

Covid precaution

Please ensure that your children are wearing plenty of layers as it is very cold, and we are trying to keep the school well ventilated.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



FRIDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

The winter weather has certainly been with us this week. In school, we continue to keep doors and windows open, so it is important that the children are dressed suitably, and we are allowing them to keep hats and coats on in class if necessary. We have had another busy week of fixtures, with some disappointments when other schools have had to cancel fixtures. The U8 boys were disappointed not to play Cheltenham College on Wednesday following their fine win against Hopelands School. However, the U8 and U9 boys and girls all have fixtures next week which they are looking forward to. As always, it is lovely to see so many parents supporting and encouraging the children. As is consistent with our policy, every child has the opportunity to represent the school and they learn so much from this. My thanks to Charlotte Keegan, Pete McCreanor and all the games staff for all their efforts in managing the teams and arranging our comprehensive fixture list.

Yesterday we had our first Music Recital of the year with many of our musicians performing. They played brilliantly and demonstrated that hard work in practice brings superb results. The recital was filmed this term so if you would like to hear our musicians, please take a look on Teams (your child's login) to watch. A big thank you to Mrs Mitchell and all the Peripatetic staff for all their hard work this term.

As I type, Christmas decorations are being dug out of cupboards and the children are finishing off backdrops for nativity plays, creating Christmas gifts for you (I couldn't possibly say what they are!), rehearsing carols for services and putting decorations up around school as well as completing their academic work in all subjects. We look forward to the end of term events and a comprehensive list of these - including the nativity play performances - will be sent to you early next week.

We are all shocked and saddened to tell you that saxophone teacher Wes Duggan passed away earlier this week; we don't have any details but we do know that he was unwell at the start of the week. Wes returned to teach at Berky this term and quickly became a popular teacher, sharing his skills and love of music in his inimitable way, with encouragement and gentle humour.

Have a lovely weekend and don't forget to buy the necessary advent calendars!

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster



Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 1st December

2.30pm - U11 Hockey v RPS

2.30pm - U9A/B Rugby
v Wycliffe (A)

3.30pm - U8 Hockey v Dean
Close (A)

Fri 3rd December

2.00pm - U8/U9 Hockey
v Rendcomb (A)

2.30pm - U8/U9A
Rugby v King's Glos (A)



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Edna Bear was awarded to:
Huxley R, Toby W

News from Early Years

ANDREW BEAR'S KINDERGARTEN WINTER ADVENTURE

Andrew Bear's Winter Adventure has been so exciting for the children! When they arrived on Wednesday and Thursday, they were told that Andrew Bear had left them a message to say he was hiding somewhere in the school, and we were to follow a series of picture clues to find him. Eventually, we found Andrew Bear covered in tinsel looking after a delicious snack and some hot chocolate to drink.

We enjoyed reading wintery stories and making a bird feeder and a salt dough snowflake decoration for a Christmas tree. Andrew Bear will be thinking of some other inspiring activities for children to take part in in the Spring.

Another exciting activity happening in Kindergarten this week has been learning about pattern. We have been looking for patterns around the Kindergarten and creating some amazing and often complicated repeating patterns.

During our Circle Time, we have been encouraging confidence by supporting the children to talk in small groups using old photographs of Berkhampstead School and its former pupils. The children have been so interested in how the school and its grounds have changed over the years; they have been looking for older siblings and recognised lots of teachers. MM



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS
Kindergarten: Sophie B, Ben C, Henrietta C, Daniel D, Ruby H, Arabella I, Penny L, Oliver N, Charles R, Monty S



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Early Years

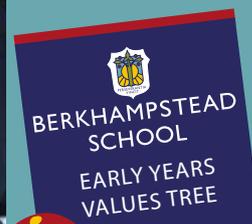
***“Once upon a bicycle, so they say,
a Jolly Postman came one day....”***

Over the past two weeks, the children have loved reading “The Jolly Postman” and “The Jolly Christmas Postman.” During literacy, they have written character profiles and cards amongst other things.

During one of our carousel activities, the children chose characters from “The Jolly Postman”; they were encouraged to choose appropriate colours in order to create their character and look closely at the features they needed to include. The children added the finishing touches to their character with collage material such as buttons, fur and material. They are very proud of the characters and cannot wait to see them displayed.

During Forest School, the children have been learning about hibernation. They were intrigued to find out how the animals prepare their bodies, where they hibernate and what happens during the hibernating season. The children returned to the classroom eager to share these facts.

All children and staff are practising for our Reception Christmas Concert “Follow that STAR.” Reception children will be narrating, and they have been busy learning their lines. The children are very excited about their parts and Mrs Sallis has been busy teaching us all the songs and actions! Please feel free to come and ask us if you have any questions regarding costumes etc. Thank you for your continued support. HR-W



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Heath G, Finley S, Elliott L-O,
Francesca I, Nina C, Flynn J,
Freddie W, Tobias L





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

AUTUMN RECITAL

Yesterday we enjoyed the first Recital of this year -the first since March 2020! A wide range of pieces in different styles were performed beautifully by pupils from Y3 to Y6. We heard music played on the piano, violin, double bass, clarinet, recorder, cornet, trombone and saxophone with some performers having only started their instruments this term while others were far more experienced. The audience was very appreciative and extremely well-behaved and we hope that the recording of the event will be available very soon. Thank you to all who took part. PM





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Eco news



TOP TIP... FROM OUR YEAR 4 ECO-WARRIORS

Turn off lights when you leave a room. You could also consider using energy-saving light bulbs. Energy-saving light bulbs last longer and reduce the amount of energy that's required to power them. They also help lower your electricity bill.

ECO WRITING COMPETITION

An exciting Eco Writing Competition was launched on Teams this week. The Prep children were asked to write an eco-themed CHRISTMAS acrostic poem; judging by the entries already received, our children are encouragingly enthusiastic, talented and eco-minded! The prizewinners will be announced nearer to the end of term.



We were so impressed with this Year 1 pupil who, one morning this week, litter picked on her way to school. What an exemplary pupil! Well done.



Remember to bring your batteries in to school for recycling. We are also collecting crisp packets and working pens and pencils to send to developing countries across the world! There are collection points in the Prep and Pre-Prep foyers.

Congratulations to these green-living pupils, who were awarded their eco-warrior badges in assembly this morning. Our super Year 3 pupil submitted a most impressive Berky Eco Pledge; the Berky Gets Greener committee were particularly impressed that she had tackled a supermarket giant, writing to Aldi to plead with them to reconsider their wasteful cheese biscuit packaging, and the Year 4 lad is a brilliant Berky Gets Greener class rep who has been an outspoken eco-warrior since joining the school in Year 1. (He successfully campaigned against selling plastic toys at Firework Night!) The decision to award their badges of green-living honour was unanimous. Well done!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports reports

HOCKEY

U8 Red Team v King's, Gloucester

A great game in which Berky were dominant. Rose and Rosie at the back were great in defence and made sure no ball went past; Berky kept a clean sheet. Meanwhile, at the other end of the pitch, Berky were dominant. Allegra and Olivia controlled the wings in the early stages, and Hannah, Flo and Yaz were tackling well in the centre. Izzy came on and was very feisty in the middle of the field. Yaz, Flo, Olivia and Allegra all made the score sheet with the final score being 8-0 to Berky. Well done to all the girls who played - a great performance.

U8 v The Richard Pate School

Red team Won 2 Drew 1
Green team Won 1 Lost 1 Drew 1
Yellow team Won 3

The girls had a great afternoon, we split into three teams and played three short games. The girls displayed some good basic skills, passing the ball wide and moving confidently with the ball. We showed little fear when going in for tackles; I was very proud of all the girls and how they behaved during the games.

U10 v Rendcomb

Lost 2-0

The girls started well and pushed the ball forward with some power. Rendcomb made some good tackles throughout the game and turned the ball over before we had time get ready. Emilia and Alexa made some good runs through the middle, pushing the ball into our attacking end. Esha was a great support, both on the wing and driving into our attacking D. We left our defence on a few occasions; this allowed Rendcomb to get their goal. Emma's strong tackles and drives gave us the advantage. Erin R cleared some balls with good passing down the side-line. Nina worked hard travelling up and down the pitch, supporting both our attack and defence; she made a lovely run into our attacking D and tried to cross it to Esha. Unfortunately, we just couldn't get the ball in the goal. Georgia applied pressure on the Rendcomb players with good shadowing and forcing their players wide. Alba was GK and made some brilliant saves; the ball was in our defending third quite a bit which gave Alba a lot to do but she showed good agility and movement.

Well done, girls. It was a good game.

U11 v Rendcomb

Lost 1-0

The game was really even with the ball travelling up and down the pitch a lot, keeping all girls on their toes! Sydney worked really well in goal, she made some great saves, moving quickly to stop the ball. She was vocal with the team to ensure our defence were back to cover the Rendcomb girls as they charged in. Edith and Maisie in defence were a great double act, both clearing the balls wide and with pace; not much was getting past them. Ellie A and Isabel worked hard out on the wing moving up and down the pitch a lot to support both the attacking and defending ends. The Rendcomb girls were quick when they turned over the ball; some of us couldn't keep up all the time, thus allowing them a bit of a free run at our goal. After half time and some positional changes, we were off again! Sophia and Thea worked well in the centre supporting one another and passing the ball with good control towards our attacking D. Georgia was able to make some strong tackles and offload the ball to our centres. Rendcomb gained the advantage and made a run with the ball, straight past our defence and into the goal, finishing the game a 1-0 loss. Well done, girls.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports reports

U8 v Hopelands

The Bisons and Buffalos... U8 Rugby Teams took on two teams from Hopelands School. The boys played brilliantly showing strong running and keenness in grabbing tags in defence. Many tries were scored and the boys were keen to support others in gaining tries too. At half time, the boys were given instructions to pass more and bring support runners into the game and this they did. The final try was an elusive one from Charlie F who was applauded by the parent supporters and by his team mates. Well done to the whole team who all contributed to a good afternoon of rugby.

U10 v Beaudesert

On Wednesday, the U10 team travelled to Beaudesert. Usually, the boys take a while to get warmed up and start tackling but not in this match; they started tackling from the whistle and some of the boys tackled well. Both teams had good chances to score tries and made use of the space available to them. Both teams were passionate and there were sparks flying at times, but this was all forgotten about after the match when the boys joined together for match tea. The match was a close one and the boys think it finished 9-8 to them.

Well done, boys - this was the best performance to date. Thank you to the parents and friends who came to support them.

U11 v Beaudesert and St Hugh's Won 10-5 (Beaudesert)

Won 15-5 (St Hugh's)

On Wednesday, we travelled to the wilds of Minchinhampton Common to play in a triangular tournament.

First up, we played the hosts, Beaudesert, in a closely contested affair. Although we had a little more possession and territory, Beaudesert proved to be a hard nut to crack. However, our persistence brought rewards firstly with a well-worked team try finished with a fine run by Ben J, and then a winning score from Felix. Beaudesert scored a try of their own but we did enough to win the match.

Our second fixture was against St Hugh's. This again proved to be a challenge. Not only were they a good side but we lost Oscar and Otto to injury during the game. This meant the boys had to really dig in at times. Our dogged defence gave little away. At times, we were camped on our line but worked incredibly hard to repel their attack. This brought its reward when our defensive pressure resulted in St Hugh's spilling the ball and Max H was on hand to score two stunning length of the field tries, in addition to an earlier one from Ben. It was another great performance from the team. Well done, boys!

