



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



**FRIDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER
AUTUMN TERM**

NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents

In assemblies this week, I spoke to the children about food and where it comes from. We discussed the important role of farmers and the challenges they have faced after such a dry summer, which has made growing crops more difficult. I also talked about Harvest Festival and how, when I was at school, we would bring produce to display in church. These days, however, it is more common for us to donate money to our local food bank to support families in need. I look forward to us all gathering for our own Harvest Festival service at All Saints' Church at the end of this half term.

Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic 'Wow' Day on Wednesday to celebrate their topic on London. Looking resplendent in red, white and blue, the children began their day by revisiting their class story 'A Walk in London' before heading outside for an exciting "I Spy" hunt in the Pre-Prep grounds. The children were tasked with spotting UK features - including Buckingham Palace, Edinburgh Castle and Snowdon - great fun! Back in the classroom, the children shared fascinating facts (did you know that a polar bear once lived at the Tower of London and used to swim in the Thames?) and worked together on a giant collaborative colouring map. One of the highlights of the day was creating imaginative small-world London scenes in shoeboxes - complete with famous landmarks and plenty of creative flair!

To complete the celebration, Rob and his catering team produced a splendid UK-inspired feast: Toad in the Hole with gravy and peas (English), Champ (Irish), Cranachan (Scottish dessert, strictly minus the whisky!) and, not to be left out, Wales was represented with traditional Welsh Cakes for mid-morning break. The children relished every bite.

Mrs Stephenson – our Designated Safeguarding Lead – and I were pleased to attend the Smartphone Free Childhood presentation at Bournside School on Tuesday evening. The event drew representatives from many local primary and secondary schools, highlighting how strongly this issue resonates within our community. We heard from a range of speakers, including Cheltenham MP Max Wilkinson, and it was fascinating to learn about the latest research in this vital area, as well as the measures being introduced in senior schools to limit smartphone use during the school day. Thank you also to the parents who joined us for this thought-provoking evening.

Have a relaxing weekend.

Michelle Bareham

Michelle Bareham
Head of School



DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tuesday 30 September

18:00 - 19:30

3O & 3M Parents' Evenings

Wednesday 1 October

14:30 - 15:30 U11 Hockey

Festival at Dean Close (away)

14:15 - 15:45 U10 Hockey v The

Richard Pate School (away)

14:30 - 15:00 U11 Rugby Festival

at Dean Close (away)

14:30 - 16:00 U9 Rugby v

Cheltenham College Prep

School (away)

Friday 3 October

Prep Visiting Author B Ware

14:15 - 15:45 U8 Rugby v King's
Gloucester (away)

14:30 - 15:45 U9 Hockey v The
Richard Pate School (away)



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM KINDERGARTEN

We've had a fantastic week full of learning in Kindergarten. The sun has been shining, and we have loved spending lots of time outside.

Our mud kitchen was a big hit in Forest School this week! The children enjoyed mixing mud pies, making "soups" with leaves and twigs, and exploring textures with their hands.

We've been working hard on building our fine motor skills. The children enjoyed threading beads onto strings to create their own necklaces. We have also been practising using tweezers to pick up pompoms. These activities are an excellent way to strengthen pincer grips and prepare for early writing skills. It's been lovely to see how focused and proud the children are when they complete these tricky tasks!

Our creative station has been full of colour and imagination. The children explored collage-making, using a variety of materials like tissue paper, feathers, stickers and more. They loved designing their own masterpieces.

This week in maths, we explored the number 3. We counted to 3 using fingers, toys, and natural objects from outside. We read stories. We also looked at what groups of 3 look like and practised finding 3 of different objects around the room. GB



BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Cece O, Beatrice C
Sienna M, Sadie N
Edna and Andrew Bear: Finley
G, Amelie S, Florence DW
Mylo O'H





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM RECEPTION

One of the absolute joys of the Reception year is the journey of learning to read and write. From early sound recognition to blending words, mark making to writing sentences, it all begins with phonics! Over the last few weeks we have been throwing ourselves into learning sounds, 'harder to read and spell words', and exploring reading books. We are so proud of how the children have taken to phonics and how they are consolidating their learning at home too. Reading together, both the school reading book and reading fiction and non-fiction for pleasure, every day at home will really help spark an early love of literacy and help their imaginations run wild!

Our maths lessons this week have been all about sorting, matching and comparing. The children loved using different classroom objects and loose parts to group and organise, and they've been brilliant at explaining their reasons. Ask them to show you how they sort at home!

During our CircleTime sessions, we've been talking all about our special families. The children shared lovely stories about the people who are important to them. It was a beautiful opportunity for us to celebrate all the different kinds of families in our class.

Thank you for your continued support and well done to all our Reception superstars for another brilliant week!
Z M-S



BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL
EARLY YEARS
VALUES TREE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS

Leaves: Toby Mc, Toby S
Maren W, Otto H-D
Berky Bear: Eva C,
Rosalind B





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

BERKY DRAMA

Congratulations to our talented pupils who have been awarded their LAMDA (London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art) exam results, with an incredible average mark of 90%! These outstanding results are a testament to the children's hard work, creativity and growing confidence in performance and communication. We are very proud of their achievements.

A special thank you goes to their wonderful teacher, Miss Vines, for her guidance and encouragement.

Well done to:

- Florence P: Acting, (Distinction)
- Rosie D: Group Acting, (Distinction)
- Frankie I: Group Acting, (Distinction)
- Frankie I: Verse & Prose, (Distinction)
- Kitty L: Group Acting, (Distinction)
- Kitty L: Musical Theatre, (Distinction)
- Arturo P: Public Speaking, (Distinction)
- Arturo P: Acting, (Distinction)
- Olivia B: Acting, (Distinction)
- Olivia B: Verse & Prose, (Distinction)
- Olivia B: Musical Theatre, (Distinction)

POLITE NOTICE

As the weather turns colder, please ensure that children wear regulation winter accessories such as school hats, scarves and gloves. Non-regulation items - including earmuffs - and other accessories, should not be worn with school uniform. Thank you for your support.



FIREWORKS PARTY

FRIDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2025 @ THE VIC
CHELTENHAM CRICKET CLUB, PRINCES STREET, CHELTENHAM GL52 6BE

ENTRY FROM... 5.00pm

SILENT FIREWORKS (NO BANGS)... 6.00pm

... LIVE MUSIC ...

MAIN FIREWORKS DISPLAY... 7.00pm

ADULT TICKET £10 TICKETS ARE LIMITED

ACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FREE (max 4 - u16)

Buy Tickets at:- www.cheltenhamcc.co.uk

CHELTENHAM CRICKET CLUB, PRINCES STREET, CHELTENHAM GL52 6BE

You must NOT bring glass bottles, sparklers, fireworks or alcohol into the cricket club grounds. Anyone found doing so will be asked to leave. No parking at the cricket club.

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 7th October between 4.00 and 5.00pm
Venue: Child's form room



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS AROUND THE SCHOOL

AUTHOR VISIT

We're excited to announce that B.Ware will be visiting next Friday 3rd October with ...

WARNING: MAY CONTAIN DRAGONS!

... her second children's book (suitable for all ages).

If parents wish to, they can purchase a copy of **WARNING: May Contain Dragons** and/or **WARNING: Magic Can Be Dangerous!** via linktr.ee/bwareauthor — which their child can bring along on the day to be signed. (Both books are currently on special offer on Amazon.)

B.Ware will also be selling signed copies at the retail price of £8.99 per book (via cash or card payments) at the end of the school day. Simply send your child in with cash in an envelope on the day (change will be available), or pop by the stall in the playground at home time.

UNIFORM SHOP

We would like to apologise for the inconvenience caused by the recent issues with our card machine in the shop.

We understand how frustrating this has been, especially during the busy back-to-school period.

Thank you for your patience & understanding while we work to resolve the issue.

The Uniform Shop team

POLITE NOTICE

We've noticed that some younger siblings enjoy time in the outdoor classrooms in the Prep playground at the end of the school day. While it's lovely that they feel at home here, these areas are unsupervised at this time, so for safety reasons we kindly ask that they are not used after school. Thank you for your understanding and support.



Uniform Shop Opening Times

Mondays 8.15am-8.40am
Thursdays 3.30pm-4.15pm



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

HOCKEY

U10A & B v Cheltenham College
Prep School

The U10A and B teams had determined matches against some strong competition at Cheltenham College, resulting in some close losses. Both teams played with great resilience with some lovely passages of play across the pitch and some good goalkeeping from both Florence P and Betty D. The teams showed excellent sportsmanship and communication on and off the pitch. Moving forward, we will be focusing on improving our decision making and utilising the width of the pitch to secure more goals.

Well done girls!
SO



Y3 Hockey Practice on
the MUGA





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



SPORTS REPORTS

RUGBY

U10 v Beaudesert

The U10 team put in a fantastic performance against Beaudesert, coming away with a well-deserved 11-7 victory. From the first whistle, the boys showed great determination and confidence, putting into practice everything we've been working on in training.

Our presentation of the ball was excellent, which gave us much stronger rucking positions and allowed us to secure possession more consistently. The decision-making was also a real highlight – knowing when to run straight and hard into contact and when to move the ball quickly into space made us a real attacking threat throughout the game.

Defensively, the tackling was a big step up from previous weeks. Beaudesert had some strong, powerful runners, but the boys stood up to the challenge with real bravery and commitment. In attack, there was some superb footwork on show, with several tries coming from dazzling sidesteps and clever running lines.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable game to watch, and the boys should be proud of the way they combined teamwork, skill, and effort to secure the win. Well done to everyone who played – a brilliant team performance! ZL

U9 v Beaudesert

There were three matches at U9 with all the boys taking part. One game was a touch rugby game and Berkhamstead dominated this with a number of players showing determination in 'tagging' the opposition and winning a lot of possession. Some elusive running from the boys led to many tries and team work started to develop well for this stage of the season.

In the second game of contact rugby

the boys came up against some large and skilful opposition and this turned out to be a tough game. They played hard though and showed considerable determination in their tackling and in scoring a good number of tries too. With a couple of swaps between games the second half was a little more competitive but Beaudesert ended up winners.

The final game ... another game of contact rugby ... was a close affair with Berkhamstead having to work very hard in tackling and in attack. They dominated possession however and came out eventual winners.

Great effort and well done to all the boys! IP/RPC

