

PREP HEADLINES

EDITION: 215



SUMMER | 2019

Here's one of the published aims of our Prep School: "We want to help our children recognise their privileges and advantages; to engender in them a sense of compassion for others who are less fortunate; to help them think of practical ways in which they can make the wider world a better place." Well, we can safely say that's happened this Charity Day. It's had a huge impact on the children and it's done a great deal of good. With sponsorship money still coming in we have raised over £10,000. Yes, that really is ten thousand pounds for Haven House and other local charities. We were hopeful that by asking the children to undertake sponsored tasks around their homes and local communities that they would get a strong sense of the idea of public service and of giving time and energy to others. We believe that's happened and that they are all the better for it. Of course, without your involvement as parents Charity Day could not have been such a success. Thank you for supporting us and helping to make it such a fabulous experience.

Joe Layton

OUTWARD BOUND

The Prep 2s have just returned from a fantastic week of learning in Aberdovey in the breath-taking surroundings of Snowdonia National Park. Outward Bound describe their approach as, 'high adventure, high learning,' and the Prep 2s certainly threw themselves into every challenge they faced. The groups took part in a number of exciting activities, including gorge walking, jetty jumping, climbing, scrambling, hiking and roasting marshmallows on the beach. We also spent the night in a mountain cabin, ate ration packs, collected firewood and survived with no toilet! We were lucky enough to have a group of excellent instructors who pushed children to the edge of their capabilities, leading to an enormous sense of satisfaction. Primarily, the children had fun, but it was quite something to witness a group of young people work so well together, care about each other and appreciate the stunning environment. Alongside the adrenaline there was a strong environmental theme to our week through the John Muir award and the children learnt a lot about conservation, local nature and the impact of plastic on our oceans. We were generally lucky with the weather and the children returned home exhausted, but very happy, and with greater sense of independence. It has been brilliant to hear them reflect so thoughtfully on their experiences and achievements during our week away and I am confident they will go on to use to what they have learnt both at home and at school. Well done! I am very excited about our next visit to Outward Bound in September with the new Prep 2s- we're off to the Lake District.

Nick Thomas



'Amazing. A memory that will last a lifetime and a story I will proudly tell.' Tristan

'It helped me expand my egg yolk (comfort zone) and I learnt many new things whilst hiking in the mountains. It is a great place and I would definitely go back.' Riyaan



'I really pushed myself and now I look back I realised that I've achieved a lot.' Neha



'As well as pushing us beyond our comfort zones and expanding our limits, the Outward Bound instructors ensured we had an unforgettable time.' Harshini

'It was quite challenging but when you reached the goal it was amazing.' Maria

'Outward Bound was an amazing adventure. My cooperation with others, my resilience, my personal organisation and my ability to follow instructions all benefited greatly from this outstanding experience.' Benji

'This miraculous place helped me face my fear of heights. This is an experience that everyone should have.' Zubair



HEVER CASTLE

The Betas visited Hever Castle in Kent last Wednesday as part of their study of the Tudors. Hever Castle was built in the 13th century. From 1462 to 1539, it was the seat of the Boleyn family. Anne Boleyn, the second queen consort of King Henry VIII of England, spent her early years there after her father, Thomas Boleyn, inherited it in 1505. It later came into the possession of King Henry VIII's fourth wife, Anne of Cleves, so it has a wealth of Tudor history. We were blessed with a beautiful day, so after a fascinating tour of the castle we were able to picnic in the grounds and visit the 'Tudor Towers' adventure playground. We learned an awful lot: *'Hever is a fully defensive castle, built in 1270. The gatehouse has two turrets with battlements to hide behind and shoot arrows from. There is a drawbridge and two portcullis'* Bella

'The Boleyn family had wells in their castle so that they could get water even when the castle was under attack.' Safaa

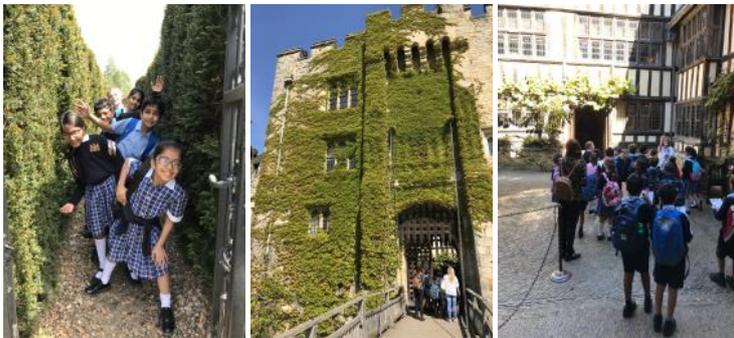
'In the dining room, important people would eat from pewter plates, but servants would eat from trencher plates.' Ishan

'King Henry loved jousting at Hever. He wore rich clothing and many chains around his neck.' Alayna

'There was a portrait of Henry VIII. Having his portrait hung in the castle meant that he was very important to the Boleyn family.'

Jemimah

After lunch some of us braved the tall, yew maze whilst some went to look around the gardens. It was a wonderful day out!



LONDON MUSEUMS

On Wednesday 8th May the Prep 1s visited two museums in London. They were Sir John Soanes in Lincoln's Inn Fields and The British Museum in Holborn. When we got to the museum, it looked like a Georgian house so we could hardly believe it was a museum! When we went inside, we were all shocked by the amazing sculptures and statues and the vastness of the place! We were all so amazed when we went into a room which had a secret hidden door, it took a bit of time to find it, but we found it eventually. There was also a crypt inside. After a while, we did a drawing task about Greek structures and the architecture of temples. Afterwards, we went to The British Museum which was built by Sir John Soane. The rooms were lit with hardly any lights and looked stunning. Some items in there were over 4000 years old! There were pieces of a seven-foot-tall gate which had broken down from a castle or fort, lots of Greek vases and statues of Greek Gods and Goddesses. We all enjoyed the trip and it helped to expand our knowledge on the Ancient Greeks!

Anjali Singh 1SS

VELOPARK TRIP

BKY clocked up the most people cycling and scooting to school during 'Winter Wheelers' week just before Easter, and our prize was a trip to the Olympic Velodrome in Stratford. Lucky us, because this turned out to be an amazing day and lots of fun! When we arrived, we were split into two groups. The first group did mountain biking and the second used BMX bikes. The mountain bikes went outside, but then it began to rain and so we stayed inside for the next sessions and practised going around corners and over bumps. We also did some time trials. We enjoyed ourselves very much and would love to go there again.

Eleanor Watson BKY



HALF TERM FUN

During the Easter holidays my family and I decided to follow some of the suggestions sent out by Mr Thomas and visit some Tudor landmarks in London. In History the Betas are learning about Tudor England this term, and so we thought that this would get me off to a great start. We visited two historic palaces. Hampton Court is where Henry VIII once lived. After we arrived, we went to the Great Hall, where we and the other visitors had the opportunity to meet and ask two Tudor queens – Katherine of Aragon and Anne Boleyn – about their lives. Then we went all around the palace, included the kitchens, where a Tudor feast was being prepared. I was most impressed by the astronomical clock at the Clock Court, which was made over 500 years ago. At the Tower of London we saw Traitor's Gate and the Tower Green, where the Tudor queen and Lady Jane Grey were beheaded. We spotted the black ravens, without which the tower will fall according to the legend and then we celebrated by having an ice-cream. Seeing these palaces has given me a great enthusiasm about the Tudor unit we're doing and has really made our history lessons come alive.

Elio Chan BKY

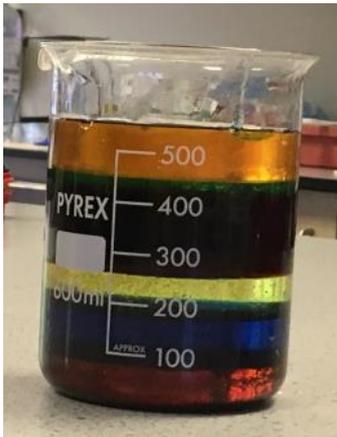


SCIENCE WEEK

Fizz! Bang! Sizzle and Pop! Yes, Science Week was a blast! The children had fun working in year groups on experiments and activities to ignite their spirits of inquiry. The Alphas carried out some 'amazing group work' according to Kitty in ASB. They made Balloon Rockets and experimented with hot air. Did you know that it is possible to 'stack' liquids on top of each other? The Betas had great fun investigating



the density of liquids and finding out that water, syrup, oil, rubbing alcohol and other liquids will create some interesting effects when poured carefully into a beaker. Staying with a liquid theme, some of us investigated surface tension by counting how many drops of water we could fit on a 1p coin – quite a staggering amount! We were fascinated to see how the water 'holds' itself without running off the coin. We



also ventured out in to the school grounds to take a closer look at trees; we examined shape and size, the bark and the shape of leaves in a bid to identify the different species in our school grounds. A fun day was had by all! Joshua Ives BLD said, "I enjoyed learning about the different densities of liquids and seeing all the colours." In Prep 1 we tested the Ph of shampoos and their viscosity. We also investigated how sun cream worked on colour changing UV beads and learnt why it is so important to stay safe in the sun this summer. For Prep 2 the favourite was 'Fizzy Rockets' - 'We had fun and learnt a lot about chemical reactions!' commented Seb in 2CP.



Importantly Ameerah 2CP noted that, 'There was a lot of trial and error involved to see which method worked best to make our rocket fly the highest.' It was a great way to make learning fun and was a memorable experience for all. The children were curious, persistent and collaborative and most importantly scientists in the making.

Sarah Strong



MATHS CHALLENGE

This year has seen our best ever results in the Primary Mathematics Challenge run by The Mathematical Association. The results demonstrate the children's achievements as some of the best young mathematicians in the UK. The first stage of the challenge took place back in November when the children competed alongside 67,000 children across the country tackling a variety of mathematical problems. We were delighted when 16 Bancroftians were invited to take part in the PMC Bonus Round in February 2019. We are extremely proud of the children's achievements, gaining 14 awards between them with Eddie and Harshini gaining the coveted Gold Award. Sue Jones



BELLES OF BANCROFT'S

On a warm, clear Friday evening the 'Belles of Bancroft's' joined a sea of pink as we made our way through Redbridge on the 10k Sparkle Walk in aid of Haven House. Starting at Christchurch Green, Lisa Life and I joined fifteen other members of staff walking through the local area, including parts of Epping Forest, to reach the finish line. We completed the walk in just under two hours and raised over £2000. Haven House has supported over 900 families, looking after children and young people aged from birth to 19 years old who have life-limiting or life-threatening conditions. It is a local charity and one very special to us as a school. Thank you to all those who supported us and for your generous donations. It was great for staff to spend time together walking and talking whilst doing something fantastic for our local community. Here's to next year...

Sarah Strong



CRICKET REVIEW

The sun is shining, which means that it is time to get the cricket whites out (and subsequently the Daz to remove the green stains!) and enjoy taking part in the traditional pastime of cricket. Many of the boys and girls have been practising on the playground all year and their progress has been clearly evident in early sessions. With whole year group fixtures and the opportunity for some to excel in regional competitions, it's definitely going to be a busy term - but likely to be a great one! This is the first year for our girls to play competitive fixtures against our usual opposition and there have been some fantastic performances from the Beta, Prep 1 and Prep 2 girls.



IAPS GALA

With National heats now completed, the competition saw 4500 competitors take part from 260 schools with 1500 swimmers progressing through to the finals. The IAPS competition showcases swimming of the highest standard and is an event we are very proud to take part in. In each event twenty swimmers progress through to the finals at the London Aquatic Centre, with nearly all of the finalists recording County and National qualifying times. Many of these young swimmers will go on to represent their sport at the highest level. The Bancroft's swimmers put in many personal bests and although they did not progress to the finals all them should be very proud of their achievements. A special mention goes to Finlay Jones 2AA, who was just a fraction of a second outside of the qualifying time for the 25m breaststroke final.

Susan Cheshire

PEDAL POWER

I decided that if the pupils were undertaking a sponsored activity during charity week, I would endeavour to find a challenge too. I decided on the '3Bs Challenge' - Bancroft's to Brighton and Back! I set off from the Prep School at 2.10pm on Wednesday with the aim of making it back in time for assembly on Charity Day. I didn't really think it was too much of a challenge but oh how wrong I was! Having not been on a bike for three years, I set off with great apprehension, but I got into my stride and (a few wrong turns later) I was soon out of London and into the countryside on a beautiful sunny day. The views were stunning and time seemed to pass quickly and, after getting over Devil's Dyke Hill, I arrived at Brighton Pier at 9pm. At 9.30pm I began the return leg. By this time it was dark and definitely the hardest part of the challenge as my body started to ache, but my wingman Mr Archer kept me fuelled and in good spirits. All the well wishes from the Prep School pupils definitely got me through the toughest part as well as remembering it was all for a great cause. At 4.55am on Thursday, 14 hours 45 minutes and 234km later, I finally arrived back at Bancroft's. Thank you to all the pupils, staff and parents who sponsored me. I raised over £1300!

Chris Hall



A MARATHON EFFORT!

Victoria Cunningham, one of the school cleaners, and a familiar face on the Beta corridor, was amongst the runners taking part in this year's London marathon. I had the privilege of interviewing her, along with Arya and Ami. Victoria was very proud to be able to complete the run and raise money for her chosen charity The Miscarriage Association. She raised £2015 and I am happy to say that BKY held a collection and was one of her sponsors. Her friends and family supported her throughout the marathon as well as during her training. Victoria said her six months of training was the hardest part. On the day she was very nervous but also excited. She said that although it was hard and challenging, her experience during the run was very positive and emotional. Her favourite part of the race was doing high-fives with the children along the way. Also her friend had to slow down because of a leg injury so Victoria decided to help by running with her until the very end. She could have reached the finish line faster but she thought that it is better to help someone than to beat them in a race. Victoria has been an inspiration to us all including her 3 year old son, Max.

Arda Giray BKY

