



It's never been more apparent to me than in the past weeks, just how much we all need each other. As a school, we wanted to give every child the chance to return before the summer break and so the vast majority have now spent time with their classmates and teachers. It's been joyous and also very moving to witness their happiness at seeing each other again in person rather than via a screen. I smiled when one of our Prep 2 girls, Rajni, told me excitedly on her first day back, "I can't believe Nandika has actually been standing here in front of me in real life!" Human contact, even if socially distanced, is clearly so vital to all of us. We hope very much that we will all be back together again in September. Whatever the Government guidance may be at that time we will respond to it positively and do the best by the children. We have learnt so much during the period of online learning but as I write, my windows are open and I can hear the sound of some of the Alpha children in the classroom above me enjoying a real life lesson with a real life teacher! It's one of the happiest, most uplifting sounds I can think of but I didn't fully realise it until it was taken away from us. So as this strangest of all terms comes to a close, can I wish all of you in our amazing Bancroft's Prep School community an enjoyable summer. I hope that as the lockdown lifts you have more and more opportunities to be with more and more of the people you love- in real life.

Joe Layton

MATHS CHALLENGE

The Primary Mathematics Challenge (PMC) is a fun and exciting mathematical challenge aimed at pupils in Years 5 and 6. It encourages enthusiasm, boosts confidence in mathematics and shows the different way questions can be asked. Problem Solving is a means of helping pupils develop their reasoning skills and the PMC is designed to make pupils think outside the box. We had great success at Bancroft's Prep again this year with several pupils being awarded certificates. Congratulations to all who took part!

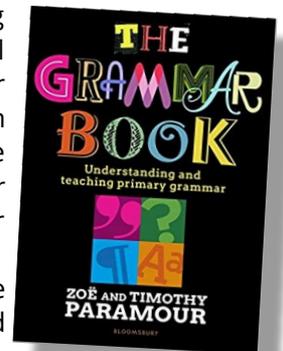
Sue Jones

GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Julia Boots Luca Ventura	Atharv Gupta Ayushi Shah Charlotte Elliott Guangdi Zhu Hareena Giretharan Leo Frchet Luke Strydom Mathuran Arunan Nandika Mali	Adam Jaleel Ahsen Ali Ammar Bharmal Aryaa Kakkar Esha Cross Rajni Randhawa Selin Halil

THE GRAMMAR BOOK

Over the past few years, there has been a greater emphasis placed on the teaching of grammar in English schools. This has resulted in big changes to the National Curriculum, some of which have been quite controversial. As Head of English here at Bancroft's Prep, I want our pupils to write with flair and confidence but I also believe children should be taught a little bit about how the English language actually works and functions. In 2018, my wife, Zoë, and I were invited by Bloomsbury Education to write *The Grammar Book*, a resource for teachers and parents to help their children learn about English grammar. The book was published on 11th June this year. Like everything else, the launch of *The Grammar Book* was disrupted by the impact of Covid-19 but many copies have already been sold and we are hopeful that the book will be of help to many teachers and parents throughout the country. During the writing process, I have been sharing the ideas and resources I've been working on with the children in my classes and the book is full of examples and references to my work here at Bancroft's. One of our school values is balance and I think it's really important that we as teachers act as role models for that ideal- showing ourselves to be three-dimensional people and sharing our achievements and interests both within and outside school with the children. I hope some of our pupils will be inspired to get their own ideas published in the future. The Grammar Book is available from all good bookshops and online retailers!

Tim Paramour



ENRICHMENT DAY

Last Thursday, the children had a fabulous time and worked really hard on various enrichment activities to extend their learning in curriculum areas and beyond. The Alphas and Betas made 'bug hotels'; shelters made from tin cans and sticks collected in their garden to provide a safe habitat for invertebrates to live. Prep 1s and 2s planned virtual trips around the UK, whilst at school, Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz were tried for various crimes in our very own courtroom drama!



Nick Thomas

ALPHAS

The children will tell you that we usually sing a song at the start of a new year, or term, that begins, 'Back in school again, meeting all our friends, here with all of our teachers...' It would have been the perfect song to sing on Monday 22nd June when we welcomed back the majority of our Alpha children. Despite the fact that we weren't able to sing it together did not detract from our excitement at seeing them all again. It has been so wonderful to have them back for the last two weeks of term and they have loved it too. When we asked them what had been the best thing about returning to school, their response was unanimous and, echoing Mr Layburn's sentiments over the page, it was seeing their friends and teachers in real life. Some pupils were sadly not able to return; they were in the capable hands of Mrs Kanolik who continued to provide remote learning, but we really missed them - and her! Our Alphas' first year at Bancroft's has certainly been one that they will not forget, but they have coped brilliantly, maintaining their enthusiasm throughout the long period of home learning, and we could not be prouder of them.

Laura Dalton

BETAS

After months of working in isolation, it was so lovely to return to school. With both the Prep 2s and Alphas in, it felt a little more like our school - more like home, really! Seeing the Betas again during their visits was really rather emotional. After months of speaking online, it was so special to see them face-to-face in real life! Summer Ray said, 'It was so good to be back at school seeing Mrs Rathod and all my friends after a very long time! It felt very strange at first as we kept a social distance, but it didn't really matter because we were all together I look forward to being back at school in September!' I have been bowled over by the way they have soldiered on through such a long period of remote learning, maintaining a great level of enthusiasm throughout. There's no pandemic that will stop these guys! I cannot wait to be reunited with them all in September.

Bino Rathod

PREP 1

It was like Christmas had come early when the Prep1s were able to reunite for one afternoon only with their classmates and teachers during the last two weeks of term. This gave them the opportunity to socially distance with their peers and let off steam. It was a wonderful way to end a strange, but very memorable, year for them in the Prep School. I would like to take this opportunity to say how very proud I am of my year group. Their resilience and kindness during the whole process has been second to none. I suppose that what makes Bancroftians so special; they know they will always have challenges to face in life, but it is the way they overcome them and use them to their advantage, that ultimately

matters. Our Prep 1s have shown that with initiative, perseverance and independence they can thrive in any situation and will therefore go on to be very successful in life. Wishing the Prep 1s and their families a very well-deserved summer break.

Sarah Strong

PREP 2

It has been wonderful to return to school and spend the last five weeks with so many of our Prep 2s. After a long lockdown - a difficult time for many of us - both the children and staff have really enjoyed being back together, having lots of fun, whilst teaching and learning face to face. We started with 38 children on June 1st and will finish on Friday 3rd July with 60 back in school. Having the separate bubbles was a bit strange to begin with, but like most things, we have become used to the new ways of school life and these have enabled us to get to know different teachers and children. We will all remember what has been a truly extraordinary year but I hope, like me, the children will remember their last few weeks of their final year at the Prep as a time full of smiles, summer sunshine and special memories.

Alex Adams

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

One of the most popular clubs we run in the Upper Phase is Business Enterprise. It entered its third year in September and what a year it has been! The children generated the idea of producing and mass selling top-trump style cards that could be swapped or 'traded' in the playground...cue thousands of cards being designed, produced and sold and over £2000 in profits made in just a few weeks! The time and work that went into generating the number of cards we needed to feed demand on a weekly basis was incredible...but so worth it! We really got to know each other throughout the sessions we spent together printing, cutting, gluing, picking and packing! There are no words to describe watching 500 cards being snapped up in less than five minutes and children begging for more! Our most successful venture to date, we are very proud to be donating the money raised to three current causes: Haven House, NHS Charities Together, and an international charity, Embracerace, who set out to gather the resources needed to meet the challenges faced by children in a world where race matters. Thank you and well done to all those Prep 2s involved in this club; Mr Pearson and I look forward to starting with a new group on a new venture later this year...

Alex Adams



OUR SCHOOL NURSE



This half-term I have decided to interview Aileen Hancock, our school nurse. She works tirelessly behind the scenes to look after our pupils and she told me her job has changed somewhat since the recent pandemic.

What did you do before being a school nurse and how has that helped in your role today?

I worked as a midwife for 23 years at The Whittington Hospital. The basic care is almost the same. My previous role was to care for pregnant mums and their families. My current role is caring for students and staff alike which can also extend to families. I also work closely with the school pastoral team as well as other members of the multi professional team to ensure all students receive the necessary support they require, whether it is physical, psychological or emotional.

How has your job changed in the past couple of months?

The past few months have been quite surreal for everybody, not just within my role. The medical room was extremely busy before lockdown as more information came to light about coronavirus and the uncertainty that ensued. Whilst it became quieter as we entered lockdown, it gave me an opportunity to reflect on how I, as a health professional, move forward in continuing to care for our students and staff whilst adhering to government guidelines. Policies and procedures were updated, PPE was invested in and preparations made to welcome students and staff back to school safely. Basic nursing care has not changed – the way that we provide it has!

What is a typical day like for you now?

Quieter! Since returning to school, my normal day starts with checking in with all staff and students on site and saying 'Hello!' I then respond to all emails or phone message received. I am now lucky enough to assist the Prep School with playtime supervision which I really look forward to. My day also consists of touching base with parents of children with any medical concerns and ensuring they are well and healthy. I have been doing Year 6 Health Screening in preparation for Senior School and I have been working with Vaccination UK in supporting them with planning and carrying out important vaccinations for students in other year groups.

What are your top three tips for a healthy lifestyle?

Eat – healthy

Play – exercise

Love – each other/communicate feelings.

Do you enjoy your job?

I LOVE my job. Where else do I get to see children grow into adults and get ready to take on the world? I feel privileged that I am allowed to be such a special part of any child's life, whether it through tears caused by a fall or injury, providing a space for a student to come and take some 'time out' or just staff and students knowing that my door is always open no matter what!

Did you ever foresee a pandemic like this arising?

I think as a nurse, or anyone in the medical profession, you are always aware of what disease, infection or virus is around the corner. I personally never foresaw this global pandemic arising. I think this period of time has taught us a lot and forced us to think about how we have lived, currently live and how we will continue to live safely in the future.

How have you prepared for children returning to school?

In preparation for children returning to school, the medical room has been deep cleaned and continues to be cleaned regularly on a daily basis. Hand sanitisers and hand washing facilities have been increased. Seating outside the medical room has been arranged so that any students, waiting for medical attention, remain 2m apart. We may look at introducing an appointment system for non-urgent medical concerns depending on number of students returning to school in the future. I have been given PPE as the nature of my role does not always allow me to adhere to the 2m guidance. Health and safety has been priority in our preparations here at school for all staff and students.

Do you have any advice for pupils, staff and families who are feeling at a loss at the moment?

Keep those lines of communication open and talk about your feelings whether positive or negative. Chat to a family member, friend, colleague, counsellor, GP or seek advice from an online source such as [MIND www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk). Enjoy family time but remember it's okay to want your own space too. Choose your battles – we are living in a surreal world and what may have seemed important before may seem insignificant now.

Sarah Strong

MUSIC SUCCESS



Jocelyn Lai, 1NB, has had great success in the online North London harp competition. She was awarded a special

'Commended' for being very musical and having some nice phrasing and capturing the character of her piece well. She also achieved a Gold Award back in March at the Bromley Music Festival. This is great news for Jocelyn and we are very proud of her. We are honoured to have such a talented harpist at the Prep and we wish her the very best of luck in future competitions.

Adam Baum

CHARITY DAY

This half term we held our first 'Virtual Charity Awareness Day' where the children were set a variety of activities including researching some charities; devising a 'Virtual Charity Stall' to raise money; helping out around the house and completing a workout. To replicate the charity stalls we normally have, the pupils used their imaginations to create fantasy stalls and some of the ideas were out of this world, literally! They included swimming around the world with a whale, time travel and feeding sharks! There was some great feedback from the pupils, some even managing to raise money, which they have subsequently passed on to their chosen charities. Well done to Tom Knight who raised £100 for Dogs' Trust. David Archer



YOUNG VOICES

The Prep 1s and 2s annually take part in the extraordinary extravaganza, which is Young Voices (YV). The concert at the O2 is memorable and is something that they remember for years and years. The Young Voices team have continued to be busy and creative. They offer weekly workshops with YV *At Home Elevenses* and continue to inspire children and teachers to sing and dance. They then had the extraordinary idea of creating the largest online choir in the world with a performance of 'Power In Me', a YV favourite. Children and teachers from all corners of the globe took part, and the performance was conducted by David Lawrence in England and Francisco Nunez in the USA. It is believed that 20,000 young people took part, which is incredible. Our turn at Bancroft's was on 2nd June at 2.30pm. Lessons stopped, the Prep 2s in their classes took part, and all our Prep 1s at home did too. YV t-shirts were the order of the day. I have received so many photos and videos that it was quite overwhelming and Lily in 1SS was even on the YV Facebook page! The BBC, Sky and ITV all covered the event and broadcast it as a happy release from the day to day of online lessons. YV is 25 years old next year, and what a great advert this was for the 'Power In Me' that music is. Adam Baum



SPORTS DAY

We had a change to our annual event this year, with the introduction of a Virtual Sports Day 2020. Team PE wanted all pupils to be able to enjoy this annual event either at school or at home, so we asked pupils to try to complete as many of the activities as they could and earn points towards the total for their House. Dhiya from Manor said, "Although it was different, I still enjoyed it and found it fun!" Nandika from Hereford commented that, "It was a good chance to compete for our House and see how far we have come in our skill specific challenges." Luca from Knighton added, "I really enjoyed Sports Day. Well done to those at home who completed the challenges." Hareena from Monkams said, "It was really fun and I am glad we were able to take part and not miss out!" Well done to **Manor** who won Bancroft's Sports Day 2020 overall! Hayley Pegg

BATTLE OF THE HOUSES

Although it has been a somewhat unusual end to the year, the House system has continued to provide some competition and enjoyment for the pupils in their virtual environments. Over this Summer Term, the pupils have taken part in a House Design, House Dance, House Quiz and a Sports Day competition. Many of these photos are on the VLE displaying some of the amazing work of our pupils. Over the course of the year, the children have also had the opportunity to take part in Interhouse events such as Tug of War, Hockey, Rugby, Netball, Football, Drama, Bingo and the House Captain's Challenge. The House Captains have been extraordinary throughout the year, particularly in their efforts to coordinate their House drama production. It was a child-led process with an adult quality performance. The results for the House Cup 2019/20 have been collated and verified by an official adjudicator and are as follows:
Knighnton - 228
Hereford - 242
Monkhams - 260
Manor - 296
Congratulations to Manor and to all who have taken part in House events with such enthusiasm and commitment. David Archer

