



It's great to get outside - even if the weather this month has been less than enticing - and Mr Hall and I spent a happy couple of hours this week at the Lambourne End Centre for Outdoor Learning. We were exploring opportunities for the Prep children to get some hands on experiences at the farm there, as well as in the outdoor classrooms set up on the edge of beautiful Hainault Forest. It's just over five miles from our site to the Centre and Mr Hall is keen to get our children out there for a taste of what's on offer, whether that be pond-dipping, bush craft, abseiling, caving or collecting chicken's eggs, and feeding the goats and pigs! By seeking out partnerships with local enterprises like the Lambourne End Centre, we feel we can broaden our children's understanding of all that education can be. We're serious about the benefits of outdoor learning and we'll be letting you know more about it



as we move on from the pandemic and into our next academic year. We believe it can take children out of their comfort zone, help them look at the world from a different perspective, learn new, practical skills and be happy- as happy as a pig in mud, in fact!

*Joe Laylin*

## MUSIC AND MUNCH

At lunchtime on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April we recorded the third of our virtual 'Music and Munch' concerts. It was a wonderful event with 19 children taking part from across all year four groups. For many, it was their first time performing to an audience, even if this comprised of just a handful of members of staff! The concert included an eclectic mix of instruments and players: guitarists, flautists, pianists, drummers and double bass players, to name just a few. The concert went 'live' on the school's YouTube channel and can be found by following this link: [https://youtu.be/5g0qGdOU\\_Zc](https://youtu.be/5g0qGdOU_Zc)  
Jenny Akroyd

## CAPTAIN TOM 100

In April 2020, Captain Tom Moore set out round his garden to thank our NHS heroes. One hundred laps later, he had raised an incredible £38.9 million for the NHS Covid-19 appeal. His simple message of hope - "Tomorrow will be a good day" - inspired millions around the world. Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April would have been his 101st birthday and to honour him we took part in the 'Captain Tom 100 Challenge'. Each class was asked to raise £100 by doing any activity 100 times. Activities ranged from cartwheeling to climbing steps, wearing 100 face masks to skipping, baking 100 cakes to scoring 100 goals, writing 100 word poems to reading 100 pages of a book. This list was endless and everyone got involved. A special mention to Ishaan who raised £120 by baking and selling 100 cakes; Sunai and Ami who raised £243 doing the same and Shalen who used his birthday money to buy 100 food items for Epping Forest Food Bank. I am overwhelmed to say that we surpassed our target, raising £2028.32, which will be going to both King George's and Queen's Hospitals. These are both hospitals in our local community where funds will be used in their accident and emergency departments and in the area of bereavement counselling. Thank you to our parents for encouraging your children to be proactive and thoughtful. We really value your support.

Sarah Strong



---

## GREEN FINGERS

---

As part of our Science topic, 'Plants', the Alphas have been growing some vegetables. A couple of weeks ago AAK and ALD planted some peas and ASB planted some beans. We also planted some radishes as they are very quick growing; so quick in fact that they had germinated overnight and shoots appeared just 48 hours later! This week it was time for our young seedlings to brave the big outdoors. Helped by Mr Hall, each class planted out their peas, beans and radishes. The ground is certainly wet enough for them to thrive but we are hopeful for some sunshine to help them thrive

Laura Dalton



---

## DOUBLE BASS DEMO

---

String teacher, Mr MacManus, has given some exciting double bass demonstrations to the Prep children. Some pupils were even lucky enough to have a go in front of their peers. We are looking to recruit some more double bass players and we are fortunate to have three mini basses that can be borrowed for lessons and practice. The double bass is a wonderful and very versatile instrument, so if this is something that interests your child, please get in contact with Mr Baum to find out more [adb@bancrofts.org](mailto:adb@bancrofts.org)

Jenny Akroyd

---

## STAY SAFE

---

In the first week of this term, Prep 2 took part in a workshop run by an organisation called *2020 Dreams* about knife crime and other related issues. The children explored the different reasons why some young people end up getting themselves into trouble with weapons and they learnt about the laws surrounding knife crime in the UK. As you would expect, many of the topics and discussion points required great maturity and sensitivity but all the children participated in a very appropriate way. It's easy to imagine we're completely insulated from some of the darker aspects of the world at a school like Bancroft's but we want all our students to understand that our whole society is interconnected and we all have to be responsible for the decisions we make.

Tim Paramour

---

## BOOK PROJECT

---

A huge thank you to all those who donated a book to our book drop initiative this half-term. We collected over 700 books, which were sent to The Children's Book Project – a charity that ensures pre-loved books are given to schools across London whose pupils live in the most challenging circumstances and who have been most emotionally hit by lockdown. Families will be able to browse your donated books and take them home to borrow or keep. The impact of this on the children's sense of community, their engagement with reading for pleasure and a book 'buzz' around school are so beneficial. Liberty Venn, who organises the project, said we went 'above and beyond' with our collection. We are now hoping to make this an annual event! Keep reading; keep sharing; keep giving.

Sarah Strong



---

## BANCROFT'S CONNECT

---

We are excited to introduce this new free resource for Bancroft's parents available on [Bancroft's Connect](#). The online Business Directory gives you exclusive space within our engaged network to promote your own businesses and services.

- Post your own business information using an easy to use form
- Promote special offers to other Bancroft's Connect users
- Search by free text, category, or location for other businesses and services that you may be able to support

Please be assured that all businesses will be monitored regularly and may be removed if felt to be inappropriate or incompatible with Bancroft's core values.

For all you need to know about our Business Directory please watch this short video.

[Training-Video-Business-Directory-User-View](#)

For any queries, please contact Susan Day [society@bancrofts.org](mailto:society@bancrofts.org)



---

# EARTH DAY

---



We live on a magnificent planet and, on Earth Day 2021, the sun shone and so did the pupils at Bancroft's Prep. In Alpha Art Club the children made some earth flowers to commemorate the day. Two Alpha classrooms now have bird feeders outside, which will hopefully have some visitors very soon. The Betas went out and about on a litter pick and managed to pick up 8.5kg of rubbish from the forest around the school site. Although this is an impressive amount for them to remove from the forest, it is sad that not all people take their litter home. This got the Betas thinking and some of them decided to aim to pick up 100 pieces of litter or spend 100 minutes litter-picking for the 'Captain Tom 100 Challenge'. The Betas did not stop there; they got down and dirty making wildflower 'bombs' and we are looking forward to seeing these in full bloom later in the year. Our Prep 1s became the next world famous fashion models and paraded around the school field in their wonderful reduce/reuse/recycle outfits which were so well thought out and designed. Real effort went into these and their

individuality shone through. Hopefully this will provoke us all to think about the environmental impact of 'fast fashion' and consider whether we can buy second-hand or 'make do and mend'. Our Prep 2s were truly inspired by Ellora Hand, whose presentation was



incredible. The Prep 2s looked at green travel ideas with cycling, walking and a few even met up and travelled on the bus together to school. The Prep 2s also had discussions on how we can help to save the planet. I'll leave you with Mrs Strong's quote of the day: "There is no 'Plan'et B."

Chris Hall

---

## LITTER PICKING

---

Prep 1 pupils care greatly about the environment so on the 27<sup>th</sup> May we set out, collaborating with our friends, to pick up litter from some of Woodford's beautiful green spaces. We worked in pairs and used gloves and litter pickers to collect as much litter as possible. It was devastating to see how much people litter. We found many glass bottles, crisp packets and lots of waste paper. By the end, we had filled five big rubbish bags! We were proud that we made Woodford slightly cleaner. But other people can help too by always putting their rubbish in the bin.

Xavier 1SS



---

## MATHS QUIZ

---

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, Ayan, Jago and Sayyid Ali Imam and I went head-to-head with 20 other talented school teams that have secured a place in the national finals. My team worked hard against the clock giving us a chance on the podium. We gave our answers and made sure we made no silly mistakes as that could drop us down the leader board by four places. Overall, my team had great fun and we were incredibly happy when we reached the top three. We all enjoyed it and I definitely want to have another go in the Prep 2s.

Mark Jordan 1KY



---

## SPOTLIGHT ON...

---



This half-term's spotlight is on Susan Cheshire, Head of Swimming in the Prep and Senior School. She believes learning to swim is about understanding and trust; understanding how you float and interact with water and then trusting that the water will support you. Susan advises swimmers to 'Be conscious of your posture and aim to feel balanced. As you swim don't try too hard and always think forwards!' Susan introduced *Total Immersion* to Bancroft's a few years ago. It is an approach of how to think about swimming with balance, streamlining and efficiency and investigating how we can behave more like aquatic mammals. Susan said, 'We don't use swimming floats to teach the pupils how to swim, they learn how to interact with the water to find balance and stability before they go on to learn whole body propulsive movements.' Implementing the Total Immersion method into the school has been a great achievement for Susan, with the standard of swimming at school improving. Along with other staff members, she took the Senior School swimmers on their first open water swimming trip to Montenegro in 2019. This was an amazing experience for both pupils and teachers. 'It was such a pleasure to swim beside them surrounded by such breath-taking scenery.' Susan prefers to swim outside in cold, open water herself in a test of physical and mental resilience. She is the only teacher at school who teaches the children from their first year as Alphas all the way through the Senior School. Next year her first Alphas will enter the Upper Sixth! 'We share a swimming journey together, where they may start as nervous non-swimmers and grow to become confident swimmers who come to enjoy and love being in the water'. She also teaches adults who want to achieve their own swimming goals, from overcoming a fear of water to training for a triathlon, open water events or even swimming the English Channel. She believes everyone can benefit from time in the water. As a child, Susan's mum was a huge supporter of her swimming and helped at her swimming club. She passed away when Susan was quite young and, in her memory, the Club donated a shield in her honour for the 50m butterfly.

'I remember standing on the blocks for the start of that race, so determined to win. I found out last year, that not only was my name the first one to be engraved on the shield, 34 years later, I still hold the record for the event!' We are so proud to know you, Susan Cheshire!

Sarah Strong

---

## HOUSE NEWS

---

Morning GET ACTIVE sessions have given us a great opportunity to vary the House competitions that take place at Bancroft's. Swedish long ball combines skills that the pupils have learned in their PE and Games lessons along with the crowd favourite 'dodgeball'. The tactical knowledge and teamwork that was on show was very impressive across the age groups and the points have been added to the overall scores, which are currently:

HEREFORD	306
KNIGHTON	308
MANOR	376
MONKHAMS	362

We have our annual Sports Day, House Cricket and Tennis as well as House Drama and the Aquathlon to look forward to in the second half of the Summer Term, so in terms of the House competition it is all still to play for! Who will lift the trophy in 2021?

David Archer

---

## FIRST AID

---

As part of our introduction to outdoor education, the Prep 2s had their first experience at learning some First Aid with our wonderful school nurse, Mrs Hancock. They studied a basic course from how to correctly phone for help and put the patient into the recovery position to how to use an AAI (an Epipen). I would like to congratulate the Prep 2s on their maturity, inquisitive nature and understanding. They have gained some very practical skills.

Chris Hall

