



It was wonderful to be able to invite parents to see the 'Scenes from Macbeth' performed with such verve and joy by the Prep 1 children. We ask a lot of our young Bancroftians and we constantly see them tackling challenges which previous generations would not have attempted until they were perhaps in their mid-teens. Under the impressive guidance of drama teacher, Mr Carson, the children attacked Shakespeare's gory, brutal play with great relish and a huge sense of fun. As they delivered their lines, with animation and understanding, my mind turned to my own Macbeth revision notes for my English 'O Level' countless years ago; I wouldn't have dreamt of getting so much from Shakespeare at their young age! Looking back, so many of my peers simply found Shakespeare boring but then we didn't have our imaginations fired in the way that the Prep 1s have been so lucky to experience through special effects, music and a stylish costume drama. There were some stellar performances from the children and all involved showed that they had got to grips with the magic of the language as well as the twists and turns of the plot. Mr Carson and the Prep 1 teachers achieved something incredibly special which the children will never forget. Ask a Prep 1 if they think Shakespeare's boring. I think I know the answer you'll get!

Joe Layton

MUSIC NEWS

Our third special Music concert of the term showcased the Prep 1 and Prep 2 Orchestra, Wind Band and String Orchestra. The Wind Band played a selection of upbeat pieces, including their favourite 'Pablo's Paso Doble' and the ABBA hit 'Thank You For The Music'. String Orchestra also played a spooky rendition of 'Spy Movie' and the catchy 'Broadway or Bust'. The whole Orchestra finished with a very powerful rendition of 'The Battle of Jericho'. We were also fortunate enough to have solos from two Prep 2 children. Summer played a piece called Hackensack by jazz great, Thelonious Monk, and Talisa played a piece from 'Pirates of the Caribbean'. Everyone played impressively and with great maturity. The usual half-termly music concert was full of exciting pieces played by children across the entire school, many in preparation for their ABRSM exams the following day. Rebecca-May stunned the audience with a stately violin piece played from memory and Benji and Aarav made their trombone debut playing Frère Jacques as a duet; a performance that also earned them music stars of the week. The whole concert was really wonderful to watch. Jenny Akroyd

GOING GREENER

We have recently introduced a food waste bin in the staff room. In action for just over a week it has already amounted to 9.5 kg of food waste which will be composted and recycled. We also have exciting news about our quest to re-wild our local area with our conservation project. The project, initially funded by money raised by our Business Enterprise group, together with some other fundraising projects, has seen our first 12 Bancroft's trees planted. Hopefully, by the end of the year, we will have planted a tree per pupil, amounting to 260 in total! In addition to this sustainability drive, we have collected an abundance of used pens and crisp packets to recycle. We have delivered them to St John's Primary School, which is now a 'teracycle' collection point, and Churchfields School, which collects pens for recycling. Your empty toilet rolls and milk bottle plastic lids are flowing in and are being upcycled on our Conservation Day at the end of this term.

Chris Hall and Sarah Strong



LITTER PICK

2.25 million pieces of litter are dropped on the streets every day. Over time this becomes a danger to wildlife. An area degraded by rubbish becomes less visited and then further neglected due to it being unattractive and contaminated. Littering increases negative behaviour and if we do leave it to local authorities to clean up the cost is £50 million per year. Bancroft's Prep felt that rather than just talking about the problem, they would get out and do something about it. Armed with wellies, litter pickers, black bin liners and hand wipes 260 children over two days made Woodford Green tidy. They were praised by local members of the community, who were pleased to see the goodwill of our children. This generation seem to care so much more about the environment and were disgusted by the behaviour of some people littering our green belt. They all agreed it felt good to do good. Well done, Bancroft's Prep! Sarah Strong

BOOK PROJECT

The collection for The London Children's Book Project was a great success. We collected over 300 pre-loved books for this wonderful charity. Gillian Keegan, who visited our school, said, 'I am delighted at the generosity of your children. You have made such a difference to others with such a wide range of beautiful, well-kept books. Thank you very very much!' We are so lucky to have lots of avid readers at the Prep; a well-stocked, exciting library and homes where reading is a natural part of the daily routine. We are also lucky that we have kind pupils who love to share, so thank you for your generosity and keep reading!

Sarah Strong



VOLUNTEERING

As well as being an LSA at our Prep School, Teresa Jones has a volunteering role at a local charity which we always support; Haven House. Her volunteering role began three years ago when Ginny Donnelly, a Community Fundraiser, came to a Presentation Assembly at school to thank our pupils for the generous amount they raised for this amazing organisation. Teresa was looking for a new opportunity to volunteer and this seemed the perfect solution. Teresa is so glad that after a very quiet time the events, which are so vital to the running of the Charity, are back on track. Sometimes it is not always money that charities need; peoples' time and effort is needed too.

Sarah Strong



PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

On 25th February the Betas went on a pedestrian walk experience organised by Redbridge. We learnt key information to help us when crossing the road or walking on the pavement. Each class was accompanied by their class teacher and three professional trainers: Cheryl, Neville and Zohar. We all received an hour of practical training on the pavements and pedestrian crossings around the school. The trainers taught us several important things, such as what a zebra crossing is for, when to stop and when is it safe to cross the road. The instructors told us to stop, look and listen. They also taught us key vocabulary.

Amelia BNB

WILLIAM MORRIS

On Thursday 3rd March, we went to the William Morris Art Gallery. At the gallery we learnt about the history of William Morris and his artwork. After that we were split into two groups to do some artwork of our own, inspired by the artwork which we had seen. The group I was in started by doing some printing. First, we had to draw a picture, pressing hard to create a mark on a foam sheet. The picture had to be something to do with nature and wildlife. Then we had to cut out our picture and add any extra details and draw a background. After that we had to separate the two pieces and paint them: one yellow and one red. Then we printed them on a piece of paper and we had our picture! By pressing hard, it created a dent causing it to make white spaces revealing the picture. In our second activity, we learnt more about William Morris's history and his art style. Then, after we had learnt all of this, we drew our own pictures. One of those pictures was of an animal and the other, a plant. I would recommend visiting the gallery; you would learn so much! I really enjoyed this trip and in future hope to come here again!

Mia 1HS



HEARTWORK

Community Outreach is where our values of kindness, integrity and collaboration really come into their own. So, we were honoured to be asked by Dr Das, Consultant Cardiologist at Whipps Cross Hospital, and father to Lara 2TP, to decorate the new Cardiology Department at Whipps Cross Hospital. The children had to design posters with the heart as a theme and, like everything, our children got to work with enthusiasm and gusto displaying their creative flair. It became known as the Prep School 'Heartwork'.

First prize winners were:

Alphas – Isavella

Betas – Bhavika

Prep 1 – Yahya

Prep 2 – Summer

Overall there were 18 pictures chosen to line the walls and the prizes ranged from Amazon vouchers, to heart squashies and chocolates! These were awarded in our presentation assembly. It was great to be part of such an important project. Thank you to Dr Das and family for involving us!

Sarah Strong



TOWER OF LONDON

On Wednesday 23rd March, the Betas visited the Tower of London. Once we arrived we all had a quick snack and then set foot in the building that housed the Crown Jewels. We saw the Queen's Crown which held the biggest diamond in the world. There were also lots of golden orbs and jewels. We also saw some Beefeaters and we got to take a picture with them. Once we had seen the Crown Jewels, the group parted into two. Our group went to the White Tower. On the way to the White Tower, we passed a couple of ravens, they were massive! The White Tower was built to awe, subdue and terrify Londoners and to deter foreign invaders. It is an iconic symbol of London and Britain. Along with the rest of the Tower fortress, the White Tower is part of a World Heritage site. We then went to the 'Torture at the Tower' exhibition. We saw how people were tortured at the Tower of London. People used to be tied up by ropes and the ropes would tighten. Next we walked to the Bloody Tower. The Bloody Tower derives its name from the 1560s when the two princes are believed to have been murdered by their uncle, Richard III, in the upper chamber. The Bloody Tower is most strongly associated with the supposed murder of the 12-year-old Edward V and his younger brother, Richard, in 1483. As the rumours grew, the Tower was renamed the 'Bloody Tower' instead of the Garden Tower. Near the end of the trip, the teachers had planned a workshop for us to watch and to interact with. It was about Henry VIII and his six wives. In the end we found out that Lady Latimer was Katherine Parr. It was a really fun trip and I would love to go again!

Aarya BSS



QUIZ

There was a National General Knowledge Quiz, involving 70 different schools, and 12 children were chosen to represent Bancroft's. In the quiz, there were three children from each year group. Bancroft's had three teams and there were 30 questions and five rounds. At the end of the whole quiz, Team 1 came 6th, Team 2 came 11th and Team 3 came 15th. All the teams got through to the next round. I enjoyed the Quiz and I think Bancroft's did extremely well!

Ariella Sebyala

CUBS AWARD

Several pupils have recently completed their Silver Award at Cubs. This is the highest award a Cub can earn. To complete it, you need to earn six activity or staged activity badges of your choice, as well as all seven of the 'Challenge Awards'. For an activity badge you must become an expert in something you love, or try something new. From athletics to astronomy and from photography to pioneering, there's something for everyone. I stayed away at camp and practised my athletics. Challenge Awards are all about stepping outside your comfort zone and trying out something you wouldn't normally be interested in, or taking the lead in something that scares you. Along the way, you'll unlock hidden talents and stand tall. To get my Outdoors Challenge Badge I learnt how to cook, build shelters, learn and follow the Countryside Code. I also learnt how to tie knots that I have learned and take part in a campfire sing-along. I have also got the Adventure Challenge, the Skills Challenge, the World Challenge and Teamwork Challenge badges. I love being part of Cubs; it enables me to develop new skills, soar to great heights; it opens up a whole other world!

Arisha 2AA



MFL DAY

Wednesday 16th March was Modern Foreign Languages Day, a bi-annual tradition where we celebrate our love of French and German through cross-curricular fun!

Starting the day with a continental breakfast of pastries and chocolat-chaud, the Alphas and Prep 2s then enjoyed German storytelling with Martina from the Freshwater Theatre Company. After lunch the Betas and Prep 1s watched 'The World's Gone French', a play by the Onatti Theatre Company. Later, everyone finished the day with some Black Forest Gateaux. All looked fantastic dressed in the colours of either the German or French flag and it was so collaborative how teachers put a twist into their timetabled lessons by adding a French or German theme. Ms Kelly and Ms Dack made 'Une Chasse au Trésor', where the children had to search for sporting items in French. It was so much fun! Merci and Danke. Sarah Strong & Karen Yelverton



SWIMMING GALA

Following on from our success at the North London Heats we took part in The London Swimming League B Final Swimming Gala against five schools on 24th February: Forest, Thomas's Kensington, City of London School for Girls, Bancroft's and Kew College. Bancroft's did their best and swam well. At the end of the gala the results were: Forest first with 389 points, Thomas's Kensington second with 356 points, City of London School for Girls third with 353 points, Bancroft's fourth with 351 points and finally Kew College with 325 points. This was a very tight swimming gala with final scores only separated by 2 or 3 points. It was very close!

Ariella Sebyala

LET HER PLAY

We took part in the 'Biggest Ever Football Session' across England as part of The FA's 'Let Girls Play' campaign. Taking place the day after International Women's Day, the nationwide sessions highlighted the importance of unlocking equal opportunities for girls to participate in football in schools. We had over 50 girls taking part in a skills session at break time and matches/penalty shoot-outs at lunchtime – there were slide tackles, there were celebrations better than Ronaldo's, and more importantly, there were smiles! A huge well done to those girls that took part! In the build up to the 2022 UEFA European Women's Football Championship (which are in England this year), there will be more opportunities next half-term, so watch this space!

Sasha Kelly



BRENTWOOD TOURNAMENT

Our Prep 1 girls took part in the Brentwood Netball Tournament. The girls sailed through the group stages beating Brentwood (B) 5-0 and Gidea Park 10-2. Following the afternoon fixtures in Division 1, we came away with third place overall! The boys' football team also demonstrated great resilience in some tough conditions. Posts were hit, opposition goalkeepers were flying to stop the constant barrage from our attack, but the ball just wouldn't go over the line, however it was a great effort from all involved. The chess team managed to overturn a big loss in the first round into a successful tournament. Going from strength to strength they managed to outwit their opponents and eventually came out as runners up for the whole tournament. A truly magnificent attitude was shown by all.

Sasha Kelly and David Archer

HOUSE UPDATE

The end of the spring term brings the conclusion to boys' hockey as well as girls' netball. It's an opportunity to go head-to-head against your teammates in what is now a great festival of sport. The games are even, and you can see the progress the children have made, and the quality is evident in these battles. In other House news, the House Chess competition has seen some intense matches as the brawn is swapped for brains. It is currently going into the final stages and the House Chess champions will be announced in due course.

David Archer



NETBALL

It has been another busy half-term of netball, with fixtures against New Hall School and Chigwell School. We are proud of the fact that every girl is given the opportunity to take part in competitive sport and we can really notice the progress that the girls make through these fixtures. This was particularly evident in our recent Beta fixture where we had six teams playing all at once – it was such a great sight seeing over 60 girls playing with a smile. Our most recent inter-house games signal the end of netball for this Academic year – we look forward to continuing to develop our skills next year.

Sasha Kelly

