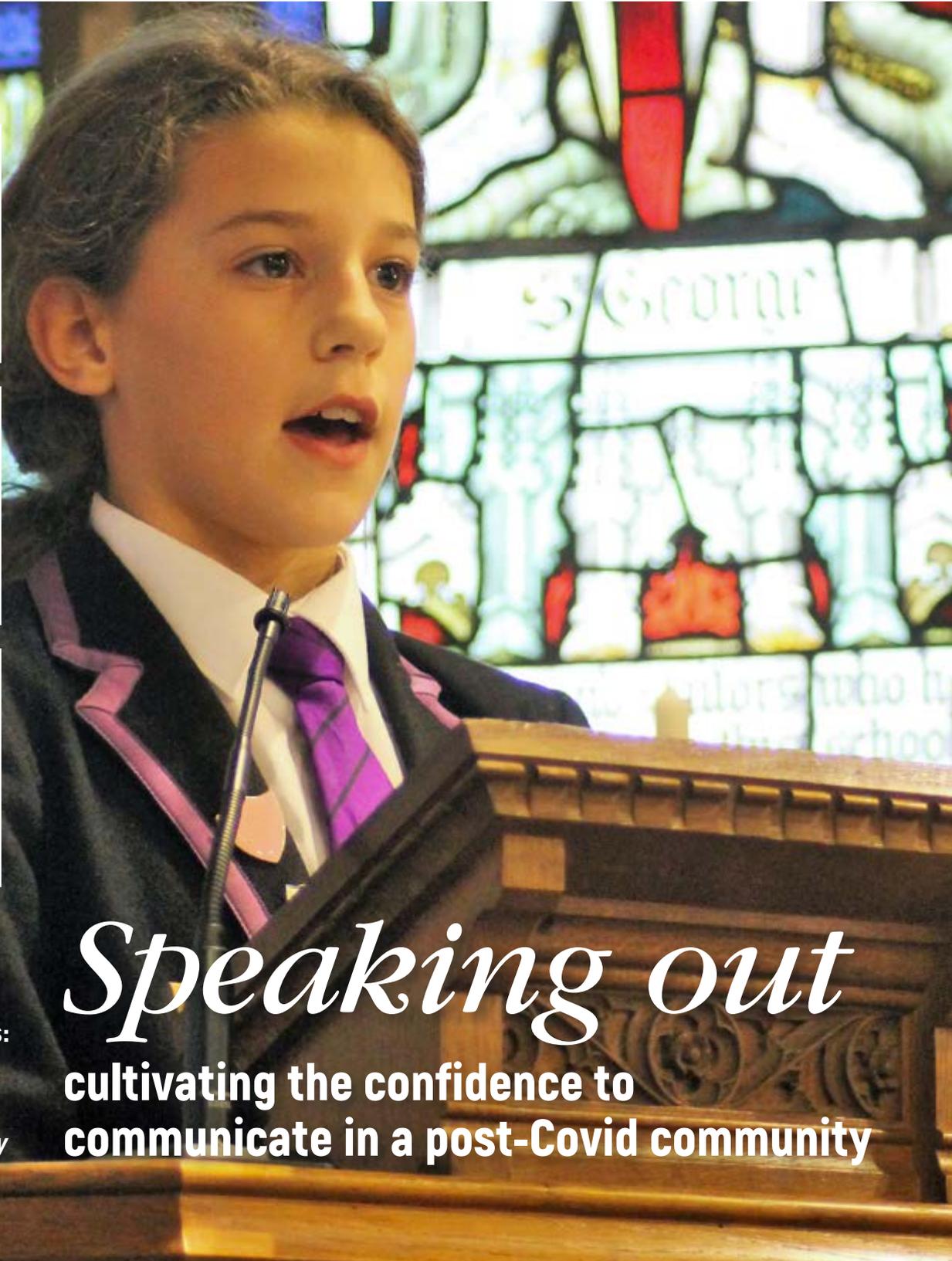


AUTUMN 2021

# review



**INSIDE:**  
Burning Ambition:  
*scientific enquiry*  
Passport to Success:  
*exploring ecology*  
Animal Instinct:  
*performance nativity*

*Speaking out*  
cultivating the confidence to  
communicate in a post-Covid community

*“...our goal is to help every child to develop the inner confidence to be brave, to have a go and to realise that they can conquer any fear that they may have.”*



At this time of the year, the school's festive season, I am always in awe of the many ways in which our staff and children respond to the challenge of putting on seven different Christmas productions, all whilst still working hard in the classroom, on the games field, in Music and in Art, as well as the 101 other things that they do. It is extraordinary and yet year in, year out, the children walk on to the stage and perform with such courage and confidence, delighting each and every audience as they sit enjoying their coffee and mince pies. I have had the privilege of watching some of our very youngest Nursery children take to the stage for the very first time, nerves clearly visible and desperately looking to

see Mummy or Daddy in the audience. The smiling and waving when eye contact is made is always a joy to see and often gives the little bit of reassurance needed to stand up and say their lines. As the years go by, each child's confidence grows and the culmination for many of our pupils is the Year 6 production in the Ondaatje Theatre, with make-up, costumes, solo singing performances and microphones in front of an audience of 150+.

Developing that confidence and ability to communicate effectively happens on the stage but also in the day to day lives of the children here at school. It comes from the children feeling safe within their friendship groups and the strength of trusting relationships which they build with their teachers. It comes from high expectations during lessons and the regular reminders in Awards Assemblies, to make eye contact, smile and say "thank you". It comes from giving every child a voice and the chance to share ideas and to listen to others, be that in our action-packed Nursery or in the challenging environment that is an RPS 'Balloon debate.' For some children, standing on the stage comes very naturally and the thought of performing at a Speech and Drama Recital or a Tea and Tunes Concert fills them with excitement. For others, it evokes a very different set of emotions and our goal is to help every child to develop the inner confidence to be brave, to have a go and to realise that they can conquer any fear that they may have.

We all recognise that formal qualifications help children to obtain the keys to open many doors and we want our children to have a variety of different keys at their disposal when they leave school. What we also know is that each of those different doors will require them to have the ability to communicate clearly and with confidence, often for a variety of purposes and certainly to different audiences. What you will read of in the pages that follow is the many ways in which we support the children in being ready to face all that lies beyond their chosen doors, whatever that may be.

My thanks to our editor, Mr Moore, and to all of the teachers and pupils who have worked so hard to put this Autumn edition of the Review together for everyone to enjoy.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022.

**Andy Southgate**  
Head Master

## CHIT CHAT

Many thanks to all in the Blundell's community who generously contributed donations to CHAT this Harvest time.

Mark Bailey from the Churches Housing Action Team visited the school to express his gratitude, and to explain how the many gifts donated would be used to help those affected by inadequate housing and homelessness in our local area. His visit opened up a thought-provoking debate on social justice and how we might play our parts in looking out for those whose needs may be greater than our own. LPM



## TALKING ABOUT THEIR GENERATION

We were delighted to welcome back to the Prep School four Year 13 Monitors from the Senior School, who visited to talk to the pupils in Assembly about the importance of being kind to yourself and others at the start of Kindness and Tolerance Week. Joe, Freya, Eve and Lottie were all graduates of the Prep School, and it was wonderful to see the confidence and natural assurance with which our former Prep pupils spoke to the younger children, answering questions about life at the top end of Blundell's with a cheerful and articulate ease, and inspiring us all with the clear message that kindness breeds respect. LPM



## TALK TALK

Children in Year 6 were delighted to visit the Senior School for a Drama Workshop on the theme of public speaking run by Mrs. Whitfield, one of the Senior School Drama teachers, as a part of our Enrichment offering. After some entertaining warm-up games, Mrs. Whitfield talked about her background including nine weeks spent observing a bushbaby in a zoo... and her role as a researcher for 'Hey Duggee!' The pupils loved hearing about the benefits of Drama and how it can help with memory, concentration, self-expression, self-confidence, teamwork, timekeeping, manners, confidence...and so much more! DJM

# TALK OF THE *term*

## Blundell's Presents



Strong communication skills are clearly key to successful social interaction with others both inside and outside the classroom, and as such the development of effective speaking and listening skills is fundamental to teaching across the curriculum at Blundell's. Children from across the school will clarify, share, challenge and extend their knowledge and understanding in all lessons on a daily basis through informal 'partner talk' and collaborative small group work; regularly they will be asked to report back to their peers in class on the topic they have been studying, or will take part in more formal debating practice. Children will also take part in assemblies, speaking before a wider audience of peers or parents, and as they grow older and move up through the school, they may be asked to lead visiting parents on tours of the school, lead prayers at chapel services or introduce musical items in concerts; some may even

### SPEAKING FROM EXPERIENCE



When Mrs. Charlesworth enlisted the help of her form in leading Pre-Prep Assembly, it was great for the younger children to be able to hear directly from the pupils in Year 4, providing a glimpse of things to come from those who had survived the move across the carpark and returned to tell the tale! LPM



be invited to address the entire Blundell's community on stage in the marquee at Speech Day. Oratory skills including clear articulation, intonation and projection are taught to all as a matter of course in English lessons, with many opportunities to present 'Talks' on given topics built into the syllabus to provide opportunities for developing confidence and refining technique in public speaking. Drama teaching adds another layer of opportunity and challenge by engaging the children in delivering improvised and scripted performances on a number of levels, from performing a small sketch to peers in class, to performing full blown plays to a packed house on stage at Ondaatje Theatre. Those with a particular interest may also choose to take Speech and Drama lessons, receiving specialist coaching, performing regular recitals and working their way up through a series of Speech and Drama grades. All of our children, though, are encouraged to fully embrace the challenge of public speaking; for a generation gradually emerging from a period of covid hibernation, the confidence to speak up, boosting self-esteem and oiling the engines of successful social interaction, has never been more important. LPM



### SOLEMN WORDS

Year 6 led a poignant assembly at the Prep School to mark Remembrance Day. Our Prefects recited some powerful war poems, the choir performed hauntingly, and our Head Girl and Boy led us in some heartfelt prayers before the Last Post was sounded and in two minutes of silence we remembered and gave thanks for the brave deeds and sacrifice made by all those who laid down their lives fighting for our country. LPM



# news



## Bright Skies

The Bonfire Party at the Prep School was a wonderful event attended by so many families and friends of Blundell's. With food, drink, glowsticks, spectacular fireworks and of course a brightly burning bonfire, the night was an exciting extravaganza of fun! A huge thank you to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising it all!

**Max Loveridge**, Year 6



## TALKING HEADS

Congratulations to Daisy and Charlie in Year 6, who took on the mantle of Head Girl and Head Boy in September, and did a fine job of leading by example throughout the term. **LPM**



## WORD WARRIOR

Congratulations to Paddy in Year 6 for becoming the first AR Word Millionaire this year. How many more will we have by the end of the year?



## FILM SCHOOL

Thank you to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising Move Night this term! Reception watched Shrek, the Pre-Prep watched Sherlock Gnomes and the Prep School watched Peter Rabbit 2. All of the children enjoyed the films, which were full of humour, and there were also snacks which added to the excitement! The children changed into home clothes before being treated to delicious hot dogs with flapjacks for dessert! When everyone had settled down on benches or mats, the lights went off and the movie magic began!

**Madeleine Le Grand** and **Charlotte Squires**, Year 6



## CHILDREN IN NEED

On Friday 19th November we celebrated Children in Need. Everyone wore home clothes, with lots of Pudsy Bear yellow featuring prominently, and Year 6 organised a fantastic Cake Sale. Altogether an impressive total of £773.90 was raised for this amazing charity. Thank you to everyone who supported us!

**Ruby Jones**, **Rosie Macaulay** and **Charlotte Squires**, Year 6



## COUNCIL STYLE



Democracy is a key fundamental British value, and our children are well schooled in valuing equal rights, respecting the views of others and working together for the greater good. From this context Form elections are held termly to choose School Councillors to represent the views of pupils in the class at weekly Council Meetings chaired by Mr. Howkins. In this forum the pupil voice can be heard raising and responding to a number of pertinent school issues, from lunchtime menu choices to playground rules and responsibilities. High on the agenda this term has been green concerns and what we can do as a school to look after the environment, save energy and reduce waste. Watch this space for news on a number of new initiatives being put into place! Pictured: Autumn Term School Councillors. **LPM**



## FORTUNES OF WAR

As part of their History curriculum, pupils in Year 6 have been learning about the Great War this term. Helping to bring their studies to life, they spent time in our own replica First World War trench, discussing the Battle of the Somme, and as well were lucky enough to have the opportunity to handle real military artefacts brought back from the battlefields of France and Belgium by our own military historian Tony Addison. SJS



## LAB RULES

Science teaching at the Prep School continues to grow from strength to strength, with our new, state of the art Science Lab now fully operational and home to all manner of exciting experiments, essential enquiry and eclectic experiences! While Years 5 and 6 have been immersed in conducting, insulating, burning, evaporating, sorting, filtering, refracting and reflecting on states which matter in the lab, some of the younger children have gone a little farther afield, visiting the Biology, Physics and Chemistry Departments at the Senior School to find out more about the classification of living things. Many thanks to the staff and smaller creatures at the Senior School, for keeping the flame of scientific curiosity alive with some electrifying encounters. LPM



## TEETH WISDOM

Earlier this term the children in Reception were joined by dentist Charlotte Courtney-Stamp, who taught them all about their teeth and showed them how to care for them. The children looked at foods that are great for keeping their teeth strong and Charlotte kindly sent each child home with a pack of goodies to help them to keep their teeth strong and healthy... as well as a challenge to make sure that they brush their teeth for two minutes twice every day! CAM



## THE SOUND OF SCIENCE

As part of our Enrichment offering, we were thrilled to welcome Dr. Leaman, Director of Music at the Senior School. He found time to visit the Prep School to present a fascinating talk addressing the crossover between Science and Music, exploring the biology, chemistry and physics behind the sounds we hear, and raising such questions as: How does the ear work? What chemical reactions happen when we hear the music we love? How does music travel through the air? Why do your grandparents find it hard to hear you? And why does music sound better when it is LOUD? Many thanks to Dr. Leaman for a presentation which was simply music to our ears! LPM

## Circus Time

Each year pupils in Year 6 take part in the Balsa project. The Blundell's Adventure, Leadership and Service Award scheme runs throughout the year and encourages the children to reflect on their personal strengths and weaknesses, to step outside of their comfort zone and learn new skills, and to research and organise different ways to support the local community or a charity close to their hearts. The scheme kicked off this term with Doug and Amber visiting to lead a circus skills workshop. LPM



**We learnt how to spin plates and juggle a range of different objects, as well as trying our hands at stilt walking, gymnastic tumbling, synchronised balancing and hula-hooping. Some of the skills were very difficult to master, but Doug and Amber were excellent at encouraging us to keep going when things got tough, and we developed great resilience on that day! Working together we developed our dance techniques and comic timing skills, gradually evolving a routine to perform to the rest of the school. We practised our acts, then practised again and practised some more! Although we may have felt a little nervous, performing before the other year groups was an exceptional experience, and we got a big cheer from our audience at the end of the show. We hope that the other children enjoyed our circus performance as much as we enjoyed putting it together!**

Aaron James and Barney Cronkshaw, Year 6





# OUTSIDE *chances*

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

Blessed with our beautiful grounds, all at the Prep School continue to be keen to get outside and make the most of all that nature has to offer at every opportunity, come rain or shine. Whether taking curricular subjects outside, as Year 6 did when making use of our very own replica trench to support their Great War studies, or taking to the outdoors for its own inherent benefits – enjoying such tasks as den building, bug hunting, orienteering, gardening or learning forest skills – all have a growing awareness of the importance of looking after our world, and are super enthusiastic to play an increasing role as environmental custodians, both for ourselves and for future generations to come. LPM

## CONSERVATION PIECE

As part of the Service element for their Balsa project, Year 6 had a great time spending a day clearing the school woodland at the start of the year. They also created their own Woodland Identification Challenge for the younger children to try on their Outdoor Learning Days. LPM

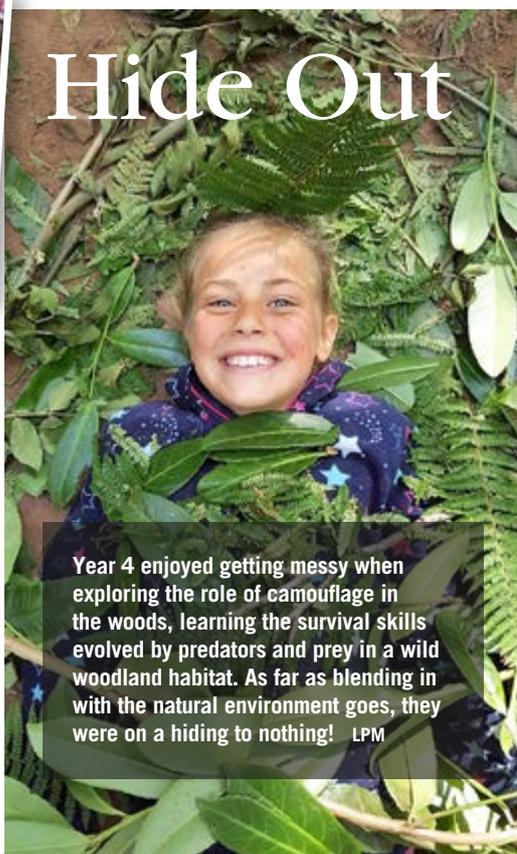


## BLACKBERRY WAY

Nursery had fun foraging far afield when they went blackberry picking, before returning to the classroom to transform their spoils into a delicious crumble, cooking up an incr-edible end to the day! LPM



## Hide Out



Year 4 enjoyed getting messy when exploring the role of camouflage in the woods, learning the survival skills evolved by predators and prey in a wild woodland habitat. As far as blending in with the natural environment goes, they were on a hiding to nothing! LPM



## ECO-COMMITTEE

Coming next term... the Blundell's Prep Eco-Committee! Look out for our top tips and updates on making our school and community more environmentally friendly! Will your Form win the 'Eco-Smart' award? JZR



## CARVING OUT A NICHE

Year 5 children were blessed with glorious autumnal sunshine for their Outdoor Learning Day. They made delicious vegetable soup, crafted some beautiful wild art and carved some very scary looking pumpkins... which really came to life to star as light-headed scary characters in the children's very own spooky tales! **SJS**



## WHITTLE WHILE YOU WORK

Year 3 more than saw the point in whittling away their Outdoor Learning Day in the woods, having a great deal of fun nature trailing, as well as trying their hands at fire lighting, and getting crafty with woodland arts! **LPM**



## PASSPORT TO SUCCESS

Children in Reception have enjoyed working on their Wild Wonders Passports, created by our own Forest School trained teachers to complement our bespoke outdoor learning curriculum. The Passports allow the children to track and celebrate their tool skills, fire skills and observation skills as they learn what it means to take progressive steps towards assuming the awesome responsibility of looking after our local, national and global environment. **SJS**



## WILLOW HUTS AND CLIMBING WALLS

We were delighted to welcome a set of three willow huts to support our Wild Wonders and Wild Explorers programme at the Prep School. They have been used to inspire a range of imaginative play as well as promoting the development of collaborative work and communication skills, and the refinement of gross and fine motor skills for our very youngest Blundellians. Thank you to the many generous donors whose support through a gift to the Annual Fund enabled us to gain these fantastic huts. This year, our Annual Fund is supporting projects that seek to help our pupils to 'reconnect and develop.' The Prep School is seeking the support of donors to build an Outdoor Traverse Wall. We have chosen an outdoor project because we know how much our pupils love their time outside within our beautiful site here at Blundell's! All donors who set up a regular donation or donate £50+ will receive a free Prep School stainless steel water bottle for their child. For more information, please visit [www.blundells.org](http://www.blundells.org) and click on 'Blundell's Community' and 'Development Office'.



**ERS**



It has been absolutely wonderful to hear the sound of music throughout the school again this term. After a very difficult period of time when music making certainly did suffer, it has been a real joy to be able to sing together and to hold all of our ensemble rehearsals again.

# MUSICAL *Notes*



## Evensong



This term saw the introduction of our Choral Choir which is a joint project with the Senior School. The Choir is open to children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and all of the children have shown tremendous commitment, attending early morning rehearsals twice a week.

In September, after only a few rehearsals, the Choir performed for the first time in Blundell's Chapel. The children had the wonderful opportunity to sing alongside the Blundell's School Chamber Choir and the University of Exeter Chapel Choir during Evensong. They were very excited to be

taking part and each and every one of them sang beautifully.



## TEA TIME CONCERTS

Having spent the last year and a half performing to an iPad, the children were, at long last, able to perform to a live audience in our Tea Time Concerts. We have had a large increase in the number of children having music lessons this term and so these concerts provided the opportunity for those children who had just started to learn their instruments to perform, as well as the more experienced musicians. As always, I was very impressed with the confidence and enthusiasm that was shown in all of the performances.



## Year 3 Violins

If you ever walk past the school on a Tuesday morning you will hear the sound of all of Year 3 playing the violin! It is certainly a real treat to hear and has caused great excitement amongst the children. I have been hugely impressed by the children's attitude and commitment to learning the instrument, and the progress that they have made has been amazing. By the end of the term the children were able to give a brilliant performance of Jingle Bells!

## ENDANGERED INSTRUMENTS

This term we introduced the children to instruments that are considered to be 'endangered'. The children were given the opportunity to have a number of free shared lessons to introduce them to these instruments. Lessons were given in the clarinet, flute, saxophone and trombone. They were extremely successful and, as a result, some of the children are now continuing to learn these instruments!



## Exeter Cathedral

Our Choral Choir was invited to take part in the Senior School Carol Service at Exeter Cathedral. It was an incredible experience for the children to be able to sing in such a beautiful, atmospheric setting. It also gave them the opportunity to be a part of a choir with over 150 singers. It was a truly wonderful afternoon of music which provided a tremendous amount of inspiration for our children.

### CAROL SERVICE

A musical highlight of the term was certainly our Carol Service in the Chapel. Music, readings and candlelight filled the Chapel, providing a thought provoking and joyous atmosphere upon which to end the term.



### Performances in Assembly

I strongly believe that part of our children's musical education is being able to watch and listen to musicians perform and this term the children have had a couple of opportunities to do this. We are very lucky that there are so many talented musicians in the Senior School and we were treated to a beautiful flute duet by Eve and Hebe. The children were absolutely mesmerised and you could have heard a pin drop as the children sat and listened to it.

Just before Christmas, the Boys Close Harmony group gave a brilliant performance of Jingle Bell Rock. It was wonderful to see some very familiar faces and the children really enjoyed joining in with the boys. **BLC**



### ROCKTOPUS

In the first half of term some very special guests came to visit ... ROCKTOPUS! This musical sensation came to inspire the Prep and Pre-Prep and help them create their dream songs! Each year group enjoyed making the perfect music video full of dancing and singing.

After a warm-up to get into the groove of things, Tom and Andy had the children writing their own songs, to which they added some energetic dance moves before practising, performing and recording their spectacular, tentacular creations! The children loved it, and came up with many wonderful ideas for the lyrics and dance moves. The following quotes from some of the children really summed up the day: "Awesome... I can't believe I just wrote a rock song and filmed it! Brilliant... can we do it again? I loved rocking out!" It was certainly a great physical workout for all and so much fun! **SMA & Max Loveridge, Year 6**



## Nursery Nativity

It was heart-warming to see our youngest Blundellians take to the stage and make such a big impact with their beautiful performance of the story of the first Christmas. All of the children in Nursery fully embraced the stage to give a performance which truly pulled on the heart strings! **SJS**



## RECIPE FOR SUCCESS

Reception took to the stage with exceptional confidence to perform their version of 'The Christmas Recipe' - they sang their hearts out, performed with the biggest smiles and worked together to find and share the vital ingredients to make the perfect Christmas. You would never have known that it was their first official performance on stage! **CAM**



## NOT MISSING A TRICK

The Year 2 production of 'The Angel That Nearly Missed It All' kicked off the nativity season with a wonderful performance full of energy, confident speaking, beautiful singing and festive spirit! It was lovely to be able to perform to families in person in the hall – and most touching that one of our young angels who could not be here on the day, was still able to make a live video appearance to play her part from home – ensuring that no angels missed a thing! **SJS**



# STARRING Roles

It just wouldn't be Christmas without nativities, festive plays and seasonal productions! This year the return to performing before a live audience of family and friends brought a special warmth to the occasion, and our young actors and singers relished the opportunity to give all that they could! Children from across the school spoke out with confidence and expression to share the joy of the Christmas message with an honest cheerfulness that was truly infectious! The Year 3 nativity seemed to hit a stumbling block when a significant number of cast members were laid low by Covid, but the show must go on, and so it did... in January! The unconventional timing reminded us of the resilience in the Blundell's spirit, and afforded the children the opportunity to be the first to wish us all a very merry Christmas... **2022! LPM**

## BIRTH RIGHT

Following a minor crisis of their own, when several of the cast fell ill in December, Year 3 returned with tenacity in January to perform the delayed nativity production of 'A Midwife Crisis'. With help from the narrators, we followed the story of a somewhat stressed midwife and her donkey, Steve, as they searched for a palace in busy Bethlehem to be there for the birth of the new King. However, unbeknown to them, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus were of course sheltering in a stable, not a palace! As the stars shone above the stable, kings, shepherds, angels, camels and sheep all found their way, bringing humour, dancing and joyful singing to celebrate with great joy! 'Ba baa Bethlehem' was a particular favourite! Year 4 sang their hearts out



to support with the singing and dancing, and all the children did an incredible job to come together and ensure that the show must go on! **JZR**

## Light Entertainment

Year 1 shone radiantly in their Christmas production of 'Lights, Camel, Action 2: The Sequin!' Groovy moves, tuneful singing and animated acting made our young performers' families proud and the hall was filled with joyous laughter! **SJS**





## GHOST OF A CHANCE

The Year 5 Christmas production of 'Ebenezer' was a huge success for the cast. As Emily and Victoria reported, there had been a few hiccups along the way but, Covid aside, it had also been great fun! The costumes and make-up were fantastic and really helped to set the scene. There were solos, group songs and songs for everyone to join in with, as the story unfolded with a very grumpy Ebenezer (Emily Rhys Davis) meeting the Ghosts of Christmas Past (Hugo Keir), Present (Finley Hill) and Future (Edward Donald), before begrudgingly learning to change his ways and embrace the sheer joy of Christmas! The story finished in a chorus of song and a huge round of applause which was incredibly well deserved. My thanks must go to all in Year 5 for a wonderful production to brighten the dark days of winter! **TMC**



## Speaking Terms

This term saw our budding young thespians take to the stage for our first live Speech and Drama Recital in almost two years. An appreciative audience was treated to a wide array of wonderful performances, packed full of energy, confidence and humour! **SJS**





**JUST ADD SEASONING!**



## Stocking Up for Christmas

The end of term was a particularly exciting time, with several visits from Father Christmas and heaps of festive fun at parties across the school! Barbara and her dedicated catering team laid on a cracking Christmas lunch with all the trimmings, and there were Christmas jumpers, crackers, decorations, seasonal singing and games galore to accompany the veritable festive feast! There were Pre-Prep trips to post Christmas letters to Santa, Year 3 decorated the impressive Prep School Christmas tree, and the competition to design this year's Blundell's Prep School Christmas card was won by Charlotte Squires, Year 6. It was a truly special time, rounded off beautifully when the school came together to give thanks and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas at our wonderful candle-lit carol service in the chapel. **LPM**



## CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

Children from Year 6 had a fantastic time when they helped the Pre-Prep make Christmas crowns ahead of their parties... sprinkling collaborative Christmas festive fun across the school! **LPM**

## SUPER MARKET

On Saturday 27th November, Blundell's hosted its wonderful Christmas Market. There was a great variety of stalls at the market, selling everything from delicious cakes and treats to gorgeous Christmas gifts. As part of their Balsa project, Year 6 had made a variety of items to sell through the Virgin Money 'Make £5 Grow' scheme, including paracord keyrings, fridge magnets and textile Christmas wreaths, which all quickly sold out! There was also face-painting, a name-the-teddy competition, games, music, a raffle, festive refreshments and it was a real delight that Father Christmas could come and visit us at our very own Santa's Grotto! Everybody had a fantastic time and more than £1,000 was raised for local charity The Pelican Project in the process. Thank you to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising such an amazing morning!

**Elsie Beszant & Hetty Parker, Year 6**





# Out and about

## YOUNG FARMERS

The Reception classes had an exciting day at Darts Farm where they learnt about how food was grown. They were amazed at how many different vegetables were growing in the fields and had great fun guessing what was growing, especially the ones hidden under the ground. They selected vegetables from the shop to buy and take back to school. Vegetable soup, cauliflower and broccoli gratin and carrot cakes were all made during a fantastic cooking day afterwards! SMA



## Gardening Time

Children from across the Pre-Prep were invited to visit our magnificent school garden this term. Whether going in search of 'real beanstalks', exploring the great many plants, flowers and vegetables growing under the excellent tutelage of some extremely helpful Senior School students, or investigating the role of scarecrows in looking after the seedlings, a fabulous time was had by all! Snail racing was a particular highlight! A huge thanks to our gardening and grounds staff for nurturing such a keen horticultural and ecological interest in our youngest learners! The children were subsequently thrilled to be able to reciprocate the visit, inviting the gardening team to help with the planting of 500 spring bulbs in our own Wild Wonders Wildlife Area. Head Gardener, Harry Flowers, spoke with the children about the different bulbs and how to tend the young flowers when they start to shoot up next term. It is always wonderful to see such natural curiosity, and such a keen desire to work in harmony with our beautiful environment, growing in our increasingly ecologically aware next generations! LPM



## HALDON ON

On a beautiful but chilly November morning, Reception girls and boys headed off in search of the Gruffalo at Haldon Forest. Wrapped up warm in hats, gloves and scarves and after a warming hot chocolate, the children were eager to start the trail. We had so much fun finding all the animals from the much loved Julia Donaldson book hidden in the deep dark wood. We even managed to play some musical instruments along the way! Just when we thought the trail was over, we turned a corner to find the biggest surprise... a giant Stick Man! Back at School and feeling inspired, we went in search of our own sticks to make our very own Stick People.

JR



## WIND THE BOBBIN UP

Nursery had a wonderful trip to Coldharbour Mill where they explored the history of textile technology, had fun trying to wind the bobbin up and generally enjoyed having the run of the mill! LPM





## U11 RUGBY

The **U11 A Team** enjoyed great success this season. With only one loss (the regional IAPS final, and this by just 1 try) the team prevailed in all their other matches to make winning look easy. A running passing game was adopted, avoiding contact situations in a somewhat similar fashion to Rugby 7s. This resulted in a great many tries; in the IAPS regional tournament alone the team scored 23 tries, with the second highest number of tries scored being just 11! Everybody knew the system to be played and put in a performance to help the team. With the overseeing eye of Mr Yapp (former Exeter Chief and current 1st team coach for Taunton Titans) the boys developed in all the areas of rugby open to their age group. In time, I am sure that they will all relish playing the full game. Many thanks for all the support, which buoyed the team throughout the season. **SGS**

The **U11 B Team** deserves a great deal of praise, not only for the way in which the boys played each game, but also for the way that they approached their training in lessons. The hard work and commitment they showed in practice laid the foundations for some wonderful results on the pitch. Our mantra this year was to turn defence into attack and so we worked tirelessly on defending our lines, being able to tackle when required and react quickly once possession was regained. Every boy in the squad scored a number of tries throughout the season, ensuring some excellent team performances against some tough oppositions. I could not have asked for any more from this dedicated and talented group of boys. **SPH**



## SUPER SATURDAY

Year 6 had a fun filled day at Sandy Park watching the Exeter Chiefs play the Worcester Warriors on Super Saturday. Seeing the Chiefs play was a wonderful experience, and everybody was given a Chiefs flag, a water bottle and bag too. At half time Blundell's were invited onto the pitch to support the Chiefs and wave at the crowds. Hetty had brought in face paints in the Chiefs colours, and everybody put it on their cheeks, even the teachers! In the match Exeter were victorious, and after the game Jonny Hill (England and Lions star) came over for photographs. This was a fantastic experience for everyone!  
**Hetty Parker & Elsie Beszant, Year 6**



## THE BLUNDELL'S BRAVES

Playing rugby can often be the glue to bond friendship between people from different backgrounds, and this is certainly true of the Blundell's Braves. Each week Dads of children from Nursery to Year 13 meet up with Blundell's Old Boys to become The Blundell's Braves. Come rain, snow, wind, or sun the Braves play for love of the game and the camaraderie that comes with it. In September the school hosted a touch rugby tournament. With many teams entered, a tough tournament was ahead. The Braves put out three teams and with their new team kit kindly sponsored by Staggs, BluBox and Dunedin Clinic, the teams did very well. Blundell's Braves 1 won the overall competition after a tense final. The tournament also helped to raise lots of money for the Little Hero Charity; thank you for all the support from the Blundell's community. The Blundell's Braves meet every Thursday, 52 weeks a year on the school astro or fields, depending on the season, to play touch rugby and then retire to the Beale Centre for some welcome hydration. For more information on joining the Blundell's Braves please contact Mr Swain at the Prep School. **SGS**



## U10 RUGBY

It was wonderful to be in a position to play competitive matches against other school this season and to see the boys enjoying the whole 'match day' experience for the first time since those Year 3 tag games. From the warm and sunny training sessions of early September through to the freezing cold sessions of early December, the **U10 Squad** of 28 boys gave their very best and Mr Allen, Mr Evans and I greatly enjoyed working with them all. There were many highlights, including a number of fantastically skilful and gutsy performances, some of which have been characterised by high levels of physicality and a more direct style of rugby, perhaps rather encouraged by the Under 9 laws that the boys had to play to. As the season progressed, so did the level of skill and it was a joy to see the ball moving through pairs of hands and into space. By the end of the season and the final matches against King's Hall and Taunton, the standard of play from all of our players was very high indeed and that was great to see after many weeks of hard work on the training ground. As coaches, we had many moments to remember. For me, the way in which the boys developed their understanding of the game and their roles within it was a particular highlight as they moved from playing as individuals to playing as a team. The competition at Queen's was a day to remember with the side remaining undefeated across all six games. At times, they showed quite extraordinary levels of physical courage and I am excited to see how they progress when allowed to compete for possession of the ball next year. For Mr Allen, aside from the victories against Millfield (as an old boy, this is something he always holds close to his heart!) his game of the season was the Under 10 B Team's performance against Exeter Prep in which the boys defended with true bravery and moved the ball wide with great skill. All in all, the whole Under 10 Squad has been a pleasure to work with. Well done to them all. **ADS**



## U9 RUGBY

The **U9 Squad** had an outstanding season with dazzling performances from all the boys. At the end of their tag rugby careers, they were determined to finish with a blast. Armed with Mr Swain's canny set plays and moves, the boys were a force to be reckoned with in attack. They played with immense flare, and a free-flowing style of rugby the All Blacks would have been proud of! In defence, the boys played with guile, grit and a great determination to keep the opposition out. This is a seriously talented group of boys, who all look out for one another and are now chomping at the bit for a taste of contact rugby next season. **JJA**



## U8 RUGBY

What a fantastic season of rugby the boys in the **U8 Squad** treated us to! As a direct result of their excellent attitudes in Games lessons and huge levels of determination in matches, the standard of rugby reached - and progress gained across the term - was remarkable. Winding runs with

the ball, superb support play and terrific tagging when in defence all contributed to numerous wins against other schools, both home and away. The future of rugby looks bright for this group of talented young sportsmen! **DJM/TDG**



## U7 RUGBY

The boys in Year 2 were thrilled to be able to visit St. Peter's to play in their first rugby tag festival. The **U7 Squad** played a series of games against St Peter's and Exeter Cathedral School. The afternoon was not about winning matches, but about developing rugby skills in a fun and relaxed context. However, while it may be said that 'rugby was the winner', it was still rather nice to see how well the boys played, and how many tries were scored compared to the few that were conceded! There is clearly a bright rugby future ahead for this group of boys! **SGS**





# HOCKEY

## U11 HOCKEY

This term was certainly an exciting one for the girls of the **U11 A Team**, and their achievements were truly fantastic. They won all bar one of their weekly matches, and their team effort was phenomenal. The highlights of the season included winning the regional IAPS competition at Queen's after having to endure penalty flicks, coming second in the Devon tournament to qualify for the West of England competition, and last but by no means least finishing an incredible 2nd at the National Finals at Millfield. This finale was truly amazing and the team played outstanding hockey in very cold conditions to fight their way through to the final against Cheam. It was an extremely close game with only 1 goal separating the teams. Well done to Tilly Hill who captained the team and played out of her skin despite feeling unwell, and also to Bryony Rochfort, Lilly Ward and Hetty Parker who all had to display nerves of steel to get us through penalty flicks in the quarter finals. Well done to the whole team who were outstanding all season! **LB**

The **U11 B Team** was a delight to work with this term. It was such a pleasure to get back to fixtures again and of course match teas! Our first match

was against Taunton School and for some of our girls it was their first ever competitive hockey match – there was much to learn. We won the outside match, but lost the inside match 6-3, which made the team more determined to refine their skills and learn more about what each position's role was on the pitch. We then competed in the Millfield U11 Tournament, losing to All Hallow's and Millfield Whites, but beating Clifton and Millfield Blues. It was a great experience playing so many matches in one day and the girls were a pleasure to coach, listening well and gladly taking on board tips for improvement. From then on, we had an unbeaten season (defeating Exeter Cathedral School, West Buckland, Mount Kelly, Wellington, Millfield and Exeter School) and the girls went from strength to strength. Many of the girls volunteered to have a go as Goal Keeper, which gave them an appreciation of what an important role this is, and they were all keen to help each other with the kit. This was a team that was keen to be coached, keen to compete and keen to take victories – a winning combination! **CFH**



**TOP:** U11 IAPS National Runners-Up  
**ABOVE:** U11 IAPS Regional Winners

## U10 HOCKEY

Having not played a competitive hockey match since Year 3 due to the pandemic, the **U10 A Team** was raring to have the taste of playing against other schools again, and hungry to experience the highs of winning, and even, on occasion, the lows of losing. The very first match against Taunton School saw the girls suffer a defeat – but this spirited team did not let it get them down, and the girls emerged even more determined to fight for victory next time. In fact the next five matches saw them winning four and drawing one! For the majority of the matches, Victoria Yandle played in goal and made progress very quickly by making some superb saves and showing her quick reactions to good effect. Morgan Tamblyn and Octavia Knight were always steady in defence and improved immensely as the season went on. The midfield trio of Emily Rhys-Davies, Carlotta Taxis and Eliza Griffiths dominated this area of the pitch during matches, but also displayed their speed and accurate passing to create attacking opportunities which in turn enabled Kitty Atkinson to score some superb goals as striker. In addition, Carlotta scored some memorable goals of her own with her hard hitting strikes. All of the U10 girls went to the Exeter School Tournament, where they finished overall runners up; the U10 A Team also claimed runners up position at the Taunton Prep School Tournament. The whole squad had a great season, the girls were always prepared to listen to advice and to work as hard as possible for each other on the pitch, creating a fantastic team spirit. In all, they won seven matches, drew one and lost two, scoring 28 goals and conceding 13. Providing one of the most



pleasing statistics of the season, the girls were able to keep a clean sheet for an impressive six matches out of the ten played! Well done to all the Year 5 girls for a wonderful season! **JER**

The girls in the **U10 B Team** also had a fantastic term playing competitive hockey, and it was truly fantastic to watch their skills improve as the term unfolded. With grit and determination, the girls gained some incredible victories, with some fantastic goals by Raphie Clapp, Ellie-Mae Barter, Layla De-Vey and Pippa Wood. In addition, Sophia Palmer flourished in her defensive role and played an important part in protecting attackers from whizzing by and getting a shot on goal. In our final matches against Queen's and Exeter Cathedral, the teamwork and communication shown on the pitch was tremendous and ultimately led to two very successful wins. **IRS**



## U9 HOCKEY

The **U9 Team** was a pleasure to teach this term. What a joy it was to have had a (relatively) uninterrupted period at school, which enabled us to really focus on developing our hockey skills. It was also lovely to get back to having fixtures against other schools, where clearly the most exciting aspect was match tea! In the early stages of the term, the girls all worked really hard to think about their positioning on the hockey field. They focused on being able to control, pass and carry the ball and gained great confidence to use the space available. A 'eureka' moment came at Exeter School where suddenly something just clicked and all of the girls' hard work began to pay off. Overhearing one of the opposition girls asking, "How are you so good?" was a memorable moment. The U9 Team played lots of matches against a variety of local schools, scoring a total of 30 goals and conceding only 2 all season. Things weren't always easy though, and as we know often the biggest lessons are learnt when you are challenged. This was the case at the Blundell's Tournament. The girls had a great deal of attack during their matches but simply couldn't find the back of the goal. We had a chat before the last match and decided that we could either let our heads drop or fight, and boy did the girls fight! I was so pleased to see them score a goal and end the tournament on a high! Well done to every single one of the girls for the individual progress each has made, and for what they were able to achieve when they came together as a team. **FLE**



## U8 HOCKEY

The girls of the **U8 Team** made huge progress with their hockey skills this term, and they enjoyed great success in all of their matches against other school. The ability to play in different positions gave the team a great versatility and the girls particularly

impressed with their determination and desire to do well in every single match. Although they were unfortunately denied the opportunity to play in the Millfield Festival, they did play many competitive games against our local Prep schools, and between them the girls scored more than 15 goals throughout the season. A special mention must go to Bridgette Wallis for scoring the most goals this term, and also to Nancy White for representing the White Eagles club at U10 level. Well done to everyone, I know the girls will already be looking forward to netball next term! **LB**



## U7 HOCKEY

The girls in Year 2 were excited to take part in their first ever competitive 'fixture', when the U7 Team travelled to St. Peter's to play in a hockey festival against girls from a variety of schools including Exeter Cathedral and Plymouth College, as well as St Peter's. Playing a number of mini-matches, the focus of the afternoon was on having fun while developing a greater understanding of the game and working with others to learn vital teamwork skills. Match teas were also a highlight! **FLE**



# review *extra*

## RADIO TALK



**Max Berry left Blundell's Prep School in 2010. Currently studying Broadcast Journalism at university, Max also presents a regular radio show in Bristol, he runs his own business, Max Berry Productions, and is following his long held ambition to become a television presenter. Max appreciates the importance of learning to speak out and express himself articulately and with confidence in the public arena.**

**Here, he shares some memories from his time at the Prep School, and reflects on the course he has carved through life since leaving Blundell's.**

"I enjoyed Blundell's Prep School immensely. I enjoyed so many things about it, not least tearing around the playground at morning break with my friends! But what I really loved the most was the opportunity to create. I recall revelling in the excitement of writing an 8,000 word novella in Year 6, enjoying the freedom of being able to take the plotline in any direction I liked – even to a remote island populated entirely by mischievous monkeys! I also got great satisfaction from Design & Technology classes, and the opportunity of taking those lifeless lumps of wood and crafting them into, well... anything I wanted! I played the trombone and the drums, as well as singing at Blundell's Prep, and am grateful for the regular opportunities to perform before a live audience afforded by the many Tea Time Concerts put on by the school. Now, when talking live on the radio, or when delivering a piece to camera, I sometimes think back to those early opportunities at school.

When I moved on from the Senior School in 2017, I found work experience at a number of local radio stations around the South West, whilst taking on a part time job with a local estate agency, for whom I now produce property videos. It was also at this time that I started my own business, Max Berry Productions Ltd, which now produces a variety of commercial and creative film projects, including property tours, car reviews, and other marketing work, often making innovative use of video drones to capture a client's vision. I have continued my radio presenting while studying Broadcast Journalism at university in Bristol, and over the last few years I have been fortunate enough to work with BBC Television on programmes including The One Show. Following my ambition to become a TV presenter has not always been straightforward, but, speaking openly and with passion, I am determined to get there and enjoying the journey along the way!"

**You can hear Max live on Bradley Stoke Radio every Thursday from 4-6pm. LPM**

**ABOVE:** Max at Blundell's Prep School, and today



## Greek Chic

The philosopher Socrates once said that "Wisdom begins in wonder," and if that is the case then Year 4 will be much wiser, having immersed themselves in the world of the Ancient Greeks for a day. From making



their own shields, to enjoying a Greek feast, from putting on a Greek play, to competing in a mini Olympics before re-enacting the Battle of Marathon, it was a full and fun-packed day for all! **JJA**



## THINK POSITIVE!

Each year we participate in the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, and this year was no exception! Children from across the school performed remarkably well, but a special congratulations must go to Elsie Beszant, Aaron James, Freddie Smith, Daniel Ellson and Daisy Lane in Year 6, who all finished in the top 10% nationally, thereby earning themselves a place in the 2022 Oxford University Computing Challenge next term. We wish them well! **DJM**



## Art Club

At Art Club there are lots of creative things you can get up to! Currently we are looking at the Arts Award, a national event open to all pupils. We have also been having lots of fun doing block printing, self-portraits and even spray painting! Why not come along and join us?

**Elizabeth Dinnis, Year 6**



**STAFF ON THE SPOT**



**This term:** *Miss Stribling*

**How long have you worked at Blundell's?**  
This is my first year!

**What did you do before you came to Blundell's?**  
I worked at an international school in Abu Dhabi for three years.

**What do you do at Blundell's?**  
I am a Year 5 Form Teacher and I teach English, Maths, History, Art and Games.

**What are your hobbies outside of school?**  
I like walking the dogs, visiting farm shops and taking spinning classes.

**What is your favourite...**  
**Food?** Italian pasta  
**Film?** The Holiday  
**TV programme?** Gogglebox  
**Book?** How to Catch a Star, by Oliver Jeffers  
**Song?** Hey Ma, by Pitbull and J Balvin, featuring Camila Cabello  
**Holiday destination?** Paris

**Emoji?** ❤️

**What scares you?**  
Small spaces and spiders.

**When you were at school, what was your favourite subject? What is your favourite subject to teach now?**  
Maths and Games to both questions!

**Do you support any sports teams?**  
Arsenal

**What are your future ambitions in life?**  
To live a happy and healthy life, buy a house and maybe start my own business!

**What has been your most embarrassing moment?**  
Just after I started working at Blundell's, I walked into the Lab while Mr. Southgate was filming the vlog!

Interview by **Ruby Jones** and **Rosie Macaulay**, Year 6



**SWEETNESS AND LIGHT**

Reception had a wonderful time celebrating Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Lights. The classrooms were buzzing with excited children making Rangoli patterns, painting Mehndi designs, creating clay diva lamps and sequencing a Rama and Sita light trail. **JR**



**Joke of the Term #44**

**Q:** What did the koalas say to the barber when he cut their hair?

**A:** Eucalyptus!

Joke supplied by **Aaron James**, Year 6

Tell your favourite funny to Mr. Moore to see your joke published here next time.

**CRACKING CODES**

by **Jago Price**, **Daniel Ellison** & **Robert Wallis**, Year 6

Look closely! Can you spot the odd letter out in each of these blocks?  
When you have found all nine, re-arrange them to make a word you will recognize!

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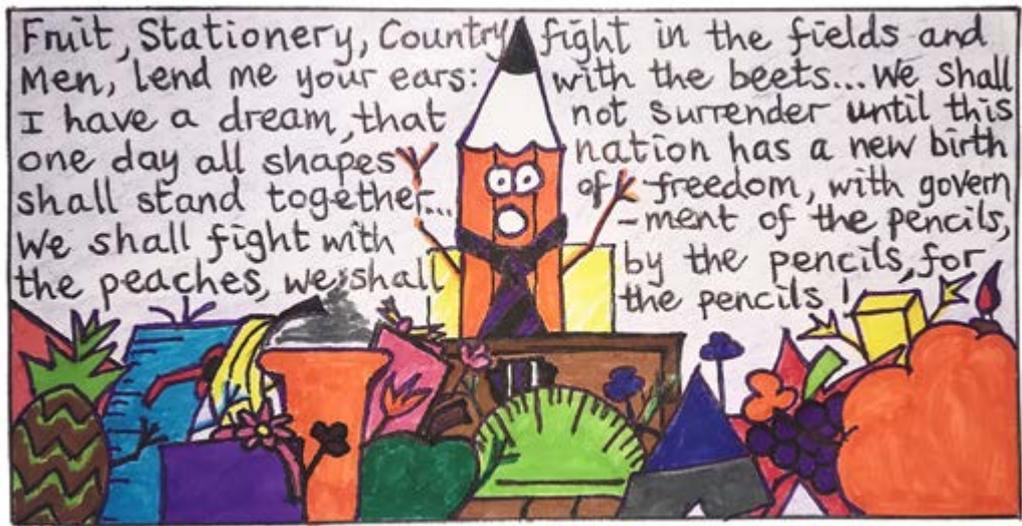
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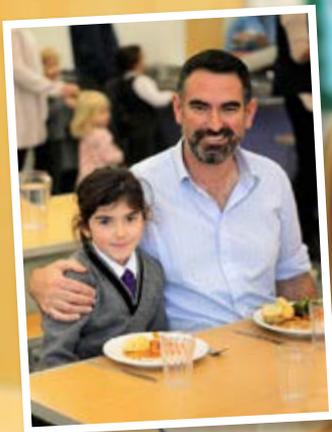
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The hidden word is:

**Stencil the Pencil and Friends in: Loud Speaker**



Original characters created by Frances Auger, Kristiane Wheeler, Emily Nash and Olivia Rhodes.



# Let's Do Lunch!



Our wonderful catering team works incredibly hard to keep all at the Prep School so well fed, day in and day out throughout the year, and this term they have been happy to serve up their culinary creations to parents too! Year 2 were delighted to welcome their parents to join them for a delicious roast lunch, while Year 3 hosted their parents for a delightful Afternoon Tea, before leading them on a tour of the Prep School. It has been wonderful to be able to welcome parents back into school after all of the restrictions forced upon us in recent times; a strong sense of community lies at the heart of what we stand for at Blundell's, and over the coming terms we look forward to welcoming parents from other year groups into school for a taste of the Blundell's experience enjoyed by their children every day. **LPM**



## Blundell's

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