

PREP HEADLINES



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“Excuse me, please, I think you should stop using plastic straws in your restaurant because of the damage they do to marine life.” A number of parents have contacted me to say how proud they are that their children have taken the Prep School’s campaign against single use plastic into the wider world. We have shared with them some frightening statistics and facts: ‘8 million tonnes of plastic dumped into our oceans each year’; ‘experts say that by 2050 the plastic in the ocean will weigh more than the fish.’ It’s impressive that our children are part of a generation which wants to stem this tide of plastic. For example, we no longer have plastic cups or plastic bottles of water in the Prep School- who needs them now that we have the Prep School branded reusable water bottles designed and marketed by our very own Business Enterprise Club! The Prep School children have much to say on the subject of plastic waste- they’ve taken the trouble to inform themselves and already they’re taking practical steps to reduce their own plastic use. We’re delighted to say that our children will soon have a voice on the Senior School’s Sustainability Committee. Prep 2 pupils have been invited to submit their applications for the eight places that Mr Foley, the School’s sustainability co-ordinator, has made available to us. We’re proud to be part of the drive to make Bancroft’s an ‘Eco-school’; we know our Prep children will do much to help achieve this important aim.



Joe Layton

MUSIC AND MUNCH

On Friday 26th January, twenty pupils from all years performed their musical pieces in ‘Music and Munch’. There was one harpist, two flute players, two French horn players, two violin solos and a violin duet, eight piano solos, two singers and two cellists performing. I was one of the pianists and I played one of my Grade 3 pieces. I was feeling quite nervous, but after a lot of practice, I felt that I played my piece really well. Thank you to all the parents who came along to watch. The concert was brilliant and everybody enjoyed it.

Nicholas Gebhardt 1LE

YOUNG VOICES

It’s not every night you perform to a sell-out crowd at the O2 Arena in Docklands but that’s exactly what the children in Prep 1 did last Wednesday. As part of the 7,800-strong Young Voices choir the children and their teachers sang and danced their way through an exciting and eclectic range of music which included modern pop songs and classics from the past. They, in turn, were entertained by live performances from internationally-acclaimed singers Natalie Williams and Alfie Sheard, the street dance act Urban Strides and The Magnets: a quite remarkable Acapella group.



Like the hundreds of other schools involved in the event, our children had been practising the songs for several months and they gave it their all when the big night came around. Their singing, their dancing and their exemplary behaviour through a long afternoon rehearsal left all the staff who accompanied them feeling exhausted but very, very proud. The parents were also encouraged to get up and show off their dancing. They embraced the spirit of the occasion marvellously, even if their ‘moves’ sometimes elicited mixed reviews from their children!

The size and scale of the concert, combined with the enthusiasm and energy of the children participating, created a wonderful atmosphere. Huge thanks must go to Mr Baum for organising the event at our end and ensuring the children were so well prepared. The evening will be remembered fondly by pupils and parents alike for many years to come.

Tim Paramour



VERULAMIUM

On Thursday 1st February the Alphas went to the Verulamium Museum in St Albans. There were lots of fun things to do. The Verulamium Museum is set in the middle of what used to be a Roman town. First we went up a hill and stood by an old stone wall. We read a large sign which said that Roman soldiers would have lived on the spot where we were standing. We then went to a big, white building. Inside was a gigantic floor made of mosaics from Roman times. The building was full of all sorts of signs which gave us information about the Romans and their houses. We walked around it and then we went down to the actual museum where we divided up into small groups to explore all the rooms. One of the rooms was about farming and food and another was about how Romans lived. There was also a room about Roman tombs that had a coffin with an actual, real skeleton inside. Then we went to a workroom where we got to touch old Roman artefacts like pans, chimneys, perfume-making tools and pots. We also learned that Romans used to make lipstick out of ground cherries, put it on their lips with a palette and then save the leftovers for the next day. Three children from the class got to dress up in Roman clothes and pretend to be a slave, a lady and a lord. After eating lunch and buying souvenirs, we headed back to school on the coach with our heads full of ideas of how the Romans used to live!

Dorothy Willerton AHS



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Through Phase Assemblies, form times and Personal Development lessons we have joined hundreds of organisations in celebrating 'Safer Internet Day' and 'Children's Mental Health Week'. The theme of 'Safer Internet Day', which was officially 6th February, was 'Create, connect and share respect – A better internet starts with you.' We should all work together to keep our children safe at home and at school as the pace of social media is rapid. Mr Thomas and Miss Sylvester held two informative assemblies on well-being during Mental Health Week. In class children were given opportunities to discuss their character strengths and differences and what makes them special. Persistence, courage, resilience are kindness and ongoing initiatives which the children are encouraged to show throughout their time in the Prep, but a focus this week emphasised the importance of such qualities in young people today.

GOETHE INSTITUTE

Last week ten members of the Prep School's German Club, along with Mrs Yelverton and Mr Layburn, were lucky enough to visit the Goethe Institute in central London. This is a worldwide cultural centre to promote the learning of German and is named after the famous German author. Friday was the launch of a series of books and videos, aimed at helping Key Stage 2 children learn the language. Obviously, as we are in the German Club, we are already very keen. The stories revolve around a frog named Felix Frosch and a duck called Franzi Ente who go on some exciting adventures together. I think the episodes we saw while we were there were very funny and sometimes a little bizarre. For children in years five and six, the animals changed to a may-beetle and a cockroach, who set off to visit the world. Together with three groups from other schools we had an enjoyable sing-a-long in German, led by one of the musicians on his guitar. Afterwards we got to get autographs from the people who had designed the new books. Overall I thought it was an amazing day.

Hsien Yang Tan BKY



SPEECH AND DRAMA

Sadly David Walliams was not a guest of honour at our Speech and Drama evening, but had he been I have no doubt he would have been impressed at the talent and humour of our pupils in bringing his words and characters to life on stage. Of course many other authors were represented, such as JK Rowling, Michael Rosen, Gervase Phinn and Roald Dahl and, under the direction of Libby Oliver, our Speech and Drama teacher, the children had put together their own performances, often improvised and based on their favourite books or characters. In the words of Mr Layburn in his introduction, this evening is where we get to see 'what they do when they do Speech' and it would seem that what they do not only involves a great deal of preparation and collaboration, but a great deal of incisiveness and wit. The large number of pupils taking part in the evening is testament to how popular Speech and Drama is at Bancroft's. It is also the reason why it would be impossible to credit every pupil that took part, but Lara Whalley's hilarious performance as Sapphire Diamond was outstanding and Shriya Datta's and Gunjita Sengupta's sketch based on characters Raj and Mrs Crumb from Mr Stink was inspired. Parents would have recognised the frustration of mum, played by Perissa Shakir, in Michael Rosen's poem 'Car Journey' and what *would* a world without baby wipes really be like? A question posed in a brilliant performance by Dhruv Verma, Vihaan Kelkar, Amit Bhat and Aarav Rao. I would like to congratulate them all for presenting such an entertaining evening.

Laura Dalton

SWAT HOMELESS

The family of Sahibdeep Sandhu 1LE regularly help the Sikh Welfare Awareness Team. They are a charity who serve food to the homeless community every Tuesday evening in Charing Cross. I decided to go along and help them feed the homeless on 12th December and I was joined by several other Prep 1s and 2s, their parents and some teachers.

The S.W.A.T. van arrived and unloaded tables, huge pots full of pasta and sauce, massive trays full of spring rolls and large dishes of salad. As it was Christmas time, there were also boxes of mince pies and chocolates and vats of coffee ready to be served.

I was put in charge of distributing goody bags to the many homeless people who were already starting to queue around the block. The bag contained crisps and chocolate bars; items they would never be able to treat themselves to. Under no circumstances were we allowed to give money. I spoke to many of the homeless who were pleased to have someone take an interest in them. They then received a hot meal with all food provided by the charity through donations from the general public.

That evening we helped 240 people in three hours. They were grateful but desperate. They took their food and wandered off to find a doorway for the night. I came away sad that this was actually the way people lived their lives, but also grateful for the lovely life I have. I would like to thank SWAT for the wonderful work they continue to do and to Miss Ellery for organising the event. I learnt that in a world where you can be anything; be kind.

Aurora Strong 2BR



BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

As part of Business Enterprise, we have been making our latest product: SLIME! We have been selling our product to everyone in the school and it has been in high demand. We have a huge variety of slime on sale from sparkly crystal slime to colour changing slime! We have been making a vast supply of it as it is great fun to play with! We hope to make a good profit and hope it proves to be as successful as our water bottles and t-shirts.

Nadia Mirza 2BR

BLUE PETER – LIVE!

On Thursday 1st February, it was *Blue Peter's* 5000th episode. *Blue Peter* is a show that is aired live every Thursday evening. A lot of famous people have appeared on it including the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. You can also earn badges by sending in letters. The *Blue Peter* team picked one badge holding family at random to be on the 5000th show. They happened to be my friends. Then they had to pick two friends to be on the show with them and they chose my brother and I. We were really excited as we had always wanted to be on *Blue Peter*. On Thursday we used a live video link so we could be seen from the Manchester studio.

On the show we helped Issy Simpson perform a magic trick that unveiled the new badge marking the 60th anniversary of *Blue Peter* as well as the 5000th episode. Issy asked the designer of the new badge for a 3-digit number and asked Radzi (one of the presenters) to type it into a calculator and press the multiply button. She then asked us for a 3-digit number which was 987 and asked Radzi to press the divide button and finally, she asked Radzi to type in his PIN number and press multiply. The answer was 161058 and when they typed it into the safe in which the new badge was held it opened! Inside was the new diamond badge. It was stunning! Also in the safe was a note saying: Issy Simpson will reveal the diamond badge using the code 161058. *Blue Peter* first appeared on television on the 16th of October 1958! I know how the trick worked because I was in the rehearsal but it is still really amazing and I am going to keep it a secret!

Maya Ruwala 2AA

SCIENCE FINAL

On Friday 26th January, Tristan Law, Leo Senthan, Sia Kalia and I went to the Oxford Museum of Natural History to take part in the National Science Quiz Finals. When we arrived at the museum, we had a look around; they had everything from a dodo, to the jaw of a sperm whale!

When we got to the lecture theatre, we took our places at the front of the hall. At 2pm, the quiz master gave a talk, then the quiz began. There were questions on all areas of science and it was a nail-biting competition. For most of the quiz we were in 3rd place, then in the last few questions Westminster School took the lead meaning we finished 4th overall. It was an amazing experience and we are very proud of ourselves for reaching the top rankings of a national schools' tournament. Thank you Miss Ellery for organising it.

Sebastian Knuckey 1TP



ST EDMUND'S TOURNAMENT



On Saturday 2nd February selected Prep 1 and Prep 2 boys went to a hockey tournament at St Edmund's College in Ware. We were all very excited to enter the competition since it was only the second time it had been held. We made a good start winning 6-0 against a school called Howe Green. Then we won our next match 3-0 against St Edmund's B team. Then we won 7-0 against Avon House. We also won our next game (which was very close) 1-0 against St Edmund's A team. We reached the final, which was extremely intense. The score was 0-0 against a very strong St Edmund's A team. It was so close we had to go to extra time. We all played brilliantly, but there was no winner so it went down to short corners. We scored 4 and St Edmund's scored 2 making us the winners of the cup!

Mieszko Watson 1SS

NETBALL MASTERCLASS



We were so fortunate to have a visit from Samantha May on 18th January. Samantha May is a member of the Australian netball team 'WASPS', where she plays Goal Defence and Goal Keeper. We were all lucky to meet her. Samantha taught us some techniques. We began with a few exercises. My favourite one was when I paired up with Lois Dawney. One of us had to jump up and the other player had to push us and we had to land steadily. We practised a few strategies with her and she explained to us what to do and how to improve. We enjoyed our time with Samantha and she inspired us to be great netball players.

Sara Aslam 1TP

FOREST GALA

On 16th January Deeya Arora, Krishan Arya, Carys Biston, Harriet Draper, Maia Fisher, Nicholas Gebhardt, Imaan Hussain, Joe Matthews, Ben Peters and I travelled to Forest School to take part in an U11 Swimming Gala. There were nine schools in total that took part. Maia Fisher won the girls 50m freestyle race with a time of 37.78 seconds. I won the boys 25m breaststroke race with a time of 23.41 seconds. The Bancroft's boys finished second and, although the Bancroft's girls didn't make it into the top three, they still swam very well. Overall Bancroft's came third, behind Forest School and St. Paul's Cathedral School. Well done to all swimmers who took part, it was a great effort.

Finlay Jones 1LE

HEATH MOUNT GALA

On Tuesday 30th January, we swam in a gala against Heath Mount School. Sadly, we lost, but it was a close competition and everyone tried their very best! Fifty-two pupils from Bancroft's competed across every year group. Many won individual races.

On this occasion I was nervous because we were against Heath Mount and they won last year, and we all tried our best. I feel that now I am a Beta I can push myself much more than I thought I could. I really enjoyed the gala because I was part of a team with all of my friends. Well done all!

Emma Diebel BKY

BETA NETBALL VICTORY



The Beta girls enjoyed their first round of competitive netball fixtures on the 25th January against Woodford Green Prep School. There were some outstanding moments of play from both teams. Lara Williams made some fantastic interceptions in her debut performance as goal defence; Dhiya Venkateswaran worked tremendously hard as a centre court player and Saffron Lall was on fire in the circle scoring several goals for her team. Well done to everyone involved.

Kelly McNelis