



This has been an incredibly sad and difficult time for our whole school community. Carrying on, and keeping school as normal as possible, has been our priority for the Prep children. At the same time we remember a truly wonderful boy who was with us for four years and who will never be forgotten.

Joe Layton



amazing team of staff to bring everything together. Many thanks to Mr Pearson, Miss Ware, Miss Adams, Miss Harrison, Mr Paramour and the one and only Mr Baum, who actually worked on this performance many years ago and had made this his final Prep 2 show!

THE LION KING



'The Lion King' has created so many memories; we are still clapping along to 'Hakuna Matata' and crying over 'The Stampede'. We are still shouting 'He Lives in You' and we are so sad that it is over, but it has been such a great term of endless practice and absolute fun.

Bhavika (Lioness Leader) Liyana (Young Nala) and Aaria (Young Simba)

'The Lion King' was a special performance for the Prep 2s. It was a wonderful way to mark the end of our time at the Prep School. With over four months of practice, we were finally ready to perform. Cast A performed to the Prep School and Cast B performed to the Thirds before friends and family were invited to see our amazing performance. From the technical team to the set design of Pride Rock, from the exciting music to the dramatic costumes, everyone collaborated to bring the show to life. The Prep 2s were incredible as the audition process was tough and then we had to learn many lines, but we had an



TRIP TO THE TOWER

To complement our study of the Tudors this year, the Betas visited the Tower of London. Home to many historic figures we have been learning about, from Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Anne Boleyn, as well as where Sir Walter Raleigh was kept as a prisoner, the children were fascinated to actually picture the scenes they had only read about. We were also treated to a workshop on Pirate Prisoners and were led around the site finding out more about Sir Walter Raleigh and Alice Tankerville and how their difference in wealth marked out their lives, imprisonment and subsequent deaths. The children learnt the difference between pirates and privateers, trade and migration and took part in a role play activity. After exploring the White Tower, viewing the Crown Jewels and walking along the inner wall of the tower spotting a raven here and there, we were ready to come home. The day was full, exciting and the children are now full of fun facts. Did you know, for over 600 years, the Tower of London housed London's first zoo, boasting exotic animals given as royal gifts, later moved to the London Zoo in 1835 by the Duke of Wellington?

Sarah Strong

glimpse of him. We began the day with a brilliant workshop about castle defences and some of the children were lucky enough to climb inside and defend a model castle, whilst the rest of the group enjoyed trying to 'invade'! After lunch, we set off in small groups to explore the magnificent St George's Chapel and the State Apartments, which feature endless grand banqueting rooms, meeting rooms and chambers. It was a wonderful day out and we are very grateful to the group of parents who came along to help out.

Laura Dalton



WINDSOR CASTLE

On Friday 3rd May, the Alphas visited Windsor Castle. The visit helped bring our History learning to life as the Alphas have tracked the history of Britain right through to the Norman invasion and learned that William the Conqueror was the first monarch to build castles up and down Britain. Windsor was first built by him in around 1070AD and, though it has changed radically over hundreds of years, the original motte and keep exists. Likewise, our topic this term is 'Homes' and Windsor Castle is undoubtedly a fine example of a very special home; a royal home! The Alphas were excited to see the Royal Standard flying as we approached the castle indicating that King Charles was in residence, though sadly we didn't catch a

STRING SPECIAL

The 'String Special' lunchtime concert on 9th May showcased the remarkable talents of young musicians from Prep 1 and 2, creating an enchanting atmosphere filled with youthful enthusiasm and musical brilliance, directed by string teacher and orchestra director, Ronan MacManus. They played four pieces in popular style, all accompanied by our welcome guest, Mr Roger Bluff. The concert reached a poignant high note with a captivating solo performance by Michael, playing Vivaldi, whose exceptional skill has won him a place at the Junior Academy of Music. Overall, it was a memorable occasion that celebrated the joy of music and the promising future of these young musicians.

Laura Harrison

CLOTHING SALE

Being forever conscientious about sustainability alongside thinking of our local community, we ran another pre-loved clothes sale to raise money for Lambourne End. Thanks to the generous donations from our pupils and a keen abundance of customers, we raised over £350. Lambourne End is a 54-acre classroom on our doorstep that we use regularly for having fun, learning about farm life, building confidence, raising self-esteem and experiencing a sense of achievement. Yet the centre relies on donations and volunteering, so we wanted to give back and show our support. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the sale; it was great fun and gave our Charity Ambassadors the opportunity to practise their skills of negotiation and marketing!

Sarah Strong



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council met with Operations Manager, Leszek Chudzik this week to discuss all things playground! Having drawn their own playground designs in a recent whole school competition, Krish in ALD won with his innovative design. This launched discussions in classes about the future of the Prep playground and what really could be done to make it an even better space for all. Classes shared their ideas with the School Council Reps and then in our meeting we passed them on to Mr Chudzik to see if he could make their wishes come true. There are those who like quiet space and reflection time at break and others who love to let off steam and run free. From requests for new equipment to new apparatus for an adventure playground, from ways of helping pupils share and play nicely together to how to maximise space, the Council had lots of ideas to share; all sensible and,

according to Mr Chudzik, the majority doable. Well done for raising your concerns and your requests School Council; your voices have been heard. Balance is one of our school values; we know it's just as important to play hard as it is to work hard! Let's see what we can do...

Sarah Strong

FOR THE CHOP!

When I came back after the Easter holidays, some people noticed that my hair had dramatically changed. Well, it all started when my little sister was turning 50. I wanted to do something special for her and discovered the Little Princess Trust. They receive donations of long hair in order to make wigs for children with cancer. I have had long hair for many years but decided to have it cut short and send the hair to them in memory of my sister's husband, who died of cancer a few years ago, leaving her with two daughters. So I went to Hair Culture in Leytonstone to get the job done. First, we checked the length because it had to be at least 17cm long. Then, they bunched the hair and cut off two pony tails. I brought these home with me, sent them off in the post to the charity and surprised my sister with the news. For more information about the Little Princess Trust, press here: <https://www.littleprincesses.org.uk/>

Christine Last



CHESS NEWS

During the Easter holidays Zoe, Mary and Ishta travelled to St Katherine's School in Surrey in defence of our U11 National Chess Championship title. This year we came across an unknown team from Eltham College and although the girls beat them in the semi-finals they proved to be stiff competition in the finals. All three girls played exceptionally well and came second. They should all be very proud of themselves and we look forward to taking back our crown next year. Later on in the term we were invited to Loyola for a friendly tournament. We took 12 players and although it was a friendly tournament we did enjoy our win! Many thanks to Loyola for hosting and well done to all those involved.

Lisa Life

SPORTS NEWS

The weather has disappointed with a typical English summer greeting us after the Easter break, but, despite this, we have managed to get some cricket played. The boys and girls have been working on their consistency with bowling and power with batting, showing some glimpses of 'proper' cricket in their match play. By the end of the half term, all the boys and girls in Beta, Prep 1 and Prep 2 will have played in a fixture and along with the success of the girls' team, the boys also put in a commanding performance in their U11 Essex Cup group matches against Forest and St. Aubyn's. Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate our upcoming annual cricket festival next term and, of course, the much-awaited Sports Day promises to be an event filled with excitement and healthy competition. We commend our pupils for their hard work and commitment this half term, and we look forward to more successes in the weeks to come.

PREP V SENIORS

This term, our Prep 2 pupils had the opportunity to play a friendly tennis fixture against the Thirds in the Senior School. The matches took place on what can only be described as the wettest day of the year, however our pupils did not let the miserable weather dampen their spirits. The matches proved to be both a fantastic social event and a thrilling physical challenge for our pupils. We are incredibly proud of their efforts of our Prep 2 pupils and look forward to more opportunities for friendly competition with the Senior School in the future.



IAPS CRICKET

After an extremely busy week of 'The Lion King' performances, the girls had to transfer their inner ROAR to the cricket pitches of Haileybury School in the annual prestigious IAPS cricket event. It was a great day of cricketing fun in the sun, with the girls finishing a respectable 4th. Particular shout-outs go to Arabella, who was playing up a year group and performed well under pressure; Imani, who was a phenomenal wicket keeper on the day getting three wickets with her quick thinking, and Helena, who captained the side and averaged a wicket per game.

Helena 2CP writes:

On Friday 17th of May, 9 girls travelled to Haileybury School for the IAPS cricket tournament. When we arrived, we warmed up to play the group games. Our first match was against St. Aubyn's. We lost the toss, which meant that we were batting. The first pair were Arabella and Mia, who both did a great job. After that, Trisha and Imani kept the scoreboard ticking over as we reached halfway in the match. The third pair Soraya and I, who scored some nice runs. Theyana and Jessica were our last batters who both did really well and we finished on a good number of runs. We got many wickets and eventually won the game! All the other group games went really well too and, as a result, we finished top of our group! This meant our team was through to the cup semi-finals. The semi-final match was against a good side and we did not do as well. We set them a target of 207 and they chased it down quite quickly. Unfortunately, that meant we did not make the finals, but it was still a glorious effort from all of our team. We entered the 3rd/4th playoff against St. Aubyn's. We batted first and set 227. The match went down to the very last ball. I was bowling the last over and needed a wicket on the last ball. Unfortunately, it was not to be. St. Aubyn's won the play off by 2 runs. They finished 3rd and we finished 4th. I was captain for the day, which I found hard, but at the end of the day, I think my performance benefited from having to analyse the game and make some big team decisions. I would like to mention Sophia and Soraya, who both gave a lot to the team. It was their first time playing in a hard ball tournament. Another mention goes to Arabella from the Prep 1s. She has been really great, playing up a year for our team. I think everyone did a smashing job under pressure and overall, it was a great day and a lot of fun for all of us. Thank you Miss Kelly and Mr Hall!



CRICKET DYNAMOS

Our under U11 girls' cricket team recently finished as runners up in a local Dynamos cricket tournament. The girls will now represent Redbridge at the London Youth Games - we await a date for this event.

Trisha 2CP writes: The U11 girls' cricket team had an amazing and entertaining day of cricket at St. Aubyn's School. There was lots of laughter and smiles throughout the day. Our team played well and valiantly, celebrating and cheering each other on. We played three enjoyable matches and grew as a team throughout the day. We were very lucky to have such beautiful weather and enjoyed our day to the fullest. We won two matches against Highlands School and Nightingale School, meaning we qualified for the finals. After a very close match against St. Aubyn's, we emerged with silver medals. We are very proud of the fact that we will be representing Redbridge at the London Youth Games.



HOUSE COMPETITION

With the big 'blue ribbon' events to come in a competition that anyone can win, the focus has been on mass participation in the House assemblies. A gigantic treasure hunt took place all around the field with a sea of red, blue, yellow and green bibs hunting high and low for the hidden bags. This was followed by a team 'round the post' relay where Alphas, Betas and Prep 1s had to join together to complete the shuttle run. And, to finish off the term, we are just completing the summer leg of the House 'Daily Mile' in the mornings before registration. The scores leading into the final half term, which will see tennis, cricket, aquathlon, swim gala and sports day on the schedule, are:

Knighton	396
Manor	388
Monkhams	378
Hereford	374

EASTER SKI TRIP



During the Easter break, Bancroft's Prep pupils set off for the slopes of Passo Tonale in Italy. There is a saying, 'be careful what you wish for' and, of course, we all wished for great snow, but we got a little more than we bargained for! This made for a difficult start to the week, but it didn't deter our Prep 2s from showing great resilience and perseverance. Skiers at all levels were challenged; the more advanced skiers conquered the black slopes and the beginners managed to get on to the ski lifts and master blue runs by the end of the trip. As well as skiing, the pupils enjoyed tubing and sledging on the slopes as well as in the swimming pool and on the dance floor! It was a non-stop, fun-filled trip with many skills and experiences learned that will benefit the children in years to come.

Chris Hall

