



It's great to be back and, whilst we continue to take sensible precautions in response to Covid, we are on a mission to reclaim our school. Before the summer break, we looked as a staff at the pre-pandemic Prep School calendar. It's jaw dropping to see what a busy school we were, with so many evening events, trips and visits, and a full co-curricular programme. It's not easy to reinstate so many of the things that make us different and outstanding but we are well on the way! The Beta and Prep 1 trips to PGL, street dance workshops with Urban Strides, sports fixtures, in person parents' evenings and an Open Day which attracted six hundred people- all of this tells me that life is much more normal than it's been over the previous eighteen months. It seems everyone in the Prep School community is embracing the opportunity to get our wonderful school back and that's something I am feeling incredibly positive about.

Joe Layton

CHESS

It is three and a half years since Mr Lorin D'Costa approached us offering professional chess coaching at the Prep School. At the time I had no idea just how popular it would be. From the early days of running one small club we now have 92 children playing chess in five chess clubs. In February 2020 the school entered four teams for the National Primary Schools Chess Competition. It was the first time we had entered and we took the eastern zone by storm with three of our four teams being chosen to go through to the national semi-finals. Unfortunately, these were not meant to be because of the pandemic. Chess continued online throughout 2020 thanks to Mr D'Costa's valiant efforts. The online sessions last year involved training and then a class tournament. At the end of the term trophies were awarded. The talented recipients were Basil Aldis, Riyan Shah, Alex Minin and Frank Williams – all of whom faced very tough competition. However much fun online chess was, it is great to be back to over the table training. This term, there will also be trophies for the top scorers and the NPSCC are organising their national championships for the spring and we shall undoubtedly be taking part. Congratulations to Basil, Riyan, Alex and Frank and to all those who get up at the crack of dawn on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays to play.

Lisa Life

HARVEST FESTIVAL



The school came together on Friday for our annual Harvest celebration. The Reverend Moore joined us to lead a special assembly during which we gave thanks for all the wonderful food we have to eat and, thanks to Mr Baum's hard work over the past six weeks, all our choirs took part too. The Junior Choir sang 'Leaves Are Falling'; the Senior Choir sang 'What Makes a Family' and the whole school sang classic harvest favourites 'The Healthy Habanera', 'Cauliflowers Fluffy' and 'Big Red Combine Harvester'. It was also a chance for our new Alphas to perform for the very first time at Bancroft's. ALD presented a 'harvest alphabet' and all three Alpha classes sang 'Oh, What a Whopper!' to the rest of the school. They were very proud to play an important part in the proceedings and we were impressed with their confident, lively performances. There was also an abundance of food on display in the hall, generously donated by Prep School families. By the time you read this, Redbridge Mutual Aid Foodbank will have received our donations via Mrs Strong and her trusty team of Charity Ambassadors. It will help to sustain the many local families they provide for. We are very grateful for your incredible support – thank you!

Laura Dalton



CHARITY AMBASSADORS

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been appointed Charity and Community Ambassadors for the Prep School 2021-22: Lara Das 2CP, Ololade Ojo 2AA, Anya Patel 2AA, Bethan Penn 2CP, Benji Bleasdale 1KY, Roshin Gadhvi 1KY, Gautami Iyer 1BR and Carina Mazumder 1KY. I look forward to working with them on various projects in the coming year. They have excellent ideas, as demonstrated in their letters of application, which demonstrated our character values of kindness, collaboration and integrity. Do follow our activities via Instagram @prepcommunityandcharity

Sarah Strong

Head of Charities & Community Links

LAMBOURNE END

Our trip to Lambourne End was amazing. We had a brilliant time learning about bush craft. We collected sticks to help make a fire. We were told to always place thin twigs first as they burn quickest. While our instructor was finishing the fire, we tried to make a shelter with a tarp and some ropes. Once we had finished, we learned how we could have done it better by tying ropes in different ways. Then we went back to the fire. It looked amazing by now and we soon found out we were making bread. First, he handed us some flour in a mound, then we had to mix it round to form a small crater in the middle. Then we added salt and water and started to make a dough. When we reached the right consistency, we pounded them flat. We could now put them onto the fire. My bread was the first one to go on the fire and it was a bit crusty on the outside! We also learned how to finish a fire and how to be safe around it. Then it was the end of our trip and we had to go home. It was a day that I won't forget!

Soraya Tabrizi Rao BSS

BOOK DONATIONS

We like to support local schools by donating used text books and reading books. This half-term we donated four boxes of books to Whitehall Primary who were overwhelmed by our generosity. This was a simple but sustainable way to support our local community and share pre-loved books with others.

Sarah Strong



BETA PGL

Three wonderful days were enjoyed by all when we took the Betas to PGL, Marchant's Hill. For most it was their first stay away from home and for all it was time to let their hair down and have extreme fun! There were so many highlights from sharing rooms and staying up late, to squealing from the exhilarating heights of the giant swing; from the satisfaction of building a raft and setting sail across the lake to abseiling from a very tall tower! There were certainly both physical and emotional challenges to overcome but what was evident was how lovely the year group bonded; how well the children represented our school and how nicely they encouraged each other. Collaboration, resilience and risk taking all came into play on this adventure holiday – many surprised themselves! We have got to know our year group so well now; old friendships were rekindled, new friendships made and lots of happy memories treasured by everyone!

Sarah Strong

Beta Year Group Leader



MACMILLAN

Macmillan is one of the biggest charities in the UK, helping those affected by cancer. They offer a variety of different treatments and services to people through their Specialist Care at Home programme. We always want to contribute to Macmillan to help them fight the battle. We all had a wonderful time this half-term dressing up in green to raise awareness of the charity's iconic logo. The money that we have raised will help Macmillan support vulnerable people. Thanks to Macmillan and thanks for your donations. We are proud to say we have raised almost £600.

Sarah Strong

Head of Charity and Community Links



PREP 1 PGL

The Prep 1s were due to go on a school trip to PGL last year, which they did not manage to do due to the recent pandemic. They made up for it this year and visited PGL this September for an adventure holiday and an independent experience. We arrived there, stopping to almost immediately take a Prep 1 PGL picture. Pupils were separated into six different groups. Three of them went off to do archery and the other three went to do zip wire. After these sessions, we swapped activities so we could have an equal amount of immense fun. Then, we had lunch and moved in to our rooms. We were going to share with friends for three days; we had to work together to help each other make our beds and more importantly keep our room tidy. PGL was amazing! All of the activities were fun, especially the giant swing! It was just so cool!

Ruhaan Bose 1SE



READING REBELS



Reading Rebels is a Book Club launched by Amnesty International UK. They use stories and activities to explore values like kindness, fairness, and equality. There are two separate reading lists for children with a

reading age of 4-7 years and 8-10 years. Every month for the next 12 months, your little rebel will receive an inspiring story in the post, along with creative activities to bring the book's themes to life. Plus, you'll receive a grown-up's guide to help them get the most out of each story. For further information go to www.amnesty.org.uk

Kathryn Houghton

MR CARSON

We welcome Tim Carson, a new member of staff to the Prep this year.

I was born and raised in Northern Ireland but have now lived in South Woodford longer than I lived over there, although if you listen closely I still have a hint of an Irish accent! My university years were spent in Cardiff, Wales where I studied English and then trained as journalist. I had a full and exciting life as a journalist working on newspapers and magazines (from Woman's Own to NME) before joining the dot.com boom and working for numerous websites as a film journalist and interviewing everyone from Daniel Radcliffe to Nicole Kidman. After I'd had enough of that I retrained as a primary school teacher at UEL and have taught in several schools across all year groups. As much as I enjoyed being a journalist I love being in school more and working with children is always inspiring and rewarding. I am delighted to have joined the Bancroft's family and have loved my start to the year.

Tim Carson



FRENCH ASSISTANT

We welcome Pauline Gouarin to Bancroft's. She will be spending some time in the Prep as a French Assistant to the Beta classes. Pauline is from Vitre in Brittany. One day she hopes to be a French teacher. She has a passion for fashion and enjoys photography, reading and watching films in her spare time. She is really missing her poodle, Luna. Pauline has been playing some lovely games and singing with the children around the theme of animals which is our current topic. We love having her in our lessons.

Sarah Strong

French Co-ordinator



SPORT

This week has seen both boys and girls take to the field for their fixtures in rugby and hockey against other schools for the first time... in a long time! Their enthusiasm was charged and all teams delivered performances we knew they were capable of. We are very much looking forward to their continued progress on the rugby and hockey pitch during the slightly cooler months of the year.

David Archer

HOUSE UPDATE

The House system is fully underway and the House Captains this year are showing great commitment to leading and supporting the rest of their House. After some amazing demonstrations of strength and determination in the Tug of War competition; it looks as though this year is going to be a closely fought contest. However, Manor have continued to keep the 'Green Steam Train' chug, chug, chugging along with an amazing three out of four first places for the Tug of War. The rest of this term will also see House Daily Mile, dance, rugby and hockey, as well as some House Buddy challenges. The House Buddy system is something new for this year. Having spent a large amount of time in 'bubbles' we are delighted that all year groups can now get to know each other just like old times. All our new Alphas have been paired with a Prep 2 'buddy'. Already it is lovely to see the Alphas and Prep 2s greeting each other around school. It is helping the new Alphas to settle in as well as giving the Prep 2s that all important opportunity to nurture their younger counterparts who will one day aspire to be just like them! Here are the buddies in action learning to tie shoelaces.

David Archer



BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

The new product for Business Enterprise is...The Snack Pack! It's full of variety from pastries to drinks to snacks for the bargain price of £3.50. Also available are high quality keyrings that vary from letters, chess pieces or even Lego figures for just an additional £1.50! If you would like a keyring and Snack Pack, you only have to give £5 for an ideal break time surprise! We are going to choose three charities that we will donate the overall profits to. We have had a great response to the Snack Packs so far, as now every year group has had the opportunity to buy one! Nearly all of the Alphas and Betas have bought our sensational Snack Packs and love them! We will be selling the Snack Packs every week up until Christmas. You can trade our collectible keyrings with other pupils! It's a delicious, healthy, ideal and fun initiative! We Pack It You Snack It!

Summer Ray 2AA



OPEN WATER SWIMMING



Closed to the public for many years, Luxborough Lake in Chigwell opened for the first time for open water swimming this summer. As a keen open water swimmer, I joined the coaching team at the lake along with several of our adventurous Prep swimmers who enjoyed their first summer of open water swimming. Nell commented, 'Open water swimming was a special summer memory. We had great instructors and did lots of drills to help us get used to the water. Before we could get in, we needed to have a wetsuit, brightly coloured hat in case we got lost, a tow float and a wristband. Whenever anyone got in the water you could see their faces suddenly jump in surprise due to how cold the water was! My least favourite part was when we had to "burp" our suits (let water in). I would recommend this to anyone who enjoys swimming and is good at coping with extreme temperatures!' Hopefully we'll be seeing you next summer at Luxborough Lake! Welcome!

Susan Cheshire