



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to all our pupils, I hope you had a super half term holiday.

Eagerly anticipated each year, the House Pancake Race is one of our most popular Berky traditions, and since Shrove Tuesday happened during half term, this year's races took place on the first day back, on Monday. Everyone from Years 3 to 6 competed, with the older children racing first, cheered in by their younger counterparts in Years 3 and 4. Roles were then reversed with the older children cheering for the younger pupils in their houses. Competition was as fierce as ever, and the event was great fun - I know that those of you who came to watch thoroughly enjoyed the event - the cheers could be heard from some distance away! All the children put on a fine display of speed and agility - displaying incredible flipping skills whilst on the run. Our four houses (St Andrew's, St David's, St George's and St Patrick's) competed to win the glory of the special frying pan trophy, and this year St Andrew's and St George's were the joint winners. Well done to you all, and thank you to the PTA for providing tea and doughnuts. For coverage of this event, and other events, please scroll through our Instagram feed: (berkhampstead_school).

The School Council welcomed Helen Brown from Rainforest Concern to school this week. Chosen by the children, Rainforest Concern is the charity that the school is supporting for the rest of the year. Armed with a string of facts and figures - alarmingly, one acre of rainforest is destroyed every 11 seconds - Helen delivered brilliant assemblies about the work of this important charity, and what we can do to help. The children are very enthusiastic about raising money for the charity, and are keen to sponsor as many acres as possible of threatened rainforest to help the charity save precious natural habitat, and the animals, plants and local communities that depend on them for survival. For further information about the charity, please visit: <https://www.rainforestconcern.org> Congratulations to the new School Council representatives, they are: Amber W (RMS), Emilia A, (RG), Toby K (1S), Jack S (1M-L), Lizzie C (2S), Louie D (2J), Rupert S (3C), Ezra B (3M), Isabella B (4P), Milo R (4T), Harriet C-W (5B) and Isla R (5K) The Year 6 leaders, (George J, Luis M-R and Olivia W) remain the same for the rest of the year.

FRIDAY 23RD FEBRUARY
SPRING TERM

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wednesday 28th February

2:30pm U10 Netball

v King's' Gloucester (home)

2:30pm U11 Netball

v King's' Gloucester (away)

2:30pm U11A & B, U10 A & B

Football v The Downs (home)

Friday 1st March

Year 2 Castle Theme Day

10:00am National Quiz

Championships Area Heat

Online

2:30pm U8 Football Triangular

v Ashley Manor & Hopelands

(away at Ashley Manor)

Saturday 2nd March

Open Morning





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

We have been delighted to publish our latest Independent School Inspectorate (ISI) inspection report this week. This inspection was held under the new framework which came into effect in September 2023, Berkhampstead being among a handful of the first schools nationally to be inspected according to these new guidelines. Under the new process, schools do not receive a one-word judgement or grading by inspectors. Instead, we were found to be compliant in all areas and met the standards and regulations which govern the running of an independent school.

The report then comments on a range of aspects of school life:
Leadership and management, and governance
Quality of education, training and recreation
Pupils' physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing
Pupils' social and economic education and contribution to society
Safeguarding

We are thrilled with all the report's positive comments about our pupils and teaching, and that the inspectors recognised so many aspects of Berkhampstead School that we are immensely proud of. In Day Nursery settings, the framework is different and the Early Years Foundation Stage was rated as **OUTSTANDING IN ALL AREAS!** Congratulations to our Day Nursery team; head to the website to read the full report.

Have a super weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

Welcome back! The children have returned rested and ready for a fun packed term. Our first activity this week was to have pancake races; using a bat as a frying pan and a rubber mat as a pancake the children raced each other and their keyworkers across the Kindergarten playground. Some children did try and successfully flip their pancakes whilst running and some did have a sneaky hand to hold their pancake in place.



We have read the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, the children joining in with repeated refrains to say 'Fi, Fi, Fo, Fum' throughout; they loved using character voices to become the giant. When asked what giant means the children responded *"It's someone really big!"*, *"He's got enormous hands!"*, *"He's got a really long beard!"*

During Circle Time, we looked at and held some runner beans; some children described the texture as being hard and not bumpy. We then walked like giants by making big strides to the Forest School area where everyone had an opportunity to plant a bean in a pot. Everyone was happy to use their hands to put compost into the plant pot, poke a hole in the middle and then plant a bean. The children named the pots, Jack, Weedy, and Pip Pip. We learned that our beans need water and sunlight to help them grow; we left the pots in the Kindergarten window where we will check them each day to monitor their progress.

After Monday's lunch, we collected and washed our yogurt pots, and used them as a container to grow cress. First the children looked at the seeds and commented on how small they were, next they put wet cotton wool in the container, and then using their pincer fingers, they picked up and sprinkled the seeds them over the wet cotton wool. The children have promised to eat the cress once it has grown. MM



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Eddie D,
Zoe P, Rafaela C
Edna Bear: Lucas D U





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM RECEPTION

Although the weather has been gloomy this week, the Reception children have embraced all things spring with our new topic 'All the Joys of Spring!' We have planted bulbs and primroses in Forest School and we have loved reading the 'Extraordinary Gardener' in Literacy. We have been writing about our own extraordinary worlds and these range from a room full of 'Frozen' costumes to a room stacked full of black Labradors!

We have some little visitors in our classroom at the moment, as we observe the life cycle of a frog. In just a few days we have watched some tiny frogspawn develop into some wriggly tadpoles! We will be releasing them back to the Wildlife Garden pond over the next few days.

On Thursday, we went on a brilliant trip to celebrate last half term's topic - Toys! We visited Stroud Museum in the Park, where we were able to experience toys from the past and learn some new playground games including "Queelio Cockio, Who's Got The Ballio?" We also made thaumatropes and had a lovely, albeit very wet and rainy, walk through Stratford Park. The children represented the school beautifully and when asked what was their best part of the trip, they all replied "Everything!" Z M-S



BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Edna Bear: Freya C,
George B





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

WORLD THINKING DAY

World Thinking Day was celebrated on Thursday by Girl Guides, Scout and Guide organisations across the world, and we invited pupils to come to school in their uniforms.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U10 v The Richard Pate School

Two teams went away to RPS with another two teams hosting at Berky.

The two teams who played at RPS rotated around the court, playing Stinger netball and some swapped between the teams. On both courts, the girls were committed, playing well. We have been looking at footwork and this has certainly improved within the match situation! It was a gusty afternoon, so the high loopy balls were not going to work. There were some excellent passages of play from both RPS and Berky, resulting in two evenly matched games. Both matches ended in a 6-2 win for Berky. Great support, as always from the Berky parents - thank you! JH



U9 Netball Practice



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U10B v Ashley Manor

The boys played really well and good passing determined play lead to the team winning 4-1. Despite going down in the first half, the boys fought their way back into the game. Only excellent keeping by their goal keeper denied the boys any goals. However, through determination and good play, the boys created four goals. At the other end of the match, our goalkeeper made three amazing saves to deny Ashley Manor. MT

U11A v Ashley Manor

The U11A team had another close encounter last Wednesday with a hard fought draw against Ashley Manor. The first half saw the Berky team soak up a lot of pressure, with our opponents having long periods of possession. They had several attempts on goal and a combination of fantastic goalkeeping from Wilf, some resolute defending and a few ricochets off the woodwork kept us at 0-0 at half time.

In the second half, although we went 1-0 down, the boys really grew into the game. We were organised in defence and very competitive in midfield and looked dangerous on the counterattack. One such move saw a great through pass from Alastair to find George J, who surged forward and coolly struck a left footed shot past the keeper to equalise at 1-1. This is how the game finished.

Not only did we compete well against a strong team, we also created opportunities and came close on a couple of occasions. There were periods when the team really had to dig in and work very hard and they came through these with great credit. It was a fantastic performance against a fine side. Well done to all the team and many thanks to our loyal supporters. PMc

U11B v Ashley Manor

What a superb game! The U11B team took on Ashley Manor again this week and it was goals (and chances) galore. The boys have so enjoyed their football this term and it shows on the pitch. They play hard for each other and do so with smiles on their faces. Ten minutes into the game, Berky were down by two goals, despite good goalkeeping from Ben R, but this didn't put them off. Determined play by the midfield of Tom, Tommy, Ben W and Hugo set up a chance. I cannot remember who took the final shot, but it threaded through the defence and hit the back of the net. In the second half, Berky were determined to get a second goal but had to defend well first. Freddie, Luis and Jack put pressure on the Ashley Manor attackers and kept a second half clean sheet. At the other end Ben S had two or three great chances including a superb shot that hit the post. Eventually he managed to dribble through their defence and score the goal needed. It was a tense last five minutes for both teams, but the final result was a 2-2 draw. Well played boys! RC

