



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

It has been a very exciting few days for Kindergarten this week - the children have taken part in a programme of brilliant STEM activities. STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, and it is so important to spark an interest in these subjects as early as possible. STEM subjects provide children with skills such as problem solving and critical thinking, and encourage them to think outside the box. Activities such as Bee-Bot programming, 'magic milk' investigations, kite making and flying and experiments with melting ice and snow have been fantastic for encouraging the children's curiosity and collaborative thinking, as well as introducing the fun of experimenting using different tools and materials. A particularly successful activity was the collaboration of our super Year 6 pupils with the Kindergarten children, whereby our oldest pupils helped their younger counterparts with the coding of Sphero Robots. My thanks to Mrs Main and her team for organising such an imaginative, inspiring and fun week for our youngest children, and to Mr Banks, our Head of Computing, for leading the Sphero activity.

The Pre-Prep School Council met this week. Led by Mrs Stephenson, the committee discussed issues such as potential improvements to the playground and this term's menu. The work of the School Council is an integral part of Berky life, and a sense of community is at the heart of the school. The School Council is responsible for bringing about positive changes to make school life even better, and for generating its own ideas to support their chosen charities. Our pupils are involved in a number of community activities throughout the year, important because this helps the children to nurture a spirit of philanthropy and foster a strong sense of the importance of community and helping other people, particularly those less fortunate than themselves. Each year, we support one international charity and one local charity, which are voted for by the children, and this year they are Emily's Gift - which supports children with cancer in Gloucestershire - and Rainforest Concern. We enjoy sending our choirs out at Christmas to fundraise at Waitrose and to carol sing at BayTree Court Residential Care Home, (where our founder, Edna Andrews lived her last few years), and our Day Nursery has excellent links with Oakhaven Residential Care Home. We are proud of what we already do, but we are aware that this is not enough, and we have plans to develop this important aspect of Berky life still further.

The qualifying rounds of Quiz Club's National Inter-School Quiz Championships have now been completed. Congratulations to the following pupils who will compete in two teams made up of one child from each year group from Years 3-6: Year 3, Jack W and Lucy W (reserve, Ned D), Year 4, Tamar C and Teddy B (reserve, Seth L), Year 5, Angus C and Lucas de CV (reserve, Isla R) and Year 6, Alastair M and Wilf M (reserve, George J). The online quiz will take place on 1st March.

I wish you all a relaxing and pleasant weekend

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School

FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 29th January

2:30pm U10 Netball
v Hopelands (home)
2:30pm U11 Football
v Hopelands (home)

Tuesday 30th January

2:20pm 5B Cheltenham Ladies
College Science Afternoon

Wednesday 31st January

2:30pm U10 Netball
v Ashley Manor (away)
2:30pm U11A Football Triangular
v Hatherop & Kitebrook (away)
2:30pm U11B & U10B Football
Triangular v Ashley Manor &
Beaudesert (away)
3:30pm U8 Netball v Dean
Close (away)

Thursday 1st February

4:00pm Prep Book
Look - Parents Invited

Friday 2nd February

Year 6 Trip to SkillZONE-am only
2:30pm U9A & B Football
v Richard Pate (home)
2:30pm U8 Football Triangular
v Rendcomb and Hopelands
(away)
6:30pm PTA Online Quiz Night





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NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

Year 1 and 2 thoroughly enjoyed the illustrated workshops they attended run by Berky alumni Poppy and Sasha. They listened to the story about Gold Ted read beautifully by the girls. Imagine how delighted both year groups were when they realised they would take their own copy of the book home with them. Having heard about Gold Ted's adventures it was time for the exciting part when the children got to be authors and illustrators imagining who Gold Ted might meet during his travels in Victoria Park.

Poppy and Sasha helped the children to think of ideas about what Gold Ted was carrying and who he might meet on his travels. They gave the children a few demonstrations of how to draw Gold Ted and a few other drawing tips and then the talented children began harnessing their wonderful imaginations to determine what happened next to Gold Ted.

Year 2 had the pleasure of trying to solve the range of puzzles designed and created by Mr Ede. The maths workshop took place in the two Year 2 classrooms. What a surprise to return from lunch and discover both classrooms contained an array of puzzles. Every table top was covered! Mr Ede talked a little about how exciting Maths was and how he loved Geometry. He had made all of the puzzles and as Year 2 worked their way around trying to solve the puzzles it was obvious how much they enjoyed the challenge. Mrs Smith and Mr Jones thoroughly enjoyed seeing how engaged and inspired the children were and it was delightful to see how they supported each other with some of the trickier puzzles. GS





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

DRESSING UP ITEMS

We would be really grateful for donations of dressing up props and clothes for break times in the playground. (No weapons, please!)

SWEET AND CAKES

Due to health and safety reasons, regrettably we must ask you not to bring in sweets and cakes, even if they are to be handed out after school.



Congratulations to these Year 6 pupils who have been elected second house captains for St Andrew's, St David's, St George's and St Patrick's!

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.

Thursday 1st February between 4-5pm
Venue: Child's form room



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U11 & U10 Ashley Manor

The first match of the year, and the U11 girls - with a few extras from the U10s - were ready to go! We made a slow start, but after the first quarter, we found a nice rhythm. The goals started to flow after the first half, with some interesting defending at times, but with every minute that passed, we stayed closer to the opposition. Good work girls, but room for improvement still! CK

A Won 11-3

B Won 8-4

C Lost 3-6





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U9A v Beaudesert

The U9As played their second game of the season against a visiting Beaudesert side. The As wasted little time in pressing the Beaudesert defence making several well-constructed passes to line up shots on the Beaudesert goal. However, a tightly packed defence made it extremely frustrating to get any quality shots on goal and with Berky often camped out in the opposition's half, we often left ourselves exposed to counter attacks. In the second half we seemed to find our rhythm playing the ball down the right wing to expose a weakness in Beaudesert's defence. A superb shot from just inside the box rocketed into the top left hand Beaudesert goal to give us a well-deserved 1-0 lead. With the opposition 1-0 down and time running out Beaudesert began to cause us problems as we sat deep into our own half trying desperately to defend our lead. With a minute left on the clock, a long ball kicked out of defence fell perfectly to Berky - and with only the keeper to beat - a well taken goal resulted in an excellent 2-0 win. Well done, boys! SM

U10A v Rendcomb

On Monday, the U10A team played Rendcomb. This was their first game of the season, and the two teams were evenly matched. The boys scored first but then conceded three goals in the first half. It would have been easy to let their heads drop, but they came back with a positive attitude in the second half, and wanted the win. They scored two goals and the match was 3-3 until the last minute when Hughie scored the winning goal. Ollie made some fantastic saves in the second half, and the match finished 4-3 to Berky.

Well done, boys, and thanks to the parents who came along to support the boys. DB

U10 v Kitebrook and Cokethorpe

On Wednesday afternoon, the U10 boys played two teams away at Kitebrook. Both teams played Kitebrook first and the sides were evenly matched. The boys found it tough to defend against Kitebrook and they conceded goals early on in the match. The A team lost their match to Kitebrook, 3-0, and the B team drew 1-1. The second match against Cokethorpe started well for both teams and the A team scored the first goal in their game. Cokethorpe quickly hit back and it was 1-1. As the match progressed Cokethorpe became more confident and had more time on the ball. The A team lost this match 5-2 and the B team lost this match 3-0.

Lots to learn from both games and we will work on this next week in training. DB

U11A v Wycliffe and Dean Close St John's

Last week, the U11A team played in a triangular tournament against Wycliffe and Dean Close St John's. Our opening game against Wycliffe was a close affair, with both teams having equal possession and creating goal scoring opportunities. Although Wycliffe took the lead, the Berky boys continued to threaten and after a few close attempts, the team got their reward with a goal from Zack.

Our second match was against a good St John's team. Again our team competed well and although we had our opportunities, we couldn't convert any. Two well taken goals was the difference between the two sides.

This was an encouraging start to the season with two closely contested matches. Well done to all of the team. P McC

U11 v Rendcomb College

On Wednesday, the U11s hosted Rendcomb. Our A team started well and were soon very much in the ascendancy, putting together some fantastic attacking phases, which resulted in goals from George J, Ella and two from Josiah. One from Josiah was a fantastic team goal, with excellent passing and movement and a quality finish.

We then mixed our As and Bs and continued to dominate with Ella adding another goal to complete a 5-0 victory. It was a great effort by all of our players. Well done! P McC

