take a look at the sports pages for some great results in netball and football against Rendcomb College.

Many of our Year 6 children have been taking various scholarships and entrance exams in recent weeks and months. They have been well prepared and can be confident and I am sure that they will have positive news to share in the not too distant future. For Year 4 and 5 parents we have our Future Schools Meeting coming up towards the end of term - 21st March. This is a great opportunity to find out a little more about the process of applying for the next school and to ask questions of Mrs Holland, Mrs Bareham and myself on this. I will be writing to you about this event closer to the time.

Experiential learning - learning by doing - forms an important part of what we do at Berkhampstead and there's been a lot of that this week. Last Friday I saw princesses and knights in Year 2, making their own shields and learning to dance as they did in medieval times. Year 1 explored the outside to find signs of winter - I'm hoping that it won't be long before we see signs of spring! Earlier this week the Prep children visited SkillZONE in Gloucester. This is a fabulous warehouse next to the fire station where the children can experience a full-size railway crossing, road crossing, court room, prison cell and shop and learn about the dos and don'ts of living in a community as an adult.

The latest copy of the Berky Blazer - skilfully produced by the marketing team of Kirsten and Charlotte - is now at the printers and I hope to send you a copy shortly. I hope that you enjoy reading about the extraordinarily busy Autumn term, as you know we do pack a lot in and it lovely to see so much of it in print.

I look forward to seeing some of you on screen next Wednesday at the first PTA meeting this term. The class reps and others have been invited via Teams and their child's school email, so please look there for the invitation. If you would like to attend otherwise then please let the office know and an invitation can be sent.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



FRIDAY 21 ST JANUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 24 Jan

am - 4E visit to SkillZone

pm - 4T visit to SkillZone

Wed 26 Jan

2.30pm - Mixed U11/U10

Football v Kitebrook (H)

2.30pm - U10/U11 Netball

v St Ed's (A)

7.30pm - PTA Meeting on Teams

Fri 28 Jan

am - 6H visit to SkillZone

2.30pm - U9A/B Football

v Richard Pate (A)

2.45pm - U9 Netball v RPS (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Early Years

KINDERGARTEN

Our Kindergarten children have returned well rested, and we are all enjoying an exciting start to the new term; they have enjoyed telling us all about the wonderful presents they received over Christmas and how they spent precious time with family.

Our spring topic of 'Families' is well underway, and the children requested the role play area to become a house. We have been enjoying observing play and listening to conversations as the children recreate situations from home; this has shown us that our children are kind and caring and look after their friends.

Thank you for the brilliant uptake on bringing in your favourite story to Kindergarten; we have enjoyed reading a variety of books and listening to why the children have a particular favourite. This is helping the children to engage and to listen for longer periods, answer questions and make comments about each story, and develop different storylines in their play. MM




BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Kindergarten: George B,
Freya C, Penny L, Douglas R,
Charles R, Berry S-R,
Freddie S, Amber W





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Early Years

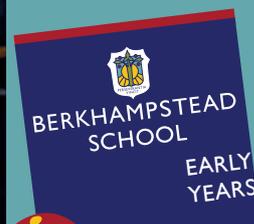
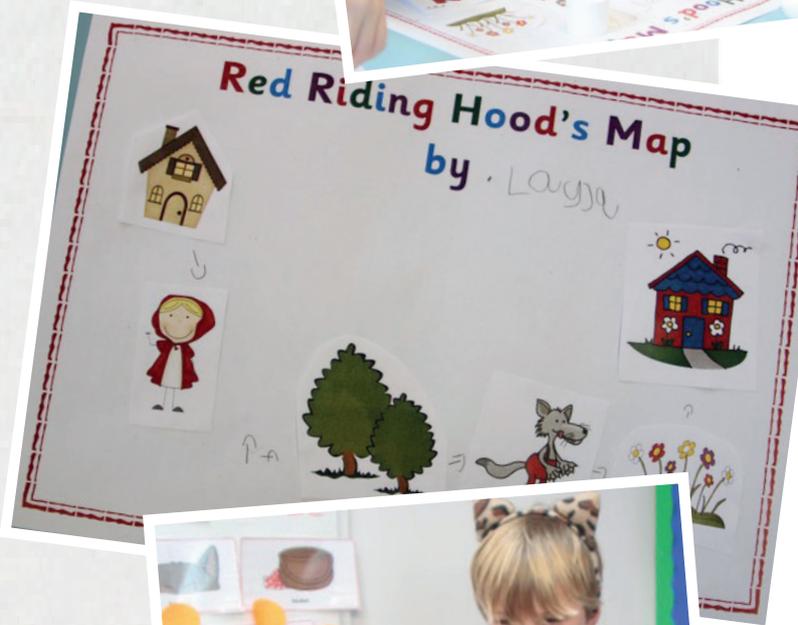
RECEPTION

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas, and we would like to say a big 'thank you' for all the lovely gifts. The children have settled down very well after their holiday and are ready for all the exciting activities they helped to plan this term.

The children took part in 'hot seating' during literacy this week. A child took on the role of one of the characters from Little Red Riding Hood. The other children asked questions and the character in role answered the questions in as much detail as possible. The children had a really good time and asked excellent questions and we found out many things about the characters!

Whilst looking at the story of Little Red Riding Hood, the children made maps of Red Riding Hood's walk to Grandma's cottage. They used the story characters and landmarks from the story to create individual maps. The children enjoyed sharing their maps with each other following the route she took.

During one of our carousel activities, the children designed their own traditional tale setting. They are looking forward to following their designs when making their setting using a shoe box and resources. The children cannot wait to take them home to put their own figures in to create some wonderful storylines! We are very much looking forward to the term ahead.



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Reception: Elliott L-O,
Eliyas SR, Arabella G,
Thomas H, Layla F, Meriem T,
Rupert R, Harvey M





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Eco news

TOP TIP... FROM A YEAR 6 ECO-WARRIOR

Consider buying bars of soap instead of liquid soap in plastic bottles.



ECO-REPS

Thank you to all of last term's fabulous Prep School eco-reps - you all did a splendid job! We are looking forward to welcoming our new committee for the Spring term.

ECO-WARRIOR BADGES

Congratulations to these green-living Year 3 pupils, who were awarded their eco-warrior badges in assembly this morning. All three children submitted really impressive Berky Eco Pledges, and the Berky Gets Greener committee was impressed with all three children's conscious eco habits. These ranged from litter picking on beaches in Devon and household recycling to the purchasing of second-hand clothes rather than new. The decision to award their badges was unanimous. Well done!



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report

FOOTBALL

U10 v Rendcomb

On Wednesday the U10 team played their first away match of the season against Rendcomb. There was only one match again this week so the boys were rotated and played in all positions across the pitch. I was impressed with the teamwork from the boys, they worked together well and created lots of goal scoring opportunities. Freddie scored two goals, Seb scored one and Tom scored another. The match finished 4-0 to Berky.

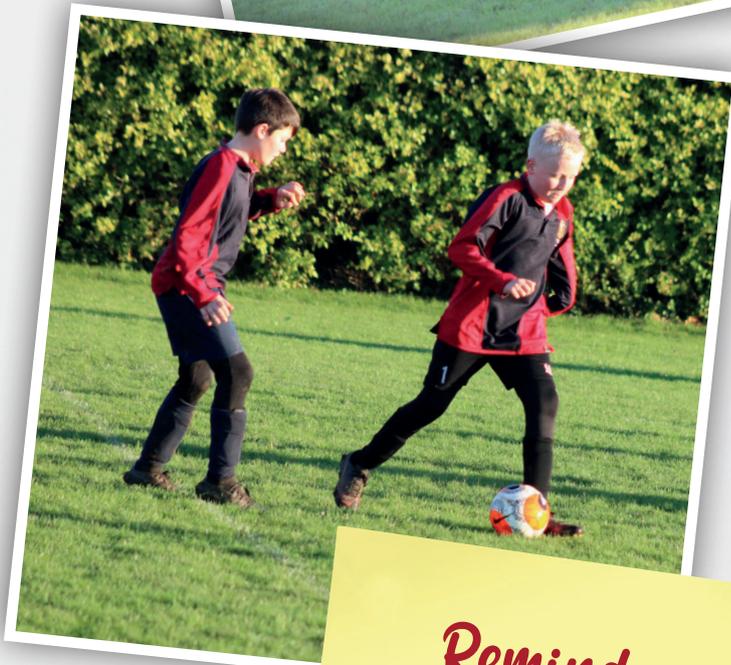
Well done boys! A great match. Thanks to the parents and friends that came along to support them.

U11 v Rendcomb

Even though we were a little low in numbers on Wednesday, the boys pulled together to produce a strong team effort. We began the first half well by enjoying the majority of possession and were often first to the 50/50 balls. Two well taken goals by Max and Manas took us to the break with a 2-0 lead.

In the second half our opponents threatened a little more and put us under pressure. We also started to play a little too narrowly and will need to keep to our positions a little more in the next match. We did however defend well collectively and reached the final whistle without conceding any goals. A 2-0 victory was a well earned and deserved result.

Well done boys for a fine effort!



Reminder

Year 5 and 6 boys' Hockey Club will take place each Monday at 1.30pm



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report

NETBALL

U10 v Rendcomb Match 1

With no substitutes available, the girls knew they were in for an exhausting match. Rendcomb scored in the first quarter, against the run of play and this seemed to spark the girls into action. In the second quarter, Esha and Chloe teamed up to score 5 goals. Esi and Sophia helped to drive the ball into the D, whilst Frankie, Yvie and Erin worked hard in defence. The final score was 6-1 to Berky. The girls were gelling as a team and their passing improved with every quarter. Well done ladies. A promising start to the season!

Match 2

With a squad of 8, the girls rotated on and off, switching positions when asked. At the start of the match, the girls were slightly unsure of positions and their marking was hesitant. As we moved through the quarters, and they warmed up, they began to build their confidence and understanding of positional play. Rendcomb scored first, but this did not deter our girls; Emma managed to sneak one in the latter stages of the game. The girls learnt a lot from this match – Lettie's determination was evident as she marked tightly and made some timely interceptions. Nina and Carly worked well together, driving the ball into attacking positions. The final score was 2-1 to Rendcomb. There is still a lot to learn, but they certainly have the enthusiasm and energy! Well done, girls!

U11A v Rendcomb

It was a lovely sunny afternoon, with freezing cold air temperature! The girls started off strongly with some lovely movement down the court and finishing with some brilliant goals. We ended the first quarter 4-0. We started slowly in the second quarter and we struggled to get the ball flowing down the court. Rendcomb got their flow during this quarter and got themselves a goal. The girls were starting to make some good interceptions and moving to beat their opposition. Rendcomb and Berky were all crowding the ball. This meant we were unable to pass the ball into space. By the end of the third quarter we were winning 6-1. We went into the last quarter feeling confident but we started to tire and our passes started getting a little weaker than we would want, allowing Rendcomb to get many interceptions. Rendcomb got a goal soon into the last quarter, then another and another. The girls kept working trying to gain possession but we couldn't get the ball into the attacking end very easily. The game ended 7-5 to Berky. Rendcomb really pulled the game back. Well done girls. Lots to work on but a nice first game.

FOOTBALL WIN!

Huge congratulations to these talented pupils from Years 4 and 5 who play for Cheltenham Town Girls' U10 team, and won the Gloucestershire U10 Football League Cup last weekend! Winning an impressive eight matches, between them they scored fantastic goals, defended with true expertise and even achieved 'Player of the Match' status! We are very proud of the sporty duo.

