

SUMMER 2023

review

As pretty as a picture

learning about nurture through nature
in our wonderful Wild Wonders' sessions



Inside:
Busy Bees:
 making candles from honey
Celebrating our new King:
 Coronation jubilation
Abseiling Adventures:
 fighting the fear

“We know how important it is for children to be challenged and to want to challenge themselves, but in order to do that safely and effectively, the conditions need to be just right...”



We always have a termly theme, which runs through our assemblies and features in lessons. For this Summer Term, we chose ‘Challenge’ and as you look through the pages of this edition of The Review, you will see countless examples of that theme in action. For many of our children, this term will have seen a challenge overcome. I can imagine that the residential trips may have been an occasion when fears

were faced and nerves tested, be that climbing the high ropes, leaping off rocks or simply being away from home for the first time. For others, it may have been something far less obvious but no less significant.

When facing a challenge, I encourage the children to follow three rules. Firstly, ignore the ‘troll of self-doubt’ who will try to put you off even trying. Secondly, you are going to need to ‘put on your armour’ as there may be external factors that make you question if you can do it. Finally, you are going to need to keep going, even if you don’t make it the first time, as success often comes after a number of failures. Simple advice that is easy to give but often difficult to follow, and that is where the school environment and the people within it become the critical factor. We know how important it is for children to be challenged and to want to challenge themselves, but in order to do that safely and effectively, the conditions need to be just right. As you will see in the pages that follow, we have looked to create those conditions in a wide variety of fields, be that in the classroom, in music, drama or sport. To pack so much into the short term has been a particular challenge for the team here but it is one that we relish as the spectacular results make it all worthwhile.

My thanks to Mrs Lewis for her editorial efforts and to all of the Blundell’s Prep team for their many contributions to this Summer 2023 Review.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy Southgate'.

Andy Southgate
Head Master

BALSA

BLUNDELL'S ADVENTURE, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD



BALSA ACTIVITIES

During the Blundell's Has Talent interval, Year 6 pupils took great pleasure in putting on a range of fun activities for the rest of the school to join in with. 'Welly Wanging', 'Beat the Goalie' and 'Bottle Flipping' were some of the highlights - with the organising and running of these games contributing to the children's Year 6 BALSA projects. Everyone loved getting involved out in the sunshine whilst the judges made their decision about who would be the 2023 Blundell's Has Talent winner! **DJM**





BALSA PRESENTATION AND CELEBRATION AFTERNOON

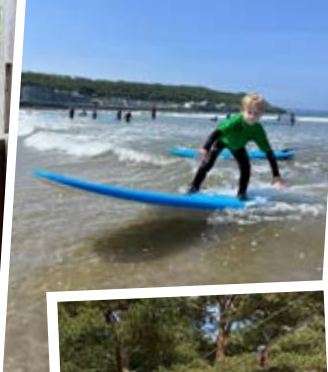
At the end of term, pupils from Year 6 took great pride in talking about their individual BALSA projects at the annual celebration evening. The Blundell's Adventure, Leadership and Service Award is an opportunity for our senior pupils to grow as individuals, learning the value of giving up some of their time for no 'reward', pushing themselves to try new challenges and activities, and organising fun events for others to enjoy. Raising over £5,000 for nearly 30 good causes was an amazing achievement too, and the way the children spoke with passion and confidence about their projects is something that we are all incredibly proud of. **DJM**

Blundell's *Has Talent*

If you ask the children here what their favourite events are over the course of the year, it is almost guaranteed that the annual Blundell's Has Talent event will be towards the top of their list! This year the children who were voted by their classes to perform did not disappoint - so much

variety on offer, so many skills and so much fun was had by all! This year we had rapping, gymnastics, comedy sketches, dancing and music all on display - with Herbie from Year 4 being crowned the overall winner! **DJM**





YEAR 3 TRIPS WEEK



Year 3 enjoyed three days of thrilling trips and one exciting sleepover in the school hall! They surfed the waves at Westwood Ho! followed by beach games and ice cream! Next, they put their fears of heights to the test and tried out the treetop adventure at Go Ape and explored Haldon Forest before coming back to school for a giant sleepover and campfire! For the final day they headed to Wimbleball Lake for a day of climbing, archery, and kayaking! Everyone, including the teachers, threw themselves into all the activities and

lived up to the theme of the term - challenge! **JZR & HGM**



YEAR 6 RESIDENTIAL

Year 6 had the most wonderful stay at Battisborough House during Trips Week. Located on the South Coast, walking distance to Mothecombe Beach, the children had a fantastic time in the beautiful grounds, making the most of the opportunity to play with their friends and take a step back from their usually hectic school days. Time on the beach, kayaking on the River Dart, paddleboarding, climbing, abseiling, archery, surfing and zipwires were all on the agenda, with everyone trying something new and using their 'growth mindsets' to challenge themselves slightly out of their comfort zones. The food was great, the weather perfect - and lots of laughter was had along the way. Well done, Year 6! **DJM**

OVERNIGHT *Sensations*





YEAR 5 RESIDENTIAL TO SIMPLY OUTDOORS

As we neared Dartmoor, the excitement heightened in the minibuses as to what was to come – lots of adventure and fun with friends! Having been put into groups, Year 5 started to explore the outdoor centre and most importantly their rooms. Teamwork was quickly put into action when trying out the first of the problem-solving activities which were timed, and an element of desperately wanting to beat the other teams brought out the best of Year 5's competitiveness! On the Wednesday, we headed off to the Dewerstone, in the beautiful sunshine, to go rock scrambling, abseiling and river walking. There were a few nerves when abseiling, but the achievement felt having completed it and conquering any fear of heights was overwhelming. The cold water in the river was a very welcome relief from the heat of the day. Fun was had wading up the River Plym, clambering over rocks, squeezing through 'water caves', ducking under waterfalls and sliding down rocks. Throughout the rest of the week, lots of laughs were had building rafts and trying them out, hoping they were sturdy enough and not going to collapse. Canoeing needed teamwork and the high ropes course proved challenging but immensely satisfying once achieved. Lots of target practice ensued whilst participating in the archery and many bullseyes were scored. The final evening was spent around the campfire toasting marshmallows, performing the team songs and having fun singing, with DJ Swain as the special guest!

JER



Folly Farm

Year 4 had a fabulous fun filled three days at Folly Farm. The gorgeous grounds of Folly Farm offered a variety of activities to discover and interact with nature alongside plenty of opportunities for the Children to have fun with their friends. They dipped their nets into ponds with newts, watched badgers as they were caught on camera and examined an owl pellet learning about their feeding habits. The children also collaborated together to make the best den possible, which was tested against a powerful storm that came their way. The children had a great time with their friends in and around the splendid farmhouse and land. JJA





NURSERY 1'S SUMMER PICNIC

Nursery One had great fun at their Summer picnic. We didn't have to travel far to find a picnic and games laid out under the trees. We had a wonderful time digging for dinosaurs and eating delicious food laid on by our fantastic catering team. Roll on next summer!

AMS

Pre-Prep trip to Halls Farm

All the Pre-Prep children were jolly lucky to visit Shutelake Farm to see their gorgeous lambs. Children enjoyed many cuddles, bottle feeding, making mini felt sheep, orienteering around the farm and asking Jennifer all about her sheep. A huge thank you to the Hall/Marsh family for inviting, hosting and planning such a brilliant experience for us all. LLC

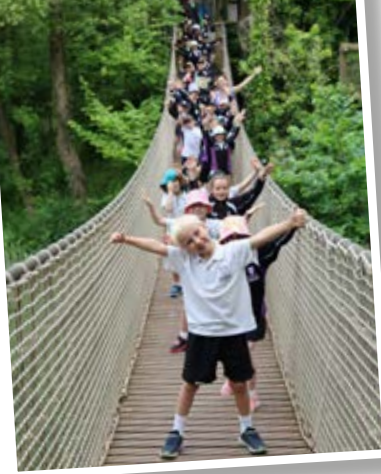


OUTINGS *and Visits*

RECEPTION TRIP TO QUINCE HONEY FARM

Reception were buzzing about their trip to Quince Honey Farm this term. The children had the most amazing time learning all about different bees, their lifecycles and how they produce honey and wax. The children had the chance to see inside a beehive, try five different types of honey, roll their very own candle to take home, plant wildflower seeds, explore the pollinator gardens and burn off lots of energy in the soft play area too! It was an incredible day out that really brought their 'Mad About Minibeasts' topic to life. CAM/JSR





YEAR 1 TRIP TO PAIGNTON ZOO

Year 1 had a very exciting trip to Paignton Zoo before the half-term break. We all loved seeing the amazing animals, especially the red pandas! Every member of Year 1 were also super brave and dared to cross the wobbly bridge. Our other favourite animals were the gorillas, lemurs and tigers. But we also had to look out for those pesky seagulls who managed to steal someone's sandwich! **JWH & LM**



RECEPTION SCHOOL GARDEN TRIP

Reception kicked off the start of the Summer term with a beautifully sunny trip to the Senior School to visit Mr Olive and the school garden. They set to work planting seeds to promote wildlife, looking for minibeasts around the site and they listened to the story of 'Superworm' read by some kind volunteers from the Senior School Gardening Club. Just when the children thought the morning couldn't get any better, Mr Olive rewarded their hard work around the garden with a rather yummy doughnut and some hot chocolate! They look forward to their next visit when they move into Year One! **CAM**



NURSERY 2 TRIP TO HALDON FOREST

Nursery 2 had a wonderful end of year trip to Haldon Forest in June. They followed the Zog trail looking out for clues and challenges along the way. There was plenty of room to run and explore before stopping for a picnic at a beautiful spot. At the end of the trail they were rewarded with an ice-cream and had a well-deserved snooze on the bus ride back to school. **ELT**

YEAR 2 TRIP TO PLYMOUTH AQUARIUM

Just before the end of term, Year 2 were taken on a trip to the UK's largest aquarium in Plymouth. They had a lovely sunny day for their trip where they were taken on a guided tour and were able to take part in a "plastics sea" workshop. A great day was had by all. **LML**



RECEPTION TRIP TO EXMOUTH BEACH

On a sunny day in June, Reception enjoyed a wonderful day trip to Exmouth Beach. When we arrived the tide was out, revealing an enormous expanse of golden sand and some exciting rockpools to explore. The children carefully navigated the rocks and were excited to find shrimps, muscles, oyster shells and lots of crabs! The children also took part in a shell hunt along the beach and found some amazing shells of all different shapes, colours, sizes and textures. The children sorted the shells into different categories and explained how they did it. At the first sight of food, the seagulls were looming large, so we all got into the beach tents while Mrs Barratt and Mrs Allen kept watch with the fishing nets to shoo them away! After lunch we enjoyed some play time on the beach, making sandcastles, burying each other and playing with diggers. We all enjoyed an ice lolly before climbing back into the minibuses to take us back to School. A really fun day was had by everyone! **JSR, CAM & SMA**



news



Raleigh's *Cake Sale*

It was Raleigh's turn to host their Pre-Prep house cake sale this term. A huge thank you to all the Raleigh parents for baking and helping. Raleigh raised a fabulous £181.40 for their chosen charity Little Hero a charity very close to one of our families. **LLC**



Nursery Father's Day Event

The Nursery children invited their Daddies in for a Father's Day event. They were given a letter from a pirate and together each child and their Daddy had to follow a set of clues to find the treasure. Once the treasure had been found they were given another challenge of completing a Scavenger Hunt before making their way back to school. There they found a reward which was to decorate a gingerbread man! Much fun and merriment was had along the way and the children loved working together with their Daddies to complete the challenges.

ELT & AMS



HEADMASTER'S TREASURE HUNT

Whilst the Prep building lay empty in trips week, there was a Year 2 invasion! Mr Southgate set up a treasure hunt for all of Year 2 to familiarise themselves with the many rooms in the Prep building. The 'no running' instruction was soon forgotten as the very excited children raced around collecting coins in their teams. Lots of laughter and excitement were had by all. **LLC**



'BUGINGHAM PALACE'

Reception celebrated the King's Coronation in their own very special way by building a 'Buggingham Palace' during Wild Wonders! They had been discussing how passionate the King is about protecting the environment and nature and couldn't have come up with a more fitting way to honour and mark his special day! **CAM, JSR, SMA**





Speech Day

A wonderful afternoon of speeches and prizes which celebrated our Year 6 pupils, reflecting on their time spent with us. Our Head Boys and Girls entertained us with some lively speeches which summed up wonderfully their time with us and how important the small things in life are as well as those milestone moments. Parents and pupils enjoyed a super tea afterwards. **BS**



PRE-PREP SHOWCASE ASSEMBLY

This term the children welcomed in their parents not once, but twice to come and enjoy their learning. We started with a Learning Showcase assembly, where various children from different year groups shared their recent learning. The highlight was Nursery 2 and their incredible enthusiasm for water! Towards the end of term, children welcomed their parents into the classrooms to show all their wonderful learning through the year. The classrooms were buzzing whilst the children proudly showed their books, displays and classrooms off. **LLC**



OPENING OF THE CRICKET PAVILION

Thanks to the generosity of the Friends of Blundells Prep, the installation of the new cricket pavilion had been completed and now it had a clock, a veranda and some lovely flower baskets, so it was time for a little opening ceremony. A few of the friends and some budding cricketers were invited to the inauguration on a sunny day in May. What a great addition to our school, just in time for our Cricket season! **LML**





MRS MCGOWAN'S GUINEA PIG VISIT



The Pre-Prep were treated to a visit by a VIP (very important (Guinea) Pig) this term – Biscuit the Guinea Pig. Mrs McGowan brought her guinea pig in to pay the children a visit. They had turns in stroking and picking up Biscuit. The children also learnt what guinea pigs eat and that he had very sharp claws! It was a very hot day when he came to school and the children all made sure he was kept in the shade and well hydrated. Thank you for bringing him in, Mrs McGowan! LML

YEAR 4 GREEK DAY

A large group of extravagantly dressed ancient Greek philosophers, merchants, fortune tellers, athletes and the like had travelled vast distances throughout the ancient Greek empire to embrace this year's Blundell's Prep Ancient Greek Olympic games. The stage was set and the excitement built. With the sound of graceful flute music and a torchbearer leading, the athletes processed with a sharp focus. Spears were thrown, huge leaps were made and numerous records were broken. Bang! The foot race commenced and finished in a flash. Leonidas of Sampford Peverell was crowned victorious. Friends and family feasted on wine and ancient Greek delicacies. As the day drew on, the crowds were continued to be entertained by a scintillating performance of The Frogs by Aristophanes. JJA

Coronation Day

Whilst the heavy rain put paid to our fun run, we kept our spirits high and celebrated King Charles and Queen Camilla's coronation by attending school in red, white and blue. We were treated to a delicious lunch of burgers and chips with ice-cream for afters! All the children had a great day in school talking about how they all celebrated at home over the Coronation weekend with friends and family, watching the spectacular historical ceremony on the television. The day at school was very relaxed with crown making and lots of other Coronation based crafts in honour of our new King and Queen. LML

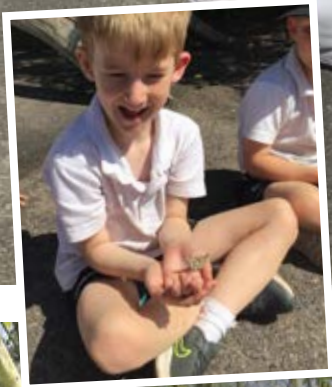
RECEPTION PARENT'S LUNCH

On Friday 26th May the Reception children were delighted to welcome their parents to have lunch with them in the Prep Hall. In true Friday fashion, lunch was fish and chips followed by a delicious fruit salad and enjoyed by everyone. The children were proud to show their good table manners and independence when clearing plates. A perfect way to start the half term holiday. JSR



Caterpillars to Butterflies

At the beginning of the summer term the Reception classes took charge of some very tiny caterpillars. The children watched, fascinated as they grew bigger each day before finally changing into cocoons. After nearly 2 weeks of patiently watching and waiting they were delighted to be able to see the butterflies emerge out, dry their wings and start flying around their butterfly pavilion. On the Friday before half term, the children took them outside to release them. Some of the butterflies stayed around them, sitting on their hands, whilst others flew straight off. The children waved goodbye to each of them and were very proud to have successfully taken them from tiny caterpillars to beautiful painted lady butterflies. SMA



THE WISHING TREE

Year 1 and 2 have been busy making wishes to our newly dedicated wishing tree in the Wild Wonders Area. Each child thought of something that they would like to wish for before sharing their wish with the tree and tying a ribbon as a reminder of their hopes for the future. CAM



YEAR 2 BEACH DAY

At the beginning of term, Year 2 had a Beach day experience in school. They were allowed to come into school dressed in their summer beach clothes and brought in some props including fishing nets and buckets and spades. It kick started this term's theme for Year 2 and they had a great day learning all about the sea. LML



U7 ATHLETICS FESTIVAL



Year 2 went to St Peter's to take part in an Athletics afternoon, competing alongside St Peter's and ECS. There was a super selection of activities involving throwing, running and jumping. The children were excellent role models and thoroughly enjoyed

taking part in such a fun afternoon. Thanks go to St Peter's for hosting. **AXS**



THE YEARLY BIATHLON

The yearly Biathlon is a challenge for anybody to take on! To swim in the school pool followed by a run is a not easy and add in a competitive element, 'challenge' is certainly the word to describe it. There is a sense of achievement on completion of the race on each of the athlete's faces. The transition phase from the pool to the run is an interesting balance of speed and getting things in the correct order. Everybody is given hints and advice before the competition on how to transition, but a competitor will find their own system to get out onto the run as efficiently as possible. Evie Baily won the year 5 girls, Octavia Knight won the year 6 girls and Kirill Chernikov won the year 6 boys. Well done to all those who took part and challenged themselves. **SS**

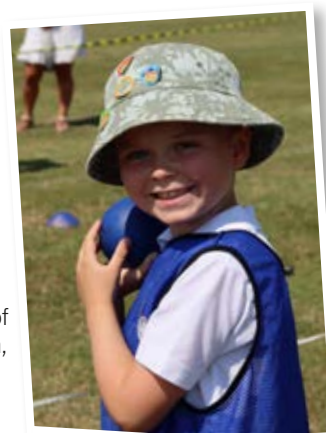
SPORTS DAYS

NURSERY & PRE-PREP SPORTS DAYS



Our Nursery children were treated to a sporting feast as they ran, jumped and threw their way through a spectacular afternoon of events including Javelin, throwing and even the High Jump! We were so impressed with the way they all engaged with every event and displayed brilliant enthusiasm.

The following day it was the Pre-Prep's turn, with children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 given the opportunity to showcase their skills. The afternoon focused on competition between the pupils' schoolhouses, culminating in a breath-taking, 61-person, mass House Relay. Raleigh were proud to call themselves House Champions on the day, but all children can be incredibly proud of their efforts on what proved to be a special afternoon. Well done to everybody at the Pre-Prep! **JE**





PREP SPORTS DAY

'Go on the 'B' of the bang!', this advice was repeated to all throughout the afternoon at the Prep School's Sports Day. With great weather conditions and a firm track all the competitors performed excellently for their houses.

Red, green, and blue t-shirts were worn by all the children depending on their house and were seen sprinting around the track in many of the races. Everybody was involved in a spring heat within their house and the fastest two runners went onto a final. This new format worked well with many close races decided on a dip finish.

The field events were keenly fought over with good distances in the long jump, shot put, discus, vortex, and cricket ball recorded.

Sadly, the PA system broke down during the afternoon but praise must be given to all the children as they organised themselves in getting to their events without reminding.

Drake were the sports day winners, and the house captains collected the trophy from Mr Southgate.

A huge thanks to the Prep School staff team for judging each event and recording the results. **SS & FLE**





CRICKET STAR

Well done to Octavia Knight who has been selected for the U12 Youth Devon cricket squad. She will have her first matches over the summer holidays so we wish her lots of luck for these. LB



Cricket

U11 CRICKET

U11 BOYS' CRICKET

The Boys' **U11A** Cricket team have had a tough season and came up against some very strong opposition. Having said that it has been filled with some wonderful individual performances and they have missed out narrowly in a couple of very close matches this season. This was certainly the case in their first match against Wellington School, as it went down to the wire. The game was decided on the last ball, with Wellington needing 1 to win. Sadly, for the team, it came with a leg bye!

In the last game of the season Blundell's needed 10 runs off the last over, but once again fell agonisingly short. **JWF**

The **U11 B** squad has developed many of the skills needed in the game of cricket to post a high score and take 10 wickets. This has resulted in a good deal of success. Fielding and bowling are certainly the strengths of the team with batting getting stronger through the season. Calling for a run and backing up have caused some runouts but with tuning this has been eliminated. Boundaries have been hard to come by with the bat so lots of quick runs have been needed. A few 'sneaky singles' have made the difference in some matches. Confidence has grown from match to match and a knowing of what limits there are, when to run or not, developed. **SS**

U11 GIRLS' CRICKET

This term we have been blessed with mainly glorious weather for our cricket matches and the girls should be very proud of their progression of skills with so many other things going on. Their bowling as a year group was very impressive and all of them were able to stand up in our matches and bowl successful overs



every week. Well done particularly to Emily, Layla and Carlotta for the speed and accuracy of their bowling and a special mention goes to Carlotta who got a hat-trick against ECS in her bowling over. Morgan was always a top scorer for us in the batting and she scored the most 4s in the season with her excellent pull shot which she always timed to perfection. The girls have been an absolute delight to teach this year and a wonderful group of kind, thoughtful and determined girls. **LB**

What a wonderful cricket season we have had! Mastering the different skills needed for cricket has, at times, been frustrating and other times hugely rewarding, but that's the game of cricket!

There have been many highlights for me. Izzy's catch in the final match of the season, Hannah taking two catches in the game against Taunton, Pippa scoring three 'fours' in succession against Taunton, Molly getting best batter against Queen's, Molly's batting against Millfield, Ellie Mae and Fin getting 'players of the match' for their bowling against Wellington, Ava's maiden over against Queen's and Sophia's wicket keeping and communication in the match against Millfield.

The girls have been great to work with. The team spirit has been wonderful and encouraging throughout. The girls have welcomed feedback and been keen to improve and they should all be rightly proud of their unbeaten season. **CFH**

The Yr5&6 boys merged together to make up the mighty combined **U10/11 C's** team. Each match saw improvements with both bat and ball and the fielding most certainly generated some interesting moments. To be fair the boys who represented this team also played in many of the B team fixtures for their respective year group and what was wonderful to see throughout the season was their determination and eagerness to perform to the best of their ability in each game. They also ended up playing one or two other schools B team's and in so doing had to up their game to match their opponents. They most certainly did not disappoint and did themselves proud.

It has been a real pleasure taking them this year and I would like to thank them all for their hard work and enthusiasm. I'd also like to thank Mr Olive for helping us throughout the season, although his scoring might need a little work in the future!! **SPH**



U9 CRICKET

U9 BOYS' CRICKET

The under 9 boys had a fun filled season with no shortage of enthusiasm and excitement. Plenty of excellent cricket was played by all. The boys fielded very well indeed, showing an exceptional desire to curb the flow of runs and take wickets. Consistency in line and length improved considerably amongst the bowlers. Wisdom was gained from the batsmen to play every ball on its merit. Attacking shots were played to loose balls whilst good balls were defended or punched for quick singles. Most importantly the children learnt that although cricket has individual elements, it is a team sport. The success and enjoyment within your team is most important. I would like to thank all the spectators who came to support their children. **JA**

With a lot of movement in the squad to give experience to as many as possible, has seen the U9 B team bat well making many runs. The bowling has been an area for development. Pairs cricket allows two runs for a wide or no ball which the opposition team add to their score. This has been an Achilles heel for the team and work on line and length has been a focus for much of the season. Energy in the field has been high stopping lots of good shots. This has kept the other teams totals down allowing free flowing shots when we have gone into bat. **SS**

U9 GIRLS' CRICKET

The cricket season started and then rain stopped play, typical England! Having had very little preparation, the U9 girls headed to Taunton School for their first game of the season. The first innings were played with heavy showers lashing down, but the girls didn't let the weather dampen their spirits. Taunton were

strong and this was an eye opener for our girls. As the term progressed, the sun finally decided to appear and the children made the most of getting outside and working on their bowling, fielding and batting skills. I have been really impressed this term with the consistency of our bowling. The girls have put in a lot of time and effort to ensure they are delivering a ball with good line and length. They have also worked hard in the field to react to the ball and ensure they are backing up a throw. The confidence in the children was evident in the matches that followed with many able to hit the boundary or get a wicket. The U9 girls were victorious against Kings Hall, Stover, Exeter Cathedral and Exeter Junior School, finishing the season incredibly positively. Well done!

Team: M Bourne, E Fredriksson, B Georgeou, R Hill, C Massey, B Wallis, D Franklin-Smith, E Grabham, P Griffiths, P Mather, T Pugh, F Squires, N White. **FLE**



U10 CRICKET

U10 BOYS' CRICKET

The **Under 10** team were blessed with many gifted and exceptionally promising young cricketers. The boys were very enthusiastic to play hard ball cricket and this zeal did not waver as the season progressed. The Under 10's were a particularly strong bowling side often pegging teams back to low scores. Some very impressive bowling took place including a hat-trick from Harry Duckworth-Chad in his first three balls against Kings Hall. This was a game in which he also scored a marvellous fifty not out. Another very notable performance was Ruben Turner's five wicket haul against Exeter School. In the field, the boys were particularly dynamic. There were a number of memorable direct hit runouts and excellent catches. Plenty of runs were also scored by all members of the team. As the season progressed, it was encouraging to see the players manipulate their shots to look after their wicket to a greater degree and find gaps in the field where ones and twos could be ran. Most importantly, the boys learnt that gentlemanly conduct is the main essence of cricket. Celebrating humbly in success, supporting their teammates when it did not go their way and applauding the opposition with their triumphs. **JJA**

The **U10B's** have been such a wonderful group to work with this season. They have applied coaching points from their training sessions brilliantly throughout the season and have been a difficult side for any team to play. From the opening over, their bowling has been most impressive, with good consistency and the ability to unnerve opposing batsmen. At the beginning of the season the boys had a tremendous win at home over West Buckland, setting a score of over 100 runs for the visitors to chase. Most impressive, was our incredibly narrow loss (5 runs) to a talented Millfield team, with the match going down to the last ball. This would be impressive in itself but it was the

resolve the boys showed to win a tight one the following week, against Taunton (again going to the final over!), that is most pleasing. We look forward to seeing how the boys develop their talents next season. Well done to them all. **JE**

U10 GIRLS' CRICKET

Wow! I write this after just witnessing the most incredible display of resilience in our children and the best come back from a match, which on paper, had already been lost. The boundary has been worn out from the pacing up and down and I'm sure I have gained a few more grey hairs. More to come on Blundell's v Taunton later! What a cricket season the U10 girls have had. After a soggy start and lots of indoor training, the matches finally got underway in week two. Conditions have been varied, playing in rain, immense heat, on Astroturf and on grass. All the children have made great progress individually with their bowling and batting. Their understanding of the game has developed, and this has been evident in the field, not only with the quality of throws from the active fielder, but from the reaction of those not involved to back up their teammates. It has been lovely to watch the girls play as a team, encouraging and supporting each other every step of the way. They have played and been victorious against Wellington, Queens, Millfield, Exeter Cathedral and last but by no means least, Taunton School. I could not be prouder of the progress the U10 girls have made this season and the way in which they approached their final game was the cherry on the cake! This was a game for the fielding team and having managed to only put 209 runs on the score board because of some impressive catches by Taunton, there was a lot of work to be done. The girls made a strong start and although a couple of potential catches were dropped, they maintained their focus. With 10 wickets taken in total, including catches, run outs and direct hits the girls managed to keep the visitors to 197 to end the season unbeaten.

I can honestly say every child played a part in the win. The support from the parent's week in week out has been greatly appreciated and to finish the season learning the best lesson of all, to never give up, was a fitting way to finish for the Summer. Have a wonderful break, and well done for all you have achieved this year. Next stop, Year 6! **JER**

U8 CRICKET

U8 BOYS' CRICKET

After a wet and soggy start to the term, we were fortunate enough to finish the season in glorious sunshine and with the boys really enjoying their cricket. All of the team have made some fantastic developments in their game this term. Bowling is becoming more accurate; fielding positions and decisions are improving all the time and my goodness; can they strike a ball well! The boys are enthusiastic and ready push on even more in Year 4. **TDG**

U8 GIRLS' CRICKET

The girls have made an excellent start to their Prep school cricket this term progressing quickly with their fielding and batting skills and gradually building their confidence with the bowling technique.

They have enjoyed some friendly cricket matches against local schools where they have learnt how to play pairs cricket and the importance of communicating and working together with their partner.

Cartwheels were kept to a minimum (within matches anyway!) and this allowed for some focused fielding and a few good catches as the term progressed. They also enjoyed a lovely day of athletics at Wellington school where they got to compete in 6 different events and to try high jump for the first time. Well done to everyone. **LB**



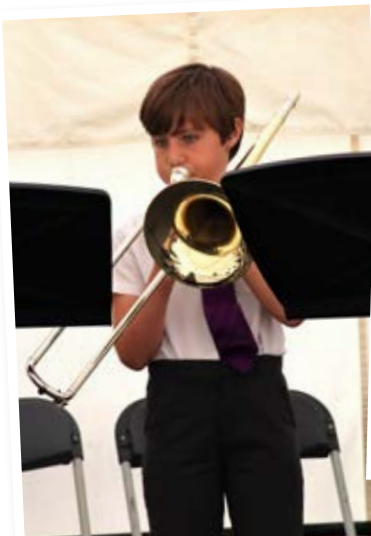
MUSICAL Notes

SUMMER CONCERT

Rehearsals during the day had been accompanied by the sound of torrential rain but, as the concert approached, the black clouds circled the marquee and left a warm, dry evening. The concert began with the Orchestra playing Grieg's *Hall of the Mountain King*. Other groups performing included the Flute Group, Wind Group, String Group, Brass Group, Guitar Ensemble and Scholarship Group. As part of their weekly music lessons, Year 3 have been learning the violin and this culminated in a wonderful performance with everyone playing together – all 36 children and their violins!

Singing always features strongly in our Summer Concerts and this year was no exception. Songs performed included medleys from *Encanto* and *The Greatest Showman*. Year 2 performed *That's What Friends Are For* and the whole school joined together to sing *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. The Choral Choir sang John Rutter's *For the Beauty of the Earth* and, for the first time, Mr Jeffrey's singing pupils all performed together. There was a fantastic turn out for the staff song and the audience were treated to Y.M.C.A together with some enthusiastically performed dance moves and some very striking costumes!!

A huge thank you must go to all the children for providing a truly fantastic evening of music. **BLC**





NURSERY SUMMER PERFORMANCE

The nursery children all took to the stage with aplomb for their final performance of the school year. Nursery 1 impressed everyone with their wonderful Nursery Rhymes and sang with such confidence and pleasure. Nursery 2 were thinking about growing up and moving to Reception. they spoke with enthusiasm and sang their songs with passion and energy. What a great way to end the school year!

ELT & AMS



A RAINFOREST BONANZA!

Year 1 proudly presented amazing rainforest facts, sang uplifting jungle songs, and contributed their own class poems to a wonderful Rainforest Bonanza! Brightly coloured costumes and a backdrop of nature filled artwork completed a superb performance. A fantastic effort by all the children in Year 1!

LM



PLAYtime



'CROAK!'

Just before half term the Pre-Prep hall was transformed into a beautiful summer garden ready for the Reception to perform their play 'Croak!'. Dressed up as a variety of insects, frogs, a goldfish, sunbeams and flowers and plants, the children told the story of Speedy the tadpole who wanted to sing like the frogs. They confidently told the story through singing and dancing and delivered their lines brilliantly. They showed us that we can all do something if we try! After the performance, the children treated their parents to tea and a variety of cakes and biscuits they had made.

SMA, JSR & CAM



MATILDA

This year Ondaatje was filled with 'revolting children' as Year 6 performed Matilda. The performance was full of singing, acting, a lot of dancing.....and chocolate cake!! Whilst there were some truly fantastic performances by the principal characters, this production also relied heavily on the ensemble and the energy, commitment and hard work that each and every child showed in rehearsals and the performances. The cast as a whole were outstanding and thoroughly deserved the standing ovation for their performance.

A huge thank you to all of the staff who helped with this production and to the musicians in the band who provided the opportunity for the children to perform to live music.

This was the last time that Year 6 would be in a whole year group play together and it was really something very special. I hope that it has created memories that will be remembered for a long time. One final thing..... just remember that "sometimes you have to be a little bit naughty!" BLC





Community

TODDLER GROUP

Plenty of fun was had throughout our Thursday Baby and Toddler groups this term. With the use of our Pre-Prep hall and large playground, many under 4s were able to zoom around, enjoy arts and crafts and most importantly make lots of new friends. The highlight was our summer finale hosting a teddy bear's picnic. Lots of visiting bears along with their adoring owners enjoyed a yummy picnic in the glorious sunshine. **LLC**

SENSORY STORYTIME



After an extended closure and refurbishment of Tiverton Library, Mrs Clifford returned in May for her monthly Sensory Storytime. An all-time favourite story of 'Tiddler' allowed for lots of audience participation and fishy themed activities galore. As ever, Mrs Clifford was joined by many under 4s from our school and local community to enjoy a power hour of stories and sensory activities. **LLC**



MESSY PLAY

The weather was good to us and we certainly made the most of it, with plenty of outdoor messy activities this term. A summer theme allowed for lots of splashing, pouring, digging, building and scooping with all sorts of water, sand and gooey concoctions! Smiles and mess all round. **LLC**

Wilcombe School Community Day

At the start of the Summer term we held our first Community day inviting Year 5 from Wilcombe School to join us in some Performing Art workshops. After a wonderful trip on our minibuses, they arrived and enjoyed a delicious snack before the start of their fun packed day. They took part in a Jungle Book themed day with songs, art and dances based on the Bare Necessities. The children were fantastic, the lunch being a highlight of the day. They finished the day with a performance for some of their parents which was wonderful. It was a fabulous day and a great start to our community links. **AXS**



Blundell's

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