



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents,

What a lovely, and very busy, first week back. We have really hit the ground running - there's been a real bustle about the place! Touch wood, we haven't had too many COVID cases in school and the children have embraced the slight changes to our weekly arrangements.

In assembly this week, I explained the story of Guy Fawkes and the reasons behind the annual Bonfire and Fireworks event on November 5th. It was over 400 years ago and an absorbing event in British history that fascinates the children. The children in Reception asked me what being hung, drawn and quartered was, and this took some careful explanation! What I did see whilst wandering the corridors of Pre-Prep were some beautiful fireworks pictures that included some wonderful London skylines in Year 2.

It was lovely for me to meet many of the Year 4 parents this week and to be able to discuss their children's progress. I have also had very positive feedback from the staff in Kindergarten, Reception, Year 1 and 2 regarding their Parents' Evenings. The online parents' meetings have some real benefits, but I appreciate that the fixed time slots on the system aren't always ideal, and you can be cut off when in the middle of a useful conversation. We do hope that next term we can have face-to-face meetings or allow parents the choice of either face-to-face or online. However, if you have any concerns about your child then do, please, call the school and arrange to meet with staff - we are always keen to talk. In the Spring Term, we will also be holding a Future Schools Evening for parents of Year 4 and 5 children and this is an excellent opportunity for parents to find out about the next steps for their child.

Our current Year 6 are all focussed on taking entrance exams to their next schools. Very well done to those who sat the Grammar School exams - they are very tough - and they had much success. Many are now preparing for assessments and Scholarships, and we wish them all the very best of luck.

The School Council have sat this week and chosen their charities for the term. They always consider a local charity and a global charity and this term they are supporting Maggie's Cheltenham, who support people suffering from cancer, and The World Wildlife Fund. Fundraising for these will include collections at our Christmas events.

Inclusivity is central to what we do at Berky and our aim is to give equal opportunities for the pupils to play matches. I was delighted to take the U10B team to Richard Pate on Wednesday where they performed brilliantly. Sadly, some of the fixtures have been called off for next week, for COVID reasons. Whilst we will try our best to rearrange these, it can mean that some pupils get fewer matches than others. Please be assured that we will do our best to provide sport for all.

Richard

Richard Cross
Headmaster

Poppies...

Will be on sale from Monday
in the school office



FRIDAY 5TH NOVEMBER
AUTUMN TERM

Diary dates

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 8th November

Year 6 ICT & Geography
Field trip

Tuesday 9th November

KG Parents' Evening (Mrs Main,
Mrs Stoat & Miss Veal)

Wed 10th November

2.15pm U10 Hockey v King's,
Glos (A)

2.30pm - U8/U9/U10/U11
Hockey v Wycliffe

2.30pm - U11/U10 Hockey
v Hatherop

2.30pm - U11/U10 Rugby
v Cricklade (A)

KG Parents' Evening
(Miss Wootton)

Fri 12th November

Year 6 Schoolsbeat visit

2.15pm U9 Hockey v King's, Glos (A)

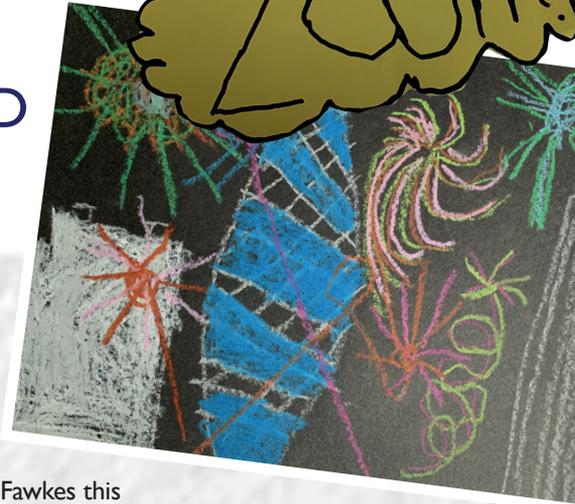
2.30pm U8 Hockey v RPS

2.45pm U8 Rugby v RPS (A)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



News from Pre-Prep

The children have returned well rested and full of excitement for what the next half term will bring. It was lovely to see all the parents who attended the Year 1 and 2 Parents' Evenings this week, albeit virtually; it is always helpful to have the opportunity to touch base with you to discuss your child's progress. Please remember we are always available to discuss any concerns you may have, either at drop off and pick up, or we can arrange a video meeting over Teams.

This week, the Year 1 children were investigating 'Light and Dark' in Science by learning about the sun as a source of heat and light, and about how shadows are created; thankfully, it was a sunny afternoon so we took our learning outdoors and used chalk to draw around our friends' shadows. Our art lesson had a fireworks theme this week, with the children using various objects to print exploding fireworks using brightly coloured paints. Over the coming weeks, Year 1 will be finding out about toys and games around the world and what school children in different countries like to play with; hopefully, we will be able to have a visit from Mrs Nair who will talk to us about the toys and games she used to play with when she was growing up in India.

Year 2 have found out all about Guy Fawkes this week; English comprehension led the children to find out all about the failed Gunpowder Plot!

A lesson on onomatopoeia inspired the children to create their own firework poems. We were incredibly impressed with how many children also included alliteration, similes and plenty of adjectives in their poems. We shared a range of other poetry which the children thoroughly enjoyed performing to their peers, focusing on tone of voice, speed, volume and facial expression.

Bonfire Night was also the theme of this week's art lesson. The children thought carefully about layering to create beautiful firework scenes over a London skyline.

Year 2 are thoroughly enjoying their swimming lessons - it is amazing to see how much progress they have made in just six weeks.





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

PRODUCE OF NOVEMBER



Eco news



TOP TIP... FROM OUR YEAR 2 ECO-WARRIORS

Eat seasonal produce! Eating seasonally promotes farming in your area through the reduction of demand for farm produce that is out of season. This means that there will be reduced carbon footprint due to less transportation and refrigeration which all contribute to the emission of greenhouse gases. Food that is sourced from other countries contributes to environmental issues due to the transportation involved.



FIVER PARTIES

Have you considered throwing a 'Fiver Party' for your child's birthday party? The idea is that instead of your child receiving a toy from each party guest, each guest - if they wish to give a present - gives £5 to go towards something of your child's choice. This might be a charity donation, a toy, a membership or an experience. Eco benefits include less waste as a result of less packaging because of fewer toys. For further information, please visit: <https://reducereuserenewblog.com/fiverparty/> Thank you to Mrs Distante for the idea.

NOM-NOM KIDS

Single-use plastic snack bags can become a thing of the past with these brilliant reusable food pouches from Nom-Nom Kids! As well as being dishwasher and freezer safe, they are BPA free, phthalate free and PVC free. For further information, please visit www.nonnomkids.co.uk Many thanks to Non-Nom Kids who have gifted each of our Berky Gets Greener Eco Committee members a sample!



Reminder...

Please could parents be reminded not to enter or leave via the black double gates in Pre-Prep. Please use the designated small gate and foot path. Minibuses enter the school gates at various times and we want to ensure that pupils and parents remain safe.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Anti-Bullying Week

It is Anti-Bullying Week from 15th - 19th November. To raise awareness to the importance of this, the children are invited to wear odd socks on the THURSDAY of that week (18th Nov).

Missing

Blazer : named TAIBI
School Coat - named COTTON
Hoodie - named FREER

News from Prep

PREP SCHOOL COUNCIL

This week, the Prep School Council Committee voted for the charities to be supported by the school this year. The local charity will be Maggie's Cheltenham (a cancer charity) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) will be the global charity. We are delighted to be supporting both charities. We will also be collecting for Pens for Kids UK - who send pens and pencils to developing countries across the world, so do please send in your working pens and pencils!

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed so generously at our Harvest Festival Service before half term - we made £750 for the Afghanistan Appeal!



MAGGIE'S

Everyone's home of cancer care



PENS FOR KIDS UK



FRIENDS OF
BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL PTA

THE
DIAMOND
BALL

CELEBRATING
MANY WONDERFUL YEARS

of
BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL

SAVE *the* DATE

SATURDAY 11 JUNE 2022
PITTVILLE PUMP ROOMS
6PM *to* 12AM

RECEPTION DRINKS *on the* TERRACE
FOLLOWED *by* DINNER & DANCING

DETAILS ON HOW TO RESERVE A TABLE OF 8
FOR THE FABULOUS EVENT, WILL BE
SHARED PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS



BERKHAMPSTEAD
SCHOOL



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

Sports reports

RUGBY

U10A v The Richard Pate School Lost 9-7

On Wednesday, the U10A team played The Richard Pate School. After two weeks away, I thought that some areas of the boys' play might be rusty, but they played well. It was a slow start and there were a few tries conceded in the first half – which seems to be a common theme in our matches - but after half time, the boys went out and scored a couple of tries in quick succession. The ball handling was much better this week and there were some great tackles made by everyone in the team. Unfortunately, the boys weren't pressing enough, and this allowed RPS time with the ball. The match finished 9-7 to RPS. It was a close result which could have gone either way.

U10B v The Richard Pate School Lost 10-13

This was a very good quality game with both sides scoring lots of tries. Berky started well with Bertie and Floyd scoring early tries and boosting the confidence of their teammates. This led to further tries – with a notable one from Cameron. Ben S also contributed with some good passing and link play. RPS had some fast and powerful runners and the boys found it difficult to get the tackles in which meant that at half time, scores were level. In the second half, the Berky boys upped their tackling with Ben A, Floyd and Gideon putting pressure on RPS. However, the boys tired in the last 5 minutes and RPS pulled ahead for a 13-10 result. Well done to all the boys!

U11 v The Richard Pate School Won 30-45

The U11 team continued their season with a fine victory against The Richard Pate School. Our boys were on the front foot from the first minute. When RPS were in possession, we harried and hassled them with robust tackling followed by quick and powerful rucking. This produced fast ball for our players to attack the opposition line. Felix, Otto, Max and Reuben were particularly strong in this area. There was also fine tackling from Oscar, Sam and Jacob D-T.

When in possession, there were times when our handling skills were outstanding. Slick passing, running on to the ball and looking for space was the order of the day. Good link play from Manas, Jacob F, Sam and Barnaby, created try-scoring opportunities. Ben (4), Otto (3), Felix and Max, who all crossed the line to ensure a super victory.

This was a great game to watch, full of fast flowing, exciting rugby. Well done, boys!

