



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

The Autumn Term is now well under way - the children have settled in to their new routines and are enjoying the many imaginative and interesting activities that have been planned for them. In the Prep - as you will read later - there have already been a number of sports fixtures and staff have been delighted with the children's enthusiastic and tenacious attitude, whether or not the team is winning.

This week kicked off with an important online assembly delivered by the NSPCC. In a fun and interactive way - and with the help of Buddy the mascot - 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' aimed to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise its signs in a child friendly way. The children were encouraged to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult, or to Childline, and the assembly stressed that abuse is never a child's fault. These key messages will be developed in circle times, for children from Reception to Year 6, throughout the next few weeks - and they will be reminded at appropriate times throughout the school year. If you would like to find out more about the Speak Out, Stay Safe programme you can find information on the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout or I would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

Mrs Holland and I very much enjoyed meeting Year 3 parents on Tuesday for Parents' Evening. We have been impressed with how well the children are settling into life in the Prep School; as usual, should you have any concerns, please speak to the Year 3 form tutors, Mr Cole or Mrs McCreanor, or myself or Mrs Holland. I was also pleased to attend the PTA meeting on Wednesday, (along with Mr Cross, Mrs Holland, Mr Titley and Mrs Gargan), and the PTA coffee morning and Taste the Menu event this morning. Rob, our superb Catering Manager, and his team had laid on a truly appetising spread of school lunches and break time snacks, and on offer were oat bakes, banana bread, fruit cake, fruit, chicken noodle ramen and salmon pasta bake. Their new to the menu, freshly baked sourdough was particularly delicious! The kitchen team work hard to maintain healthy, tasty and nutritionally balanced meals, and I am impressed with what our cooks achieve on a daily basis. It was lovely to see so many of you tasting what we enjoy every day, and I was also pleased to chat to the brilliant PTA chair, Katie Chapman and her industrious team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for everything they do to enhance life at Berky. They are in the midst of planning a string of really fun events, and have agreed to pay for plenty of school projects. Their efforts make a significant difference to the children's experience here. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School



FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 25th September
9:30am Speak Out, Stay Safe
NSPCC workshop for Y5 and 6

Wednesday 27th September
2:30pm U10A U10B U9A U9B
Rugby v Beaudesert (away)
2:30pm U9 Hockey
v Beaudesert (away)
3:30pm U8 Rugby
v Dean Close (away)

Thursday 28th September
4:00pm U10 Hockey v Ashley
Manor, (formerly St Edward's)
(away)

Friday 29th September
9:00am Schoolbeat Officer
visiting Y6 - Internet Safety
Workshop
2:15pm U8 Hockey
v The Richard Pate School (away)
2:30pm U9 Rugby
v St Edward's (away)
7:00pm PTA Quiz Night





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM PRE-PREP



Year 2 children have also donned their computing hats and science goggles recently; within computing, they have been looking at staying safe online, thinking about appropriate keywords to search safely and effectively and also utilising the KeyNote app to present their work. In science, children have been thinking hard about living things, focusing on different animal classes each week, such as mammals, reptiles and birds. Recently, pupils got up close and personal with fish, examining and sketching their features. They noted similarities with and differences between other vertebrates and have grouped different living things based on these characteristics. In CWB Year 2 have been thinking about the many special people in their lives. They have drawn some of these people in a balloon and used some lovely words to describe them. How wonderful to know that Year 2 have such kind, funny, helpful and caring family and friends.

All this has happened alongside a variety of other activities; music, art, reading, RE, the list goes on! A busy, purposeful start to the year in the Pre Prep building - long may it continue! KS

What a whirlwind couple of weeks in Pre-Prep! Years 1 and 2 have been forming those all important routines and the children are settling and showing their brilliance more and more as each day passes. In Year 1, Africa has been at the forefront; children have printed animal patterns, blended colours to create an African sunset and learnt about Africa as a continent, by singing a rather catchy song. Parents - ask them to sing it to you - it's a real earworm!

Years 1 and Year 2 pupils have also been thinking about their descriptive writing, considering adjectives through character descriptions (Y1) and setting descriptions (Y2). In 2J and 2S, children have thought about what happens within a journey story and are starting to plan their own, immersing themselves in descriptions of a variety of settings, discussing their ideas and creating class wordbanks to help them.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PLEASE NOTE...

Can all school uniform please be labelled? Sewn in name tapes are better than biro which tends to wash off.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



CALLING ALL OUR CREATIVE YEAR 5 & 6 PUPILS!

Join our super new Prep School Head of Art, Mrs Hartley after school on a Monday for an hour of arts and crafts. The current topic is sewing, and pupils may make bookmarks, coasters or something of their own choice.

Places are limited to 10, so please sign up quickly to avoid disappointment. Call the school office on 01242 523263 to secure a place!



BABY NEWS


Huge congratulations to Kindergarten's Amy Moore, her husband Max and son, Hudson, who have recently welcomed baby Bella to their family. Born on 9th September, she is a healthy 8lb 1oz. Both mother and daughter are doing well.

YEAR 5 HISTORY WORKSHOP

King's School, Gloucester have a few spaces left for their Year 5 History Workshop. The workshop is led by their Head of History, Mrs Walker, and is all about investigating history. The event takes place on Saturday 30th September. To book your place please call 01452 337337.

BOOK LOOK

Our next Book Look takes place on Tuesday 3rd October; please spread the word!



PARENTS' SUPPORT

BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PARENTS' SUPPORT

keeping parents in the loop

YEAR 3 - 6

'Book look'

Parents and guardians of pupils from Year 3 - 6 are warmly invited to visit their child's form room, accompanied by their child, to look at their work. Although form teachers will be present, this is not an additional Parents' Evening.

Tuesday 3rd October from 4 - 5pm
Venue: Child's form room



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

HOCKEY

U10 v Beaudesert Park School

On a very soggy and wet afternoon, the girls shone. Our goalkeeping was fantastic today with many shots on target being saved – brilliant! All three teams played their hearts out in atrocious conditions and were a credit to the school. Our training sessions on the astro at Plock Court are certainly paying off, as the girls passed the ball into spaces with confidence. The red team narrowly lost 1-0, the blue team won 2-1 and the gold team lost 2-0. Well done, girls! LVV



U11 Hockey Practice





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

RUGBY

U10A v Hatherop Castle

On Wednesday afternoon the U10A team played Hatherop away. It was one of the wettest afternoons of sport we've had at Berky for a long time but the boys played through the rain and dominated the match. We have been working on tackling in training and it was great to see the boys apply this to their game. There were still some high tackles, but over time this will improve. Lots of tries were scored and the boys won convincingly. DB

U11A v Hatherop Castle

The U11A boys played two matches on Wednesday. We had a very close match against Hatherop, in which we showed much improvement from the previous week. Our rucking and tackling was much more robust. We created several chances with Alastair coming close and our perseverance paid off with a good try scored by Zack. Our opponents had one powerful player who made the difference between the two sides and it was his tries that led to a Hatherop victory by 3 tries to 1.

As the rain continued to pour, we played our second game against Kitebrook. Although we played with great energy and commitment, our opponents created more opportunities in attack and were deserved winners.

Our boys showed good improvement and their commitment and teamwork were excellent throughout. P McC

U11B v Hatherop Castle

Our U11B had a highly entertaining match against Hatherop losing by 7 tries to 5. Tries were scored by Tom R, Isaac, Ben R and Ben W. It was great to see the boys enjoy such a high scoring game in challenging conditions.

In the second match, it was a very close affair and ended honours even at a single try each. Well done boys for an excellent afternoon's rugby. P McC

U10B v Hatherop Castle

The U10B team took on Hatherop Castle on Wednesday in very wet and windy conditions up in the Cotswolds. Despite the conditions, the boys' ball handling was excellent, with very few knock-ons, and great running. The running might have been a way of keeping warm, but they were also elusive to the opposition's tacklers and scored 11 tries. As referee I could not keep track of who scored, but it was spread around the team and they all grew in confidence, running straight and making tackles. The final score was 11-7 to Berky. The hot dog and drink match-tea went down well and there was some great singing on the bus on our return journey. Well done, boys! RC

