



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

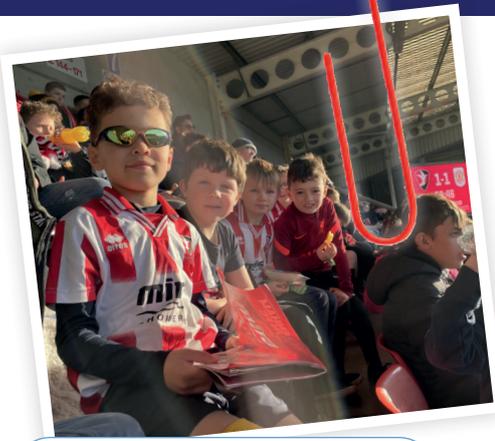
Dear Parents,

In assemblies this week we have talked much about the conflict in Ukraine and understandably thinking mostly about the impact of this on children. The School Council met this week to discuss this and have decided to support UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), who we have supported before. They support the refugees in very practical ways such as providing fleece blankets, shelters, water carriers and counselling. The children are arranging events to raise money for UNHCR and the Ukraine refugees and I will let you know more about these soon.

I spent a lovely afternoon last Saturday with well over 100 of the Berky community watching The Robins! It wasn't the local bird life but Cheltenham Town FC who took on Crewe Alexandra at the 'Jonny-Rocks' stadium in Whaddon Road. It was an exciting match but sadly Crewe scored in the last 10 minutes to win the game 2-1. The children and parents enjoyed the football on a sunny afternoon, and it is always good to see live sport and support our local team.

The House Pancake Races were splendid - what an event! I know that those of you who came to watch thoroughly enjoyed it - the cheers could be heard from some distance away. All the children put on a fine display of speed and agility - with some incredible flipping whilst on the run! 1st and 2nd in the Year 3 and 4 race was reversed in the Year 5 and 6 race so the Frying Pan trophy is shared between St. David's and St. George's. Well done all!

The Cycling Proficiency Club started this week too. An enormous thanks to the PTA who are supporting this financially and over time all the Prep children will have the opportunity of completing their cycling proficiency award. Cycling is such a good thing - keeping us healthy and helping to save the environment too. I hope we see more pupils taking to their bikes to get to school.



FRIDAY 4TH MARCH
SPRING TERM

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tue 8 March

5K Online Parents' Evening

Wed 9 Mar

2.30pm - U11/U10 Football
v Wycliffe (A)

2.30pm - U9/U8 Football
v Wycliffe (H)

2.30pm - U10A/U11A B
Netball v Hatherop (H)

3.00pm - U11B Netball
v Hatherop (H)

5B Online Parents' Evening

Thur 10 Mar

am - Year 6 Detective Agency
Workshop

4.15pm - Cross Country, St Ed's

7.00pm - Next Steps Evening

Fri 11 Mar

Year 2 History Mystery Day

6H TomatoJack Mosaic
Workshop

2.30pm - U8 Football
v Hopelands (H)

2.30pm - U9 Triangular Football
v Rencomb & King's, Glos (A)

2.45pm - U8 Netball v RPS (A)

Sat 12th March

9.30am - 11.30am

Open Morning





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD CONTINUED

Last week has confirmed that our wonderful Year 6 children have gained 14 grammar school places and 12 scholarships to independent schools. Destinations include Pate's Grammar, Sir Thomas Rich Boys' Grammar, Denmark Road Girls' Grammar, The Crypt Grammar, Ribston Hall Grammar, Stroud High Grammar as well as independent schools such as Cheltenham Ladies' College, St. Edward's, Dean Close, King's, Gloucester, Malvern St. James and Rendcomb. We are also lucky to have some brilliant local academies and some pupils are destined for schools such as Balcarras, Pittville and Leckhampton High School too. I know that some final decisions are still being made but very well done to Year 6.

Cheltenham is an enviable place to be educated in that there are many excellent schools, and our pupils go on to excel at the best of them. We are extremely lucky to have the opportunity to send children to schools that regularly feature in the Top 50 in England. Well done Year 6 on your achievements. We are all very proud of you.

The focus in Y6 now will be on an enriching programme of study and activities to stretch and inspire academically, musically, dramatically and in their emotional and personal development, ready for the transition to senior school.

Our walls at school show some of the amazing artwork that is created by our talented children - I hope that you will get the chance to see some of this at our annual exhibition next term. Over half term some of the artwork was prepared and sent to Malvern St. James in preparation for their annual Junior Schools' Art Exhibition. This is tomorrow, Saturday 5th March, and I am delighted that some of our artists have been recognized with awards. These are:

Highly Commended: Zac H, (RL), Lucy W, (IG), Isabella B, (2S), and Edward S, (2GS) Year group winners Nina C, (5K) and Alice S, (6M).

I am heading over to Malvern tomorrow and I look forward to seeing the children's work exhibited.

This morning I was delighted to award the Gill Agg Prep Kindness Cup to Oscar - at the front of a packed Prep Hall. Well done, Oscar. This award is thoroughly deserved.

Next weekend is our Spring term Open Morning - Saturday 12th March - and we have many prospective parents signed up to view the school. Our Year 5 and 6 pupils undertake the tours, and they always do a wonderful job. They are proud of their school and are brilliant ambassadors - and almost always convince our visitors to sign up!

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from Pre-Prep

Pre-Prep have returned to school full of the joys of spring and are looking forward to the variety of opportunities that are available this term. Year 1 have been very busy practising their assembly which they will be delighted to show to their willing audience next week. I am sure their efforts will be so appreciated that the children will be overwhelmed with the praise and applause that all their hard work will receive.

Year 1 children were also spotted wandering around school with bright blue clipboards - they were gathering information for their science lesson. The walk was very interesting as they had to record the various sounds they could hear as they moved around school. If they had been passing the music room when Year 2 were enjoying their lesson with Mrs Sallis they may have heard a sneak preview of the preparations for the Spring Concert!

Year 1 are obviously a very imaginative cohort as they have managed to design their own tribal necklaces by using pasta and paper plates. Year 2 have also been using their imagination in the art room by exploring the medium of clay and designing their own castles. Year 2 have been finding out about the variety of jobs they could undertake in a castle and there were quite a few applicants for the jester's job, proving what a talented group of entertainers they are!

There are lots of splendid physical activities this week with Thursday seeing Year 1 and Year 2 enjoying swimming lessons. Just when Year 2 thought they had exhausted all their castle work, they demonstrated their acquired knowledge in a new format! Lo and behold, they were able to dance like knights and jesters and thoroughly enjoyed their PE lesson!

Friday saw the Pre-Prep celebrating World Book Day wearing a range of fabulous costumes representing many different book characters. They enjoyed listening to stories read by the teachers and Year 2 were delighted to visit the Reception classes to read them their castle adventure stories. GS





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Eco news



TOP TIP... FROM A YEAR 5 ECO-WARRIOR

Consider helping with your household recycling, like I do!



CHELTENHAM RESIDENTS

Have you registered for the free kerbside coffee pod recycling service? For further information, visit:

www.cheltenham.gov.uk/coffee_pod_recycling



WORLD WILDLIFE DAY

World Wildlife Day - which took place yesterday - was discussed in this week's Prep School Berky Gets Greener meeting. This year its theme was 'Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration'. The team discussed what they could do to help including continuing to use sustainable products, recycling, litter picking, reducing water and energy use, adopting animals, walking to school and spreading the word.



United Nations

**World Wildlife Day
3 March**



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

News from around the school

THE BIG STRING

Congratulations to these impressive Year 5 musicians who - along with their younger Berky counterparts, Barnaby K (2S) and his brother Blaise (1G) - took part in The Big String during half term. 145 young musicians rehearsed for two days, and then performed two pieces at the end of the second day at the magnificent setting of Tewkesbury Abbey. One piece was a world premiere by composer Jeff Moore, and the second was 'Celia Fantasia' by Berky's own Mr Jon Trim. Well done for your superb performance, boys!

The Big String takes place annually and is open to young strings musicians across the county, from pre-grade 1 to grade 8 plus.



Lost Property

Miss Latham has lost her blue suede glove - can everyone please keep a look out?



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

World Book Day 22





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report



FOOTBALL

U8 Bisons v Cheltenham College Prep School

This was a thrilling match played at a high tempo with the result in doubt until the final seconds. Twice Berky took the lead and twice Cheltenham College equalised. The score stood at 2-2 with seconds remaining when a skilful break and a firm shot from a tight angle by Lucas made the hosts' net ripple. Berky played with great enterprise throughout and caught supporters' eyes with incisive passing, pace and trickery. The other Berky goals from Lucas and Charlie exuded 'teamwork'. Jack proved a defensive rock, Atlas and Rishik both had a half each in goal and proved energetic performers on the park too, Leo got stuck in with enthusiasm and was in the thick of the action, Miles ran everywhere with great endeavour and tackled keenly while Oly, Charlie and Lucas showed offensive nous and pleasing creativity. The 3-2 victory was celebrated loudly and the boys can feel real pride in their performance. Well played, chaps!



U8 Buffaloes v Cheltenham College Prep School

The Buffaloes played a lovely game against Cheltenham College with everyone playing their part. Jasper, Jacob and Charlie made some lovely tackles and passed the ball forwards well to help in our attacks. Isaac managed to get into space well. Hughie, Fergus and Toby scored our goals. What was really lovely to see from the boys was their teamwork as there was plenty of passing and no one was wanting to keep the ball to themselves. A lovely game - we won 5-1 - well played!



U9A v Cheltenham College Prep School

A short drive to Cheltenham Prep on Wednesday saw us play our fourth match of the season. Playing CPS without a win so far seemed a daunting experience but the boys were once again enthusiastic before the start of the game and seemingly up for the challenge. As in the four previous encounters it was a game of two halves. We conceded five soft goals in the first half with a two-man defence that took somewhat of a battering from a strong CPS attack. In the second half our defence was more organised, and we made several counter attacks. A free kick saw our only real chance of the half and pretty much summed up our season so far with the ball hitting the post. Despite losing 6-0 I can't fault the boys' enthusiasm. If we can string two consistently good halves together, we will win matches. Well done boys for a good effort.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports report

NETBALL

U8 v Cheltenham College Prep School

All the Year 3 girls played in four matches against four different CCPS teams. They all had good games and played well. One Berky team won all their matches and the other three teams won more matches than they lost. All the girls showed great determination and gave of their best. Well done, girls!

