



Spring is one of my favourite times of year and at school we have been busy marking the various festivals in the calendar. Ramadan, Holi and Easter are all hugely significant to members of our community and it is important that all of us know why. Spring, of course, is the time of new beginnings and new growth and that was brought home to me when I went with a group of our youngest children to Lambourne End as part of their Outdoor Learning. To see two little lambs which had been born that very morning was a real treat for our Alphas who were struck by how independent these baby sheep seemed after just a few hours on the planet! Of course, our Alphas too are getting older now and I know how excited they are by the fact that, come September, there will be new kids on the Alpha block. As I write this, the Prep 2s are rehearsing in the Hall for their production of *The Lion King* which they will perform over four nights in May. The strains of *The Circle of Life* are wafting through to my office which feels very appropriate. The children are looking forward to their Easter break and I know many of them have exciting plans ahead- whether that's a playdate here at home

with a friend or a trip to the other side of the world. Whatever you and your family have planned I wish you all a restful and happy break and look forward to seeing you again for the summer term.



Joe Layton

## LUNCHTIME CONCERT

On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March, 16 students took part in the wonderful and very successful 'Music and Munch'. There were instruments ranging from the saxophone, horn, clarinet, cello, piano, flute, and many violins. Due to the ABRSM exams taking place on Saturday, we had about 5 violinists playing. The talented young musicians who took part were Scarlett, Ishta, Anisa, Aliah, Arnav, Aurelia, Adam, Max, Sophia, Eshani, Isabelle, Elizabeth, Alice and Theyana. Parents were invited to enjoy their children's beautiful performances, and pupils from the Prep School were allowed to come along and support their friends. Of course, there were refreshments provided as well, and all musicians earned a well-deserved biscuit to finish. A delightful afternoon with children playing at their best!

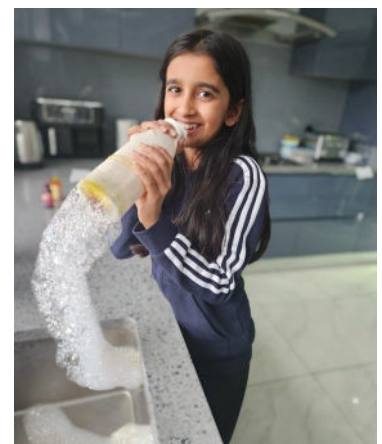
Theyana and Alice 2AA

## SCIENCE WEEK



The Prep School have been celebrating British Science Week by taking a part in lots of activities at school and at home. There was an assembly to kick start the week introducing the theme of 'Time' and children from each year group were chosen to take part in a House experiment to test their reaction times. The children had to see how quickly they could grasp hold of a 30cm ruler that was dropped just above their hand. Hereford won with an incredibly quick total reaction time. Each class had an extra Science lesson in which they carried out an experiment linked to our theme of Time, they were also asked to carry out a science activity at home during the week and submit a Science Selfie photograph or video of themselves for our display and a short description explaining what they did. On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> the children all had a turn visiting the Senior School Science Fair and had great fun learning about perfume, slime and evolution among many other things. The Prep School have also taken part in a poster competition for British Science Week. Winners have been selected from each year group and these will be announced in assembly and we have also sent entries in for the national competition and are eagerly awaiting the results.

Laura Ellery



## SCIENCE FAIR

When I went inside the Great Hall, all I could see were the amazing stalls and projects the Senior School had set up. There was slime-making, perfume-making, iodine colour changing, how analogue clocks work and many more interesting stalls. I am so happy I got to go with the Prep 1, otherwise I would have missed this fabulous and fun event. When we got our voting slips, to see which stall most people liked best, it was so difficult to choose. Luckily, I was able to choose one in the end. I had an amazing experience!

Imani 2LW



## BETA SCIENCE

Today we carried out an experiment on how to make a water clock. First, we cut a 2L bottle in half and we filled a beaker with water. Then we took everything outside because it was going to get messy! Mrs Biston poured red and green dye into the beakers to make them colourful. Every pair took one beaker full of water. Before we started pouring the liquid, the cap of the bottle needed to be pierced with a drawing pin. After that you take both parts of the bottle and the side with the cap you need to flip into the bottom half. Take a pen and a stopwatch and start pouring the water. Every minute we marked a line on the bottle. After five minutes we stopped the watch and we tested it out. Will our water clock work? Water clocks are like egg timers or sand timers but they are used with water. It may have been an invention of the Chaldeans of Ancient Babylonia; specimens from Egypt date from the 14<sup>th</sup> century BC. The Romans invented a clepsydra consisting of a cylinder which water dripped from the reservoir; a float provided readings against a scale on a cylinder wall. Experts believe that the earliest water clock was buried in 1500 BC in the tomb of Amenhotep 1. Around 325 BC Greeks began using the water clock to keep time. They called them 'clepsydras', which meant 'water thief.'

Victoria BSS

## BIG PLASTIC COUNT

In an effort to combat plastic pollution, we participated in The Big Plastic Count, thanks to Rudi in ALD who drew our attention to it. This campaign aims to quantify the amount of plastic waste households contribute over a one-week period. Prep pupils were asked to send a photograph of the amount of plastic they disposed of between 11-17<sup>th</sup> March. This initiative marks a crucial step towards understanding the scale of plastic waste and its management, with an end to pressuring for an end to plastic pollution. This effort, raised by Rudi in our School Council Meeting, raises awareness of the environmental impact of plastic and the importance of recycling and reducing plastic use.

Sarah Strong



## WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March we marked World Book Day during an academic year in which we have sought to refocus more generally on the power of reading. Children were encouraged to decorate a spoon to resemble a character from their favourite book and every year group enjoyed an entertaining workshop in the hall with author and poet Joshua Siegel. Books and storytelling lie at the heart of a successful and inspiring education and we aim to ensure all of our students become enthusiastic, self-motivated readers.

Tim Paramour



---

## SPRING FAIR



The Bancroft's Parents' Association annual Spring Fayre returned on 16th March on a beautiful spring day. The Prep Hall was abuzz with prep families mingling together whilst enjoying the wonderful activities and stalls. Our Prep 2 children used their entrepreneurial skills to host some fantastic stalls and raised a staggering £900. The prep families' generosity provided donations for our Easter egg as well as the toy tombola. With excitement the children visited the Easter egg tombola stall as if they were entering Wonka's chocolate factory, and as always, this was a sell out! The preloved/ new toys tombola stall was a new addition to encourage sustainability and give toys a new home. The food and drinks stalls kept our community nourished with the staple favourites and a nice cuppa. The glitter tattoos added sparkle to the event. Children were entertained at the arts and crafts stalls and by having fun on the Scalextric car(s). For the grand finale, Mr Layburn announced the 'Head for the Day'; Ravi in the Alphas excitedly accepted his win as did our interior playground design winners. After months of planning, it was heart warming to see our community come together and spend a joyous morning supporting the BPA. Thank you for all the support offered, with a special thanks to the Prep Staff and volunteers whom helped to bring this event to life by helping to set up the night before, during and after the event. The BPA consists of a small number of parents volunteering time to host our events for the whole school which includes both the Prep and Senior school. The ethos is based on bringing our community together and raising funds for the wellbeing of all the children in Prep and Senior School. If you would like to be involved, please email [bancroftspa@gmail.com](mailto:bancroftspa@gmail.com).  
Sumeeta Dhir



---

## PEDESTRIAN TRAINING

On a sunny Thursday in March, BCB had a lesson on road safety. Two instructors came to Bancroft's Prep and each took a group. My group went with a lady named Cheryl and the other group had a man called Orson. During the lesson we learnt to 'stop, look, listen and think'. Stop at the pavement, look right, left and right again, listen for fast out of control cars and think, "Do I have enough time to cross?" Do this for your SAFETY! Some other rules include: don't wear headphones or air pods so you can always hear traffic/vehicles that you can't see. Even if there are no cars, wait until the green man turns green before crossing and always use a pedestrian crossing if there is one. In the lesson, we crossed a number of roads and practised the different ways to cross them safely. It was a really fun experience and nice to spend the morning outside of the classroom. I will definitely use the tips we were given so that I keep safe. I think we all enjoyed it and will remember it for a long time. I definitely recommend having a session and would like to thank the instructors for giving up their time to keep us safe.  
Otilie BCB



---

## FRIENDLY CHESS

In a bid to give the children more tournament experience, our wonderful chess coach Stefan organised some matches against Snaresbrook Prep on Friday March 15th. We (Sebastian, Basil, Sid, Michael, Harris, Henry and Aryan) braved the 179 bus at 4:00pm and were greeted very warmly at Snaresbrook by Mr Dalton and Mrs Raj. Stefan oversaw an hour of very competitive chess and was a calm and skilful arbiter. All the children were successful in their matches and enjoyed their Hula-Hoops and Kit-Kats to celebrate! It was a very enjoyable way to round off a busy week!  
Lisa Life



---

# COLCHESTER ZOO

---

Prep 2s went on a school trip to Colchester Zoo for our science topic: evolution and inheritance. We learnt a lot and had fun. We explored the zoo and got to see many amazing animals, including the otters, chimpanzees, tigers and elephants (which were orange because they rolled in the sand!). We attended some talks about the animals. The zoo keepers told us about their diet, habits and how endangered they are in the wild. A few of the facts that have stuck with me from the trip: A group of red pandas is called sleuth. They have opposable thumbs which may have evolved to help them grasp branches. They spend up to 13 hours a day foraging for bamboo. Komodo dragons sometimes eat their young. They are cannibalistic. They can also eat whole deer, and wouldn't need to eat again for another 4-6 weeks. We loved watching the smooth-coated otters play in their enclosure. They were very streamlined and agile in the water and they came really close to us and we could see their webbed feet. We also saw them go into their holt. The talk we heard about Bornean orangutans was interesting but we learnt that they are facing a real threat of extinction due to loss of habitat because of palm oil plantations. One zoo keeper showed us the skin of a 5-metre long snake and we were allowed to touch it! We also got to ride on the Lost Madagascar Express, which is a small train that circled around the zoo, passing by the wolves, the black and white ruffed lemurs, and the cheetah. The driver told us about each of the animals as we passed them. On our way out, we stopped at the gift shop. Everyone had a wonderful time and would love to visit again.

Julia 2AA



---

## PETER AND THE WOLF

---

Peter and the Wolf is a symphonic tale, composed by Prokofiev. This was performed by a group of marvellous senior school musicians, with the scholarly conductor Matthew Pinto at the baton. This was accompanied by the reader of the story

Lucas Yates; narrating each part of the story. There were different animals represented by instruments, e.g. bird: flute, duck: oboe, cat: clarinet, grandfather: bassoon, Peter: strings (Violin, Viola and Cello), Wolf : French horn, Hunter's shooting: Timpani, Hunter's footsteps: Trumpets & Trombones. It is about how Peter, a Russian boy, disobeys his grandfather telling him not to go into the forest as a wolf is there but, he goes in anyway. Then hunters come to shoot the wolf, but with the help of Peter's bird they capture the wolf, and the hunters take it to the zoo. My favourite part of the piece was when the bird and duck were arguing and didn't even realize the wolf was behind them. Prokofiev's music brought the screen picture to life. The scariest part was when the wolf gobbled up the duck in one go. The key part was when the wolf was captured and taken away and when the grandfather celebrated with Peter. It was a relief!  
Shrotriya 2LW

---

---

## LITTER PICKING

---

Fostering a clean and safe environment is crucial for the well-being and development of our Young Bancroftians. One effective way to instil a sense of responsibility and environmental consciousness is through litter picking activities. Last week the Betas set out to clean up The Green in Woodford ready for the local community to enjoy this spring. Walking to The Green encouraged physical activity and by using litter picks it developed their fine motor skills. The task taught the children responsibility and empathy as they learnt that they have a role to play in maintaining cleanliness and taking care of their surroundings. By understanding the consequences of littering, the children developed empathy towards their environment and the impact it has on others. It also encouraged collaboration as they took turns and shared various responsibilities. Litter picking provides an opportunity for children to connect with nature and explore their surroundings they normally take for granted. Seeing the positive impact of their efforts gave them a sense of pride and hopefully motivated them to continue to be respectful towards their local area.

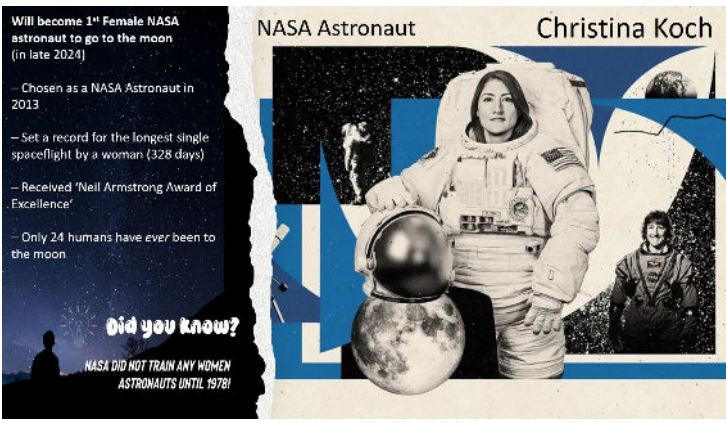
Sarah Strong



# INT. WOMEN'S DAY

On the 8<sup>th</sup> March, people worldwide honoured the incredible achievements of women around the world. At the Prep, we commemorated this occasion by creating PowerPoints about famous women like Rosa Parks who is known as the "mother of the civil rights movement" for her vital role in fighting for equality, Marie Curie, A physicist and chemist who won Nobel Prizes in both fields, making her the first woman to do so and Amelia Earhart, aviator and the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean, inspiring a generation of women. Many pupils wrote different pieces of information about many different women, and in doing so, we celebrate how far we have come.

Olivia 2AA



## COMIC RELIEF

Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> March was Comic Relief Day, a national charity that Bancroft's Prep loves to support. Comic Relief supports incredible projects and organisations that are making a difference for people across the UK and around the world affected by the impact of poverty and injustice. Our non-uniform day raised a fantastic £487.60.

Sarah Strong

## NETBALL TOUR

Recently, our U11 girls' netball team headed to Shropshire for what was the first girls' netball tour here at Bancroft's Prep School. The weekend was filled with exhilarating netball matches and exciting activities, including daring feats of abseiling and trapeze, laser maze, and of course the coveted silent and loud disco. Our team showcased exceptional talent and determination throughout the netball tournament, remaining unbeaten in the group stage. Special recognition goes to Azaria (GS) and Arianna (GA), whose remarkable partnership led to a staggering 113 goals between them in 9 games. With Sia leading as captain and Soraya as vice-captain, our team demonstrated exemplary leadership on and off the court. Although we bowed

out in the semi-finals to a formidable opponent, the experience gained and the bonds forged during this tour were invaluable. This marks just the beginning of what promises to be a series of successful netball tours for our talented young athletes in moving forward. We congratulate the entire team on their outstanding performances and look forward to witnessing their continued growth and success in the future.

Sasha Kelly



## HOUSE COMPETITION

House science, netball, hockey, football and times tables competitions took place during this term, with every child participating and demonstrating the skills they developed over the year. It was the first time that we competed in a house times table competition with 58 children achieving the maximum 200/200 in the allotted time, however, all pupils successfully added points to their team total. As you can see from the table, this is proving to be a very hotly contested competition this year with a plethora of activities scheduled for the summer term including cricket, sports day, swimming, crossfit and the annual aquathlon challenge.

David Archer

Manor	340
Knighton	336
Monkhams	334
Hereford	324

## SPORTS HEADLINES

We conclude a successful term of sports here at Bancroft's Prep! Our girls' netball and boys' hockey teams have shown incredible dedication, skill, and integrity throughout the term during Games lessons and competitive fixtures. From thrilling victories to hard-fought matches, our students have demonstrated teamwork, resilience, and passion. It has been great seeing students apply the skills they have learnt in their lessons to more pressured situations during fixtures. Students' hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed, and we now look forward to the cricket season commencing.

## U10 NETBALL

The U10 girls' netball tournament at New Hall School was a whirlwind of excitement and growth for our team. Despite some initial nerves and a setback in our opening game, the girls rallied together and showcased incredible resilience, winning all our group games to secure a spot in the semi-finals. With determination and teamwork, we triumphed over Forest School in a thrilling semi-final match, propelling us into the final against the same formidable opponent we faced earlier in our first group game. Though we fell short in the final, losing to them once again, we received praise for the significant improvements we made since our first encounter. More importantly, the girls had a blast, and this experience taught us invaluable lessons about perseverance and the joy of competition. We could not be prouder of our team's efforts and spirit throughout this tournament.



## U9 FOOTBALL

Two U9 boys football teams enjoyed an afternoon of football at a tournament hosted by St. Edmund's. Both teams equipped themselves well in the first games, coming out as comfortable winners. The second saw a rematch against Brentwood for the A team, which was a 1-1 draw. The B team came up against a formidable A team from another school. The A team progressed to the semi final of the main competition which saw them draw Brentwood, again. The match was a nervy affair and resulted in a penalty shoot-out, which we did not come out on top of. For the B team, their journey took them to the second-tier competition where they overcame a spirited St. Joseph in the Park in the semi final (3-2). The final saw them play against Duncombe A team, and despite going a goal down, managed to fire back to make the score 1-1 at the final whistle. Penalties ensued and 'The Wall', aka Charlie, produced a commanding display between the sticks and all that was left was for Dylan and Aariz to blast the ball into the back of the net to claim the accolade of Plate champions. A very enjoyable afternoon and was great to see the boys applying their knowledge of tactics from the recent hockey unit.



## IN2 HOCKEY

The boys and girls U11 hockey teams successfully made it to the finals of the London tournament. We enjoyed a 2-hour plus coach ride to Southwest London and a similar distance on the way back via Tower Bridge. The hockey that both teams produced was scintillating at times, with the girls showing how to transfer the ball from one wing to another with grace. The boys battled hard in, what seemed, adverse weather conditions as soon as they hit the pitch. The boys finishing up with a record of 1 win, 1 draw, 1 loss. The girls achieved 3 draws, 3 victories and were narrowly pipped to top spot.



## FOOTBALL WEEK



We recently celebrated 'Girls' Football Week' at Bancroft's Prep School, which proved to be an inspiring and unforgettable celebration of the beautiful game. Throughout the week, our school community came together with enthusiasm and passion, as additional football clubs were organised to encourage more participation among our female students. The highlight of the week was undoubtedly the fixture against St. Aubyn's, where just under 100 girls took to the hallowed turf of Bancroft's Prep School to showcase their skills and love for football. It was a sight to behold as the girls displayed determination, teamwork, and sportswomanship, embodying the true spirit of the game. As the week drew to a close, it was evident that the legacy of girls' football at our school continues to thrive, empowering our students to embrace the sport with confidence and joy. We extend our gratitude to all the girls and parents who made 'Girls' Football Week' a resounding success, and we eagerly anticipate the continued growth and success of girls' football at Bancroft's Prep School.

