# Prep Headlines

Autumn I 2026

Bancroft's Prep

Our Harvest Festival is always one of the happiest occasions of the school year, bringing us together to sing favourite songs, give thanks and share with those less fortunate. As ever, the children enjoyed raising the roof with much-loved Bancroft's classics such as Big Red Combine Harvester and Cauliflowers Fluffy. Yet I was equally proud of the thoughtful way they engaged with the more reflective elements of the service. This year's theme, One Sky, Many Harvests, invited us to look beyond our own traditions. Representatives from the School Council took us on a journey around the world, introducing Harvest celebrations from different cultures and faiths. There was something deeply moving about hearing a child remind us that 'the autumn harvest connects us all as one global family'. Many parents were also touched by the children's song about Mister Oaktree, who grew from a tiny acorn. Its simple message felt particularly apt: 'new beginnings patiently are waiting, tucked away in the tiniest places of all.' It is a lovely reminder that growth often starts in ways we scarcely notice and that small acts of kindness, generosity and hope can blossom into something far greater. The hall was packed with delighted families, and there was plenty of laughter, music and celebration. Yet amid the excitement, led by our chaplain, the wonderful Rev Richardson, we also found time to pause and reflect on the many blessings, large and small, that enrich our lives every day.

## Harvest Festival



Our Harvest celebrations brought the school community together for a lovely service filled with music, reflection and a reminder of the importance of helping others. Our Junior and Senior Choirs entertained us with Harvest favourites, including Big Red Combine Harvester and Cauliflowers Fluffy, alongside songs about giving hedgehogs a helping hand with Hedgehog Highway and the importance of an oak tree. Our outgoing School Councillors also contributed some thoughtful readings, encouraging us to reflect on gratitude and generosity. As part of our celebrations, families generously donated food and essential items to Epping Forest Foodbank, which provides vital support to local individuals and families experiencing financial hardship. The foodbank supplies emergency food parcels containing nutritious, non-perishable foods, alongside toiletries and other everyday essentials, helping those who may be struggling to put food on the table. Our Charity Ambassadors played an important role in the collection, helping to organise and gather the many generous donations before delivering them to the foodbank. It was a wonderful opportunity for the children to see first-hand how their efforts, and the generosity of our school community, can make a real difference to people living locally. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed. Your kindness and generosity will help support families facing difficult circumstances and are a wonderful example of putting the spirit of Harvest into action.

Sarah Strong




## A Credit to Us!

Congratulations to our Green Credit Winners for this half term! These pupils have earned the highest number of green credits in their classes. As a special reward, our winners enjoyed a fun swimming session in the school pool

Our Green Credit Winners are:

AAK: Josh and Ariana
ASB: Zoe and Mia
ACB: Zyan and Ayla
BKF: Abdullah and Xavian
BLW: Kiaan and Olivia
BSS: Soraya and Ayah
1NB: Audrey and Max
1TB: Fujian and Grace
1ZR: Elsi and Julia
2BR: Ayla and Ayush
2JH: Arjun and Anika
2TC: Charlotte and Lakshmi

Well done to all our winners, and to everyone who has worked hard to earn green credits this half term. Keep up the fantastic effort!

# Back to the Stone Age



On 22nd September, we visited Celtic Harmony, where we stepped back in time to experience life in the Stone Age. As soon as we arrived, we were greeted by Stone Age people who welcomed us into their village. We were then split into two tribes and took part in a variety of activities that helped us understand what daily life was like thousands of years ago. Throughout the day, each tribe experienced how people survived during the Stone Age. We learnt how to carve our own weapons from flint and discovered the skill and patience needed to create tools by hand. Once our weapons were made, we used them in hunting activities to understand how Stone Age people hunted large animals to provide food for their villages. We also learnt about foraging and how people gathered food from the natural environment. Working together, we collected ingredients and created a meal that would feed the whole tribe, helping us appreciate the importance of teamwork and resourcefulness in Stone Age communities. One of the most memorable parts of the visit was entering the large roundhouse. Inside, there was a fire burning in the centre, just as there would have been in a real Stone Age home. We listened to stories and learnt about how people lived, cooked, stayed warm and worked together to survive during that period of history. Overall, the trip to Celtic Harmony was both educational and enjoyable. It brought our learning about the Stone Age to life and gave us a fascinating insight into how people lived long before modern technology existed. We all had a fantastic day and came away with a much better understanding of prehistoric life.

# History off the Page

On Monday 5th October, Prep 1 had their History Off the Page day! The whole day was split into two parts, the first being Victorian School, where we had the chance to experience what it was like for Victorian schoolchildren. We had to wear Victorian clothes and dressed up as either a rich or poor child. The person running the school and workshop was called Ian, or Master Ian in Victorian School. He made everything feel very realistic. He lit a candle and turned off the lights as we wrote with dip pens and ink! In Victorian School, there were even punishments. There were slaps on the hand with a ruler for children who had been naughty. The second part was a Victorian workshop, where we got to make many Victorian toys, look at Victorian artefacts and explore different primary and secondary sources. In the workshop, there was a very rare object: a glass memorabilia slide commemorating Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. What made it so rare was that there are only an estimated four left in the country! One of the first activities my group did was analysing suitcases that had supposedly belonged to fictional Victorians. We had to try to figure out their names, what they did for work and where they were going, based on their belongings. The whole day was absolutely incredible, and I think everyone enjoyed it so much. I think every child should get the chance to experience the past and learn about the hardships children faced.

Lana, 1ZR

# Betas Visit the Tower



This half term, our Betas enjoyed a fantastic day at the Tower of London, bringing their learning about the Tudor period to life. The children explored the Crown Jewels, White Tower, Bloody Tower and Chapel of St Peter ad Vincula, gaining a fascinating insight into the people and events that shaped Tudor England. A particular highlight was the 'Queens Behind Henry' workshop, where they discovered more about the lives of Henry VIII's six wives. The children also enjoyed seeing the famous Tower ravens, followed by lunch together in the sunshine and a chance to visit the gift shop. Trips like this provide an invaluable opportunity to experience history beyond the classroom, helping pupils connect what they have learned with real places and historical stories. We were particularly proud of how wonderfully the children represented the school. They were polite, enthusiastic, curious and respectful throughout the day, and their excellent behaviour was a real credit to them. A memorable day of history, learning and discovery!

Sarah Strong



# Beyond the Classroom - Building Cultural Capital

Earlier this term, we wrote to parents about the importance of developing children's cultural capital – the knowledge, experiences and understanding of the world that help them become curious, confident and well-rounded young people. Of course, learning doesn't stop at the school gates! Whether it's exploring somewhere new, visiting a museum, enjoying live music or simply getting outdoors, there are countless opportunities to discover something wonderful together. As promised, we've asked members of the Prep staff to share some of their favourite places, activities and experiences. We hope these recommendations provide a little inspiration for the half-term holiday and beyond.

**Miss Adams recommends… The Imperial War Museum**

For families with children in Prep 2, Miss Adams recommends a visit to the Imperial War Museum in London. With its fascinating exhibitions, historical artefacts and personal stories, it's a wonderful opportunity to bring the Second World War to life. It also complements the work our Prep 2 pupils have been enjoying in their history lessons this term.

**Mr Bleasdale recommends… An Iron Age adventure in Epping Forest**

Did you know that there are two ancient Iron Age hillforts hidden in Epping Forest? Mr Bleasdale suggests taking a map, packing a picnic and heading off to discover these remarkable remains among the trees. Imagine the settlements that once stood there, explore the humps and hollows of the ancient earthworks and perhaps build a woodland shelter using fallen branches. It's a chance to combine history, imagination and outdoor adventure – rather like stepping into the world of The Explorer, which our Prep 1 pupils will recognise! Just remember to respect the forest's present-day inhabitants, both plants and animals. Find out more about Loughton Camp here

**Mr Carson recommends… An Art Adventure at the Olympic Park**

You don't have to travel far to discover something new! Mr Carson recommends a visit to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, where there's much more to explore than its famous sporting venues. The park's Art Trail takes you on a journey through a fascinating collection of sculptures and artworks, many of which you might otherwise walk straight past. With a handy map to guide you, it's a great way to combine a family walk with a little artistic discovery. There are plenty of places to stop for a drink or something to eat along the way, making it a lovely, relaxed day out right on our doorstep. Explore art at the Olympic Park here

**Mrs Dalton recommends… Cambridge**

Cambridge is a brilliant option for a family day out, especially if you want to pack plenty into one day without going into London! There are lots of small museums, many of them free, and they're close enough together to visit several. The Sedgwick Museum is great for fossils and dinosaurs, while the Polar Museum is fascinating for budding explorers. There's also the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Beyond the museums, you can wander around the colleges, go punting along the Backs or explore the Botanic Gardens. It is a brilliant way to sneak in a lot of learning and a very beautiful city to explore.

**Mrs Fisher recommends… climbing The O2**

Mrs Fisher recently tackled Up at The O2 with her family and thoroughly recommends it! This unusual adventure involves climbing over the roof of London's famous entertainment venue, with spectacular views across the Thames, Canary Wharf and the city skyline. The experience is well organised, and there's even an interesting talk at the summit to help you identify some of London's landmarks. A memorable family adventure for those who enjoy a challenge and have a head for heights!

**Mrs Hitching recommends… History, engineering and outdoor adventures**

Mrs Hitching has several suggestions for families who enjoy exploring. Tower Bridge is a particular favourite, with wonderful views from its high-level walkways and a fascinating insight into how the bridge works. For an extra treat, check the bridge-lift timetable before you visit and watch the enormous roadways rise to allow a ship through! Closer to home, Wimpole Estate is perfect for an autumn day out, combining a beautiful historic house, a working farm and lovely countryside walks. For Prep 2 families studying the Second World War, Mrs Hitching also recommends the Churchill War Rooms, Imperial War Museum and HMS Belfast – all excellent places to bring classroom learning to life.

Check Tower Bridge lift times here.

**Mrs Kanolik recommends… Discovering the Sam Wanamaker Playhouse**

When you think of Shakespeare's Globe, you probably picture its famous open-air theatre. But Mrs Kanolik recommends discovering another wonderful performance space tucked inside the complex: the beautiful Sam Wanamaker Playhouse. This atmospheric, candlelit-style theatre hosts storytelling, poetry readings, plays and workshops, with special family events during the school holidays. Writers and illustrators such as Michael Rosen, Joseph Coelho and Horrible Histories creator Terry Deary have all appeared at Globe events. It's a fantastic place to inspire young readers, writers and performers. And, as Mrs Kanolik says, if you do decide to visit, you might just bump into her there! Explore family events at Shakespeare's Globe here.

**Miss Kelly recommends… Making a splash at Lee Valley!**

For families looking for something a little more adventurous, Miss Kelly recommends Lee Valley White Water Centre, home of the canoe slalom events at the London 2012 Olympics. From white-water rafting and kayaking to paddleboarding, hydrospeeding and the Water Wipeout obstacle course, there are plenty of opportunities to try something new, challenge yourself and have enormous fun. It's also a chance to follow in the footsteps of Olympic athletes who have competed and trained on the very same course. Miss Kelly has a particularly close connection to the centre – her husband works there as a strength and conditioning coach!

**Mr Layburn recommends… Discover Roman London**

Hidden beneath the busy streets of the City of London lies a remarkable piece of Roman history: the London Mithraeum.

Mr Layburn recommends this fascinating underground temple, dedicated to the Roman god Mithras, as a wonderful way to bring the ancient world to life. Dramatic lighting and sound

create the atmosphere of Roman London nearly 2,000 years ago, while genuine artefacts reveal glimpses of everyday life. It's an intriguing experience for young historians and a reminder that extraordinary discoveries can be hiding beneath our feet!

**Mrs Lesurf recommends… A family adventure in York**

If you're planning a trip a little further afield, Mrs Lesurf suggests the historic city of York, where there's something exciting around almost every corner. Wander through the wonderfully crooked Shambles, explore the ancient city walls or travel back to Viking times at the JORVIK Viking Centre. Train enthusiasts will love the National Railway Museum, while Clifford's Tower offers fantastic views across the city. There are also ghost walks, boat trips along the River Ouse, chocolate-making experiences at York's Chocolate Story and plenty of space to play in Rowntree Park. With so much history, adventure and fun packed into one city, York makes a brilliant family getaway.

**Mrs Life recommends… London on foot!**

Mrs Life's top tip is wonderfully simple: just keep walking! One of her favourite ways to explore London is on foot, and she's suggested a fantastic route packed with famous sights. Start at Tower Hill, admire the Tower of London and cross Tower Bridge before heading west along the South Bank. You'll pass HMS Belfast, the Golden Hinde, Southwark Cathedral, Borough Market and Tate Modern, with plenty of opportunities to stop and explore. If your legs are getting tired, cross the Millennium Bridge towards St Paul's Cathedral. If you're still feeling energetic, continue towards the Royal Festival Hall and Westminster, taking in the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben and Westminster Abbey. It's amazing how much of London you can discover in a single walk – and the best part is that simply enjoying the sights and atmosphere costs absolutely nothing!

**Mrs Pett recommends… A little literary inspiration**

Our librarian, Mrs Pett, has been looking out for some exciting events for young bookworms this autumn. Fans of Rick Riordan can look forward to a Camp Half-Blood book signing at Waterstones Piccadilly on Friday 23 October, while illustrator Rob Biddulph will be hosting an interactive draw-along to celebrate his new book, The Last Wolf, on Monday 26 October. The Southbank Centre is also hosting Search for a Story, a series of drop-in storytelling activities from 29 October to 1 November as part of the London Literature Festival. For those happy to venture further afield, Maidstone's Kid Lit Festival promises a celebration of books, stories and creativity, with authors, workshops, crafts and plenty of activities for young readers. Keep an eye on the Waterstones, Southbank Centre and Maidstone Literary Festival websites for details and bookings.

**Mrs Roussel recommends… The magic of the Royal Albert Hall**

Sometimes a single experience can inspire a lifelong passion. Mrs Roussel remembers visiting the Royal Albert Hall as a primary school pupil, an experience that encouraged her to continue playing the viola and join her school orchestra. Hearing live music in such a spectacular setting sparked a love of classical music that has stayed with her ever since. The Royal Albert Hall also has a fascinating connection to the Victorian era, which our Prep 1 pupils study. It was built to fulfil Prince Albert's vision of a centre for arts and sciences, ... with its origins linked to the Great Exhibition of 1851. Whether it's a concert, family performance or guided tour, a visit might just inspire the next generation of musicians!

**Mrs Strong recommends… Something for everyone!**

Mrs Strong has put together a wonderful collection of ideas for our Betas, with something to appeal to almost every interest. Budding detectives can put their skills to the test at SPYSCAPE, while young historians might enjoy exploring Hampton Court Palace. For those who prefer something more energetic, Ninja Warrior UK in Chelmsford offers plenty of opportunities to climb, balance and challenge themselves. Families could also try a cookery experience, explore London using as many different forms of transport as possible, or discover the fascinating world of volcanoes through Donna Donovan-O'Meara's book Into the Volcano. For a literary adventure, look out for poet Joseph Coelho's family events at Shakespeare's Globe. His work will be familiar to our Betas when they study his poetry later in the year. And if you fancy a quieter afternoon, why not enjoy The Wild Robot together, or explore a little French language and culture through a film, digital activity or visit to the Institut Français?

**Miss Ware recommends… Discovering Tunbridge Wells**

Miss Ware is understandably enthusiastic about her hometown of Tunbridge Wells, which offers a lovely mixture of history, outdoor adventures and family fun. Wellington Rocks and High Rocks are particular favourites, with their dramatic rock formations and opportunities for exploration and imaginative play. A stroll along the historic Pantiles is another must, especially when you discover that visitors once travelled from far and wide to sample the town's famous iron-rich spring water! There's also a fascinating connection to Queen Victoria, whose visits helped establish the town as a fashionable destination. For a more relaxing afternoon, Miss Ware recommends Dunorlan Park, with its beautiful grounds, open spaces and lake. Hiring a boat or pedalo is a particular highlight and a lovely way to round off a family day out.

If you go out and about and visit somewhere interesting this half term, we would **absolutely love** to hear about it! Please send a photograph and a brief explanation to Mrs Dalton ld@bancrofts.org - and you might feature in one of our assemblies!

## African Dance Workshop

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, the children took part in an energetic African dance workshop led by professional dancer Vivian Gayle, who has performed in West End musicals and television shows. Vivian introduced the children to a range of African-inspired dance moves, encouraging them to develop fluid movements, strong legs and low body positions, all while keeping to the rhythm of the music. From traditional African rhythms to contemporary Afrobeats, the music brought fantastic energy to the workshop! The children threw themselves into the experience with enthusiasm, concentration and determination. It was wonderful to see their hard work come together in a polished final routine, and even better to see the smiles and sense of achievement on their faces!

Bino Rathod

# Prep 2 in Court

On Monday 21st September, the Prep 2s visited the Royal Courts of Justice to take part in an educational 'mock trial'. It was really cool seeing inside one of the biggest court buildings in England – there are actually over 80 courtrooms in the building! The entrance was really grand, and we had to be very quiet as we walked around because real trials were taking place in some of the courtrooms while we were there. Our mock trial was based on a real case in which the defendant, Selina Khan, was charged with harassment and cyberbullying. Before the trip, we were all assigned roles, including barristers, witnesses, judges and jury members, and read about the case to prepare for the trial. When we got there, we really enjoyed getting into character and questioning the witnesses. We learnt a lot about how the court process works, and it was interesting to see the books, clothes and wigs involved! The whole experience was really enjoyable and has inspired us to think even more about careers in law.

Arjun and Avyan, 2BR

# Reading Challenge






Laughter, excitement and a little healthy competition filled the library last week as four of our readers came together for a very special challenge: the Junior National Reading Champions Quiz 2026. Arjun, Ayush, Rudi and Zelal from Prep 2 represented Bancroft's Prep in a regional heat spanning East London, Essex and Kent. Facing some tough opposition, our team (supported by mascot 'Dewey the Dragon') impressed the judges with their literary knowledge, team spirit and quick thinking. Our fantastic four were delighted to finish in third place overall and can't wait to receive and spend their book token prizes. We are very proud of their achievement and the wonderful way they represented Bancroft's Prep, showing that a love of reading really is something to celebrate.

Katie Pett

# School Council

This half term, our School Council came together for their final meeting. It was a chance to reflect on their achievements, celebrate their contribution to our school community and say some important farewells. We were delighted to welcome two members of AH6, who shared their experiences of their new surroundings, including how they have settled in and what they have enjoyed so far. It was a great opportunity for our representatives to hear about the next stage of their educational journey. We also looked back at some of the highlights from the year. Our representatives have worked hard to listen to their peers, share ideas and ensure that pupil voices are heard across the school. School Council plays an important role in building a strong and inclusive school community. It gives pupils a genuine opportunity to have their voices heard while developing valuable skills such as leadership, teamwork and communication. It is also a practical introduction to democracy in action, helping pupils understand the importance of listening to different views, representing others and working together to create positive change. As we thank our outgoing representatives for their hard work and commitment, we are delighted to introduce our new School Councillors for 2026–27:

**Alphas**

AAK – Leela
ASB – Konur
ACB – Aleeza

**Betas**

BKF – Aida
BLW – Reya
BSS – Rahyl

**Prep 1**

1NB – Phoebe
1TB – Milan
1ZR – Isaac

**Prep 2**

2BR – Tiago
2JH – Adele
2TC – Alex

Congratulations to all our new School Councillors! We look forward to hearing their ideas and seeing them play an active role in shaping school life over the coming year.

Here's to another year of pupil voice, ideas and collaboration!

Sarah Strong

# Charity Ambassadors



Meet our Charity Ambassadors for 2026–27! Twelve bright young people who have lots of wonderful ideas to bring happiness to others and help support our local community.

Sarah Strong

# Day to Make a Difference!

What a wonderful day it was as our school community came together for A Day to Make a Difference, supporting three charities that hold a very special place in our school community: Haven House, the Aydin Foundation and the British Heart Foundation – representing local, international and national causes that make a meaningful difference to the lives of others. The day began with a vibrant non-uniform day, setting the tone for a day filled with generosity, fun and community spirit. Throughout the day, pupils enjoyed an exciting programme of activities, including games, a spin-the-wheel challenge and a raffle featuring some fabulous prizes. There was a real sense of excitement and anticipation, with everyone eager to get involved and, most importantly, help raise funds for three very worthwhile causes. A huge amount of work went on behind the scenes to make the day such a success. Our Charity Ambassadors, alongside pupils and staff from across the school, worked collaboratively to organise and promote the event, demonstrating our school values of kindness, collaboration and excellence at every stage. Our pupils played an important role in building excitement, speaking confidently in assemblies to promote the event and creating colourful posters to advertise the day. Their enthusiasm, creativity and willingness to take responsibility were truly inspiring. We were also delighted to receive a very special video message from Iain Duncan Smith, Patron of Haven House, who wished everyone good luck with the event. His message added an extra-special moment to what was already a memorable day. And the result? An incredible £1635 was raised! This fantastic achievement is a wonderful reflection of the generosity, enthusiasm and community spirit shown by our pupils, families and staff. From the laughter and excitement of the games to the generosity shown by everyone involved, A Day to Make a Difference was a wonderful celebration of what we can achieve when we come together with a shared purpose. Most importantly, the day reminded us that making a difference is not always about doing something big – it is about showing kindness, working together and taking action to support others, whether in our local community, across the UK or internationally. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed, participated and helped make the day such a success. It was a truly special day – full of fun, generosity and purpose – and one that our school community will remember with great pride.

Sarah Strong



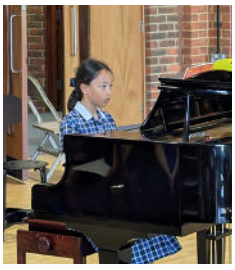
# Lunchtime Concerts

Over the past half term, pupils from across the Prep have delighted audiences with two wonderful lunchtime concerts, with the October concert celebrating Black History Month. These informal recitals give our young musicians a chance to share the pieces they have been working on in their lessons, and they continue to be a real highlight of the school week. Both concerts featured an impressive range of performances – from confident singers and expressive pianists to oboists, violinists, guitarists and cellists. Highlights from the Black History Month celebration included dramatic performances about Lewis Hamilton by Max, Katherine Johnson by Freya, Wilma Rudolph by Maryam and Mamie Phipps Clark by Aaminah. There were many more wonderful contributions, including some beautiful musical performances from Nathan, Eleanor, Henry and Aliya. Congratulations to all our performers for their hard work, courage and musicianship. A huge thank you also goes to our peripatetic teachers for preparing the pupils so well. We look forward to many more magical lunchtime concerts throughout the year.

Kati Kinnair








# Drumming Workshop

As part of our Black History Month celebrations, all of the Alphas and Betas took part in drumming workshops with professional drummer Kwame Anomah. Kwame taught the children a variety of rhythms using different drums, drawing inspiration from African and Samba drumming traditions. Everyone had the opportunity to play different instruments and swap roles within the ensemble. It was the noisiest kind of fun! A huge thank you to Kwame, and well done to all our Alphas and Betas!



# Sports News

The Autumn Term has got off to a fantastic start, with a real buzz surrounding sport across the Prep School. Both the girls and boys have embraced their hockey and rugby seasons with great enthusiasm, demonstrating impressive teamwork, leadership and a genuine enjoyment of PE, Games and fixtures. Participation in our sports clubs has also been excellent, with pupils developing their skills beyond the curriculum through football, rugby and hockey clubs. Looking ahead to the next half term, there is plenty to be excited about as we **transition into football** in our Games lessons. With a busy schedule of fixtures, competitions and further House events on the horizon, we look forward to building on this fantastic start to the year and seeing our pupils and teams continue to develop, thrive and enjoy their sporting endeavours.

# Hockey News

On the girls' side of sport, we have enjoyed a number of competitive fixtures, providing opportunities for pupils to showcase the hard work and progress made in their Games lessons. This year, we have seen a significant improvement in the girls' stick skills, alongside their confidence and ability to make strong, committed tackles. Our season began with Monday night Hockey Club, which saw an outstanding turnout of 42 girls this year. It has been fantastic to welcome so many enthusiastic players. We have hosted St Aubyn's on two occasions, giving almost all of the girls the opportunity to put their developing skills into practice in a competitive setting. The Prep 1s travelled to Brentwood for an exciting fixture, where Bancroft's came away as winners in three games. The girls showcased some excellent passing, decision-making and goalscoring, demonstrating the progress they have made so far this season. The Betas also had the opportunity to put their hockey skills into practice in their first-ever fixture representing Bancroft's against Forest. Their enthusiasm was fantastic to see, with some excellent passing and use of space on display. We are excited to see the girls continue to develop their skills, confidence and love of hockey throughout their time at Bancroft's. We have more fixtures to look forward to as we round off our eight-week hockey block. The final week of this half term is set to be a busy and exciting one for the PE department as we finish on a high!

# IAPS and IN2 Hockey

Mr Harrison and Miss Dack took two Prep 2 squads to hockey tournaments this term, providing the girls with the opportunity to test their skills against strong opposition and experience the excitement of competitive tournament hockey. Both teams performed exceptionally well throughout their respective group stages, demonstrating determination, teamwork and some excellent hockey. The IAPS team finished second in their group, earning themselves a place in the next round of the tournament, where they faced St Cedd's. Despite a determined effort, the girls were unfortunately beaten 4–0, bringing their tournament campaign to an end. Reaching the next round was a fantastic achievement and a reflection of the hard work the girls have put into developing their game. The IN2 team also showed great resilience and commitment throughout their tournament, finishing fifth overall. Several matches were closely contested, with the girls narrowly missing out on some results despite putting in strong performances. Across the two days of hockey, there were some fantastic goals, excellent use of space and plenty of moments to celebrate. Both tournaments provided valuable experience for the girls, allowing them to challenge themselves, develop their decision-making under pressure and build on their teamwork. We are incredibly proud of the effort and sportsmanship shown by both squads and look forward to seeing them continue to progress across all sports at Bancroft's in their final year at the Prep.





# Rugby News

Despite a slightly later transition to contact rugby due to the warm weather, the boys have been a real pleasure to teach this half term. They have shown courage, listened carefully and demonstrated a determination to put their learning into practice. Our fixtures against St Aubyn's, Brentwood and Heath Mount have all been closely contested, with each school enjoying success in different quarters of the matches. It has been particularly pleasing to see the boys developing new skills as they progress through our rugby framework from year to year. They have been eager to learn and have demonstrated their progress during fixtures. The skill and sportsmanship shown by all the schools created a fantastic atmosphere, ensuring that the fixtures were positive experiences for everyone involved. Well done to all the boys who have taken part!

# Girls' Essex County Cup

Our U11 girls travelled to Hutton to face St Joseph's in the first round of the Essex County Cup, determined to get the year off to a winning start. It was a tough and competitive encounter that kept the Bancroft's girls on their toes throughout. Strong defensive performances from Amelia and Aliya helped Bancroft's move the ball into the opposition's area, while Annabelle produced a series of shots that brought us closer and closer to opening the scoring. However, St Joseph's struck first to take a 1–0 lead. The girls responded brilliantly, finding a quick equaliser to ensure the teams went into half-time level at 1–1. Following a positive team talk and some tactical adjustments, Bancroft's came out fighting. Saara, Annabelle, Ameena, Hana and Anaise all made excellent attacking runs and created opportunities, helping us regain the lead at 2–1. St Joseph's soon found another equaliser, setting up a tense finish. With the game finely balanced, the girls showed fantastic determination and teamwork. Crucial saves from Sania, combined with an outstanding work rate across the team, helped Bancroft's secure a hard-fought 3–2 victory.
Well done to all the girls involved in a fantastic team performance! We look forward to seeing how far they can go in the next round of the competition.



# Boys' Essex County Cup

On a very warm September day, the boys took on Chigwell in the Essex County Cup. Despite having spent the previous term focusing on rugby, Bancroft's made a positive start to the match, enjoying plenty of possession and moving the ball well. However, a couple of well-taken breaks from Chigwell saw them take an early lead. The boys responded brilliantly, and just before half-time, Zane scored a well-taken goal to bring Bancroft's back into the game. The second half was much more open, with both teams creating opportunities. Despite the boys' best efforts, the match finished 4–2 in Chigwell's favour. The boys should be very proud of their performance, showing great determination and teamwork throughout. It was an encouraging start to the football season, and I'm sure they will be looking forward to their upcoming fixtures.

# Cross Country Success



Bancroft's runners battled through truly awful conditions at the recent Fairlop Waters cross-country event, but they didn't let the weather dampen their spirits! Despite the challenging weather and difficult running conditions, everyone approached their races with great enthusiasm and a determination to give their very best. The team showed fantastic resilience and determination, coming home with two individual medals and three team medals – a brilliant achievement for everyone involved! It was wonderful to see the children supporting and encouraging one another, demonstrating that teamwork is just as important in cross-country as it is in any other sport. The Under-11 races also served as trials for Team Redbridge, and we're delighted to announce that five of our Bancroft's runners have been selected to represent Redbridge at the London Youth Games cross-country event next month. A huge congratulations to Lillian, Saara, Barnaby, Harry and Logan on this fantastic achievement! We're incredibly proud of all our runners for their hard work, team spirit and determination, and wish our five representatives the very best of luck at the London Youth Games!
Tara Bird





# House Captains 2026-27

We received a fantastic number of applications for the role of House Captain this year, with so many enthusiastic pupils submitting brilliant letters explaining why they would be suited to the role. After much consideration, 16 Prep 2 pupils have been selected to become House Captains. They will play an important role in leading their Houses, setting a positive example for younger pupils and encouraging everyone to get involved. They will also support and help run House challenges, cheer on their teams at competitions and promote a strong sense of teamwork, pride and House spirit throughout the school. We look forward to seeing them thrive in their new roles!

Hereford: Ayush, Dylan, Karmen and Eknoor
Knighton: Ozkar, Arjun, Saara and Annabelle
Manor: Ollie, Ibrahim, Freya and Zelal
Monkhams: Lakshmi, Sofia, Harry and Ravi













# House Hockey & Rugby

With the new House bibs proudly on show, it has been a fantastic week of House Hockey and Rugby! Our House Captains have stepped up, leading their teams, offering support and encouraging everyone to get involved, resulting in some brilliant contests across the Houses. In House Hockey, the Alpha girls took part in a series of shooting, dribbling and passing challenges, aiming to earn as many points as possible for their House. Across all other year groups, in both rugby and hockey, we have seen fierce competition, closely fought results and some excellent displays of tactical awareness, teamwork and physical skill. There was certainly no shortage of competitive spirit, with every point keenly contested and plenty of cheering from the sidelines! Team PE have loved seeing so much enthusiasm, House spirit and determination throughout the week and cannot wait for another exciting term of sport, including House Football for all year groups!

# House Challenges

A new House event has kicked off this year at Bancroft's! We have introduced Form Time House Challenges, where pupils take part in a series of quizzes to earn points for their Houses. We began with a challenge to identify famous landmarks from around the UK. It was a great opportunity to test pupils' geographical knowledge and see how many places they recognised. Landmarks included the Kelpies, Giant's Causeway, Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral and the Radcliffe Camera, among many others. The results were incredibly close, but Knighton came out on top with 127 points, followed by Monkhams with 125.5, Hereford with 117 and Manor with 113.5. The next challenge is already underway – a reading quiz organised by Mrs Pett in the library! Of course, while our House competitions usually involve sport, music, drama and other displays of talent, occasionally things take a rather unexpected turn! Enter the Great House Toilet Roll Challenge. Who knew that passing a toilet roll along a line without breaking it required quite so much skill, concentration and teamwork? It turns out that nerves of steel, a steady hand and a surprisingly delicate touch are essential. Perhaps not quite an Olympic sport just yet, but certainly one of our more entertaining House challenges!






# House Totals

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|---|---|
| HEREFORD | **56** |
| KNIGHTON | **54** |
| MANOR | **62** |
| MONKHAMS | **50** |