



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

I am always delighted when the children approach me to ask a question or two. This week I was probed with questions such as, 'What do you do all day?' and a prospective parent asked 'What is the best part of your job - and the worst?'. For me there is no question that the time I spend with the children in the classroom is the best part. We have such keen and interested boys and girls at Berky, eager to learn and to explore problems and challenges - they are a pleasure to teach and to spend time with. As you will know my subject is Computing and one of the reasons I love this subject is that it changes and develops every year. This year for the first time I have taught dictation to the Year 3 classes and wasn't sure how this was going to go. Would a whole class all individually speaking into the iPads work? It was a great success, and the children were delighted to see the words they spoke appearing on screen - and amazingly accurately too. Is this the future?

I have recently been asked by a couple of parents for advice on e-safety. Technology and the Internet are developing at an ever-increasing rate and new issues crop up regularly. There is much we do in school to support the children, educate them on the benefits and pitfalls of technology and the Internet. This is taught from Pre-Prep through the CWB curriculum as well as the Computing curriculum. Next week - 8th February - is Safer Internet Day and the Year 4 children have put together leaflets for the other children to have. We do also hope to offer another 'session' for Prep parents on this later in the term. In the meantime, we recommend that all parents visit the CEOP Think U Know website for more information on keeping your child safe online www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

FRIDAY 28TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues 1st Feb

Bags2School collection-please bring to school by 9am

Wed 2nd Feb

2.15pm-U11 Netball v Cricklade (A)

3.00pm-U10 Netball v Kitebrook (H)

Fri 4th Feb

2.45pm-U8 Football v Richard Pate (A)



Congratulations to these exemplary Year 6 pupils who have been made House Captains for St George's, St Andrew's, St David's and St George's. They join Primmy, Katy, Zoe and Sophia who were elected as House Captains earlier in the year.

Reminder

Could we remind parents that if a child vomits or has an upset stomach, they should stay at home for 48 hours following their last bout of illness. If a child is unwell at school, the office will telephone parents immediately and ask that they are collected as soon as possible.

Thank you!



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Pre-Prep

It has been another busy and exciting week in Pre-Prep with both year groups thoroughly enjoying their topics.

Year 2 have been researching castles using the internet and non-fiction books, finding out lots of interesting facts about castles and castle life. The children have also designed their own castles and have written some wonderful descriptions of them. Year 2's art work this half term has been inspired by the artist Paul Klee; the children have created fantastic and colourful castle collages that can be seen brightening up their classrooms and today they have been creating water paintings. In maths the children have been learning their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Please could these continue to be practised at home.

Year 1 have been finding out about forces in Science; this week we have been exploring gravity using water! The children worked in small groups to see how gravity affected water by pouring it between jugs and water wheels to see if they could get the water to flow upwards. Needless to say the children had lots of fun and made lots of mess whilst experimenting.

In Computing the Year 1 children have been developing their coding skills using the Kubos; they had a recap on using the tagtiles by creating routes before moving on to creating functions. The children were challenged with forming functions to enable Kubo to travel from one area of its map to another. Next week, the Year 1 children will be using their knowledge of functions to send Kubo visiting different animals on Safari, using a map created by the children! The Year 2 children have been experimenting with cropping and editing photos as well as exploring the different filters.

In Art, the Year 1 children have been making African inspired thumb pots out of clay; they enjoyed rolling and pinching the clay to make a small pot. Once dry, the children will be able to paint their pots in traditional African colours and patterns.

Behind the scenes, the Pre-Prep teachers have been busy planning an activity week for Year 1 and the amazing 'History Mystery' day for Year 2, both of which will take place in the coming weeks. More details of both these events will follow shortly. JG



Reminder

Could all Pre-Prep children please wear coats to school



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Eco news



TOP TIP... FROM A YEAR 3 ECO-WARRIOR

Consider giving your old clothes to a friend or younger sibling, donating them to charity or taking them to a clothing bank.



ECO-REPS

A warm welcome to our new Berky Gets Greener eco reps - Charlie F, Miles H, Millie R, Tom R, Frankie H, Esha D and Chloe H, (pupils from Year 3, 4 and 5), who have joined the Year 6 leaders - Jacob, Sam and Hannah - on the Eco Committee this term. They were thrilled to be elected by their peers and already have some fantastic ideas. The new committee's first meeting took place this week, with Miss Walter urging the young warriors to improve the school's eco habits, such as ensuring classroom lights are switched off when not in use, to bring in used batteries and crisp packets for recycling and also to complete their Berky Eco Pledges.

PRE-PREP

Meanwhile, on the other side of the road, the Berky Gets Greener Pre-Prep committee - made up of reps from Years 1 and 2 - welcomed two new Reception members to the team; well done to Kitty and Freddie! Miss Martinez tasked her eco warriors with ensuring classroom lights are always turned off when not in use, and to create lovely posters to remind everyone to do so! The Berky Eco Pledge is also being rolled out to our younger pupils, so we hope as many children as possible will get involved!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

LANDSCAPE GARDENER WANTED!

Can anyone recommended a landscape gardener?
We are looking for someone to help us create the Well-Being/Eco garden on the Prep side of the road.

A couple of years ago we ran a competition to design the garden, and the brilliant winning entry was submitted by this Year 6 pupil (but when she was in Year 4.) Her lovely design was carefully thought through and incorporates plants renowned for their well-being properties, a relaxing seating area and tranquil wind chimes. A professional design has now been drawn up from her plans.

INCONSIDERATE PARKING

We have received several complaints about the insensitivity of some parents when it comes to dropping their children off/collecting them from school. Double yellow lines and zig zags are there for a purpose and no one should be parking on these at any time. There are clear road crossing points near the school with dropped kerbs and pavements pushed into the road. These have been created to ensure parents and children can cross safely. However, a minority of inconsiderate parents are parking on these crossing points creating danger for pedestrians and road users. So please can we ask that if you are prone to doing this, you stop doing this as of today for the safety of all children including your own.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report

NETBALL

U9 v St Edward's

This was the U9's first Bee Netball fixture for the year and bearing in mind that we were in lockdown for much of the previous netball season when they were in Y3, this was in fact only their second netball fixture ever! Bee Netball follows slightly different rules to the traditional seven-a-side game and, alongside the early skills of netball, also promotes six key values; Bee Proud, Bee Fair, Bee Strong, Bee Friendly, Bee Yourself and Bee Together. The key differences at this age group are that there are only four players in a team, roles/positions are non-specific and anyone can shoot. Some of the rules regarding the game-play such as footwork and passing are also 'softer' than for the older girls.

At this first match we were very encouraged to see all the girls participating with great enthusiasm, despite their initial nerves, and working incredibly well as a team. Four matches were taking place simultaneously in a 'round robin' style so that each group of four played against each of the St Ed's groups of four. It is fair to say that we got better as we played more of the matches, but it is also true to say that it was great fun for all the girls to be on the pitch for all of the time and they were thrilled to have won several of their mini matches. A great start to the season Berky U9s!

U10 v St Edward's

Instead of the usual seven-a-side, some of our matches will now be 'high five,' and this is what we played this week. There was much enthusiasm and energy on court from our girls and our team play improved throughout the matches. The girls had to adapt to the different rules, swapping on and off in different positions. Well done to all - the A team lost 2-0 and the B team secured a draw at 3-3.

U11 v St Edward's

U11 A Group

It was our first game of BEE netball, five-a-side netball. This new adaptation of the game allows the girls more space to move and drive around the court. We were up against some good St Edward's players who were quick and agile. Many of the girls were able to match their skills and we managed some lovely interceptions. Our passing was a little weak at times allowing St Edward's to gain the advantage. As time went by we got into a flow and started moving forward for the ball. This game also ended in a draw 7-7.

U11 B Group

The girls enjoyed playing a good St Edward's team. During the first match, the St Ed's girls demonstrated their ruthless side by quickly moving the ball around the court. However, during the second game the Berky girls came fighting back, showing a far great determination to win the ball as well as showcasing their own improving skills: quicker footwork, better anticipation, and stronger passing. Well done to all involved - the game ended in a 3-3 draw.

Notice to parents

This term, the girls will be playing some traditional seven-a-side matches and BEE netball (a new England Netball initiative). Please may we politely remind all parents that we teach the children that the umpire/referee's decision is to be respected.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



Sports report

FOOTBALL

U9A v St Edward's

The U9As took on St Edward's on Friday in our first match of the season. Berkly started well and were reasonably well organised in defence, thwarting a number of good moves from St Edward's. In attack however, we were somewhat disorganised; passes to both wings often fell short and we often struggled to get the ball into the opposition's half. A goal to St Edward's just before half time was disappointing because we had checked their counter-attack on several occasions. The second half saw us on the attack and trying to draw level with an early goal; despite some encouraging moves the ball didn't quite fall for us. On several occasions shots missed the target and a number of excellent saves by the opposition's goalie starved us of any goals. Two further goals late into the second half saw St Edward's run out comfortable winners 3-0. Despite the results the boys never gave up and were competitive right up until the final whistle.

U10A v Kitebrook

This match was a great advert for football. A very decent Kitebrook team brought out the best in Berkhampstead U10A who played their finest football of the season to record a pleasing 3-2 victory. The home side soaked up plenty of pressure and defended stoutly but counterattacked with real ambition and success. Joseph W and Harry H caught the eye with their incisive long passing while Tom C-G covered every inch of the pitch with noteworthy determination and skill. The whole team's communication proved a huge factor in this victory; the boys talked to each other and encouraged each other throughout. Well played, lads.

U10B v Kitebrook

Another thoroughly enjoyable match was played this week by the eager and enthusiastic B Team. Sadly, Cameron was away, but his goalkeeper role was taken by Bertie and the team were boosted by some Year 4 boys playing up to ensure we had a full team. We started the game brightly putting huge pressure on Kitebrook who couldn't get the ball out of their half for some time. Ben A had many chances but finding composure in front of goal took a little time! Wilf and George from Year 4 were supporting Ben up front however and they both managed to score goals. In defence Ben S and Floyd, ably supported by Ted kept the Kitebrook attackers at bay and we quickly took a 3-goal lead. The second half was much the same with Ted taking over as goalkeeper and Ben A finally finding the net following superb inter-play between Gideon - who was brilliant at winning the ball - and all three of the forwards. It was the champagne moment. The final score was 6-0 with Wilf scoring a hat trick and goals too from Ben A, George and Ted. The match tea of hot sausage rolls, pizza, chocolate brownie and apple juice went down well!

U11 v Kitebrook

The U11 team enjoyed a very competitive game against a strong Kitebrook team on Wednesday. Both teams kept possession well and there were good goal scoring opportunities at each end. It was however, our opponents who took the lead after a period of pressure in the first half. However the Berkly boys fought back well and soon equalised with a well-taken goal by Ben. The second half saw us create some great opportunities and we came close on several occasions. However, we couldn't quite find the back of the net. Kitebrook were a little more clinical and scored two goals to take the victory by 3-1.

I was very pleased with the effort of our boys against the best team we have encountered this season. We worked hard, kept our shape well and played positively. Well done, to all of the boys.

