



Well, our first ever Open Evening certainly won't be our last! You tell us often that you love opportunities to come into school and to feel part of your children's school experience. It was a real pleasure to welcome so many of you and to give you the run of the place for a couple of hours. As well as seeing the children's work on the walls, many of you took the chance to literally sit in their places and view through their eyes the classrooms and other areas where they spend their working day. It was a very warm, convivial atmosphere and wonderful to see you socialising with each other as well as talking informally to the teaching staff. Of course, it was all a world away from the dark days of the pandemic when schools were forced to shut out the parents and keep children isolated from one another. As a school community, we believe that our most valuable communications are face-to-face and the Open Evening is part of an ongoing focus on in-person gatherings. In short, we love to see you here in school and you are always very welcome!

Joe Layburn

THE WONDERFUL...



The Prep 2s put on a magical production of 'The Wizard of Oz' last week. The show was a huge success, with audiences of all ages enjoying the classic story. Both casts, and all the staff worked hard for months to put on the show. We started with auditions in late January (which many people were nervous for, including me) and then spent the next few months rehearsing and preparing the sets and costumes. The show opened on Monday 15th May and ran for four nights. We all did outstanding performances, and the audience were captivated by the dialogue! 'The Wizard of Oz' is a timeless classic that has been enjoyed by generations of people. The Prep 2s' production was a faithful adaptation of the story. Cast A and B of 'The Wizard of Oz' should be

...WIZARD OF OZ!



extremely proud of their work! We all put on a wonderful show that will be remembered for years to come. Everyone was talented and enthusiastic. They made the audience believe in the magic of Oz. The music was also exceptional. It brought the story to life and helped to create an enchanted atmosphere. I would like to thank all the helpful adults who have supported us and made this possible. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you to all our parents who came for supporting us and the show. Their applause, laughter and 'woops' made the experience even more special! I hope all the Prep 2s enjoyed the show as much as I did. It was four magical evenings that we will never forget. And as Mr Layburn said, "This is really what education is all about!" Liliana (aka Dorothy) 2LW



View all the photographs from both casts on the VLE here: <https://bancroftsprep.fireflycloud.net/prep-2/the-wizard-of-oz>

MUSEUMS TRIP

On Wednesday 17th May, we went to two museums in Holborn to find out more about the Ancient Greeks. The Sir John Soane Museum from the outside looked like a home in the Georgian times but in the inside, it had loads of Greek, Roman and Egyptian artefacts. We designed a Greek temple with a theme dedicated to one of the Greek Gods and we looked at a lot of paintings! There was a room called 'The Painting Room' and we thought there was only about 38 paintings in there but Sir John Soane was a clever architect and the room secretly held a lot more – 114 in total! In the British Museum we saw an uncountable number of Greek artefacts and statues. We also saw some objects from Ancient Asia and Mesopotamia and took some time to admire the building itself. It was a really fun trip, tiring but exciting! Maxwell and Michael, 1BR



HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

On Wednesday, 26th April, Prep 2s had the privilege of visiting the Houses of Parliament. With a pair of headphones, they wandered the historic halls, soaking in the intricacies of British Parliament. We started the day by taking a train to Westminster and having a memorable tour around the Houses. We saw pictures strewn on the walls, representing important moments in Britain's history. We first saw the House of Commons, where a couple of hours later our Prime Minister had a debate. We could see the chair of the speaker (the person who shouts "order") and several rows of seats above us. New bills (laws) are made in the House. The colour green represents the House of Commons. We later went to the House of Lords where we could see the chair which our King would sit in when addressing a new law to be made. Beside him would sit our Queen. The House of Lords scrutinises bills that have been approved by the House of Commons, while It regularly reviews and amends them. We saw a mace that was rested on the table in the centre of the room, and were told if people got angry, they lifted it. The colour red represents the House of Lords. We also had a workshop where we had a debate and we were split into two groups. The new bill that we were debating on was banning homework (which I did not support). We learnt all about how a law was made and we met the

Chingford and Woodford Green MP, Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith. After eating lunch, our day was done, and we headed back to school. We had a wonderful time, and on behalf of the year, I thank the teachers who planned this amazing school trip for us. Riya 2LW



HEVER CASTLE

Hever Castle is located in the village of Hever, Kent. It began as a country house, built in the 13th century. Anne Boleyn is believed to have been born in 1501 and spent her early childhood at Hever Castle, which had belonged to her family since 1462. Having focused on Anne Boleyn as part of our History curriculum this term, we felt it apt to visit her home. This half term the Betas explored the romantic double moated 13th century castle which houses historic 16th century portraits, paintings, furniture, tapestries and treasures. They visited many rooms including the library, Henry's Chamber, the dining room and the Staircase Gallery to name but a few. The children were then treated to a Tudor dancing workshop where they learned country dances of poorer Tudors and the Polka as danced by Anne herself. After lunch we got lost in the maze, played in the adventure playground and, being a sunny day, ventured around the glorious grounds enjoying a well-deserved ice cream. Hever Castle is a stunning place to explore. We had the added advantage of knowing lots about the intriguing second wife of Henry VIII so enjoyed it immensely. Sarah Strong



FLIGHT SCHOOL!



On Monday 24th April, the Prep 1s visited the RAF Museum. First, my class went into one of the hangars – these are places where the planes are exhibited. We had a workshop about reactions times and each of us made a little machine compass using our coding skills with a microbit computer board. Overall the trip was great; an inspirational museum!
Drithi 1BR

THE YSC

It is not quite midsummer, but it certainly was a dream having the Young Shakespeare Company perform for us this half term. Zoe, Will, Deacon and Francesca pulled out all the stops to entertain our Betas with this wonderful romantic Shakespeare comedy. The performance was interactive with all the children taking part either as characters, props or sound effects. Modern language was used, alongside the original text, allowing the children to access the story, whilst getting a taste of Shakespeare's style. There was so much laughter in this loud, energetic, fun play and the children are still quoting from it today! It brings Shakespeare to life and proves it should still be such an important part of our English curriculum. With its themes of magic, mischief and mistaken identity, what is there not to love?

Sarah Strong



GERMAN WORKSHOP

Foreign languages and an understanding of different cultures are an important part of our life here at the Prep. Adding an extra layer to their German studies, Alpha and Beta pupils got to act out two traditional fairy tales in a workshop this term. Their enthusiasm was palpable. "It was great," said Dhruva, BKY. "It helped that we knew the stories already so we were able to understand a lot of the German." "We were so involved in the German that it was a big surprise when Martina, who ran the workshop, spoke English at the end. We all believed that she could only speak German," added Arabella, also in BKY. Fellow classmate Isabella said, "I understood a lot more German a lot more than I thought I would. That's a great feeling." Martina, who works for the Freshwater Theatre Company, helped the children to perform Little Red Riding Hood and Jack and the Beanstalk.

Karen Yelverton



KITCHEN VISIT

The Alphas got to go behind the scenes last week with a tour of the school kitchen and an opportunity to put their questions to Catering Manager, Marc. They were fascinated to learn about the process of catering for over a thousand people per day—and the sheer volume of food required! On a 'roast dinner day', for example, around 220kg of meat was cooked. The children were positive about school lunches when Marc asked them about their favourites - pizza, along with fish and chips and the aforementioned roast dinners came out on top. The children also got a chance to air dislikes, but there was often dissent in the ranks! What one person likes, another doesn't and this is a real challenge for Marc and his team. He explained that it is impossible to provide everything for everyone, but over the course of the three-week menu rotation he hopes there is something for everyone. The children were excited to hear that jelly will be a permanent new addition, as well as French fries and that he hopes roast dinners and fish and chips will become weekly staples. Marc introduced members of the catering team and told the children that they should approach the staff if they do not like their dinner; want to change it or even want more! We rounded off our visit with pastries and fruit juice, which were happily received!
Laura Dalton

CHESS CHAMPS!

During the Easter holidays Mr Layburn and I were very proud to be able to accompany our U11 girls' chess team to the English Chess Federation's National Championship. The competition was held at St Catherine's School, Bramley and, although our girls Zoe, Aashritha and Olivia had come first in the southern semi-finals, we were nervous and didn't dare to dream! Accompanied by their parents, the girls settled into their rooms at the boarding school and matches began after lunch on Saturday. The girls played three games on this first day, the last rounds not finishing until after 800pm. We played City Juniors, Nottingham High and NCLS; each one a nail biter but we ended the day in second place. Play started again at 9.00am on Sunday and the morning was tough as the girls faced very stiff opposition from Sutton High School and Putney High. We went to lunch in fourth place and studied the draw. We knew that if we could just win our last six matches (all six of them!) we could still pull it off. The girls showed courage, focus and determination in spades and they only went and did it! They won all six of their final games and were crowned U11 National Champions!!! It was a fabulous weekend and a truly outstanding achievement. We are so proud of our team and are looking forward to having another go at the title next year!

Lisa Life



CHESS SEMI-FINALS

The Bristol round of the EPSCA semi-finals were held on Saturday 13th May and were attended by the U9 team and their very supportive families. The team (Zoe, Ashwin, Alex, Advik, Aaryan and Aakarsh) were paired against some really tough opponents such as Latymer, Westminster Under School and Habs. However, the team presented each of them a tough challenge and really tried their best. The highlight of the day was the round against the hosts, Bristol Grammar School, where we achieved a clean sweep and won all 5 matches! That round catapulted us from 15th position to 3rd position for a brief period before settling down at 6th where we ended the day. We finished joint 6th out of the 26 teams in the tournament - a tremendous achievement. Many congratulations to all the children, parents and chess coaches. Also, special mention to Zoe and Ashwin the

stars of the day winning all of their matches.

Lisa Life



COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY

We were extremely fortunate to have Barnaby Barford visit us in a Community Assembly with the Upper Phase this half term. Barnaby is a local artist, based in Highams Park and has sculptures installed in the area. Working with various mediums, Barnaby explained to the pupils how he uses familiar symbols such as the apple, to tell ancient tales within a contemporary context. His recent book 'The Apple is Everything' is Barford's love letter to the humble fruit. It is 'a visual feast exploring the apple's significance throughout human history, revealing and celebrating its unassailable position in our shared imagination'. Throughout his work, Barnaby holds up a mirror to society, prompting us to reflect upon inequalities, obsessions and systems of belief. His installations have been housed at the V&A, David Gill Gallery, in Holland Park to name but a few iconic places. He was inspirational in allowing the children to know there are no boundaries or rules in art and mistakes lead to the right answer eventually. He recognised a couple of our Prep 2s as his other passion is to coach rugby at Woodford Rugby Club!

Sarah Strong



KINDNESS SUPERHERO

'Kindness Superhero', the title of a song and the theme of the very special Junior Choir practice given by Dr Farhana Mann, mother of Ryan and Zara, on Tuesday 25th April in the Prep Hall. Whilst Dr Mann is a Consultant Psychiatrist, her spread of interests is wide and varied. She talked to the children about her early passion for music especially, starting as a young harmonium player and then progressing to the piano. This was all whilst training to be a doctor. Medicine and music often do go hand in hand. It must be how some minds work. Dr Mann spoke humorously, with funny accents, about the wise choices children should make in their school lives and their friendship groups. They should support those who may look a little sad in the playground and effectively become a 'Kindness Superhero.' Dr Mann's song is upbeat, warm, message driven, with a great catchy chorus. The children loved singing it and I hope that we can regularly feature it in school. It was kind of Dr Mann to visit the Alphas and Betas and I hope that we may repeat this with the older children. We wish Dr Mann all the very best with her song writing enterprises in the year ahead.

Adam Baum



THE BIG HELP OUT

The Big Help Out, which took place on 8th May 2023, was a nationwide initiative designed to mark the Coronation of King Charles III by encouraging people to get together and volunteer for the benefit of their local communities. The Prep definitely wanted to get involved and did just that by helping neighbours, friends, relatives old and young by giving their time and service in a really kind way. Some helped with shopping or dog walking, others got busy in gardens, planting and mowing lawns. Some decided to run for charity or make donations of clothes, books and toys to local charity shops. We had bakers, lemonade stands, readers, cleaners and litter pickers! In fact, both Prep 2 and the Betas went out as a year group to keep The Green in Woodford Green clean

and both year groups collected two black bin liners of rubbish! By collaborating, giving time and sprinkling kindness everywhere, it made for a fulfilling Bank Holiday Monday and, as always, the children were left knowing how good it feels to do good!

Sarah Strong



MRS JONES HELPS OUT

Our own Mrs Jones is an Events Volunteer for a local hospice we love to support – Haven House. Haven House love to get our local community together to raise money for their fabulous children's hospice and they rely solely on private donations. Earlier this year they spoke to the children in a community assembly about the Sparkle 10k Evening Walk which I know many children took part in around Wanstead and Woodford Green. Some of you may be interested to learn they are also having a summer party on 14th July at Woolston Manor Golf Club. Check out <https://www.havenhouse.org.uk/Event/summerparty2023> for further details. Here is Mrs Jones promoting the charity as her way to contribute to The Big Help Out!

Sarah Strong



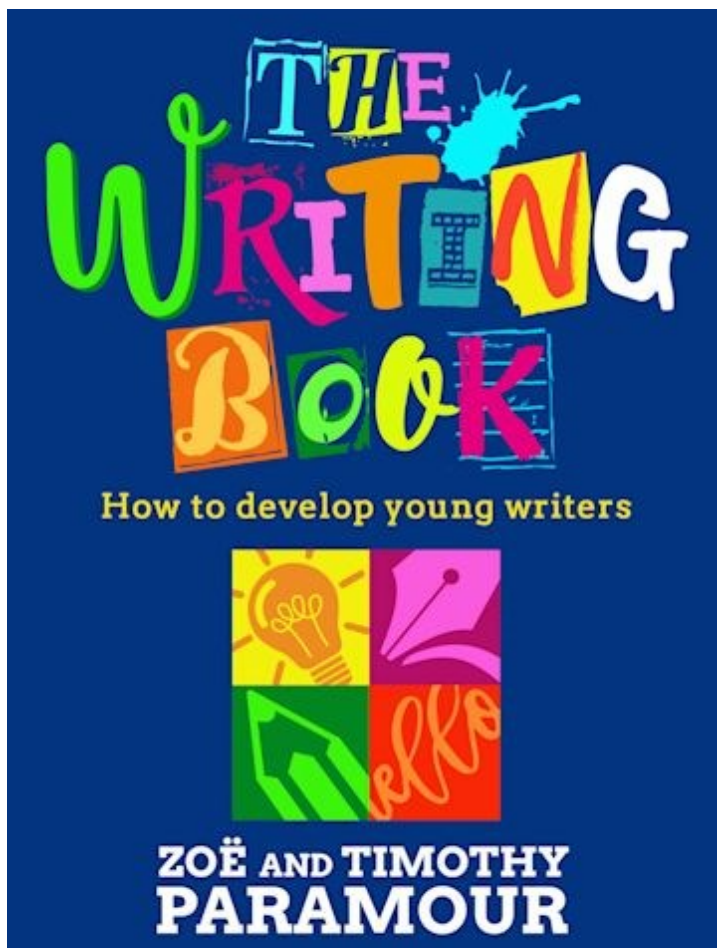
LUNCHTIME CONCERT

What a delightful and spirited event this was, with a lovely breadth of support from encouraging parents and relatives. We were very happy to include so many instrumental disciplines and to start with, Jake playing a grade 5 electric guitar piece, 'Geek', was very special. Specially composed backing tracks, also for Alpha Ishen really do make the pieces come alive. Miss Akroyd played a lovely saxophone duet with Devan and the musical support offered by her and Miss Harrison is very much appreciated. So, to all of the performers at the concert, a big well done and a big thank you. It takes nerves and courage to perform to an audience. Well done everybody.

Adam Baum

THE WRITING BOOK

You may be interested to know that our very own Mr Paramour and his wife, Zoe, have launched their second book, 'The Writing Book.' This follow up to 'The Grammar Book' aims to give clear and systematic guidance about how to develop children's written English. It covers vocabulary, register, word order, text layout as well as sentence structure, length and syntax. It explores the features of different genres, the ways we can play with language and the reader's expectations to make writing more engaging. It aims to help our children become confident, competent writers. It is currently available on <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/writing-book-9781801991438/> with a pre-order discount when the code WRITING 35 is applied.



CHARITY CRAFT SALE

Collaboration is one of our school values so it was great to see Prep and Senior school pupils working together to raise money for local charity 'Every Life Has A Purpose - ELHAP'. In this instance, the Craft Club at the Senior School were selling handmade soaps and hair scrunchies, together with a gift-wrapping service. The Prep pupils were the customers, queuing in hoards for the beautiful merchandise. Together we raised £250. ELHAP are based in Woodford Bridge and provide adventure play opportunities to disabled and disadvantaged children, young people and adults.

Sarah Strong



SWIM GALA

We started off what is going to be a jam-packed sporty summer term, with the annual Year 3 and 4 Forest School swim gala. It was a highly competitive afternoon of swimming against Forest School (A and B teams) and Canonbury School. After some fine swimming there was only one point between us and Canonbury going into the last race. And, in what was a very close race, which involved 12 of our swimmers, we narrowly missed out on the win and overall we finished in third place - which is a great achievement in itself when you consider how hard the pupils have worked to improve their swimming techniques this year. The pupils did the Bancroft's badge proud and we look forward to further swimming endeavours soon.

Susan Cheshire

CRICKET NEWS

The cricket season is well and truly upon us and it has been a busy start to the term with all year groups having the chance to play competitive cricket. Here is a round up of all you need to know about our season so far:

For the first time this year, our **Alpha** pupils had the opportunity to play a fixture against another school. It was an afternoon of immense excitement as our Alphas descended upon St. Aubyn's en masse to put into practice all of the skills that they have been learning in their cricket lessons this term. Pupils were suitably challenged and as you can see from the photographs below, this resulted in pure jubilation as all pupils played with big smiles on their face! We now look forward to starting their competitive journey through sport with us next year.



Our **U11 boys** competed in a three-way tournament hosted by New Hall School. It was the first round of games in the County Essex Cup where the boys convincingly defeated Brentwood and New Hall School, and now progress to the next stages of the competition.



CRICKET CHAMPS!

Our **U11 girls' cricket team** had a very successful day of cricket at the recent IAPS tournament at Framlingham, coming away as winners! There was some fierce competition on the day, but our girls persevered and dug deep to keep going, which was needed when you look at how close some of the scores were. We were very impressed with the teamwork present on the day - the girls were loud, they high-fived each other to celebrate each other's success, and there was a real sense of cohesion and purpose! A particular shout out to Helena who played up a year in this prestigious tournament after a dazzling display in front of the wicket at a U11 fixture the week before where she bowled a hat-trick.

Results on the day:

Game 1 - Bancroft's 62-2, St. Faiths 57-0.

Game 2 - Bancroft's 40-5, Framlingham 57-3.

Game 3 - Bancroft's 32-0, Norwich 28-6.

Game 4 - Bancroft's 75-1, Laxton Prep 30-6.

Final - Bancroft's 62-2, Langley Prep 59-0.

Games 2 vs. New Hall School - Bancroft's win 295-230.

Dates for your diaries:

Wednesday 14th June - Bancroft's Prep U11 Cricket Festival at West Grove

Wednesday 21st June - Bancroft's Prep Sports Day
Sasha Kelly



HOUSE NEWS

The House competition is building up to an exciting climax in the second half of the summer term. With all children improving their cricket, tennis and athletic skills, the ensuing competitions are eagerly anticipated. The inaugural House Cross-Fit championships took place, culminating in a 'best of the best' showdown between the quickest teams. Bulging biceps, active abs and thunderous thighs were all on show as the teams powered to the finish line. The aquathon, sports day, cricket, tennis and swimming are still to be completed before this year's competition concludes.

David Archer

PASSO TONALE 2023

When you think of skiing holidays, you think of cold, blustery and snowy conditions. Passo Tonale treated us to beautiful clear blue skies and bright sunshine. Where the weather wasn't great for off-piste skiing, the children of Bancroft's and Avon House were and they both came together for an extremely pleasurable and amazing trip. To see children that could barely stand up on their skis progress to mastering blue and red runs by the end of the week was a credit to them and their instructors. With a daily diet of chocolate spread on toast for breakfast, pasta at lunch and pasta for dinner (wow, did we eat a lot of pasta), the children were fueled with the energy to conquer any challenge in front of them. Alongside the skiing, we completed two mannequin challenge videos, sang and danced to Green Green Grass in various locations (including at the top of the 3000m mountain), went swimming, had a quiz, played games, ate pizza, partied hard, wore silly things at dinner, looked after mascots 24/7, witnessed the daily coronation of the queen or king of the mountain and enjoyed each other's company in beautiful surroundings. Well done to everyone for making it a great trip and especially to Mr. Hall for his organisational skills to get us all there after a four year hiatus.

David Archer



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Wednesday 14th June - Bancroft's Prep U11 Cricket Festival at West Grove

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#LETGIRLSPLAY 2023



Following qualifiers last year, our Prep 1 and 2 girls' football team were selected to attend the East London #LetGirlsPlay football celebration at Frenford FC. The event was a celebration of girls' football across the four east London boroughs - Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham, Newham and Waltham Forest. And a celebration of girls' football it definitely was as well as the tournament itself, there were Pro Direct activities including accuracy passing challenges, sprint time recording stations, and of course the top bins challenge. Sponsored by Pro Direct and Nike, we were gifted with what is our first girls' football shirt with numbers. The girls certainly look the part! In the tournament itself, the girls narrowly missed out on progressing to the finals, needing just one more point to go through. But the main thing was that our girls were part of something special with hundreds of girls playing the beautiful game that day! With their medals proudly hung around their necks, our girls were interviewed at the end of the day and their message is important - we must get more girls playing more football! Today's tournament is a step in the right direction and we look forward here at Bancroft's to developing girls' football! As the glitter face paint read on the girls' faces: "let girls play" - yes we will!

Sasha Kelly

