

Prep Headlines

Summer 2 2026

Bancroft's
Prep

The end of our school year coincides with a time when London truly comes into its own as a city of discovery—especially for our primary-aged children and their families. From world-famous museums and galleries to hidden gems beneath our feet, like the Postal Museum and its underground train, there is an extraordinary richness of experiences waiting to be explored. Our city offers countless opportunities for curiosity and lifelong learning. Whether it's discovering lesser-known treasures such as the Roman Temple of Mithras, or simply wandering through one of our beautiful parks, every outing brings something new. Nature, too, provides its own delights—the recent pelican chicks in St James's Park being a wonderful example of London's ever-surprising wildlife. We are incredibly fortunate to live in a city where adventure is so accessible. As busy and warm as the Central Line can be, it remains a gateway to days filled with exploration, imagination and enjoyment. This summer, I encourage all our families to make the most of what London has to offer—take time to explore, to learn, and to create lasting memories together. We would love to hear all about your adventures when the children return in September. Finally, it remains for me to thank you for the kind words and generous gifts you have given our staff at the end of another fantastic year at Bancroft's Prep School. I wish you all a happy, enriching and adventurous summer.

Joe Lytle

Peak Adventure for Prep 2



Prep 2 recently returned from an unforgettable four-night residential trip to Castleton in the Peak District, staying at the YHA and enjoying what many have described as the perfect way to round off their time at Bancroft's Prep. Packed with adventure from start to finish, the trip challenged pupils to step outside their comfort zones, work together and create memories that will last long after they leave the Prep School.



Activities included climbing, caving, orienteering, zip-lining, canoeing, fire-lighting and even the impressive climb up Mam Tor, giving the children the chance to test themselves both physically and mentally. The weather did not always play ball, with rain and cooler temperatures making some of the challenges even tougher, but this did little to dampen spirits. If anything, it only added to the adventure. Throughout the week, the children showed resilience, courage and excellent teamwork, supporting one another through every muddy trail, dark cave and steep climb. Back at school, the photos and videos have spoken for themselves — full of smiles, laughter and the unmistakable joy that comes from shared experiences and overcoming challenges together. Accompanied by their Prep 2 teachers, Miss Dack, Mr Denyer, Miss McKinlay and Miss Wainhouse, the trip was a huge success and a fitting final chapter in the pupils' Prep School journey. For many of the children, the residential was described as a true highlight - the "icing on the cake" of their time in the Prep School.



Betas Go Back in Time!

On Friday 22nd May, we went on a trip to Hever Castle in Kent. Hever Castle is over 700 years old and was the childhood home of Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII. We learned lots of interesting facts, including that Anne of Cleves also lived there, and that the moat used to be used as a sewage area! We travelled there by coach, which took about two hours. I sat with my friend Eliza on the way there and Aliya on the way back. To keep myself busy, I brought a book and two fidgets, and I spent time chatting with my friends about what we thought we might do. We were all especially excited about the gift shop and the adventure playground. When we arrived, we explored the beautiful gardens first. There were so many flowers, statues and even a waterfall. It was amazing to think that Anne Boleyn once walked through those same gardens. We also looked into the moat, where we saw huge orange fish swimming, and there were lots of ducks around the lake too. After that, we went inside the castle. We saw enormous living rooms, dining rooms and lots of bedrooms, including Anne Boleyn's and her sister's. We also saw life-sized models of them, which looked a little bit scary! Later, we took part in a workshop where we made Tudor houses using wood, paper and cardboard. It was really fun and helped us imagine what Tudor life might have been like. After lunch, the teachers gave us ice cream because we had all behaved so well. I chose chocolate because it's my favourite. Then it was time for the gift shop. I bought four things: a rubber for my brother, a Hever Castle rubber for myself, a purse and a magnet of Henry VIII as a teddy bear. At the end of the day, we went to the adventure playground. I went on almost everything except the biggest slide because it had a sign saying Danger of Drop! and I don't like heights or things that go down very fast. It was such a fun trip and a brilliant way to learn more about Tudor history.

Isabelle BSS



Sun Safety

Earlier this term, the Lower Phase were fortunate to welcome Dr Hussain, parent of Aila in AAK and a practising dermatologist, to speak in assembly about the importance of sun safety. Dr Hussain delivered an engaging and informative presentation, helping the children to understand the harmful effects of too much sun exposure and the importance of protecting their skin. He explained how the sun can damage skin over time and shared practical advice on staying safe, including wearing hats, seeking

shade and applying sun cream regularly. What impressed Dr Hussain most, however, was the children's own knowledge. He was amazed by how much they already knew about keeping safe in the sun and by the thoughtful questions they asked throughout the session. To make the visit even more memorable, every child left with a generous gift bag containing sun cream samples, a notebook and a pen, kindly sponsored by Bioderma. Little did we know quite how soon - and how seriously - we would need to put Dr Hussain's advice into practice, as the June heatwave arrived shortly afterwards! His visit proved to be perfectly timed and an important reminder for us all that staying safe in the sun is no joke. We are hugely grateful to Dr Hussain for giving up his time to share his expertise and help keep our pupils informed, protected and prepared.

Laura Dalton

Alphas Brave the Rain



This term, the Alpha classes visited the beautiful Cambridge Botanic Garden to support their Science learning about plants. Although the weather did not quite go to plan, it was still a memorable day out. The children arrived full of excitement, ready to explore the gardens and learn more about the different plants, trees and flowers growing there. Cambridge Botanic Garden is home to thousands of plant species from all over the world, making it a brilliant place to bring classroom learning to life. Unfortunately, the trip took place on what felt like the coldest and wettest day in June! Heavy rain meant that umbrellas were up, waterproofs were on, and soggy shoes quickly became the order of the day. Sadly, the weather was so bad that the trip had to end earlier than planned. Despite the rain, the children still managed to spot a huge variety of plants and enjoyed seeing first-hand how different plants grow in different environments. They were able to link their observations to the work they have been doing in Science, thinking carefully about roots, stems, leaves and flowers. Although the weather may not have been kind, spirits stayed high and many of the children said they had still really enjoyed the trip. In fact, several are already hoping to return with their families on a sunnier day to explore even more. Cambridge Botanic Garden proved to be a fantastic place to visit, and next time - with a little more sunshine - it might be even better!

Tina Biston



Valerie Bloom



Recently, Valerie Bloom came to our school and showcased lots of her poems and books to the year group. As part of Valerie's introduction, she asked questions to see how many people had Jamaican backgrounds. She asked who had been to Jamaica, and only three people had visited during their holidays. She then asked who had Jamaican heritage, and only one person put their hand up — and that person was me! I was extremely proud to share that with the year group. Finally, she asked who could speak Jamaican patois, and again only one person put their hand up, and that was yours truly, because of my Jamaican Grandad and Grandmother. After asking us questions, Valerie talked to the year group about some of the novels, books and poems she has written. She then read the poems that she had brought with her. During the poems, Valerie asked the year group to do some actions and, when she pointed towards us, she expected us to fill in the words that completed the poem. My favourite poem that Valerie Bloom has written is called Sandwich. It is about a child who is going on a school trip and only wants to take a sandwich! Just as she is about to walk out of the door, her Grandmother stops her, takes away her plain sandwich and gives her a basket filled with traditional Jamaican food. The girl begs her Grandmother to give her sandwich back, but instead she keeps adding more food to the basket. When the girl leaves the house, she pretends not to recognise her bag. However, when it gets to lunchtime and everyone gets ready to eat their sandwiches, her teacher spots the bag and asks, "What have you got there?" She pretends she didn't hear, but when she opens the bag, the whole class starts to lick their lips and they eat every crumb of her Jamaican feast. At the end of the story, the girl feels so happy that she didn't bring her sandwich! Valerie also read some other amazing poems, which I really enjoyed. After Valerie had read all her poems, we got to ask her questions. I was so excited to ask mine, and eventually I got the chance. My question was, "What challenges have you faced as a Jamaican and Black poet?" Valerie replied that it was hard to get used to writing in English because she is originally from Jamaica, and not many people could understand what she was writing. As time passed, she said it became easier to write in English. When break time had finished, we had to try writing our own poems by picking a focus word and using different words that linked to it. At the end of the poem, the last line had to be the same as the first. I found this new technique really interesting and, funnily enough, it worked! When I was stuck, Valerie Bloom was extremely helpful and I was able to produce a decent poem which I was proud of. At the end

of the day, Miss Bird took me down to the library and I got to see Valerie again. I bought two books that Valerie Bloom has written, and she signed them for me with a lovely message in each book. I was then able to have a really good chat with Valerie and learnt a lot more about her and her Jamaican heritage. I really enjoyed our chat - and the day even more.

Logan ICP



Maths Challenge

This term saw Bancroft's pupils take part in the First Maths Challenge for the very first time - an exciting new opportunity for young mathematicians across the Prep School. The First Maths Challenge is a national problem-solving competition designed to encourage pupils to think creatively, work logically and apply their mathematical skills in new and unfamiliar ways. Unlike the Primary Maths Challenge (PMC), which is marked externally, the First Maths Challenge is scored in school, allowing teachers to celebrate success and share results more quickly. Pupils across Alphas and Betas took part in this year's challenge, tackling a range of questions that tested not only their mathematical knowledge but also their resilience, reasoning and problem-solving skills. The challenge encouraged children to persevere, think outside the box and enjoy the process of mathematical discovery. There were many excellent performances across both year groups, with pupils showing great determination and enthusiasm throughout. Every child who took part received a certificate to recognise their effort and participation - an important reminder that stepping up to a challenge is an achievement in itself. Beyond this, pupils were awarded Bronze, Silver and the highly coveted Gold certificates, reflecting the strength of their performances.

This year's results included:

40 Gold certificates

52 Silver certificates

10 Bronze certificates

It was fantastic to see so many pupils embracing the challenge and enjoying the opportunity to stretch themselves mathematically. We look forward to taking part again next year and building on this year's success.

Sue Jones



Drumming Workshop



In June, all of the Prep 1s and Betas took part in drum workshops with professional drummer Kwame Anomah. He led them through a range of different Samba and African rhythms, using his repenique samba drum and loud whistle to guide the performances. All of the pupils had the opportunity to try different drums and take on different roles within the bands, making for an energetic and exciting experience. It was a fun-filled session enjoyed by all, and we look forward to welcoming Kwame back again in the future!



Visitation Day

On Friday 19th June, all of the Prep 1s and Prep 2s performed in a truly spectacular musical concert as part of our annual Visitation Day. Each year, we are honoured to welcome members of The Worshipful Company of Drapers, the historic livery company that has long supported the school, for their annual visit. As part of this special occasion, Bancroft's puts on a celebratory concert - and this year's was certainly one to remember. The Senior Choir performed Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride from Lilo and Stitch, It Don't Mean a Thing by Duke Ellington, and Labi Siffre's Something Inside So Strong, with solos sung by the Prep Singers and British Sign Language incorporated into the chorus. The Prep Singers performed a serene rendition of Sing Gently by Eric Whitacre, whilst the Bancroft's Boys Choir lifted the roof with I'm Still Standing by Elton John. We also heard from four talented soloists: Toko, performing Antonio Vivaldi's Allegro on the cello; Elizabeth, performing The Drinking Song from Giuseppe Verdi's La Traviata on the clarinet; Ruien, performing Friedrich Burgmüller's Tarantella on the grand piano; and Isaac, who

grooved on the drums to Musicology by Prince. The concert ended with a Bancroft's favourite, Power in Me from Young Voices, followed by the Prep 2s singing their hearts out in an Aladdin Medley. It was a spectacular showcase of musical talent, confidence and joy, and a fitting celebration for such an important occasion in the school calendar. The concert was thoroughly enjoyed by all and left a lasting impression on our visitors. Congratulations to everyone who took part!

LSO Concert

At the end of June, on a hot Monday, 24 members of the Senior Orchestra travelled by public transport to the Barbican to attend an exciting concert all about transport. Some of the repertoire performed included Doctor Who's Time Machine by Delia Derbyshire, Little Train of the Caipira by Villa-Lobos, The Skater's Waltz by Waldteufel and Ron Goodwin's thrilling 633 Squadron. All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed listening to these pieces and got involved in a variety of actions when invited by the animateur. It was a wonderful trip and a fantastic musical experience - if a little hot on the journey back to school!



A Final Farewell

This week, our Prep 2 leavers and their families came together for a very special evening to celebrate the end of their Prep School journey. The children arrived back at school at 5.15pm, full of excitement and ready to perform their final assembly. It was a wonderful mixture of poems and reflections, as the children looked back on their time in the Prep School, sharing memories and thoughtful words about one another. Music, of course, played a huge part in the evening. The children performed a brilliant Aladdin medley, a fitting tribute to a production that has been such a memorable part of their final year, as well as a lively pop medley of songs they love. The assembly ended with a final roll call, as each child left the hall to huge applause from family, friends and staff - a proud and emotional moment for all. Afterwards, the children swapped their uniforms for their own clothes and headed out onto the field, where the celebrations continued. With bouncy castles, a barbecue and even a visit from an ice cream van serving enormous ice creams piled high with sauce, marshmallows and plenty of other treats, there was something for everyone to enjoy. The sun shone, staff past and present came along to join in the celebrations, and it was a truly lovely occasion to mark the end of the children's years in the Prep School. It was an emotional evening for many - not least because, alongside celebrating our Prep 2 leavers, we were also (thankfully!) celebrating an England win over the Democratic Republic of Congo, with the second half of the match shown in the hall for all to enjoy. A fitting end to a special chapter: an evening full of smiles, laughter and, for some, maybe more than a few tears.

A Credit to Us

The following children were our Green Credit winners this term and were rewarded with a fantastic morning of water-based activities at Leaside. From teamwork to bravery, they embraced the challenge and had a brilliant time on the water.

A huge well done to all of our winners for their hard work, positive attitude and consistently making great choices throughout the year. We are very proud of you all!

Congratulations to:

ASB – Rahyl & Miya

AAK – Ashni & Yusuf

ACB – Anand & Ashwin

BNB – Lana & Dhillon

BSS – Milan & Isabelle

BLW – Hana & Shrey

ICP – Amelia & Ollie

IZR – Raja & Arjun

ITB – Haala & Charlotte

2BR – Rebecca & Viishnu

2JH – Ezra & Khyan

2TC – Veera & Kenzo



Head for the Day

On Friday 12th June, I was Headmaster for the Day. I was really excited and happy about winning the prize and being in charge of the school! The special rules I put in place were that, in the morning, ITB got to play Minecraft Education in the computer room - lots of us loved that! I also said that ITB could have special snacks (thank you, Mr Layburn!) and were allowed to bring in their Nintendo Switches or iPads to play on at break, when we had the interior playground all to ourselves. Later on, after getting to go into lunch first, ITB had our own private football match on the Prep School field, and my team won 4–2. It was the best day, at school and I will never forget it!

Harry ITB

Charity Collection

Our Prep School community came together to support The Children's Society through our Spring Into Giving donation appeal. Families were invited to have a spring clean at home and donate good-quality children's clothing, toys, books, games, puzzles and soft toys suitable for children aged 7–11. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our families, we received a wonderful collection of donations that will make a real difference to children and families in need. All donations were collected by Mrs Strong in BSS before being delivered to The Children's Society by our dedicated Charity Ambassadors. The Children's Society is a national charity that supports vulnerable children and young people across the UK. They work with children facing poverty, abuse, neglect and mental health challenges, helping to provide the care, opportunities and support they need to thrive. By donating clothes, toys and other essentials, our school community has helped ensure that more children have access to items that bring comfort, confidence and joy. A huge thank you to everyone who donated and supported this appeal. Your kindness and

generosity have shown what a caring and compassionate community we are. Every donation truly counts, and together we have made a positive difference to the lives of others.

Sarah Strong



PDSA Fundraiser

We are delighted to share that our charity fundraiser for PDSA was a great success. Thanks to the enthusiasm and hard work of the Prep 1 girls, we raised an incredible £714.11! PDSA is the UK's leading veterinary charity, providing free and low-cost care for pets whose owners are struggling financially, as well as promoting responsible pet ownership. The money was raised through a range of activities, including a donation box, homemade bracelets, crazy golf, a raffle, bookmarks, origami and games. The girls showed fantastic initiative, gave their own time generously and demonstrated real care for the cause. We would also like to thank Anna Baggott from PDSA for inspiring the children during assembly and helping them understand the importance of the charity's work. A huge thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful cause.



A Bear-y Special Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who donated a teddy bear or cuddly creature for our recent collection in support of Action for Children. We were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown by our school community. We know that many of these bears were much-loved friends, filled with memories and special moments, so we truly appreciate how difficult it can be to part with them. Although these cuddly creatures may have left their original homes, they are now ready to bring comfort, friendship and happiness to another child. A pre-loved teddy bear is not just a toy — it can become a reassuring companion, a source of comfort and a reminder that someone cares. The bears will be donated to Action for Children, a charity that supports children, young people and families across the UK. Their work helps children facing difficult circumstances by providing care, support and opportunities to help them build brighter futures. Every donated bear represents an act of kindness. A child who receives one may not know who gave it to them, but they will feel the love and generosity behind the gift. Thank you to everyone who helped make this collection such a success. Your cuddly creatures are now beginning a new journey - bringing smiles, comfort and special memories to children who need them.

Sarah Strong



Fun and Fashion

What a fantastic way to end the term! Our school was filled with colour, creativity, and smiles as the Betas took part in a wonderful afternoon of fun and fashion. The children amazed everyone by dressing up in costumes from many different periods in history. We saw impressive Anglo-Saxons, elegant Victorians, magnificent Tudors, brave people from the Second World War, stylish Mods, and colourful outfits from the 1980s.



Every costume had been carefully chosen, and it was wonderful to see history brought to life in such a creative way. The highlight of the afternoon was our exciting red carpet fashion show. Each Beta confidently walked the red carpet, striking fun poses and showing off their fantastic costumes with pride.



There were lots of original ideas, plenty of laughter, and enthusiastic applause from everyone watching. It was a joyful celebration of learning, imagination, and teamwork. The colourful costumes and smiling faces made it a memorable event and the perfect way to finish the term. A big well done to all of the Betas for making the afternoon so special, and thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success.



Food for Thought

As part of their work exploring poetry inspired by Joseph Coelho, pupils have been reflecting on themes of courage, resilience, creativity and self-belief. This piece by Krish from BSS reminds us of the importance of trusting ourselves, persevering through challenges and treating others - and ourselves - with kindness. It is a thoughtful and uplifting poem, and a good reminder as we reach the end of another busy school year that we are stronger than we often realise.

Phase of Phrases

(inspired by Joseph Coelho)

Be a leader

Agree with each other

Every day is a fresh start

You are not alone

Life can be different

You have family

Take the risk

Be creative

Life is not dangerous

Explore

You are brave

You are strong

Things can be risky

You are strong

You are strong

Trust yourself

Agree with your body

You can do hard things

Never give up

Create the future you want

Listen to your mind

You are amazing

Treat yourself well

We need peace

Never argue

You can change the world

Be confident

School Council News

At the final School Council meeting of the academic year, pupils reflected on a year filled with memorable experiences, exciting opportunities and great achievements. House events were a particular highlight, with Sports Day, House table tennis and golf all proving popular. Looking ahead, pupils were excited by the possibility of even more House activities in the future. The council also celebrated the many educational visits that enriched learning this year, including trips to the Royal Courts of Justice, Hever Castle, Centre of the Cell, Sir John Soane's Museum, the Power League Football Tournament, Cambridge Botanical Gardens and the Victorian Invention Exhibition. These visits created lasting memories and valuable learning beyond the classroom. Pupils spoke enthusiastically about the many clubs on offer, with Formula 1 Club, Art Club and Mindfulness Painting receiving particular praise. The council agreed that the wide range of extracurricular opportunities has been a real strength of the school this year. The meeting also gave pupils the chance to share ideas for the future, including new House competitions, charity events and additional clubs. The School Council concluded that this has been a highly successful year, and pupils were proud of all that had been achieved and grateful for the chance to help shape the future of the school.

Sarah Strong

Chess News

On Saturday 13th June, Bancroft's Prep Chess teams travelled to the University of Westminster for the ESPCA Chess semi-finals. We had three U9 teams and one U11 team, with everyone playing five games. Each team finished around the middle of the results table, which was a great achievement. For the majority of us, it was our first chess tournament, so excitement buzzed through the air. We all felt that we played well, especially because the standard of competition was very high. A big thank you to Mr D'Costa for organising it!

Milan BSS

Swimming News

We had a fantastic day at the IAPS Swim Finals on Saturday, held at the iconic Olympic Pool in Stratford. It was the perfect stage for some outstanding performances from our Bancroft swimmers. Zelal, Saara, Lillian and Amelia produced a superb team effort in the Medley Relay, improving their March qualifying time by an incredible five seconds — from 1 minute 23 seconds to 1 minute 18 seconds — to finish a very respectable 19th against strong competition. Lillian also swam a brilliant 50m Butterfly, finishing in 16th place and improving on her time from the March gala. The butterfly is one of the most demanding events in swimming, but Lillian showed excellent technique and determination throughout. James delivered an outstanding performance in the Breaststroke, taking two seconds off his heat time and improving again in the final to secure an incredible 4th place. Well done to all of our swimmers for representing Bancroft's with such skill, determination and sportsmanship. We are incredibly proud of them all.



Bancroft's hosted a friendly swimming gala against Avon House on Monday 8th June, providing a valuable opportunity for our Alpha and Beta swimmers to practise their racing skills and build confidence in a competitive setting. The gala got off to a flying start, with Aida winning the 25m Backstroke, closely followed by Isabelle in second after a tightly contested race. In the 25m Butterfly, Emma and Anaya impressed with strong swims to secure first and second place respectively. There were many encouraging performances throughout the afternoon, with all swimmers showing determination, improving technique and excellent team spirit. It was clear to see how much progress had been made over the term. The gala finished with an exciting Squadron Relay, involving all squad swimmers and showcasing fantastic teamwork, energy and encouragement.

Overall, it was an enjoyable and valuable experience, giving our younger swimmers a great chance to develop their racing skills. Well done to all who took part.

Trish Brennan & Claire Ablitt

Cricket News

Our pupils have enjoyed a busy period of cricket fixtures and games, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout. The children have continued to develop their batting, bowling and fielding skills, with plenty of progress seen across all year groups. There were lots of standout performances, with many pupils taking wickets and scoring impressive runs for their teams. Their hard work paid off, with lots of wins to celebrate, making it a fantastic term of cricket for everyone involved. Well done to all our pupils!

Bancroft's Tournament



All of our Prep 2 cricket players took part in the Bancroft's Cricket Tournament, where they had the opportunity to experience hardball cricket. For some pupils, this was their first time playing with a hard ball, making it an exciting and valuable learning experience. Although the weather was not on our side, the children showed great resilience and determination throughout the day. The Bancroft's teams competed in a series of group-stage matches against strong opposition, applying the skills they have developed in lessons and showing excellent teamwork and sportsmanship. It was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they embraced the challenge and represented the school so proudly. The results were mixed, but there were some outstanding performances across the board. The boys' red team stormed to victory to become overall winners, while the girls' green team also came out on top in their category after a series of brilliant performances. The boys' blue team added to the success with an excellent second-place finish. It was a fantastic day of cricket, full of energy, teamwork and determination, and a brilliant experience for all involved.

IAPS Girls' Tournament

The girls' IAPS cricket team had an early start as they travelled to Framlingham College in Suffolk for their tournament. They began the hot day in the sunshine with a convincing victory against Brentwood School. There were plenty of wickets taken, although several close running decisions kept the game competitive. Next up was Old Buckenham Hall, who proved to be tough opposition and ultimately went on to win the tournament. Bancroft's bowled exceptionally well and took a number of important wickets, which helped keep the game within reach. However, the girls took several risks while running between the wickets, which had an impact on the result and made it difficult to recover. Despite this, the team showed great determination, stepping up in the final four overs to add valuable runs. Unfortunately, it was a narrow defeat. The final group match was against Kimbolton School. Once again, the girls bowled brilliantly, learned from their earlier

mistakes, and secured a well-deserved win. This result meant that Bancroft's finished second in their group and progressed to the semi-finals. By the semi-final, the heat of the day had begun to take its toll, and the girls struggled to find momentum in the opening overs, allowing their opponents to gain the upper hand. Despite another outstanding bowling performance, the team was unable to score enough runs to get over the line. All of the girls involved should be extremely proud of their efforts in finishing fourth overall on the day. It was a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work, teamwork and resilience throughout the tournament. I hope these girls continue to thrive in cricket next year as they move on from the Prep School. Keep going!



Disability Awareness

On Monday 15th June, we welcomed Brad from Essex Cricket into school to deliver disability awareness PE lessons. Pupils had the exciting opportunity to learn and play table cricket, developing new skills while gaining an understanding of inclusive sports. Some classes also took part in goalball, experiencing how athletes with visual impairments compete using teamwork, communication and listening skills. The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions, showing enthusiasm, respect and excellent participation throughout. Well done to everyone involved for their fantastic effort and positive attitude!



Essex County Cup Final

The U11 Essex County Finals Day took place on one of the hottest days of the year and nearly had to be called off due to the thunderstorms the night before. The boys did not disappoint in the semi-finals, playing very well against Newhall and winning convincingly to secure their place in the final, where they met Brentwood, who had beaten Holmwood House in their semi-final. The final was a real nail-biter, with the balance shifting every few overs. Bancroft's needed to chase 89 in their 8 overs and required 13 from the final over, but unfortunately fell just 6 runs short. Well done to Brentwood, who are a fantastic team and deserved winners. Being the second-best school in Essex is no small feat. Well done to the Prep 2 players.



Tennis News

As the summer term ends, it has been wonderful to see the progress made by all pupils throughout the tennis season. This term, the Alphas and Betas were introduced to tennis during their PE lessons, where they focused on developing their racquet-handling skills and learning the correct body position when striking the ball. Over the weeks, both year groups have shown excellent improvement, producing some impressive multi-touch rallies and growing in confidence with every lesson. It has been fantastic to see their enthusiasm and enjoyment of tennis throughout the term. Prep 1 and Prep 2 have enjoyed some excellent results against Brentwood and Chigwell this term, while consistently showing outstanding sportsmanship throughout both fixtures and games lessons. It has been a pleasure to watch their confidence grow in competitive match situations, and they have developed a strong understanding of scoring, tactical play and how to construct and win points effectively.



Aquathlons

The annual Bancroft Prep Aquathlon competitions provide the children with the chance to put the skills they have been working on during their swimming lessons to the test, alongside pushing themselves physically in the run, all in the name of House points! It was great to see the collective effort of all the pupils taking part, as well as the house spirit on display throughout.

Park Run

This year, we introduced a Junior Parkrun initiative. Junior Parkrun is a fantastic free community event for children aged 4–14 that takes place across the country. Thanks to three successful Bancroft's Prep mass attendances at our local event, we are now proud to be recognised as an official Parkrun Primary school. More than 40 Bancroft's Prep families have taken part in these group attendances and, pleasingly, many children have continued to run regularly with their families each week. We are looking forward to continuing this initiative in the Autumn Term.

Tara Bird

Sports Day

The first part of Sports Day saw all of our exciting track events take place, with parents joining us to cheer on the children as they raced their hearts out. From the 600m right through to the 100m sprint, there was no shortage of determination, energy and competitive spirit on show. Luckily, the temperatures were much kinder than the heatwave of the previous week. With cooler conditions and perfect Sports Day weather, the children were able to give their all - although there were still plenty of red faces and tired legs by the end! The day began with a special 600m race for members of our Bancroft Runners group, who set the tone for the day with an impressive display of stamina and commitment. From there, every pupil had the chance to take part, with each race contributing valuable points towards the House totals. At the end of the first day of competition, Manor were leading the way. However, with the field events still to come, it was all still to play for in the race for the overall House Cup. Part two took place on Friday, with a full programme of exciting field events, bringing Sports Day to a fitting conclusion. There were impressive performances across all events, and the final points made for a thrilling finish to the House competition. As always, Sports Day was a fantastic occasion - full of effort, teamwork, encouragement and plenty of fun. A special thank you goes to the Parents' Association, who provided much-appreciated ice lollies at the end of the day - the perfect way to cool down after such a brilliant event. See below for the final House totals!

Final House Totals

HEREFORD	388
MANOR	376
KNIGHTON	370
MONKHAMS	304