



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Parents,

The theme of Children's Mental Health Week this year is 'My Voice Matters'. In my assembly on Monday, I stressed how all of our children have the right to express their views, thoughts and feelings, and how important it is that they are listened to, and have their views taken seriously. This year's theme resonates with us here at Berkhampstead. Our pupils are actively encouraged to express their opinions, and our pupil-led School Council and Eco committees - who represent the views of their peers - meet regularly to share ideas, and discuss issues that matter to them. Activities and Circle Times inspired by this year's theme have been taking place all over the school. Kindergarten children, for instance, took turns hugging Andrew Bear, and telling their friends about a person or place that is special to them, Year 1 discussed things that make them feel happy and relaxed, and other year groups - with a view to boost their feelings of self-worth - completed worksheets highlighting what they felt proud of. In my own Citizenship and Wellbeing lessons, we have been looking at how we can use our voice and what is special and unique about each one of us.

Year 1's Space Day on Monday involved a series of brilliant tasks taking place all over the Pre-Prep building, lawn and gym, and included moon rock cake baking and Mr Jones's brilliant augmented reality mission on iPads. Head of Science, Mr Morphew, also paid the Year 1s a visit and wowed our young scientists with his exciting rocket experiments. I am quite sure this fabulous day will be remembered for quite some time. Thank you to all the parents for providing such brilliant costumes, to the children for entering into the spirit of the day, and to our Pre-Prep staff for imagining a day that was truly out of this world. (More from Mrs Stephenson later in the newsletter).

FRIDAY 9TH JANUARY
SPRING TERM

DIARY DATES

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday 19th February

4P Trip to SkillZONE

(morning only)

3.15pm Prep Pancake Races -

Prep parents invited

Tuesday 20th February

Year 1 DT Day

Wednesday 21st February

2:15pm U10 A & B Netball v
The Richard Pate School (away)

2:15pm U10 C & D Netball v

The Richard Pate School (home)

2:30pm U11 Netball v Dean
Close (away)

2:30pm U11A&B & U10A&B

Football v Ashley Manor (home)

5:30pm 4P Parents' Evening
Online

Thursday 22nd February

Reception Trip to Museum
in the Park

5:30pm 4T Parents'

Evening Online

Friday 23rd February

2:30pm U8 & U9 Netball

v Rendcomb (away)

2:30pm U9A & B Football

v Ashley Manor (home)





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CONTINUED

In other news, I was pleased to hear from our Year 5 historians how fantastic their trip was to the Commandery in Worcester. They had the chance to to don costume, handle arms and experience what life must have been like in the Stuart era. Year 4 have also been out and about. Following in the footsteps of their older counterparts in Year 6 who went last Friday, SkillZONE in Gloucester provided our children with some very useful scenarios about keeping safe.

Well done to our quartet of Year 6 mathematicians - George J, Thomas G, Millie R and Ella H - who were selected to represent Berky in the annual Maths Challenge, hosted by Cheltenham College. Twenty teams, from eleven schools took part in a gruelling day of challenging mathematical questions, and I am delighted to report that Berky achieved bronze - the highest scoring school in Cheltenham! Congratulations to you all! Well done, too, to Ned D, (3C), Felix T, (3M), Teddy B, (4P), Beau R, (4T) Rose B, (5B), Melba F, (5K), Freddie L (6E) and Luis MR, (6MC) who were our 'Star Speakers' in the 'Look Who's Talking!' competition. Look Who's Talking is an oracy competition for Gloucestershire's primary schools - which had been entered by our English department - and our eloquent pupils bravely spoke in assembly for two minutes about their chosen specialist subject. Mrs Agg and I, as judges, deliberated about which duo to select - they all spoke beautifully - and in the end chose Teddy and Freddie to represent Berky in the finals, which take place in April.

Thank you to all the Early Years parents who attended 'Wednesday Wander', it was super to catch up with you.

I wish everyone a very happy half term break, and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 19th February for some pancake racing fun, I hope you can join us!

Michelle Bareham
Head of School



RECYCLING MATERIALS

Please may Year 1 parents bring in recycling materials for junk modelling during our DT day on Monday 19th Feb.



BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

NEWS FROM PRE-PREP

It was a rather exciting day in Year 1 on Monday as the playground was taken over by strange looking aliens and astronauts! After finding out all about imperative (or bossy!) verbs, the children headed to the cookery room to make Moon Rock Cakes. They identified the bossy verbs and then followed the recipe in small groups. We were really impressed with the children's measuring, weighing and team-work skills! The Moon Rock Cakes smelt and tasted delicious too!

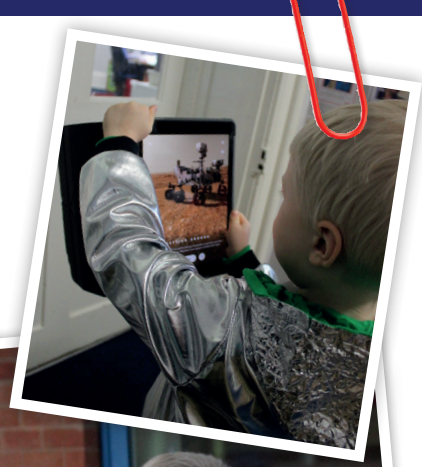
Mr Morphew dazzled the children with a display of air pressure rockets. The children made some interesting predictions about what would happen and were surprised about how high some of the rockets flew!

Our computing expert, Mr Jones also visited Year 1 on Monday for a bit of AR with the children. The excitement could be heard from outer space as the children stepped through a portal and were able to explore around the planet Mars! Highlights also included launching rockets from inside the classroom and driving Mars Rovers around the classroom.

Thank you to Mr Morphew and Mr Jones for making our Space Day extra special with their expertise!

Year 2 have also been using their computing skills using technology to create pictures using the app 'Sketches' - some of the children's self-portraits are fantastic! In Science, they have been using the iPads to take photographs of different habitats, as well as identifying living things, things that were once alive, and things that were never alive.

Year 2 are also looking forward to their castles themed day on Friday 1st March! AS





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

KINDNESS CUPS

Congratulations to the latest recipients of the Kindness Cup (Sally Lee Pre-Prep Kindness Cup and Gill Agg Prep Kindness Cup).



CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year has been celebrated today with a delicious lunch of sweet and sour chicken and rice, stir fry vegetables, spring rolls and moon biscuits. Also shown here is Kindergarten's fabulous Chinese dragon dance and Chinese lantern making!





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

NETBALL

U11 v The Richard Pate School

It was a little windy at RPS, but not enough to impact play too much, we hoped! RPS is often good competition, so we had to go in strongly from the start. All three teams started well, moving around the court, although we all were struggling to move forward for the ball. As we progressed through the quarters, the C team were becoming far more fluent with some lovely interceptions; we were just struggling to get the netball into the goal. The game play was very even; RPS were just able to find the net far more than we could. The B team was a very competitive match, with goals being scored regularly at both ends. Much better movement towards the ball was evident as the game went on. Our marking needed to be a lot tighter during parts of the game; we were allowing RPS to get the ball freely at times. The A team started to work well together after the first quarter; there was better movement when we were attacking but the opposition could read the game well and made some fantastic interceptions whilst we wanted the ball to come to us. We played some lovely netball at times but there is still room for improvement. Well done, ladies. CK

A Lost 5-7
B Won 7-4
C Lost 11-0





BERKHAMPSTEAD SCHOOL

SPORTS REPORTS

FOOTBALL

U9A Football v The Richard Pate School

Last Friday, in the third game of the season, we faced probably our strongest test yet against a well organised and competitive RPS side.

The first half saw a number of shots on target from RPS and if it wasn't for some excellent goalkeeping and a saved penalty we could have found ourselves several goals down instead of just the one in the first 20 minutes of the half. However, with just the one goal advantage it was RPS who had to soak up the pressure in the second half. A penalty put us back in the game and then it was end to end play. RPS scored and then we drew level. With the game very much hanging in the balance and Berky very much on top, we conceded a goal in the last few minutes of the game. Fortunately this is a side that never gives up and in the last dying seconds we managed to draw level with a superbly taken goal. This was an excellent effort by Berky who thoroughly deserved the draw to keep their unbeaten record intact. Well done boys!
Draw 3-3 SM

U9B v The Richard Pate School

The U9s enjoyed a fantastic match against Richard Pate School last Friday. In the first half it was very even with both teams creating chances. Our opponents scored first to take a half time lead.

In the second half we looked to split their defence with some longer passes which worked to great effect. We were on the front foot for much of the second half and got our reward with a fine free kick by Eddie S.

I was really impressed with how the boys worked together and gained a very good 1-1 draw. Well done to all the team! P McC

U10A v King's, Gloucester

On Wednesday, the U10A team played King's, Gloucester. These were two evenly matched teams and both played great football. The boys played their best match of the season so far, defending well and making good decisions to clear the ball when necessary. There were opportunities to counter attack and the boys seized these, playing quickly up the pitch with several players having shots on goal. King's defended well though and their keeper made some superb saves to keep a clean sheet. The game finished 0-0. Thanks to the parents and friends who came to support the boys. DB

U11A v King's, Gloucester

This was a real ding dong battle from two evenly matched teams. The Berky boys demonstrated excellent passing ability and always looked a threat when attacking. We took a first half lead with a superb finish from Josiah. However, King's responded with a good goal of their own.

In the second half, we took the lead with a nicely taken goal by Alastair and held on until the last minute when King's got the equaliser, to level the match at 2-2.

This was a really enjoyable match where the boys showed how much they have progressed since the start of the season. Well done to all of the team! P McC

U11B v King's, Gloucester

There are times when you really appreciate the joy of teaching. Last Wednesday afternoon was one of those times as I refereed the U11B team against King's. The boys showed so much commitment and endeavour in tackling, dribbling with the ball, taking shots or clearing their lines; their skills might have been lacking at times, but the enthusiasm was boundless. We had Ben R and Ben W as co-captains and they worked hard along with Luis, Freddie and Hugo to keep a clean sheet all afternoon. The hard working midfielders of Jack, Tom and Tommy ran and ran, and each had chances. Ben up front showed a determination and challenged the goalkeeper on a couple of occasions. It was destined to be a goalless draw but suddenly out of nowhere came a score. Tom in midfield went into a tackle and took more of the ball than he imagined, and it headed in the direction of the goal. The goalkeeper had it covered but a bobble on the pitch meant it slipped through his fingers and hit the back of the net. 1-0 the result and a superb afternoon had to finally come to an end. Thank goodness there was still pizza and flapjack to consume - I can't wait for the next match!
Win 1-0 RC

