



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 24TH MAY  
SUMMER TERM**

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome artist Teresa Paiva to the Prep School, to work with our Year 6 children and Head of Art, Mrs Hartley. Teresa delivered a superb workshop in which our oldest year group worked collaboratively to create four striking Olympic-themed wall hangings, learning the techniques of fabric painting, block and sponge printing along the way. The day was a huge success, and the completed wall hangings will be showcased at our Summer Art Exhibition on Wednesday 19th June; I, for one, can't wait to see the finished artworks on display. The day marked the beginning of a very exciting week for Year 6: on Wednesday, they headed off for their three-day residential at Viney Hill. (More about this later).

Despite the iffy weather this week, thankfully it was perfect for the whole school photograph on Tuesday. I was most impressed with the cheerful organisational skills from NextGen Photography and the co-operation from the pupils - getting 260 children - aged 3 - 11 - and more than 60 members of staff to pose smartly is no mean feat; head to Instagram to see the time-lapse footage and behind-the-scenes pictures. The photograph should be ready to order soon after half term.

On Wednesday, Head of Music, Mrs Mitchell held an exciting Music Taster Afternoon for Years 2 to 4 - and many parents - who watched our team of wonderful music teachers demonstrating their instruments. We were also impressed by Atlas M (5K), Angus C (5K), Starlar H (4P), Ioan C (4P) and Ollie S (3C) who performed their instruments so beautifully. Following the concert and talks, pupils went to try out the instruments. We like to give the children an opportunity to try a wide variety of instruments and for them to choose for themselves. The most important thing is that children are ready to take on the lessons and weekly practice - and we have beginners in all Prep years at Berky. Thank you to all our music teachers; we look forward to new musicians starting in September.

## DIARY DATES

### THE WEEK AHEAD

**Monday 3rd June**  
Staff Inset - School Closed to Pupils

**Tuesday 4th June**  
2:30pm King's Gloucester  
Orchestral Afternoon  
4:00pm Year 2 Parents  
Transition to Year 3 Talk  
in the Prep Hall

**Wednesday 5th June**  
2:15pm U11/10 Boys' Cricket  
(2 teams) v Cricklade Manor  
(home)  
2:15pm U11/10 Mixed Cricket (3  
teams) v Cricklade Manor (away)

**Thursday 6th June**  
Reception trip to All Things Wild  
2:10pm 4P Incom Gaming Trip

**Friday 7th June**  
2:30pm U8 & U9 Girls'  
Cricket v Hopelands (home)

**Saturday 8th June**  
7:00pm PTA Summer  
Celebration at The Frogmill,  
Pre-booked tickets only







# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## CAKE AT BREAK

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Cake at Break on Monday; the sale made £226.91!

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

What a marvellous celebration our Olympic-themed picnic was! The Pre-Prep lawn looked magnificent decked out with Olympic and Berky bunting and tables clad in navy tablecloths - thank you to the estates team who worked so hard to ensure the school looked splendid. Before lunch, mixed year group teams - named after countries - played party games on the MUGA - including Pictionary, a giant puzzle and a word game - and by time the children arrived on the lawn, they were suitably hungry for lunch. Rob and his catering team had prepared a fantastic buffet for everyone - which included homemade sausage rolls, sandwiches, crisps, and fabulous Berkhamstead/Olympics medal biscuits and Olympic torch fruit desserts! The parents also enjoyed celebratory glasses of bubbles and fruity mocktails. Thank you very much to the PTA who so generously paid for the parents' lunch.

Year 6 trip have now safely returned from their trip to Viney Hill, albeit tired and ready for a good night's sleep. A brilliant time was had by all; activities such as mountain biking, archery, climbing, canoeing and crate stacking were all great fun as were the exciting night walk and toasting marshmallows on the campfire. I know the children will remember these happy times for years to come. Year 4 have also benefited from a trip this week: they spent a fun and educational afternoon at Incom Gaming, playing cooperative board games, working in teams, and sharpening their strategic skills. Thank you to the staff who accompanied both trips.

All that remains is to wish you all a very happy half term holiday. I look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 4th June.

*Michelle Bareham*

Michelle Bareham  
Head of School



## DANGEROUS PARKING

Inconsiderate and dangerous parking around school has increasingly caused problems around school, putting the safety of children at risk, and upsetting the residents. Please can all parents park responsibly to ensure the safety of our children.







# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

We have certainly finished the term on a high! This week in Kindergarten we took part in the whole school photograph, had a celebration party for all our efforts in earning pom-poms and loved being part of the Head of School's Picnic and joining in with a Kindergarten mini-Olympics morning.

In Early Years and Pre-Prep the children work hard to earn pom-poms for their class. Pom-poms can be awarded to a child for anything such as showing kindness, great listening skills or persevering on a particular task or activity. These pom-poms are then taken to our Friday Celebration Assembly and tipped in a large jar, when this jar is full, year groups are rewarded in some way. For our party in Kindergarten, everyone iced a biscuit, then decorated and assembled a basket to carry their biscuit home in. We had lots of fun teaching the children some dance routines: hopefully some parents will remember, the Macarena, Cha Cha Slide and the Conga to continue the fun at home.

The excitement continued with the children organising their own stage. They created their own costumes from a range of materials and props and put on a 'Kindergarten Show'. There were many renditions from the Disney films Frozen, Moana, and Tangled with a hint of Wonka thrown in for good measure. MM



**BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL**  
EARLY YEARS VALUES TREE

**THIS WEEK'S AWARDS**  
Leaves: Charlie R, Autumn R, Sofia S, Aurelia P  
Edna: Sophie W, Eva C





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## NEWS FROM RECEPTION

As Summer Term 1 draws to an end, the children have been evaluating our 'Alive or Extinct' topic, sharing what they have enjoyed and what they have learnt:

*"I loved finding out about endangered animals such as the black rhino and orangutans"* - Alice

*"I liked learning about Mary Anning. She was a palaeontologist!"* - Bulan

*"T-Rexes are carnivores. They have sharp teeth and eat meat."* - Rory

*"Herbivores eat only plants. They have blunt teeth."* - Amber

*"Mary Anning discovered dinosaur fossils. She lived near the sea."* - Kit T.

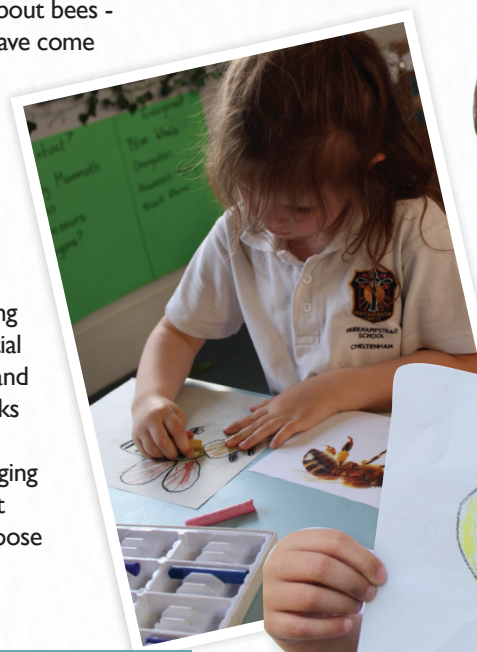
*"Extinct means that they will never ever come back again. This is really sad and we should try and save animals from being extinct."* - Florence

This week we have also celebrated 'National Bee Day'. We have found out some amazing facts about bees - such as only female bees can sting! We have come to realise just how important they are to life on earth as we learnt about pollination. The children then used oil pastels to create beautiful pictures of our stripy friends and some made posters encouraging people to look after our bees!

In maths we have explored shape, including properties of 2D and 3D shapes and spatial relations. We have looked at orientation and talked about how our brains can play tricks on us when looking at shapes at different angles. The children have enjoyed challenging their brains to visualise shapes in different orientations and selecting shapes for purpose within their play.

In literacy this week we have been composing a class story about a hungry Indominus Rex hunting in a forest. We were blown away with the children's creativity and imaginative ideas - although the story concluded with a rather gory ending for a pterodactyl!

The children have been set to work over half term to make sure they are secure with all of their phonics sounds and harder to read and spell words and we are so looking forward to our topic next term - 'Once Upon a Time'. Have a wonderful and fun-filled half term! ZMS



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL  
EARLY YEARS  
VALUES TREE

### THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Toby S, Flora R,  
Lucy H, Kit M  
Berky Bear: Joshua S







# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



## PTA NEWS & WHAT'S COMING UP...



There's lots to look forward to when we're back after the half term break...

### SUMMER CELEBRATION - Saturday 8th June

We're really looking forward to an evening of food, drink & dancing at The Frogmill. We'll share a reminder of all details. 'Join The Party' tickets are available - see email to buy.

### SUMMER FESTIVAL Saturday 29th June 1-4pm

One of our favourite events will be back for an afternoon of fun for the whole family. More details will be shared in the run up to the event.

### SUMMER HAMPER RAFFLE - Saturday 29th June

This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year. We've let your year rep know your hamper theme so please support them with donations to create a gorgeous hamper. Tickets will go on sale soon.



### DONATIONS & VOLUNTEERS

**Volunteers:** The PTA and reps will start to ask for Summer Festival volunteers early in June; please offer some time so that everyone has the chance to enjoy the event and time with friends and family.

**Donations:** Please start looking for things you could donate for the day including soft toys & teddies to find new homes, children's fancy dress, plants for Mrs Agg's stall and be ready to bake cakes for the Bake Off.

### PTA UPDATE & NEXT MEETING DATE

I will stand down as Chair of the PTA at the end of this school year. Charlotte (Lottie) Noar & Charlotte Chapman (Carey) have kindly agreed to become Co-Chairs of the PTA so it will be in very good hands.

The Secondhand Uniform Shop team are now looking for new parents to take over from the Winter Term. Contact Bay via the office to find out more.

Next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday 25th June, 6.30pm at school. We'll run through the final details for the Summer Festival and look ahead for the Winter Term. All parents welcome to come along.





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## YEAR 6 TRIP TO VINEY HILL

