



# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

It's lovely to have a busy week! Clubs have started and I saw excited Pre-Prep and Early Years children getting ready for Andy Tucker and SuperStrikers Football on Monday and Tuesday. Some of the music ensembles have started up too with Berk Bows and Chamber Ensemble - Violins, Violas, Cellos and Double Basses were seen coming into school being carried by enthusiastic and eager musicians. We can't wait for the restrictions on singing and blowing (brass and woodwind) to end so that other ensembles can start too.

I hope you have now seen the Berk Film released last weekend. It probably won't make the BAFTA nominations next year but it is a brilliant representation of the feel and ethos of the school and how engaged all the children are in the vast array of lessons, activities and events. There has been a flurry of activity on our Social Media feeds but if you haven't seen it, then please have a look at the website [www.berkhamsteadschool.co.uk](http://www.berkhamsteadschool.co.uk) and do share with friends and family.

I was disappointed – as I am sure the boys were too – to have our U9 Cricket fixtures against Dean Close cancelled on Wednesday. We wait 12 months for a fixture and then the rain intervenes! Fingers crossed, though, that fixtures will be on next week.

The staff are extremely busy arranging times for Parents' Meetings this term so that you are more aware of how your child/children are getting on since the lockdown. The dates for these are:

**Kindergarten: Tuesday 8th June, 4.30pm - 7.00pm**

**Reception: Wednesday 26th May, 5pm - 7pm and Thursday 27th May, 5pm - 7pm**

**Year 1: Monday 24th May, 4pm - 6pm**

**Year 2: Monday 24th May, 3.45pm - 4.45pm and Thursday 27th May, 6pm - 7pm**

**Year 3: Tuesday 15th June (3C) and Thursday 17th June (3M), 6pm - 8pm**

**Year 4: Tuesday 8th June (4E) and Thursday 10th June (4T), 6pm - 8pm**

**Year 5: Tuesday 25th May (5B) and Wednesday 26th May (5K), 6pm - 8pm**

These will be done using the School Cloud Parents' Evening system which proved very popular in the Autumn Term. We will let you know when the system is ready to take bookings.

As we progress towards the end of term, there will be a number of Year 6 events at which parents will have the opportunity to meet with staff. These will include the Year 6 Leavers' Recital at the Parabola Arts Centre (22nd June at 6pm), the Year 6 Drama Production (dates to be confirmed) and Speech Day (Friday 9th July at 10.30am).

Lots of other events are being planned - for example, the annual Art Exhibition and an opportunity for Year 2 parents to visit the Prep department and meet staff. I will keep you informed of these as the term progresses. Please look at the iSAMS app for updates.

*Richard*

**Richard Cross**  
Headmaster

**FRIDAY 30TH APRIL  
SUMMER TERM**

## Diary dates

### THE WEEK AHEAD

**Mon 3rd May**

BANK HOLIDAY

School Closed

**Wed 5th May**

2.15pm Girls U11 Cricket

v Hatherop Castle (TBC)

2.30pm Boys U11A, U11B & U10  
Cricket v King's Glos, (H)





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from Early Years

The Kindergarten children have come back from their Easter holidays rested and full of enthusiasm, ready to start our new topic - 'Countries'. We are very proud of how supportive the children have been of our new starters: helping them to make friends, follow the Kindergarten routine and enjoying the varied and fun activities together.

This week in Letters and Sounds, the children have been learning about rhyme. We have been playing rhyming soup, rhyming bingo and singing lots of rhyming songs; the children are becoming familiar and more confident at recognising rhyming words.

Our 'Countries' display is underway; all children have completed a flag belonging to a country and have been so inspired that they decided to create their own flags. Miss Henderson has had a messy week helping everyone to make a mini globe using Mod Roc; there has been paper, water and sticky fingers everywhere and the results are amazing!

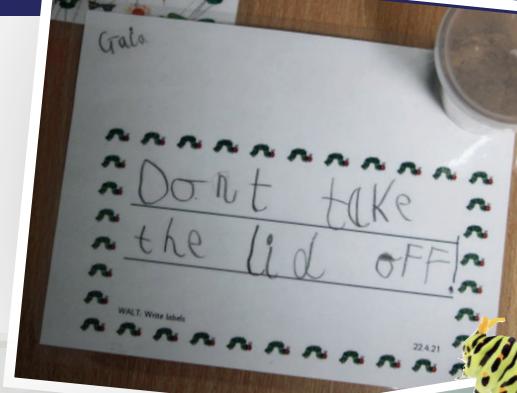


Meanwhile, upstairs in Reception, the children have settled down very well after their holiday and are ready for all the exciting activities planned for this term.

Reception children are already involved in their new topic 'Mad About Minibeasts'. One of the many highlights of the past few days was when the children had a parcel delivered to them; inside there were caterpillar larvae! After lots of discussion they agreed the caterpillars would turn into butterflies. The children carefully put the caterpillar larvae into individual pots filled with special food for the caterpillars to eat. We will be observing them over the next few weeks to see the changes that take place.

'Mad About Minibeasts' continued into our carousel activities with the children painting minibeast pebbles. They had fun thinking what minibeast they would like to create then turned their pebble into their own minibeast using paints. The children are very proud of their work and we look forward to displaying it.

During Forest School, the children were challenged to redesign our bug hotel in the wildlife area. They were asked what they thought should go into a bug hotel, why the insects would enjoy the hotel, and how to redesign the hotel to entice a variety of different minibeasts to come and stay. Armed with wood, logs, pots, tubes and cotton wool, they set off to work as a team in order to ensure the hotel would achieve the highest 'Bug Star' ratings! Over the next few weeks, we will be keeping a close eye on the bug hotel to see if any minibeasts are using it.





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from Early Years continued



### STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception  
Blaise K, Felicity W, George R, Ollie S, Florence R, Lilian L, Jonah B, Devan P

Kindergarten  
Adelaide R-M, Arabella G, Archie M, Ayla A, Gabriel C, Zac H, Ruby H, Lana G, Huxley R



#### Kindergarten

Neala KC, Penny L, Harvey M, Freddie W

#### Reception

George R, Sebbie R, Florence P, Arturo P, Jonah B, Tilly M, Rocco B, Oscar D





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## News from around the school

### ECO-WARRIORS

We are tremendously proud of these conscientious Year 5 pupils. Keen members of the Berky Gets Greener Eco Warriors committee, environmental issues have long been close to their hearts.

So the impressive duo - with the help of younger twin brothers - have planned a litter pick around Cheltenham to take place after school today as part of Captain Tom's 100 Challenge. The idea is that the boys will pick up 100 pieces of litter in an attempt to make a difference to the town we live in.

Part of the plan is for the boys to raise funds for the Berky Gets Greener eco purse, and plenty of this will be invested in a wildlife garden on the Prep side of the school. They have set up a Just Giving page; their aim was to reach £200, but at the time of writing they had already made £385! If anyone would like to donate to this worthy cause, please click here:

[https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.justgiving.com%2Fcrowdfunding%2Fberky-boys-litter-pick%3Futm\\_id%3D2%26utm](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.justgiving.com%2Fcrowdfunding%2Fberky-boys-litter-pick%3Futm_id%3D2%26utm)



### PLEASE FOLLOW US:

Take a look at our Instagram and Twitter feeds for daily insights into Berky life.

Follow us at [berkhampstead\\_school](#) (Instagram) and [@BerkyCheltenham](#) (Twitter). Head of Pastoral Care, Mrs Bareham also hosts a Twitter feed: [@Berkypastoral](#)



### ECO WARRIOR'S TOP TIP

**Never drop litter.  
Always put it in recycling bins, food waste bins or your general waste bin.**

**If you see litter in the street, ask the grown up you are with to carefully pick it up and dispose of it if it is practical to do so.**





# BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

## Sports report...

### NETBALL

#### U10 v Richard Pate School

Despite the soggy, cold conditions, the girls were in high spirits – actually playing a match!

We wanted to ensure all girls would play in a couple of matches, so played a mini round robin with matches of 6 minutes. Each school had three teams and they were rotated around. Katie and Edith were our coaches from the side lines. I was really proud of the girls – they all played with spirit and determination, even though their hands were freezing cold!

The matches were quite evenly fought, but RPS just took the edge on overall goal difference.

As the afternoon developed, the Berkys grew in confidence and towards the latter part of the matches were passing the ball confidently and their footwork was impressive.

Well done, ladies!

### Prep matches

Please keep an eye on fixtures each week; some details might change due to the ever-changing circumstances at the moment.

