



There is so much in this edition of Prep Headlines of which we can all be proud. Covid has occupied our thoughts and, of course, it continues to do so, yet as a school community we have made time to think of others. The Prep Assembly of December 7<sup>th</sup> is still available to watch on the VLE and it shows the great work of Mrs Strong and our Charity Ambassadors in delivering to the Redbridge Mutual Aid Foodbank all the wonderful items donated by Bancroft's Prep School. If you haven't seen it, do take a look- you'll be amazed! [Video assembly](#). Something else which will amaze you is Mr Archer's reimagining of a traditional tale in his *A Bancroft's Christmas Carol* using a fine troupe of players from the Prep School staff. The children watched this with their teachers in their form time on their last day here and it put a smile on everyone's face [A Bancroft's Christmas Carol](#). Naturally, we had hoped to keep going in school until Wednesday. I'm sad that we've had to move to online learning for the last two days but I know the children will cope, as they have with everything that has been thrown at them this term. I hope that you are all able to take some rest and enjoyment from the holiday period despite these uncertain times. Can I also wish you a Happy New Year. I have a feeling that things can only get better in 2021!

Joe Layburn

## REMEMBRANCE

As a result of Covid-19 restrictions, Bancroft's Prep had to consider a new way of marking Remembrance this year. Class teachers sold poppies to their own classes at the beginning of the week. Wearing a poppy reflects individual and personal memories. It is greatly appreciated by those it helps – our beneficiaries: those currently serving in our Armed Forces, veterans, and their families and dependants. The donations are sent to The Royal British Legion; a charity that provides them with financial, social and emotional support. On Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> November we were given an assembly by Mr Layburn, on the meaning of Armistice Day. Then we wore our poppies with pride at 11am as Mr Layburn read the lines from the Laurence Binyon poem, which ends 'we will remember them.' Mr Baum played 'The Last Post' and then we held a two minute silence. This was all observed from our classroom windows, looking out over the interior playground. It was most moving and showed that, despite the challenges posed by the coronavirus, the Prep remain committed in our honour to remember all those who served and all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for us.

Sarah Strong

## FOOD BANK

It has been said that the best collaborations create something bigger than the sum of what each person can create on their own. Having fed forty families of four, and sixty single people, in our Christmas Foodbank Appeal, I think we have proved that theory right. When we first came up with the idea, to create boxes of food to last a family a fortnight, I anticipated three or four boxes per class. With over one hundred boxes being delivered to Redbridge Mutual Aid Foodbank in our first week and another twenty households fed in our second, I am delighted that we have been able to help more of our local community than I could ever have anticipated! From marketing the concept through flyers and promotional videos led by our Charity Ambassadors, to seeing the totaliser rise and Christmas frieze develop, designed by our librarian Kathryn Houghton, meant the message to 'Spread A Little Bancroft's Kindness' could really be felt. Thank you to everyone who made this happen. Our school value of collaboration was seen at its finest from the teaching to the maintenance staff pulling together to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We have our wonderful parents to thank for their extremely generous donations and our prep children for collaborating so sensibly in putting everything together. This was a small act of kindness on our part to give a lot of joy to those who will find Christmas particularly difficult this year.

Sarah Strong

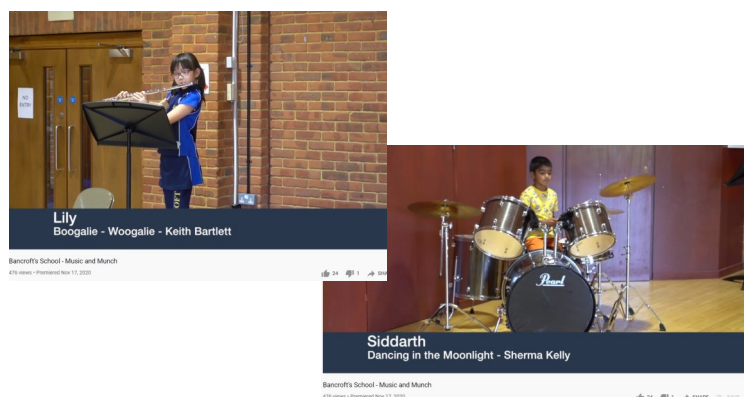


# MUSICAL NEWS

What a term it has been, where necessity has truly been the mother of invention. There was a time when I thought, would music lessons with our 30 visiting teachers be even able to take place? But with the discipline of worn visors, masks, screens and sanitisation it has really worked. Some statistics for you: on a weekly basis, 41 Alpha music lessons are taught, 45 Beta, 50 Prep 1 and 53 Prep 2. That is a total of 189 lessons taught in the Prep School alone out of a total of 260 students. Parents, when you have some anxiety about your child missing certain lessons at certain times, please be reassured by these figures and how successful the school is and continues to be. The Mozart effect! And all this within the backdrop of lockdowns and a serious virus at large. What has been a sadness this term however, has been the fewer opportunities for practical music making, but I believe that some progress has been made. In highly spaced out and ventilated rooms, we do classroom sized singing. We have formed three separate orchestras to accommodate the bubbles. There are two recorder groups, a small clarinet group, a newly formed Prep 1 Band, led by Ms Tarrant, and a reduced sized Chapel Choir. At least *all* children are doing some practical music making. A highlight of this half term was surely the second Music and Munch concert of the academic year. Sadly no audience can join us and the children have to remain in their bubbles, but I believe that we still have a winning formula. Eighteen children took part this time, including two Alphas which was wonderful. All instrumental families and voice were included and, I take great pride in saying that, as I write, there have been 442 views of the concert on YouTube. At any given time, we usually have only about thirty parents coming to an event. The outreach with this formula is quite formidable. There will be two more next term. For the foreseeable future, we will continue to run these events in the same way, including the Christmas Concert, with its 28 separate items of filming. Miss Akroyd has done an amazing job this term, and even more so with this acquired skill base. When we broadcast the concert via YouTube, I sincerely hope that you appreciate the effort to bring Christmas to your homes. Every child in the school is taking part.

Best wishes to you and your families.

Adam Baum



# ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

On 6<sup>th</sup> November, we had an anti-bullying workshop led by Openview Education. I learnt strategies of how to be brave and stand up for what is right. To help me understand more, the leader showed us a short clip about somebody getting bullied. We were then asked to act out the next scene which was about how to stand up to bullies. By acting it out, I was able to feel what it was like being in that position. I felt sad watching the bullying but better when I felt confident on how to react. I learnt that standing up to bullies is not about bravery but wanting to live up to the principles of fairness which is when everybody has a right to be treated the same, without fear. This workshop was extremely useful. The following week we wore odd socks to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! This was such great fun! Bancroft's has always been a kind and safe place to come to school but it is nice to be reminded of one of our 3 1/2 school rules sometimes; everyone has a right to be happy! Let's together make sure we follow the rules.

Zara Khan 1SS



# BE BRIGHT—BE SEEN

On Monday 2nd of November, the entire Prep School wore something reflective. From hair ties, to bright socks, to reflective vests, everyone brightened up in this dark season. This was a reminder that now, in wintertime, it is harder for cars to see you in the dark. For instance, if you wore a black hoodie covering your head, you would blend in the dark background and a driver would not be aware that someone was there. This is dangerous as it could cause an accident when the driver spots you too late, but while wearing reflective clothing, you would stand out and a car would see you in the dark and stop. While this is a helpful reminder, we all had fun dressing up in reflective clothing and a great way to start off our half term. Stay Light and Bright!

Clara Redeker 2TP





## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Many of you will be familiar with our usual Christmas extravaganza. One evening, in the last week of term, hours of preparation come to fruition with an epic concert held in the Great Hall. The first half showcases all of our orchestras, bands and other ensembles, whilst the second half sees every pupil in the Prep School take to the stage to perform the nativity story. It's no surprise that things have had to be done a little differently this year. Classes have still been learning lines and lyrics and practising on a variety of instruments. Each class or ensemble have then had their 'lights, camera, action!' moment against the bright and twinkly festive backdrop put up in the Prep Hall. Miss Akroyd has had the enormous task of recording all the numbers and putting it together. The concert will be streamed on Wednesday evening and we cannot wait to see it!

Laura Dalton



## ROCKS AND FOSSILS

The Alphas have been learning about rocks, fossils and soils this half-term. We had hoped to visit the Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences in Cambridge to find out more, but sadly the museum, like so many public places, had to close its doors. However, all was not lost; although we could not go to the museum, the museum was able to come to us! We were very lucky to be able to borrow two resource boxes from the museum full of amazing rocks and fossils. On the box it said: 'Please be careful with the fossils in this box - we want them to last another million years'. It was hard to comprehend that we were looking at fossils that were so old. Minecraft fans were astonished to see a piece of real obsidian which, close up, is so shiny it looks like plastic! We really enjoyed exploring the boxes.

Laura Dalton



## CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November the Prep School dressed up in yellow and spotty pieces of clothing for Children in Need. We raised £675.60 on what is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appeal show on the BBC. The money will ensure that children in the UK are safe, happy, and secure. The charity raise money throughout the year and on their annual November appeal, they fund local charities that help remove the boundaries that is stopping children from thriving. Last year they supported over 550,000 children (about half the population of Maine) and young people affected by an entire range of disadvantages. They also help to ensure that every young person has access to the opportunities that they deserve. This year Pudsey day has been a huge success!

Atronna Sebyala 2AA



## BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

It has been a very busy time in the world of Prep 2 business over the last few weeks. The bands have been extremely popular and so the team have been working round the clock to ensure supply meets demand! Lots of people ask how they are made and how long it takes to make one. Well, the answer is: not long at all! The bands are made from either one or two pieces of strong paracord which is woven in a particular way to ensure there is continuation of a pattern. Our 'finishing' team use special tools to tie off, cut and then burn the ends of the bands and voila...one band is made! We have sold over 300 bands - both single colours and doubles and so far generated nearly £1000 in profit! We will be donating this to charity. This is a great club where the children are always in high spirits and really enjoy what they do. A huge thank you to Mr Pearson too - he is always the driver of the business idea and goes above and beyond researching materials and ordering the resources we need. Lastly, a huge thank you to all the children and parents who have supported our latest venture. We hope you enjoy wearing your buddy bands!

Alex Adams

## HOUSE NEWS

Even though there has not been any external fixtures, the competitive element has not been lost, as the Prep School has engaged in a variety of different House competitions over the course of this half term. There was the 'usual' House events in our Games sessions, such as hockey and rugby, which was an opportunity to show off the skills learnt and the progress made over the past 2 months. This led to Cordelia commenting, 'If I could, I would play inter-house hockey in every Games' lesson because everybody shows good teamwork and sportsmanship, and it is very enjoyable'.

In addition, there was the chance to try a few different house events as pupils took part in House Football and Basketball. We also like to give the opportunity for all to excel and take part in events like House Skipping, House Daily Mile and House Creative Writing, which saw over 50 entries from the pupils. Teamwork and leadership has also developed and Rian and Eddie from Prep 1 were instrumental in encouraging their House peers to help get extra laps on their daily mile day. The scores are currently:

TOTAL	
170	HEREFORD
164	KNIGHTON
208	MANOR
190	MONKHAMS



David Archer

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Prep have teamed up with the Senior School to design Christmas cards to send to both our local community and extended school community this Christmas. Pupils were asked to design a festive card on A4 paper and these were printed onto quality card and delivered by the Sixth Form Charity Committee to local hospices, elderly residential homes and our Prep children delivered them to 300 neighbours of the school. One elderly lady was so delighted with her card as she knew it would be the only one she would receive this year. Additionally, cards have been sent from our Young Bancroftians to Old Bancroftians of the school, who live all around the country. Some are in their nineties; how wonderful that they will still feel valued by our school community and remembered during, what will be, a very different Christmas for everyone.

Here we see some of our Ambassadors delivering letters to our good neighbours in Whitehall Road.

Sarah Strong

