

PREP HEADLINES

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My youngest son and I were spotted on the High Street in Wanstead at the weekend behaving very suspiciously! I share this with you partly because we were seen by a Bancroft's family driving past in their car but also because I thought you'd like to hear about our new hobby. You might even like to try it for yourselves over the half term break. My son and I have got into Geocaching which is basically the world's largest treasure hunt. It teaches you how to read a map, follow clues and open your eyes to the world around you. One of you will need the Geocaching app on a mobile phone which acts as a GPS and helps you to pinpoint your geocache. But, other than that, it's a pretty cheap activity and it really is lots of fun. Apparently, there are literally millions of geocaches in 190 countries waiting to be discovered—there are probably even some near you right now. Geocaches come in different shapes, sizes, and difficulties and are hidden in both rural and urban settings. Here's a link to the website which will tell you more <https://www.geocaching.com/play>

So now you know what my son and I were up to on the High Street! There are two geocaches hidden at either end of it though I don't want to give too much away- especially as us Geocachers have to watch out for passing Muggles (as the non-geocaching population are known) who might stumble across a geocache and take it away from its hiding place. Suffice to say that Geocaching is a game for all the family, it's educational and it gets you outdoors. What's not to like? Happy Geocaching- Hal and I may see you out there when we're looking for our next 'find'!

Joe Layton

ELY CATHEDRAL

On a gloriously sunny day, 40 members of the Chapel Choir travelled with Mrs Hitching and Mr Baum to The King's School, Ely for a day of 'getting to know your choir' singing. Featuring eight schools from the area and 200 children, the day was a huge success, led by leading choir trainer, Rachel Staunton.

The day started with warm ups and particularly the catchy *Ooh La La Lay* which has captivated the school and the PGL community every since. It is a classic musical ear worm of a piece! Participation was the key of the day and all the children loved being part of this massed choir. After a busy lunch in the impressive monastic barn, we moved to the truly spectacular Ely Cathedral where the practice continued through an acoustic walk round and into The Lady Chapel. This was followed by our concert featuring the songs *True Colours* and the challenging *Howling Moon Dove*. A generous audience applauded and appreciated all that had been achieved in just a morning's work. We look forward to taking our wind players there in May.

Adam Baum

BETA PGL



Beta PGL was epic. I was in a room with all my friends and my activity group was great as well. Our main leaders were called Jordan and Nathan; they were so funny! They taught us lots of repeat-after-me songs, like *Moose-Alpaca*, *My Name Is*, *Egg and Ham* and lots more. My favourite activities were the giant swing, the zip-wire and the disco. On the giant swing I went right up to the very top. We pulled the string and, whoosh, off we went! The zip-wire was scary because to get up to the wire you had to climb up a tree on a ladder. The other activities were really fun, too. We did abseiling, aeroball, buggy building, Jacob's ladder, archery, shelter building and even had a campfire where we sang songs and ate marshmallows. We had lots of fun in our room as well, eating sweets and telling stories. I learned that you are very safe at PGL and that it is actually fun to be a bit scared and challenge yourself to try everything. I loved the trip I want to do it all over again.

Ella Baldwin BLD

I learned that I am brave, I can trust my friends and that I can live without my parents!

Freddie Kent BLD

I learned that you should have courage and always believe in yourself and never say you can't do something.

Alayna Hussain BLD



MACMILLAN CAKE SALE

On Thursday 27th September Bancroft's Prep School had a cake sale. We raised over £420 for the Macmillan Cancer Support Charity. The Prep 2s baked the cakes and sold them. It was a yummy break time, filled with a variety of cakes – I just could not choose which one to buy! There were chocolate ones, lemon drizzle, Victoria sponge and lots more. They were in all sizes – big ones, small ones and cupcakes. They were so delicious that everybody bought them on that day and finished them. Everybody had a lot of fun and enjoyed it. We all pitched in with helping the charity while filling our tummies with cake! Over all they were all scrumptious and it was a lovely day.

Iva Garg 2BR



PETER AND THE WOLF

On Monday 8th October, the Alphas went to the Barbican to see the London Symphony Orchestra play 'Peter and the Wolf' by Sergei Prokofiev. It is Prokofiev's most frequently performed work and it has been recorded many times. The characters in the story are a little boy called Peter, his grandpa, a bird, a duck, a cat, a wolf and hunters who are all represented by different instruments. The bird was enacted by a flute, the duck by an oboe, the cat by a clarinet, the grandfather by a bassoon, the wolf by three horns, Peter by the string quartet, the shooting of the hunters by the kettle drums and bass drum. When we arrived at the Barbican, it was crowded with children and we were very excited! The performance was wonderful; a lady narrated the story of 'Peter and the Wolf' while musicians played the instruments. I especially enjoyed it when we sang the songs that we learnt during music lessons.

Alice Kennard AHS



CELTIC HARMONY

On Monday, 15th October the Alphas went on a trip to Celtic Harmony in Hertford to experience life in the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. On arrival we were split into two tribes – the Stag Tribe and the Boar Tribe. We had a meeting in the large Round House. Our first activity was to watch an arrow head being made with flint and hammer stones. It was sharpened and we made some more of our own with soap. Next we did wood weaving and made a fence from branches. Then we traded special artefacts and some of us managed to get more valuable ones than others. Finally was shield battling. We were taught to troop in quietly, frighten our attacker and camouflage ourselves with war paint in order to appear more fearsome. The commander gave a battle cry and then we tried to push the army away with our shields. We had a great day and finished with a trip to the souvenir shop to buy a memento of our wonderful experience.

Annabel Wynn ASB



MAGIC SHOW

Abacadabra, bibdi-boobadi-boo, alla kazam and so much more! The Parents' Association helped the Betas throw a 'Welcome to Bancroft's' party for the new Alphas. We were the hosts because we were Alphas last year and we know how nervous and excited they would feel coming to a new school. Papalarny the Magician came and did a show for us. He did lots of really cool tricks and made us balloon puppets. We did jumping, singing, dancing and we played repeat after me. We also had a disco, with a bubble machine and a snow machine. There were many other fun activities too and we all enjoyed them. My favourite was the limbo because we had a competition between boys and girls. We all got medals and balloons. The food was amazing. We got free pizza and juice. We all took pocket money and bought treats like cupcakes, marshmallows, cookies and crisps. When the party finished we all got a big party bag with a chocolate doughnut, pencil and marshmallow stick. All the Alphas and Betas think it was the best Bancroft's party ever and we want to have one every year.

Malika Khan BCB



RAGGED SCHOOL

On Friday 21st September, the Prep 1s travelled by coach to the Ragged School Museum in Mile End, London as part of our Humanities unit on Victorian life. The entire museum school was set in the year 1888. We were split into two groups. Firstly, our group was taken to the kitchen where we learnt how families used to live, cook, eat and wash. It was extremely interesting but quite shocking that families used to live in such small cramped spaces. The toilet was outside! The second part of our group teaching was in a Victorian classroom with Mrs Perkins who acted the part of a Victorian teacher. She had many rules and was very strict and some of us were punished. Niamh had to wear a back straightener because she was bending her back, Ayushi had her fingers placed in a finger trap and Matharun had to wear the dunce hat! We learnt to write the alphabet in the style called copperplate which most of us found difficult with all the curls. Then we learnt some proverbs. Finally, the class ended with a lesson about how to remember the colours of the rainbow ROYGBIV "Richard of York Gave Battle In Vain". I still remember this. It was a fun, interesting trip that everyone enjoyed. Anabel Watson 1SS



ALPHA KITCHEN TOUR

Last week the Alpha classes went on a 'behind the scenes' tour of the school kitchens. It was really fun to see what goes on in preparation for our delicious lunches. I was very excited to see the huge ovens and everyone working systematically to get everything ready for us. It was like a conveyor belt! There was a scary moment when we were allowed to venture into the huge fridges and freezers and I was worried the doors would close! I have never seen a freezer so big! There are different people responsible for different parts of our lunch. For example there is someone in charge of vegetables and several people in charge of

salads and desserts. It is a fantastic part of the school and an important one too! No wonder everyone says it is one of their favourite aspects of school life!

Anya Patel AAK



IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

The Prep 2s went to the Imperial War Museum to understand more about our Humanities topic of World War II. It was amazing! We saw all kinds of real planes and bombs from World War II; we even met evacuees who had actually survived the war and were able to ask them questions about their experiences. Later we explored the inside of an Anderson shelter and found out lots of interesting things. The part of the day I found most interesting was using the enigma machine which decodes different messages. I had a blast!

Zaina Alam 2BR



HOUSE QUIZ

For several years now Bancroft's Prep School has entered a national general knowledge quiz championship. One child from each year group is selected and they compete in local area heats to gain a place in regional and national finals. This year, for the first time, we invited the quizmaster from Quiz Club to run our internal competition as a House competition, and as a way of selecting children to represent the school in the local area heats. We had one quiz for the Alphas and Betas, and a slightly harder one to challenge the Prep 1 and 2 children. Each child was given an electronic handset, and after each question they could see how well their house had done, but their individual scores remained hidden. Excited roars filled the hall each time a different House crept into the lead and the children clearly enjoyed the event. After each quiz the top few children in each House were announced, but with the school being split into two groups, the children had to wait to find out the overall winning House. The children achieved some fantastic scores and the quizmaster was extremely impressed by the Prep children.

The overall results:

- 1st place Monkams
- 2nd place Hereford
- 3rd place Manor
- 4th place Knighton



Saffron from Prep 1 said afterwards 'I really enjoyed it because we got to learn more about all sorts of topics', and Lara said 'it was so much fun!'

Laura Ellery

HOCKEY

As we approach the half term break every girl in the Prep can happily reflect on what's been a very productive term on the hockey pitch. All girls in the Betas, Prep 1 and Prep 2 have represented the school and have done so with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship. We've had inspiring performances from a variety of players across each year group resulting in some fantastic fixtures both home and away. Attendance at training, down at Ashton on a Monday night or before school on a Friday, has been good and it's been wonderful to see the time and commitment the girls are putting in to their training sessions. Beta girls have joined us for our Monday night training for the first time ever in Bancroft's history and it would be wonderful to see more U9 girls joining us before the end of term. The Alphas have been thrown into the sport and seem to be enjoying their hockey sessions. Wednesday morning training has been well attended and progress is becoming more evident each week. Their first Inter-House Hockey Competition is booked in for the 21st November and this will be their first real taste of a competitive hockey fixture. Keep up the great work girls!

Kelly McNelis



HOUSE TUG OF WAR

The first House event on the Autumn calendar was the Tug of War competition and, over the course of several lunchtimes, the scenes from the playground demonstrated great strength, enthusiasm and perseverance. Hard battles were fought and the look of determination was etched on to every face! The teamwork and sportsmanship shown by every pupil made the competition tense, yet enjoyable for all. The overall results, combining scores from all year groups, saw Knighton and Hereford come joint first, with Monkams in third place and Manor in fourth.

David Archer



RUGBY



For the start of the rugby season we have been blessed with some glorious weather and a group of enthusiastic pupils ready to develop their teamwork, resilience, concentration and confidence, all within the sport of Rugby. This year, like last, all the boys in Beta, Prep 1 and Prep 2 have represented the school in a competitive fixture. The incoming Alphas have impressed with their general physical skills and are improving their understanding of the rules of rugby and how they can achieve success. The Betas have entered their first year of competitive fixtures against other schools and I have been particularly impressed with the way they have conducted themselves on the sports field. The introduction of full contact has been greeted with great enthusiasm from the majority of students and, for those who are building on their confidence, it won't be long before they embrace the challenge. The Prep 1s have made steady progress and are building on the maturity and collaboration that is required to be a successful team. The Prep 2s have gone from strength to strength and are starting to play with great intelligence. There is great camaraderie amongst these boys and a willingness to work hard for each other which is led by the role models within the group. They have enjoyed some very physical matches and demonstrated great defence, as well as showing some great free flowing rugby too. Some of the Prep 2 boys enjoyed a rugby tournament in the torrential rain, followed by a trip where they led out Saracens in a league match. Most recently they came runners up at the New Hall tournament which featured 13 good quality schools. As always, our thanks go to the many parents that have come to support their child in a very respectful and encouraging way.

David Archer