



Bernards Heath Junior School

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January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Arts Week - Rana Begum

Our theme for Arts week this year is the work of **Rana Begum**. This will be held from **Monday 5th February to Friday 9th February**.

Rana Begum is an ex-pupil of Bernards Heath Junior School and came here when she was 8. She is an Anglo-Bangladeshi contemporary artist who experiments with the boundaries between painting, design, and architecture. She is influenced by both Minimalism, her childhood experiences of Islam and Islamic art, and architecture. She is also a Royal Academician. Rana is currently holding a free exhibition at **St Albans Museum and Gallery** that I would urge you to visit with your children. Rana will be visiting our school the following week to look at the children's work and also to talk to them about her time at Bernards Heath and her journey to becoming an artist.

Year 4 children are visiting the St Albans Museum and Gallery on Friday 2nd February and will also drop into **Cha and Nasta**, a restaurant on Hatfield Road, owned by one of our BHJS families. It offers affordable and authentic Bangladeshi street food and has a hidden piece of Bangladesh in a courtyard with a rickshaw and metal roof. I am sure they would be delighted to welcome our BHJS families to see this hidden piece of Bangladesh.

The photography competition, **Geometry in the Built Environment**, which is linked to Arts week, deadline is **Friday 2nd February**. For Year 6 only, the **animation competition** deadline is **Monday 29th January**.

Each afternoon of this week, the children take part in art activities linked to our theme. The children work in mixed age groups with their siblings and house group from different classes. As part of one of the activities, children will try Bangladeshi food, generously supplied by a group of our families. If your child has an **allergy**, please send your child with a suitable **snack** from home for each of the afternoons.

On Wednesday morning, the children will visit an exhibition of local artists' work in our school hall. During the week, parents are also coming in to give talks about their work and will be running workshops with different year groups. Thank you to all our parents who are already getting involved. If you have a talent that you are happy to share or talk about then please get in touch as we would love to hear from you.

Sandringham and Verulam 'A' level and GCSE students are coming in to share their portfolios with the children and to support them with their art activities.

To launch the week, the children may wear **clothes with geometric patterns** on **Monday 5th February**. This could be as simple as a spotty or stripy t-shirt. Please do not go out and buy clothes especially for this. A plain t-shirt could be made spotty with a paper circle or sticky dots. If children are more comfortable wearing their school uniform then that is fine too.

Our week culminates with the **Arts Week assembly at 2.30pm on Friday** which parents are welcome to attend. We will announce the winners of the photography competition. For Year 6, we will show the winning animations from Mr Burgess's competition and announce the nominees and winner of the prestigious Jacqui Hannah award.

As you can appreciate, the cost for the art materials is quite considerable. We would appreciate it if you could pay a voluntary contribution of **£4.00**.

Please support our Arts Week by sending your child to school on the Monday in clothes with a geometric design and by encouraging them to enter a piece of photography into the Geometry in the Built Environment Competition. If your child is in Year 6, please support your child in making a short animation and help them to upload it to our school YouTube account.

You can see up to date information about the work in Arts week on our Art X/Twitter, **ARTBHJS@ArtBhjs**

I regularly post with art related activities that may be of interest to our families.

Many thanks for supporting our Arts week.

Yours sincerely,
Katherine Taylor (Art and Design Coordinator)