



We talk to the children regularly about resilience: sticking at it when you're wrestling with a challenging Maths problem; coping with a missed netball goal. But all of us in our Bancroft's community are having to find extra reserves of resilience in these testing times. We have always said that we want our school to be a happy place and I must commend our amazing staff for continuing to ensure that the children's daily experience remains such a positive one. School is still a place where the children feel safe, where they love to learn and where they can have fun, whatever is going on in the wider world. It may well be that we have to move over to distance learning at some point and that will bring its own challenges. Through the Prep Virtual Learning Environment we will make sure that the children's all-round education can continue and also that they retain the fantastic relationships they have with their teachers. We still plan to be a big part of their lives even if they are not able to see us face to face every day! I am very grateful to our staff for how they are coping currently but I must also give great credit to you as parents. You have stayed calm, measured and kind; you have been patient and understanding with us as we try to get things right in difficult circumstances. I am very proud to be part of such a strong community and I know we will get through this together.

Joe Layton

HOPSTACLE FUN

On Valentine's Day, February 14th, a group of Senior School children held a fundraising activity for local charity 'Haven House' with a Prep School 'Hopstacle Course' in the sports hall. Three of our year groups, the Alphas, Betas and Prep 1s, made their way around an ingeniously designed and challenging course after a warm up with the school's strength and conditioning coach Arram Eghoyan. The Haven House fundraising team of Senior School students is part of an entrepreneurial project sponsored by Galliard Homes who have given £50 in seed capital to six teams from six local schools. The aim is to invest and reinvest that money to raise £1500 for Haven House, our local children's hospice. The Haven House Hopstacle course is the Bancroft's team's showpiece fundraising event and they also hope it will provide healthy fun and exercise for our children.

Lisa Life

COMMUNITY SPIRIT



It was great to see so many green fingered Bancroftians helping their local community at Pankhurst Green on Saturday 14th March. It was a planting and litter picking day to give something back to the Woodford Green community. There were activities galore and refreshments for the busy workers. To thank them for such great community spirit, they were rewarded in assembly with badges, certificates and pencils. The project was promoted by Hannah Hole, who works for the Woodford Creative Hub. You may remember we entered into her Art Trail project last term with photography of the local area. The dates of the trail are 20th - 28th June and I will keep you posted with more details next term.

Sarah Strong

BANCROFT'S CONNECT

We have a new engagement and mentoring platform, 'Bancroft's Connect', where all members of our community can post news, view events, stay in touch and get involved with mentoring, whether it is reviewing a CV, giving advice or even posting jobs. Many of you have already been keen to support us with career mentoring or advice for our pupils and we hope that by creating a larger network of interested people, we could develop our community to provide further opportunities. Please sign up to <https://bancroftsconnect.org/> and get involved. You can also download the app for this exclusive online networking portal for the Bancroft's community from the Apple app store or Google Play: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/graduway-community/id1457549791> or <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.graduway.bancroftsconnect>

If you have any questions regarding the platform, please contact Susan Day society@bancrofts.org

Susan Day

CENTRE OF THE CELL

'Centre of the Cell' is the first science education centre in the world to be located within working biomedical research laboratories. It is situated in Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry. When we got to the 'Centre of the Cell', we were led across a multicoloured bridge. Beneath us, we could see scientists working in the labs. Next, we were led into a meeting room, which was shaped like a cell. We sat around the nucleus and watched a short video about cells. The nucleus opened and we were able to play games about cells. Then the nucleus closed, we watched another video and got to play another selection of games. After we had lunch, we were taken inside a nerve cell and we watched a show. There were lots of fun activities and games, but we also learnt a lot too. I found out lots of new things about camouflage, cells, evolution and much more. I really enjoyed learning through games and I would love to learn more about cells.

Esha Cross 2TP

SCIENCE FAIR



On Monday 9th February the Prep School went to the Science Fair in the Great Hall because it was Science Week. The Science Fair is a fun and inspiring event held by the Senior School where every year group has a set slot to visit, and, when it was the Prep 1s turn, everyone was bursting with excitement. Last year's Science Fair was amazing and that set high standards for 2020, but we knew that the Senior School would not let us down. There were stalls set up along the sides of the hall and the Senior pupils beckoned us to come to their stall and be mind-blown by fascinating science. There were all sorts of things: making snow, colour changing fire, volcanoes, balancing acts, a wave machine – some stalls promoted Biology, Chemistry and some Physics. It was also a competition between the Senior School pupils, each stall had a number and us Prep School pupils could vote for our favourite stall and given the options; it was a tough decision! My favourite stall was where you could make snow. We always enjoy the Science Fair; it is one of the highlights of the year.

Ellora Hand 1SS

SCIENCE WEEK

From Monday 9th March to Friday 13th we celebrated British Science Week. This year's theme was 'Our Diverse Planet'. We were given the exciting task of researching a scientist and we wore lanyards, so we could ask each other questions and learn about different scientists. Each year group was given a different field of science to focus on. In one of our science lessons this week we watched a nature documentary about Borneo and its diverse animal and plant life. We found out about proboscis monkeys, who have massive noses and partially webbed toes, which help them to swim across rivers they need to cross in the rainforest in order to find food. On Friday we all went to the 'Science Supermarket' that had been put on in the Prep Hall, where we could buy lots of different items. We have all been working on posters to enter into the national competition. They have to be on the theme of 'Our Diverse Planet'. We were all excited to start this project and hoping to be winners. Miss Ellery is also running a competition encouraging us to learn more about the plants and animals that are found in the UK by making an information leaflet. There are going to be three winners chosen in each year group and we have until after the Easter holidays to finish designing and making our booklets. We have learnt some amazing things about Science this week, and it was great fun. We are already looking forward to Science Week next year!

Arhan Jasani and Jai Gumbeer BLE



SCIENCE QUIZ

The day began with a long journey from Woodford to Westminster, we had to take two trains. We finally reached the huge building, which was really a church; it was filled with many different schoolchildren all looking eager to win. We had a quick snack and then made our way to the quiz. We were given remotes that had 4 buttons on: A, B, C and D. We were all nervous when the quiz started but the presenter was very funny and made us feel welcome. There were 40 questions and every five questions you could see where you were on the leader board. There were two Bancroft's teams, team 1 and team 2. At one point we were third on the leader board. In the end one team placed fifth and one team placed ninth. Thank you to all the staff who gave us this opportunity.

Will Hughes 1SS

HOUSE DRAMA

House Drama took place at the beginning of March. The credit for the success of this event goes to the Captains of each of the Houses. For 10-11 year olds to write a script, audition performers, design costumes and props, organise IT support, rehearse the performers and even play a part themselves takes great leadership, organisation and determination. They also know what it feels like to deal with a demanding cast, which should help the Prep 2 teachers when they are rehearsing the end of year play! Amazingly, despite the limited time they had together, all the performers learnt their lines and knew exactly where to be at the correct time. Knighton came in fourth place with their performance of 'Goldilocks', Monkams were third with 'Three Little Pigs', Manor were second with 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and first place went to Hereford with 'The Ugly Duckling'.

David Archer



#EACHFOREQUAL

International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The 2020 theme of International Women's Day was #EachforEqual and we marked the occasion in a number of ways. On 6th March the children wore purple and green accessories and Prep 1s were invited to attend a Career's Fair at the Senior School where they met female Old Bancroftians who have been successful in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths as well as other industries and professions. There is a photographic display in school celebrating our Prep girls alongside inspirational women with the slogan, '*She believed she could, so she did!*'

Sarah Strong



WORLD BOOK DAY



The theme for World Book Day this year was "Our Teachers' Favourite Books" and all the children in the school had the chance to learn about several of the titles that have inspired members of our staff both during their own childhoods and during their teaching careers. The whole school took a break from the normal timetable for the day as the children did activities based on the books the teachers had chosen. While some children were digging the eponymous "Holes" from Louis Sachar's novels, others were walking through a mock-up wardrobe into their own Narnia-inspired magical land. Some children played games of Quidditch while others built Famous Five-style dens or received a visit from the Borrowers. There was also a teachers' quiz where some of the children in Prep 2 had the chance to test two teams of teachers on their knowledge of children's literature and exciting activities were going on in the library throughout the day. Hopefully all the children have been inspired to try a new book they wouldn't otherwise have read - they certainly had a great time!

Tim Paramour



SPORT RELIEF

Sport Relief was created to harness the power and passion of sport to raise money to help people who need it the most both in the UK and around the world. Sport Relief takes on the issues of mental health, child poverty, domestic abuse and helps people have safe places to live. The pupils were amazing and eagerly undertook a number of sporting challenges to raise what they could for this fantastic cause. The Alphas completed over 1,200 minutes of dancing; the Betas played 61 Boccia games; Prep 2 scored 213 baskets in the basketball tournament and Prep 1 lost count of the number of dives, ducks and dodges on the dodgeball courts! The main event was the 'Sport Relief Mile', which we put our own twist on. We completed 1080 laps of the trim trail, 21.6 miles in the swimming pool and 30 miles on the machines in the gym. We raised over £340 for Sport Relief, which is a superb effort by all the pupils - especially those who were here bright and early for morning activities. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who took part!

Chris Hall

CROSS COUNTRY

We took twenty three runners to the Woodford Green Prep School Cross Country competition last Wednesday. It was a real cross country course with a vast amount of mud and swamp-like sections! I was incredibly proud of each and every runner, their conduct throughout the competition was excellent and their team work was tremendous. A special mention goes to Esa Sheikh who lost his shoe on the first lap but continued to plough on and finish the race with one shoe and one extremely wet and dirty sock! The resilience shown by every runner was a reminder of our school values. The enjoyment displayed on their faces, even though it was very muddy and challenging, made the competition worthwhile. The U11 girls won their age group with Natasha Wynn finishing first, followed by Caitlin Hancock in third place. The U11 boys were second, the U9 girls were fifth and the U9 boys were third overall.

Hayley Pegg



SWIMMING FINALS

It has been a busy week for the Prep Swimming Team. Thirty five members of the team travelled to St Paul's School, SW13 for the 'B' Final of the London Swimming League. The swimmers have been working hard since the heats and recorded faster times during the final. There were many incredibly close races and all the swimmers should be very proud of their achievements in the pool. In forty four races we achieved five first place, ten second place and nine third place finishes. Congratulations to first place finishes in the following events:

Year 4A 25m Freestyle	Mark Jordan	18.22
Year 5B 25m Freestyle	Freddie Kent	19.34
Year 6A 50m Freestyle	Emma Diebel	36.19
Year 6B Medley Relay	Blake Goodfellow, Esha Cross, Theo Atanlusi and Martha Coyne	1.30.38
Year 5A Free Relay	Sadie Vohmann, Mya Clewes, Atronna Sebyala, Charlotte Jones	1.16.65

The Squadron Relay of 12 swimmers, from years 4-6 was incredibly close, finishing just 0.57 second behind Orchard House to finish 2nd in a time of 3.50.97.

Final Results:

1st: Thomas's Kensington	- 460
2nd: Orchard House, Chiswick	- 437
3rd: Ravenscourt Park Prep/Bancroft's	- 427
5th: St Pauls Junior, Richmond	- 411
6th: Notting Hill and Ealing Prep	- 295

Susan Cheshire



IAPS SWIMMING

On Wednesday the Years 5 & 6 competed in the Qualifying Round of IAPS. Unfortunately the gala was affected by schools withdrawing and the children used the event as a time trial. Their times have now been logged against all other school who participated across the country and we are awaiting the final results.

Susan Cheshire