



There's a tall, leafy tree in the interior playground- a *Davidia* tree, in fact- which was planted in 1994 to commemorate the first cohort of children to pass through the school after joining as Alphas in 1990. One of those children is now the mother of a child in our Beta year group, a wonderful link to the time the tree first took root. That tree has witnessed so many amazing happenings at Bancroft's Prep School. But it can't have seen anything as extraordinary as these past sixteen months. The tree is still standing and so are we as a school community. I spoke to the children via Teams this week and paid tribute to all our staff. They have ensured that school has remained a safe and happy place; they have also enabled the children to continue to make great progress in their learning. The children themselves have been so positive and resolute- we'd like to take some credit for that but, of course, they are such a credit to you their parents! It was wonderful to be able to welcome our Prep 2 parents to the two nights of our leavers' play- a moving and uplifting experience which I know they will never forget. The pandemic has made it a tough year for all of us- staff, children and parents- but there has been much to remember fondly and much to be proud of. We're anticipating blue skies overhead for all of us who'll be back here in September. But whatever challenges we face, we know we'll overcome them together.

*Joe Layton*

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

This year, more than any other, has compelled us to appreciate our local environment and understand the benefits of getting outside. This has been evident at Bancroft's Prep, where the introduction of Outdoor Education has fired the imagination of pupils to develop their knowledge of how to help and protect the environment, learn practical skills and appreciate the benefits of getting outdoors. Prep 1s were able to raise butterflies from tiny caterpillars in the classroom and look at life cycles. Nell in 1KY said, 'I was able to have a closer look at the butterfly's life and get emotionally involved, as when we let them free I felt proud of how we were able to look after them from caterpillars to butterflies. The best thing for me was watching them grow from specks to large caterpillars, to chrysalis and finally to fully grown vivid Painted Ladies'. The excitement and wonder when the class let them fly away was great to see. Risha, who took some home on the last day of term said, 'I cared for them at home and was excited to

see one hatch and take multiple photos of it. I loved the butterflies'. Well done Prep 1! Prep 2 entered into the culinary world, preparing, cooking and eating plant based kebabs and vegan nachos. Our very own chef, Matt, had them chopping up veggies, adding spices and making some giant kebabs, whilst teaching why plant based food is good for the environment. Tristan said, 'I didn't know plant based food existed, it tastes quite nice.' Clara said, 'I especially liked the vegan nachos and the guacamole I made.' The main response was that making food themselves inspired them to try something new. Matt was impressed with the enthusiasm, engagement and initiative our pupils showed. Alphas, in co-ordination with their Science lessons,

were looking at life cycles and planted some beans and peas in our new vegetable plot. They began studying the seeds in the classroom. They then prepared the vegetable patch, clearing it and turning the soil over, ready to plant the crops. They have been looking after them so well, watering them every day and we look forward to trying some of our very own Bancroft's produce. Harris said, 'You should grow your own food because instead of buying plastic packets in supermarkets, you can pick straight from your garden'. Sophia said, 'It is also a good way to help the wildlife as the vegetables produce flowers that butterflies and bees like to dance around.'

This project has inspired her to grow other things like chillies and rosemary at home, which is fantastic. Looking ahead to next year, we have some wonderful opportunities planned for the pupils. Trips to the Lambourne End Centre for Outdoor Learning; cooking a range of healthy foods; team-building exercises and learning practical skills such as First Aid and gardening are all on the agenda as part of an enriching new curriculum.

Chris Hall



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## HEVER CASTLE

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On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, we went to Hever Castle. We travelled there by coach – it was a very long journey! Once we were there, we went on a very interesting tour through the castle. We saw Anne Boleyn's bedroom, portraits from Tudor times and a letter that Henry VIII had sent to the Pope to let him have another divorce! We walked through big rooms like the dining hall and saw some unusual wax statues. Then we walked through the gardens to the Water Maze. It was a water fountain in the middle with a maze around the outside. There were narrow holes in the ground with squirting water jets and, in the end, most of us got soaking wet! At the end of the trip, some of us bought ice cream – the scoops were huge! We really enjoyed the trip, it was so much fun.

Su and Aashritha BBR



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## YOUNG SHAKESPEARE

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On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June, we had a visit from the Young Shakespeare Company who acted out the play by Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream. They chose some of us to be volunteers and act as the main characters, Demetrius, Hermia, Helena, and Lysander. I was really excited to be picked for a role as I didn't expect it. In the play, Demetrius likes Hermia and Lysander does too. But Hermia didn't like Demetrius, she liked Lysander instead! It was all a bit confusing! In the next part of the play, we met the fairies who rule the forest. They were having a really big argument and the atmosphere was a bit chaotic. We also saw some people who were doing a show for a royal wedding. They were really funny. It was like a play within a play! The actors from the Young Shakespeare Company were very talented and they didn't forget any lines. It was a very modern and fun performance. They made us feel as if we were actually in the play! I really liked the play and I am excited to be learning about this in our English lessons too.

Abhi BLE



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## HYDE HALL

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On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June the Alphas went to RHS Hyde Hall near Chelmsford. Everyone was so excited as it was their first school trip; even if the weather wasn't quite positive the Alphas were! On the journey, we saw fields and beautiful countryside. When we arrived, we admired all the plants in a zigzag pattern up the hill to the learning centre. After having our snack one group stayed inside while the other group went outside. The group outside walked past a delightful pond filled with water lilies, which are the national flower of Bangladesh. We were given a task to collect items from around the garden, for example: leaves, feathers and pinecones. Hereford had the most items. After that, we had to pretend to be a bird making a nest and, as we don't have claws or beaks, we used pegs instead and felt how hard it is to make a nest if you're a bird! Back at the learning centre we made pictures with the items that we had collected. We also looked at a variety of unusual seedpods, planted some nasturtium seeds and had a go at some watercolour painting. Before leaving, we walked to the 'Global Garden', a vegetable garden, where we saw all sorts of things growing like potatoes, beans, tomatoes and pumpkins. Sadly we had to leave but with a smile on our faces as we had such a lovely day out.

Tasbih ALD



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## FIELD STUDIES CENTRE

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On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> June, the Betas went to Epping Forest Field Study Centre to learn about habitats and bugs! When we got there, we went pond dipping! We found many interesting creatures including pond snails, dragonfly nymphs and three species of newts! My group found a palmate newt, who we named Jeff and another group found a smooth newt who they called Isaac Newton! We also took part in another activity called Field Sweeping. We ran around with nets, trying to catch bugs and other critters. It was a LOT of fun, and we found some unique looking beetles, grasshoppers and a small green slug! Next we went into the forest to find bugs that liked living in dark places. We found some very funny looking bugs and many huge, black slugs. We made sure to handle the little beasts carefully in each activity and released them back into the wild once we had looked at them. We all enjoyed this trip, and hope to do it again!

Sana BCB

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## LA CHENILLE QUI FAIT DES TROUS

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On Monday 5th July, the Alphas enjoyed a picnic inspired by the story of *La Chenille Qui Fait Des Trous* (The Very Hungry Caterpillar), which they have been retelling in French lessons. Much like the caterpillar, they feasted on apples, pears, plums and strawberries. But they were still hungry! So they moved on to watermelon, sausages, salami, pickles, swiss cheese, cupcakes, cherry pie, chocolate cake, lollipops and ice-cream! They were also treated to an outdoor screening of the French classic film *Les Vacances de Monsieur Hulot*. It was a great opportunity for the children to practise their French and a perfect way to celebrate the end of their first year at Bancroft's.

Aimée Kanolik



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## VIRTUAL MUSEUM VISIT

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On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, the Prep 1s experienced a virtual tour through Sir John Soane's Museum. We learnt many things about Sir John's life and interests. Even though it was a virtual visit, it was still a great experience. We have seen many beautiful artefacts from Greece, Ancient Rome and the Ancient Egyptians! Unlike many other museums, everything was either bought or gifted so nothing was just taken from their home countries. Many enjoyed the Painting Room, which holds about one hundred and eight paintings! After the experience, we had an activity to draw and label an Ancient Greek temple and then dedicate it to a God of our choice. It was a great experience and I hope that the next Prep 1s will enjoy this experience too, maybe even being able to visit the real place next year.

Zara 1SS

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## NUCLEAR BUNKER

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We visited the Nuclear Bunker in Brentwood. There were loads of mannequins and old telephones and computers on display. We then left the nuclear bunker we went to the high ropes where there were three levels. On each level, there was a hard and easy side. There was a zipline. On the zipline you had to sit on a diamond shaped cushion and slide off. The actual high ropes consisted of obstacles that you had to get past in whatever way you could. After that, we actually got to the muddy part. There were different obstacles that were separated into different places. My group skipped one of the obstacles just so we could get to more mud. Near the end, there was a mud pit that you could only cross on your hands and knees, otherwise you would sink into the abyss of the mud pit. This obstacle was my favourite! We then switched with another group who were on rings where you had to try to run across them and get as far as you could. At the end we went on the 'Death Slide' which is a slide that has a vertical drop at the beginning and then it is just like a normal slide but at the end it has a jump that sends you into the air and you land in the muddy water that, ironically, cleans you up!

Gus 2CP



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## THE BIG SING

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On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June the Prep 1s took part in the Big Sing. This year the Prep 1s would have gone to Young Voices in the O2, but because of the pandemic we weren't allowed to, so instead we participated in the Big Sing. The Big Sing involved thousands of children from different schools, all over London, singing on a Zoom call. The Big Sing was live from the O2. The organisers of the Young Voices wanted to try to break a Guinness World Record with over 360,000 children singing the same song at the same time, so we were also joined by schools from USA, Spain, Portugal and the UAE. During the afternoon, we all sang a song called 'Lovely Day' by Bill Withers. Billy Ocean was lead singer and Zolanda Brown was the saxophone player. Did you know that Zolanda Brown went to Bancroft's? The Big Sing was shown on 'The One Show' that evening. We all hope that we broke the Guinness World Record!

Lara 1SS

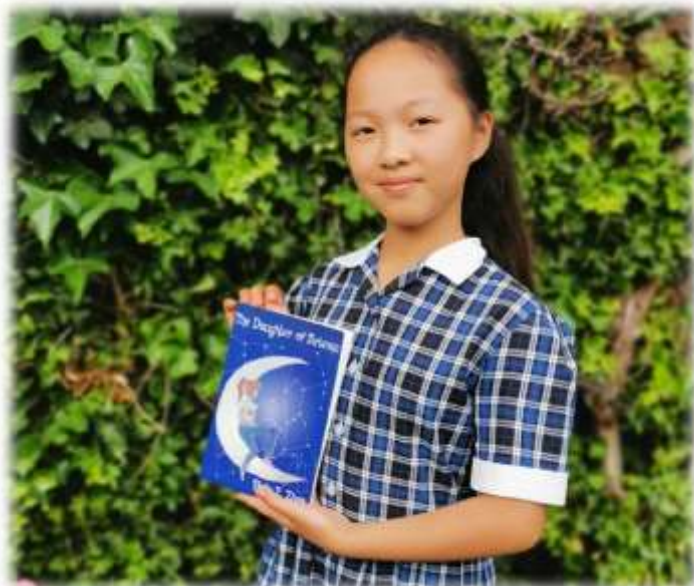
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## HOT OFF THE PRESS

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Prep 2 Bella was so inspired by her Prep 1 English project - a story in the style of a Greek myth, set during lockdown last year - that she couldn't stop writing. She was inspired by Rick Riordan author of the Percy Jackson series. Her own book, 'The Daughter of Artemis', is the result. If you like a good adventure story, it's available now on Amazon. The message of her tale? As Bella says, 'Everyone is amazing in their own unique way.'

Karen Yelverton



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## PLANT SALE

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On Tuesday 8th June, I ran a plant sale at school to raise money for Haven House. The idea came from an experiment during lockdown, where we planted different seeds to see them grow. We sold tomatoes, strawberries, marigolds, butternut squash and sunflowers. The different fruit and vegetable seeds were all produced when we cut the fruit and vegetables for cooking, whereas the marigold and sunflower seeds were brought from the gardening shop. It took 8-10 weeks to nurture the plants and it required a lot of care. I had to water them around twice a day and kept them indoors during the first 2-4 weeks. By the end of Tuesday, we were all sold out. In total, I raised £284 for Haven House and enjoyed my experience. Thank you to all the people who contributed to our cause.

Anushka 1HS



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## BIKER'S BREAKFAST

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On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 63 children were motivated by the thought of a delicious breakfast box and cycled or scooted to school! From 7:45am cyclists and scooters, alike, arrived at school having travelled a variety of distances, followed by their cycling or running parents! It was a big success and highlighted the fact that if we are incentivised enough to get on our bikes, we can. As well as enjoying a breakfast, we shall be spending more time next year discussing about how the health of our planet and our own health should be all the incentives we need - but we'll enjoy the croissants for now! Eleanor in 2CP, who is leaving us this year to move to the Senior School, has cycled to school every day since she joined the Prep! She will be leaving an empty rack in the bike shelter just waiting for someone to claim it - Jun-Le perhaps? Or Johnny? Or maybe Adam? All are keen cyclists. There will be more travel initiatives to follow as the School Council launch our Active Travel Plan in the Autumn Term - plenty of walking initiatives and some further Bikeability training to help those budding cyclists. Watch this space!

Lisa Life



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## QUIZ UPDATE

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On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, Eddie, Dhruv, Francis, Mark, Percy, Anushka, Iqra and I from the Prep 1s participated in the virtual National General Knowledge Quiz Club finals. We were split into separate teams, with me, Eddie, Dhruv and Francis as Team 2 and the rest in Team 1. There was a smorgasbord of questions, each requiring a different ability. After completing the quiz, we instantly received our results. Team 1 had finished 16th, but Team 2 had come 3rd. I was elated, and so were my teammates! What a spectacular day it had been!

Ayan 1HS



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## IN SUNLIT UPLANDS

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Earlier this year, two months into the second national school closure of the past eighteen months, I must confess I found myself feeling somewhat dejected. Teachers missed being at school with the children. I started having discussions with colleagues about what would be possible in terms of a Prep 2 production this year. I decided to write a play myself that would support the Prep 2 curriculum in other areas, especially history and music, but also in English and Art. This overcame the time constraints we faced and meant that the process of preparing the performance would have been a valuable one even if we'd never been able to perform it to a live audience. The obvious focus for the production was, therefore, the Second World War- Prep 2's history topic this term. However, I also wanted the production to achieve some of the goals usually served by the Leavers' Assembly- to mark the end of Prep 2's journey through the Prep School and to look ahead with hope and optimism at the challenges ahead.



*In Sunlit Uplands* tells the story of Joan Everett, who we originally meet as the 93-year-old great grandmother of Ben, a boy in Year 6 who is worried about the transition to senior school. Joan tells Ben a story about her own childhood in an effort to make him feel better. When she was eleven, Joan was evacuated to the countryside to keep her safe during the Blitz. Frightened and alone, Joan befriended Karl, a German refugee brought to Britain in the Kindertransport. Together, Joan and Karl discovered that there are forces in the world more powerful than Nazi bombs- forces which will be just as important to Joan's great-grandson in the Twenty-First Century as they were to her in the Twentieth.

We were delighted that it was possible to perform to a limited, socially-distanced audience, including



representatives from all of the Prep 2 children's families. A huge share of the credit must go to the incredible people I have the privilege to come and work with every day. Miss Adams has masterminded the organisation of the production. Mr Pearson has done sterling work organising most of the props and costumes and assisting with many of the technical aspects of the production. Mr Baum selected and arranged the music and, along with Miss Akroyd, has done a fantastic job teaching the songs to the children and providing live music on the night. Thanks also need to go to Jenny Tarrant, Joshua James and, of course, to Mr Layburn, Mrs Life and the office staff for helping to plan the logistics of the evenings themselves.



However, more than anyone else, I am so incredibly proud of the children in Prep 2. Over the past eighteen months, they've faced challenges no one could have imagined when they arrived at the Prep School four years ago. Witnessing the cheerful determination with which they have faced those challenges has filled me with nothing but optimism and their performances in this production are the perfect example of that.

Timothy Paramour

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## MUSIC AND MUNCH

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On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June, we held our final Music and Munch of the academic year. I am pleased to say that it was a huge success. It was held remotely, recorded and broadcast via YouTube the following Wednesday. I hope that this is the last time that we have to show a concert in this way and that we will be able to welcome you back as a live audience next term. What a joy this concert was, with the added attraction of three of our ensembles: The Cello Babies, Clarinet Group and the newly formed The Prepettes, made up of Prep 1 pupils, performing 'Rock Around The Clock'. An enormous thank you respectively to Mrs Raw, Miss Akroyd and Ms Tarrant for preparing their groups. Beyond this, the concert was a festival of solos, from Alphas, to Prep 2s, covering most of the instrumental families. I was especially happy to include a number of Prep 2s performing in the Prep School for the last time. It was a pleasure to hear them play. Please follow the link for the concert if you missed it:

<https://youtu.be/IC424UP9cQM>

Adam Baum

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## AQUATHLON

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The Aquathlon has definitely turned into one of the highlights of the year as the children engage in a challenge that they have never experienced before. It was suggested that they could practise their transition from swim to run by jumping out of the bath and trying to change quickly and I apologise for any mess that may have been caused by this. They selected either a Bronze, Silver or Gold distance for swimming and running and, on finishing the event, they were asked two questions: Was it a challenge and did you succeed? With both answers being positive, it was obvious that this opportunity to take the children out of their comfort zone had a real impact upon their character.

David Archer



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## OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

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Prep 1 went on an outdoor adventure to Epping Forest. We collected our lunches, activity sheets and equipment. Our first activity was to find everything on the scavenger hunt list. Our target was 16 things which included three types of leaves, four types of birds, a squirrel and moss on a tree, to name but a few. We were given credits for all we found. We arrived at Warren Pond and used magnifying glasses to look at the creatures we had collected using the pond dipping nets. Arush and I found a frog and Rian found a rat-tailed maggot. We returned everything to the pond before moving on. We spent time drawing a still life scene around Connaught Waters. We then had an unexpected den-building House competition. Each den was either a tent or teepee shape and had their own features to set them apart. Manor came 1<sup>st</sup> with 20 points, Monkams 2<sup>nd</sup> with 15 points and joint 3<sup>rd</sup> were Hereford and Knighton who got 10 points each. We collaborated together to do our best and it was an exciting part of the day. Mrs Clark was the judge. All the Houses deserved to win. On the way back Mrs Strong bought all of us an ice cream, which was delicious and then we headed back to school. Over the course of the day, we walked 12,000 steps! It was a lovely day out. Thank you to all the teachers who planned the day and got us out of the classroom to have some fun in the sun!

Percy 1HS

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## CRICKET

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The Prep 2 pupils who chose cricket were very lucky to have an Inter-House fixture against the Thirds from the Senior School. It was fantastic to see them enjoying themselves and competing so well as they have not played a match in over two years due to the pandemic. We had three games. Our team was a mixed team of boys and girls and, even though the Thirds won all the matches, the atmosphere was brilliant. Everyone showed great sportsmanship and there was lots of laughter. Many of the Thirds began playing cricket here at the Prep. Mrs Poulter said, 'It's awesome to get to see the students doing so well in the Prep and this is an exciting time for cricket at Bancroft's. There is such talent coming through'. Massive thanks must go to Mr Greenidge and Mrs Poulter for arranging the games and thank you to the Thirds for participating.

Chris Hall



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## HOUSE TOTALS

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As we reach the end of an unusual year, it is great to reflect on the experiences that have been offered to the children through a variety of House competitions. The children have been given the opportunity to test their skills in a 'friendly' environment in activities that have stretched them both physically and mentally. There have been noticeable improvements in leadership, sportsmanship as well as a new found desire to achieve success. These events have included: tug of war, cross country, shuttles, hockey, rugby, basketball, creative writing, skipping, House Captains' online challenge, football, tower building, drama, Swedish long ball, netball, the 'Daily Mile', cricket, tennis, swimming gala, the aquathlon and sports day. And, the final results are:

<b>HEREFORD</b>	<b>410</b>
<b>KNIGHTON</b>	<b>414</b>
<b>MANOR</b>	<b>508</b>
<b>MONKHAMS</b>	<b>470</b>

Congratulations to all, and thanks to the children and staff who have made it such a successful House Competition.

David Archer