

AUTUMN 2023

review



Inside:
Perfect Productions
A Crafty Christmas
Concerts Galore!



Eco Friendly

Building Sustainable Friendships

“It was wonderful to see the children working together with such purpose, creativity and genuine passion to solve the problems and make a difference.”



Here at Blundell's Prep, we are always exploring different ways to bring meaning to what the children are learning. We know that if children understand the purpose within a task, they are more likely to engage with it fully, and we see this on a daily basis through the varied lessons that the children here experience. This term, our pupils from the Pre-Prep, Prep and Senior School had the opportunity to work together to solve real

world problems throughout STEM Week, during which they immersed themselves in all things Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths related. They were tasked with finding solutions to the growing 'Garbage Patch' of plastic within our oceans by designing an aquatic technological system to collect and clear the rubbish. They attempted to re-green the desert by capturing rainwater and using it to irrigate crops for a community living in North Dafur, Sudan. They were even set the unenviable task of helping a Nepalese farmer to move his crop of tomatoes down the steep mountain sides without them being squashed! It was wonderful to see the children working together with such purpose, creativity and genuine passion to solve the problems and make a difference.

This term, we have seen our Eco-Committee looking to have a positive impact within our school community. They have been ever vigilant and challenged us all to be energy aware, with the promise of an Eco Award for the best class. They were also delighted to hear the news that solar panels will be fitted to the roof of our Pre-Prep, with work starting over the Christmas break. This array will provide enough energy to feed the Pre-Prep and the Prep, helping us with our on-going move towards sustainability at Blundell's.

We all recognise that there will be significant environmental challenges ahead, and our children will be tasked with finding solutions. I am confident that our young Blundellians are well set to embrace those challenges head on.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Southgate".

Andy Southgate
Head Master



STEM WEEK AT THE PRE-PREP

'Better Together' was the theme that underlined STEM week in the Pre-Prep this year. Pupils from Nursery to Year Two experienced an action-packed week of activities and workshops that had been designed to excite and install a love of STEM by enabling them to work closely alongside 'experts'.

Pupils had the opportunity to learn outside of the classrooms. They headed to the Senior School DT department to work with STEM scholars and into the Food Technology room to get cooking. They also went out to a local Farm shop to pick pumpkins and into the Wild Wonders Area to explore new skills which were led by our Year 5 Wild Leaders. Back in their classrooms they were joined by older pupils from both the Senior School and Prep School to experience some Biology, Chemistry and Maths workshops. Some rabbits and a couple of sheep even made an appearance too! **CAM**





STEM WEEK

STEM week was an action-packed week across the whole school. The highlights were Years 3 to 5 being tasked with real life engineering problems to solve including creating a method for removing plastic waste from the oceans and getting the tomato harvest safely down a mountain. They also designed a system to regreen the desert which will allow African farmers the chance to successfully grow crops. The children collaborated to all produce wonderful, original models of their engineering ideas.

Year 6 not only explored the world of microbes, but worked with Year 2, leading a morning of science based outdoor learning activities around the campfire. They separated potions to rescue themselves from a desert island and looked at the trajectory of a rocket to get their rescue message safely to land. Year 5 put the M for Maths into STEM week, collaborating with all the children across the Pre-Prep and enjoying time together whilst doing a wide range of wonderful Maths activities. **HGM**



ECO CHALLENGE

This term has seen the exciting formation of our new Eco-Committee and we were so delighted with the number of applicants keen to be involved. Shortly into the new academic year, our committee delivered important messages during the Harvest Assembly that emphasised the importance of appreciating food and being thankful for all that we have. This was shortly followed by the launch of 'The Big Recycling Hunt Week' where pupils were challenged to take a closer look at their recycling at home. Following the first half term, the school signed up to 'Cut Your Carbon Month' which involved the committee sharing information based upon simple ways in which we can cut our carbon footprint. Our passionate members visited Year 1 during this period of time to share the story 'Someone Woke Wilson'; a tale based on a small carbon atom that had awoken from his cosy home in the ground. As part of the visit, our committee worked in collaboration with the Year 1 children to create their very own sustainable bird feeders in readiness for the winter period. This activity was then continued during our festive Christmas Market gathering, alongside the designing of reusable bags. We were delighted to hear of the many children involved in the recent 'Cut Your Carbon Challenge' and we look forward to launching new initiatives in the new year. Watch this space! **PAW & IRS**





RECEPTION TINY TRAVELS WORKSHOP



As part of their 'Food and Farming' topic, Reception enjoyed exploring farming around the world. In October, they welcomed Kate from Tiny Travels who spoke to the children all about the diversity of the 54 countries in Africa and some of the different foods that are grown and farmed in African countries. They decided that they were particularly grateful for the cocoa farmers in some of the West African countries! The children loved exploring the different resources that Kate brought along to share with them- what a magical experience! **CAM & JSR**

YEAR 2 KENYAN TALK WITH MRS DOBSON

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Dobson into school to showcase her Kenyan artefacts and childhood stories. The Year 2 children learnt how to count to ten in Swahili and enjoyed asking many questions to deepen their understanding of Africa. A particular highlight was dressing up in traditional African dress and exploring the African toys. **AXS & KLV**



OUTINGS *and Visits*



HARRY THE DOG VISITS RECEPTION

Reception were so excited to have a visit from Harry the Golden Retriever for Poppy's Show, Tell and Wonder! Harry was certainly very well behaved and showed us how well trained he was with his good sitting! He even wore his favourite Christmas jumper for the occasion. We had to guess from a photo which puppy out of 8 Harry was! Poppy showed us some tricks Harry had learnt and we all enjoyed a lovely cuddle and stroke of his soft fur. Thank you, Poppy and Mrs George, for bringing Harry to School.

JSR & CAM



YEAR 1 TRIP TO TIVERTON MUSEUM

To support our science and topic lessons, our Year 1 classes had great fun visiting Tiverton Museum. The children delighted in playing with many different toys from the past, noticing the materials they were made from and comparing them to toys they enjoy today. We explored artefact rooms, made peg dolls and even rode on the famous Tivvy bumper steam train! It was a great day, full of smiles and learning. **LM & BBC**



YEAR 5 HENRY VIII VISIT

Year 5 enjoyed stepping back in time with a captivating visit from larger-than-life character Henry VIII. Transporting the children back to the Tudor era, King Henry graced the Pre-Prep hall. The children were entertained with vivid insights of the customs, trials and triumphs of this fascinating period of History. The visit culminated in a thrilling jousting tournament. This immersive experience left a mark on our young historians, fostering a deeper appreciation for the past and a lasting connection to this iconic period of History. **JJA**



YEAR 6 HISTORY MORNING WITH MR ADDISON

The Year 6 history morning was led by Tony Addison, who kindly brought in his artefacts, which had been collected from the Battle of The Somme. These items provided a tangible connection to the past, allowing children to grasp the reality of life during the Great War.

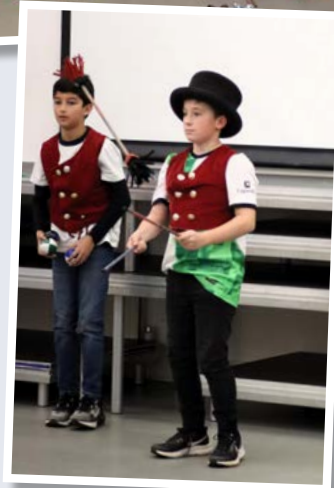
Examples of the items included British, German, and French helmets, bayonets and water bottles, personal items including toothbrushes, as well as shells and shell cases to name a few.

All the children enjoyed learning about the fascinating items and trying to work out what they were used for. Overall, the artefacts brought history to life for the children, making the learning experience engaging and impactful. JWF



YEAR 6 CIRCUS WORKSHOP

Learning new skills, and learning from our mistakes, is one of the most important parts of growing up. What better way of exploring this than by welcoming the circus to Blundell's Prep! Children in Year 6 loved trying out new activities and refining their acts with their friends, before later performing to the rest of the school in a fun-packed show! DJM



BALSA

BLUNDELL'S
ADVENTURE, SERVICE
AND LEADERSHIP
AWARD

THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

The Christmas Market is always a wonderful event, and this year was no different. Amongst all of the stall and games, Year 6 pupils took great pride in selling the beautiful items which they had been busy making in class as a part of their Balsa projects. Lavender bags, glittery bottles and tree decorations were all on show, and the children had carefully worked out costs and selling prices in the run-up to the event in order to maximise profits on the day! Taking part in the "Make £5 Grow" initiative, the pupils were delighted to have made a £44.70 profit - all of which will be shared between our chosen charities, "The Lily Foundation" and "Different Strokes". DJM

RECEPTION TRIP TO HALBERTON FARM SHOP

Reception headed off to Halberton Farm Shop at the start of this term to begin their topic of 'Food and Farming'. The children were kindly shown around some of the fields to have a look at what was growing and they were very excited to spot the pumpkins! They worked as a team to navigate their way around the maize maze and then made their way to the polytunnels to pick the last of the season's strawberries. Before heading back to school, the children popped into the Shop and had a look around before buying some fruit and vegetables to bring back with them ready for making smoothies and to help them get creative with some fun vegetable art! CAM & JSR



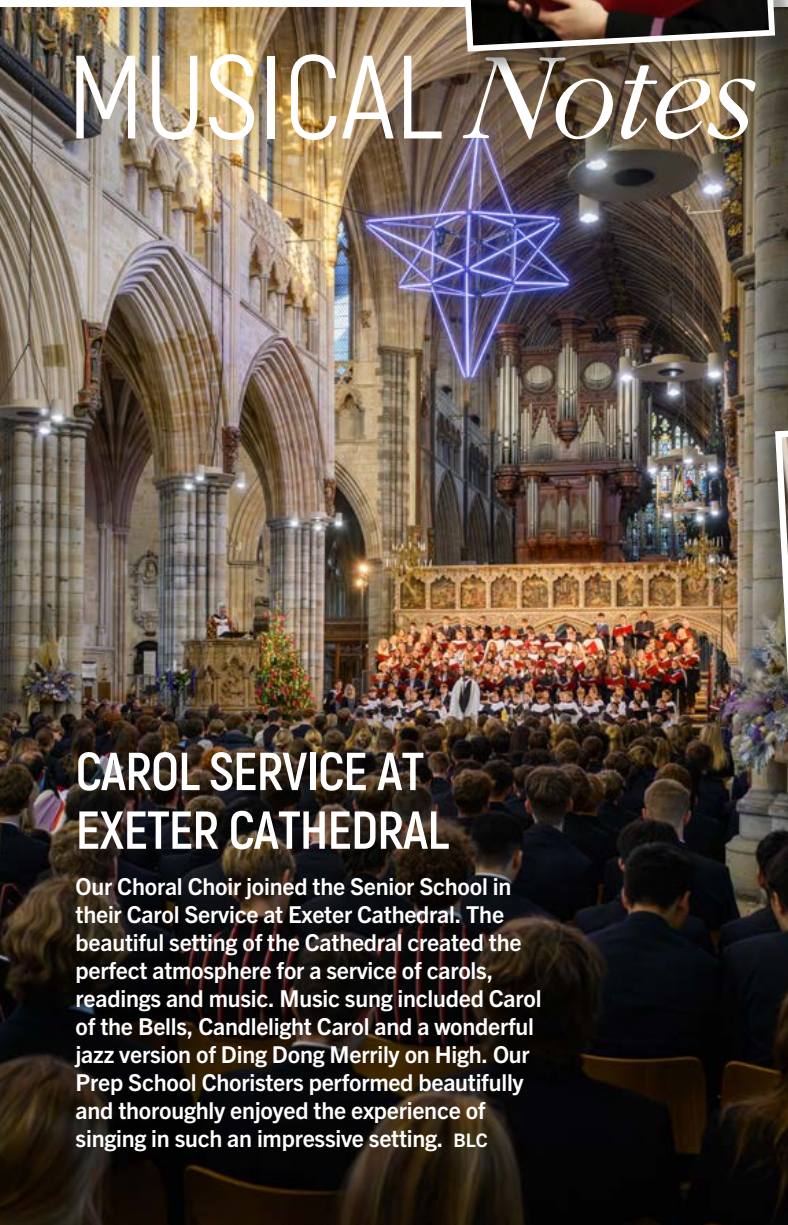


Carol Service

The Chapel was absolutely full for our Carol Service. Candlelight filled the Chapel, creating a wonderfully special and Christmassy atmosphere. The service began with the traditional singing of 'Once in Royal David's City', followed by a candlelit procession. Years 2, 3 and 4 sang together and the Choral Choir sang John Rutter's Candlelight Carol. Carols and readings filled the Chapel and created a joyous atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. **BLC**



TEA-TIME CONCERTS



MUSICAL Notes

Nearly 80 children performed over the two concerts with a real variety of instruments and music being played. For some of the children it was their very first concert at the Prep School and it was wonderful to see them performing with confidence and enjoyment.

Well done to all of the children for taking part in two fantastic concerts. **BLC**



CAROL SERVICE AT EXETER CATHEDRAL

Our Choral Choir joined the Senior School in their Carol Service at Exeter Cathedral. The beautiful setting of the Cathedral created the perfect atmosphere for a service of carols, readings and music. Music sung included Carol of the Bells, Candlelight Carol and a wonderful jazz version of Ding Dong Merrily on High. Our Prep School Choristers performed beautifully and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of singing in such an impressive setting. **BLC**



DRAKE CAKE SALE

At the beginning of November, Drake house held their annual cake sale. This year the children chose to raise money for the local charity Devon Air Ambulance and received a super total of £272!! Thank you to all the drake families who baked delicious cakes and for everyone who supported and visited us on the day. **AXS & LM**



House Spirit



PRE-PREP Fun Run

Our Pre-Prep athletes put on a real display of character and determination when taking on the House Fun Run Cross Country challenge. Representing their schoolhouses, children ran, crawled, jumped and climbed for an exhausting 1.3km. The soggy conditions did not dampen spirits and every single child completed the course to rapturous applause from spectators and peers alike. A special event for some very special runners! **JE**



HOUSE MATCHES

U8 & U9 GIRLS' HOUSE HOCKEY

The Year 3 & 4 girls braved the torrential downpours to put on a superb display of hockey during the inter-house competition. It was lovely to see the children showing some of the skills they have been learning so far this term. I hear the Year 3 children demonstrated some impressive defensive passages of play, including strong tackles and clearances in front of goal. It was lovely to see the Year 4 children using the space on the pitch and travelling into space with the ball. They are beginning to make accurate passes and use their reverse stick to control the ball. Well done to each and every one of you and congratulations to Drake for winning both competitions. **FLE**
U8: 1ST DRAKE, 2ND RALEIGH, 3RD GRENVILLE
U9: 1ST DRAKE, 2ND RALEIGH, 3RD GRENVILLE

U10 & U11 GIRLS HOUSE HOCKEY

There's nothing quite like coming back with a bang! That's exactly what the Year 5 & 6 girls did as they embarked on their House Hockey Tournament on the first Monday back after half term. Spirits were high and there was everything to play for. Grenville started strong, narrowly winning 1-0 against Drake. Raleigh needed a strong performance to stop Grenville from gaining another 3 points, but they couldn't keep their defences up for the full 12 minutes and Grenville secured another 1-0 victory. Second place was up for grabs in the final match between Drake and Raleigh. Drake started strong but couldn't maintain their lead, eventually losing 2-1. It was a joy to see the Year 5's and 6's playing together and displaying an array of attacking and defensive skills. Well done girls, and congratulations Grenville! **FLE**
1ST GRENVILLE, 2ND RALEIGH, 3RD DRAKE



HOUSE RUGBY YEARS 3 & 4

The house teams were all set to go in their house colours and teams. Nothing was going to stop the children even the heavy rain failed to dampen the spirits. The onlookers thought the players were playing for the 'love of the game' in the challenging weather, but the children were playing for their house! House matches mean a great deal to all.

As the rain came down the play continued with increasing intensity. Nobody wanted to let the other house win. Tackle or tags were made, tries scored and everybody enjoyed the games. After three games in each age group the scores were very tight showing the passion house matches create. **SS**

Y4: 1ST DRAKE, 2ND RALEIGH, 3RD GRENVILLE
Y3: 1ST DRAKE, 2ND GRENVILLE, 3RD RALEIGH

HOUSE RUGBY YEARS 5 & 6

This year's House Rugby was a very keenly fought competition. All three houses in both age groups were finely balanced and the team that played as a team would win. As each match unfolded everybody played their part in attack and defend. This was switched very quickly between the two styles of playing. Players had to react to what was in front of them and play as a team. Tackles were kept low, rucks entered correctly, and mauls completed all within the new laws of the game.

The weather played its part too. Cool but dry so running rugby was seen from each team. This highly engaging style is pleasing to see, and something aspired to by all teams.

Well done to all the teams and rugby was the overall winner! **SS**
Y6: 1ST DRAKE, 2ND GRENVILLE, 3RD RALEIGH
Y5: 1ST DRAKE, JOINT 2ND GRENVILLE & RALEIGH



news



HENRY SLADE – EXETER CHIEFS VISIT

It was wonderful to welcome England and Chiefs superstar Henry Slade to the Prep School today. Henry enthralled our younger Blundellian's with his knowledge and passion for rugby. Years 3-6 got the opportunity to have a Q&A with Henry and he left many young minds inspired.

Year 2 Parent Lunch

Year 2 enjoyed a delicious lunch with their parents. They hosted them in the dining room and took them through our daily process. They enjoyed curry, rice and poppadom's followed by shortbread. It was a joyous occasion and I think some parents were a little bit jealous of our lovely lunches. Well done Year 2 for being such super hosts. **AXS & KLW**



SPEECH & DRAMA RECITAL

Our pupils love to perform and our Speech and Drama recital was the perfect vehicle for their many talents. The children performed a variety of poetry and prose from Molly's apt performance of 'Middle Child' to Ambose's rendition of the very funny Spike Milligan's 'Polar Bear'. A huge thank you to Mrs Rochfort for nurturing the talents of all the pupils. It was a truly super evening.



HARVEST FESTIVALS

The Nursery and Pre-Prep came together with a hall full of family members to celebrate Harvest Festival. All the children sang, recited poetry and showed some beautiful artwork and fact files. We came together to remember the importance of harvest around the world and to show our thoughts and care for those who food doesn't come so easily to. Thank you to all the parents for their kind donations to CHAT here in Tiverton.



FOBP

MOVIE NIGHT

Our annual FOBP movie night is always a hit with our youngest pupils. Delicious hot dogs, hot chocolate and cookies were all enjoyed together with friends whilst cosying up for a movie after a busy week at school. A perfect way to spend a Friday evening. Thank you as ever to the FOBP for all their organisation and time. **LLC**

BONFIRE NIGHT

One of the highlights of our calendar was our annual FOBP Bonfire Night. The rain miraculously stopped just in time, the giant bonfire lit brilliantly, and the firework display was stunning. Enjoyed by the whole school community and family members. A big thank you to all the FOBP team for their organisation and delicious stalls, plenty of fun was had by all, both young and old. **LLC**





WILD WONDERS NEW CANOPY AREA

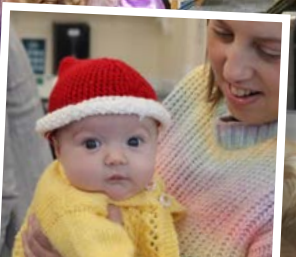
We are delighted to share with you our new Wild Wonders Canopy area, kindly supported by the generous support from donations to our Annual Fund and sponsored by BluBox. This area has already become a real asset to our outdoor programme and has provided shelter on those drizzly days so our Wild Wonders, Wild Explorers and Wild Leaders sessions can still continue – rain or shine!

The area has quickly become a very valuable asset to our learning programme and it has already been transformed into an outdoor theatre, tool shed, cafe and an art studio!

A massive thank you to Alex Willis from BluBox and his team for designing and constructing the area. **BS**



TODDLER time



YEAR 3 TEA & TOURS

The Year 3 children hosted their nearest and dearest in an afternoon that involved serving tea, coffee and a range of cakes. Once they had finished with refreshments, the children led them on a tour of the school, proudly show casing how well they have settled in. The Tea and Tours afternoon was a complete success and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed hosting their families.

LJA



KINDNESS AND INCLUSION WEEK

In November, we recognised 'Kindness and Inclusion Week'. The week began with a kindness themed assembly, including the launch of 'random acts of kindness' and 'kindness cards' whereby staff and children were invited to write a special message to someone within our school community with the hope of bringing a smile to someone's face. During PSHE lessons, sessions were tailored towards promoting further thoughts and reflection on the impact and positive effects kindness can have. In addition important themes based on 'Anti-Bullying' were also shared with the children. As part of the special week, we were also delighted to welcome some of the Senior School Upper 6 Monitors who led an assembly to our pupils in which they spoke about the importance of inclusion and the impact kindness can have on both ourselves and others. It was a special time to hear of the conversations taking place throughout the week and the 'random acts of kindness' being experienced across the school. **IRS**



This term our weekly baby and toddler group has been enjoyed by many under fours from our local community. Plenty of indoor and outdoor fun, crafts, toys and songs for all ages. The highlights this term was a visit from Beth at Happy Glaze Pottery, as well as our much-loved Christmas party with an extra special visitor.

Our Messy Play event in November proved to live up to its name, with plenty of seasonal sensory play to be had. Potion making stations, spooky water, pumpkin boats, ooey goey spooky slime made up just some of the activities.

Mrs Clifford's Sensory Storytime at Tiverton Library as ever have been hugely popular with on average forty to fifty under fours each month attending. This term Mrs Clifford has shared the stories of Farmer Duck and The Gruffalo followed by all sorts of wonderfully hands on activities. Luckily Tiverton Library enjoy the huge turn out and don't mind the mess! **LLC**



RECEPTION NATIVITY

Reception children could not sit still with excitement as they took to the stage, wriggling, dancing, and singing their way through a fantastic performance of A Wiggly Nativity! They loved learning all the songs and actions in the lead up to the big day and did not disappoint, for their voices could be heard singing out all through the Pre-Prep. The children said their lines with confidence and should be congratulated on such a super wriggly performance! Well done, Reception.

JSR & CAM



YEAR 1 NATIVITY

After many weeks of intense practise and rehearsals, Year One presented the fantastic Nativity, 'Baubles!' Despite a few initial nerves, the children rose to the occasion, performing with bundles of enthusiasm and confidence which certainly got everyone in the Christmas spirit! Well done for your fantastic performance, Year One- we are all very proud of you!

BBC & LM



STARRING *Roles*

NURSERY NATIVITY

Nursery certainly rose to the occasion during their performance of The Nursery Rhyme Nativity. They sang and spoke with a clarity and confidence that belies their years. There wasn't a dry eye in the house as they finished their performance with a rousing rendition of Jingle bells! ELT & AMS



YEAR 2 NATIVITY

On Friday 1st December, Year 2 performed The Egyptian Nativity. They told the story of Mary and Joseph's flight from Bethlehem to Egypt. It was a fantastic showcase of their singing and acting skills. The funky camels will be a fond memory. AXS & KLW





DON'T BE AFRAID

The incredible Year 3 cohort, supported ably by the amazing singers of Year 4, presented a heartwarming and thought-provoking Christmas production called, 'Don't Be Afraid'. Fear, Doubt and Panic were characters who constantly hovered in the background trying to cause... well... fear, doubt and panic! All the characters who stepped onto the stage had to deal with their little whisperings, telling them they could not succeed. As the three troublemakers saw neighbours helping each other, heard encouraging words of hope and courage being shared, saw positivity flourishing and witnessed the fulfilment of the wondrous message of Christ's birth, they decided to give up. Instead, they agreed that making mischief in the Blundell's Prep Staffroom would be a better use of their time! The students of Year 3 are congratulated for their sterling efforts. They worked hard to learn their lines and overcame nerves to entertain and encourage the audience with their story. Year 4 did a fabulous job singing the songs with passion. **JLAP**



Snow White - Year 5

Year 5 were sensational as they took to the stage to present the story of 'Snow White'. After many weeks of rehearsals, the characters came together to present a colourful, entertaining and humorous performance. The Evil Queen, with her imposing personality and laugh, banished Snow White from the palace never to return, so she, without competition, could be the 'fairest in the land'. Snow White's generosity and kindness saw her loved by the woodland animals and the Dwarves and even the woodcutter couldn't bring himself to get rid of her. On learning that Snow White was still alive, the Evil Queen disguised herself and, as we all know, gave Snow White the apple which killed her. Alas, the Prince revived her with the smell of his aftershave dislodging the apple stuck in Snow White's throat and it ended as a 'happily ever after'. The solo singers gave wonderful performances and the catchy songs were sung with gusto by all. Congratulations to Year 5 for putting in effort and time to produce a fabulous show. **JLAP**



HOCKEY



GIRLS' U11A - IAPS TOURNAMENT

The girls were very excited and eager to put their skills to good use at the IAPS regional tournament held at Kings Bruton. They had 4 matches in their pool and needed to qualify in 1st or 2nd place in order to progress to the next round and a chance to get through to the Nationals. They played some super hockey in these early games, winning each match and finishing in first place securing a great position in the quarter finals. The game started well against St Neots with Blundell's having lots of great attacking play and possession but just not being able to convert their chances in front of the goal. Extra time came and went with no score line and it was down to penalty flicks to try and secure a place in the semifinals. Sadly, it was not to be and the girls had a tough finish to a great effort in this competition. **LB**



U11 HOCKEY

It has been a great term of hockey for the girls with many fixtures and tournaments which has allowed them to gain lots of experience at a highly competitive level. They began the season with an early tournament at Millfield, and with only a couple of training sessions under their belt, they did extremely well to win 3 matches and draw 2 securing them bronze medals after very little practice.

Next it was off to Queen's with a little more experience behind them and they played some outstanding hockey to come 2nd, only losing out to Millfield on goal difference.

IAPS was less than a week afterwards, and they made impressive progress to the quarter finals after winning all 4 matches in their pool. The quarters against St Neots were nail biting stuff with Blundell's having all of the possession but just not being able to find the goal despite several chances. It went to extra time and sadly nothing came

of this, so it was the dreaded penalty flicks! Unfortunately, these didn't go our way and St Neots progressed through to the finals leaving us exhausted and a little disappointed.

There was still plenty more to work towards and the following week it was off to Exeter for their tournament. They had a real fire in their bellies after the disappointment of the previous week and pushed hard in every match to complete the full set of medals for the term. Gold was at last the colour of the medals!

The grand finale was the Devon competition and the girls made it their goal to qualify for the West of England finals in March. They also preferred the colour of Gold by this stage!

It was on home ground, and with plenty of spectator support every player dug deep to put all of their hard work into practise, winning all 3 matches and emerging the Devon champions! A great end to a great season

and a well- deserved rest can be taken over Christmas. Well done! **LB**

The U11 B girls have been a delight to work with this term and have had a great term of hockey. Some girls were brand new to the sport and have shown real determination to get to grips so quickly with the rules of the game, stick skills and positional awareness. There was much to learn and they did not let me down! Their skills improved over the term, their confidence rose and they began to score more and more goals each match. Their best result was a 7-2 win against Queen's College which boosted their confidence and encouraged them in their final match against St. Peter's which also resulted in a win. Scores aside, the girls were all keen to compete (whatever the weather) and keen to improve: a winning combination. **CFH**

U9 HOCKEY FESTIVAL AT MILLFIELD

The U9 girls attended the Millfield hockey festival on a gloriously sunny Saturday morning. The hockey on display was as glorious as the weather! The girls showcased some of the skills they have been working on this term. They fought hard to win the ball back, making some strong tackles. They attacked on mass and scored well worked goals. I was incredibly impressed with the way they used the space on the pitch. With four wins out of five, the girls should be very proud of themselves. **FLE**



U9 HOCKEY

It has been a season of two halves in terms of the weather for the U9 hockey team dealing with sunshine, rain and extreme cold at times. Sadly, the Blundell's U9 Hockey Festival did not go ahead as planned, however, there has been lots to celebrate. The U9s have played a huge amount of hockey this term, participating in weekly fixtures, mini festivals and some children also had the opportunity to travel to Millfield on a Saturday. It was a lovely compliment when the teacher at Millfield commented on how impressed he was with the Blundell's hockey team. The girls have worked hard to perfect their passing, tackling, dribbling and shooting skills this term. I have been pleased with the development of their positional awareness and it has been great to see the children making use of the space on the hockey pitch. They have played a variety of local schools and have dominated some games and faced strong opposition in others. They all deserve a good rest and I look forward to a busy and exciting Netball season! Well done! **FLE**



U10 HOCKEY



The U10As have had a very busy and incredibly successful season of hockey. They have played a total of nine midweek fixtures, comfortably winning seven matches and only narrowly losing (by one goal) to both Millfield and Exeter School. The standard of hockey has been incredible and a joy to watch. The girls have displayed some super skills to travel around players, have played the ball out beautifully from defence to the midfield and shown great power in attack. Aside from this, I have been so proud of the grit and determination the children have shown to win the ball back, playing with such passion and commitment. In addition to the weekly fixtures, the girls set off for Millfield, at a very unsociable hour, one Saturday morning. Miss Roberts reported that many were still asleep during the first game, however, they upped their game against Millfield, Queens and Bristol Grammer, securing 3rd place overall. Well done for a wonderful season of hockey and enjoy a well-deserved rest over Christmas! **FLE**

The U10B team have worked hard throughout the season to master their skills and tactical awareness. There have been a few losses, but they had a magnificent draw against Exeter School. Although the team lost 1-0 to Queen's, they had the better of the chances with so many great shots on goal that it was a shame none of them hit the back of the net. With a mixed bag of results, the team persevered and finished the season on a high with a 7-3 victory over St Peter's. Having struggled to score goals all season, accuracy and tenacity finally prevailed! The final match was a magnificent win and a well-deserved end to the season! **JER**



U8 HOCKEY

What a huge amount of progress the Year 3s have made in their hockey since the start of term and this was most apparent in their final fixture against St Peter's. They were using some wonderful skills when dribbling the ball and lots of them were starting to get the hang of passing the ball out into space and working more effectively as a team. They were stepping up early to make strong block tackles and chasing back when they lost possession, showing great determination. Their weekly fixtures were a chance for them to show off all that they had learnt, and it was always great to see how much they improved each week. Next Year, they will progress to playing on a larger pitch and this will give them the opportunity to focus more on individual positions and tactics. **LB**



I have been hugely impressed with their progress from the start of the season up until this point. From shy, nervous tackling to enthusiastic defenders, there has been a marked difference in the **U11B's** ability to front up. Highlights are the fantastic showing we put up against the Exeter Cathedral School's 'A' team as well as the hard-fought match against Taunton on the last fixture of the season. They are a team who has such talent, but we really gave them a tough test and even proved we could attack with quick hands and pace! The boys have been a pleasure to work with across the season and I hope we have managed to spark a passion for the game. Well done lads! **JE**

RUGBY

U11 RUGBY

From the start to the end of the season, the **U11A** rugby squad have not taken a step backwards in terms of defence, attack or teamwork. All the boys have worked hard for each other in training and in matches. Having the ball is so important as it prevents the other side scoring and enables the home team to gain field position to score. Therefore, the emphasis in training was to keep the ball and win it back in each situation. Either a strip in the tackle, a jackal off the floor or a counter ruck, the ball was the priority. With the increase in the rules allowing two extra players to enter the tackle area, everybody was comfortable to work with each other to support the ball carrier.

With pace on the edge of the pitch and fast feet which can change direction, the team had many assets in which to score. The introduction of kicking helped the team to clear their try line and chase the ball to gain territory. A host of kickers was discovered,

and various kicking options were deployed during a game.

Mr Yapp (The Blundell's Director of Rugby) added his rugby knowledge to many training sessions and the mould of the team took place. A high tempo game with power, commitment and skill was seen from all. **ss**



BOYS' U11 IAPS RUGBY FESTIVAL

Arriving in the driving rain everybody felt the festival was going to be about 'one out runners.' This is a short pass from the scrum half and easy to do in poor weather. However, when the festival started the sun came out and it was dry. Therefore, the team who could move the ball through lots of hands to find space was going to do well. Blundell's boys are good at this. They also hold a defender to give the next player space to run into.

Defence is key and the tackle area a hard-fought part of the game. All the boys have worked hard on this area of the game and won a lot of ball for our team to attack with. The game often has parts which seem disorganised but with experience the boys know how to find organisation and either attack in numbers or defend with strength.

Well done to the whole squad who all certainly stood up and were counted in each match. **SS**



U9 RUGBY

U9 rugby takes the largest step in age group rugby as contact starts. Tackling and being tackled are the contact situations being faced for the first time. Lots of practise in gaining confidence in contact is undertaken as this underpins the game. How to fall over, how to tackle in a safe way for both the tackler and tackled player and what to do with the ball. These are highly important and carry forward to the rest of the age group rugby.

This year's U9's took to contact in a heartbeat. They enjoyed this step and found the game made more sense with a notable offside line being set at the tackle. In terms of contact they were not phased with tackling their friends or being tackled by their friends. We are all on the same team at the end of the game.

During the season all the boys played in many different combinations so they could get used to different positions and team dynamics. All relished the opportunity to have input from Mr Yapp (Blundell's Director of Rugby) weekly and they built on their passing skills, running and finding space in which to attack. Towards the end of the season many boys were naturally passing out of the tackle as an offload, which Mr Yapp commented on that he'd like to see England do on the international stage! **SS**



U10 RUGBY

The **Under 10's** enjoyed an outstanding season, showcasing their continuous development as a highly talented group of players. The addition of the ruck added an extra layer of excitement for the boys. Their ruck speed and discipline at the breakdown improved considerably. Lots of excellent turnover ball was gained too. The boys looked to move the ball away from the contact area through improvements in their passing, awareness to spot space and off load out of the tackle. In defence, the boys high press was very effective too. Most notably the boys looked to rally together and work for one another in games sessions and matches. **JJA**

It has been an absolute pleasure to coach the **U10B** Boys' Rugby team this season. The highlight of the season has been watching the players play with a smile on their faces and seeing the confidence of all the boys improve as the season has gone on. This belief in their ability helped the boys make vast improvements in their defensive and attacking play. The team competed in many close matches against other schools and were not afraid to showcase their newly learnt skills of the tackle, ruck, and scrum. It was a shame the season had to come to an end, as the fun and enjoyment from all the boys was clear to see. The team can be extremely proud of their efforts, in a season filled with camaraderie and unforgettable moments. Long may this continue! **JWF**

SUPER SUNDAY AT EXETER CHIEFS

Sandy Park, the home ground of Exeter Chiefs is a castle and somewhere away teams dread to come to! Not Blundell's Prep! Year 6 attend Super Sunday each season and have a wonderful time. On arrival the children are guided behind the scenes of Sandy Park and shown the physio room, rehab room, cold pool, first team changing room, weights room and fitness centre. All of this is amazing and an insight into elite sport. A funny sign on the side of the hot tub beside the cold pool which the children laughed at said 'no fake tan in the hot tub'. A more serious sign was the pre-match timings which listed things minute by minute for the players to do. This showed how measured time, effort and organisation is before professional sport. Having had pictures taken beside everybody's favourite players shirt in the changing room it was time to do some rugby. On the training pitch everybody took part in 8 sessions ranging from skills to decision making to game play. The children had a great time and learnt some new things from The Chiefs Community Coaching Team. At the end they were all given a goodie bag as a reward for their efforts.

At the start of the match the children lined up in front of the players tunnel as a guard of honour. When the players ran out everybody cheered and waved their flags. At half time there was a lap of the pitch to walk while waving to all the supporters and then the final part of the match to watch. The match was decided by Henry Slade of Exeter Chiefs as he kicked the winning penalty with the last kick of the game. An excellent day was had by all. **SS**

U8 BOYS' RUGBY

The Year 3 boys have enjoyed an exciting term of tag rugby and have made some fantastic progress. Through hard work, the boys are now confidently competing in matches, tagging enthusiastically, making excellent runs into space and looking to pass to their teammates. As the season has progressed, it has been fantastic to see their confidence grow and everyone on the team having some superb moments on the pitch. We have witnessed some extraordinary length of the field tries, diving, try saving tags and quick passing moves across the line. The experience of playing against other schools, week in week out, has been a big highlight for the team, almost as big a highlight as the coach trips and match teas! **TDG**





Christmas at Blundell's Prep

CHRISTMAS AT THE PREP & PRE-PREP

Plenty of glittery festivities was had throughout December in the Pre-Prep. The highlight of course being the four different nativities. The children took to the stage with confidence and certainly all impressed their parents and family members through their story telling, singing, dancing and wonderful costumes.

The children have also enjoyed plenty of festive crafts, activities, crown making with Year 6 in anticipation for their class parties and a delicious Christmas lunch. A very special visitor came to check the children and you'll all be thrilled to hear the children all made it on the 'perfect list,' this year! **LLC**



YEAR 6 CHRISTMAS CROWN MAKING AT THE PRE-PREP

During the last week of the Autumn Term, pupils from Year 6 loved helping their younger friends in the Pre-Prep in making festive crowns to wear at their Christmas parties and lunch! It was great to see many familiar faces returning to their old classrooms and visiting their former teachers, whilst the younger children loved having such capable assistants by their sides! Christmas music, festive cheer and plenty of glitter all helped to make the morning a huge success! **DJM**



LETTERS TO FATHER CHRISTMAS

Reception were very excited to head down to the Senior School to post some very important letters to the North Pole. The children had taken great care to each write a letter to Father Christmas. Hopefully he will receive their requests in time!

CAM & JSR



Blundell's

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