

# review



## *The Inspector called*

and said we are..... **EXCELLENT!**

Inside:  
House Points: *Working Together*  
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A Royal Performance: *Nativities & Festivities*

*“I was delighted to be able to share the wonderful findings of the team from the Independent Schools Inspectorate...”*



As I write this introduction to the Autumn 2022 edition of Review, I do so as temperatures outside have fallen below zero, a far cry from the warm, late-Summer days of September. After the combined Spring/Summer Review which you received earlier this term, we are now back on track and delighted to recognise and celebrate all that took place during the first term of this academic year. Some familiar themes will be shared in the pages that follow but mention will also be

made of new events, as we look to further enhance our already broad and varied offering.

We have seen the first Pre-Prep Fun Run, a 1.4km course complete with obstacles aplenty. It was quite a challenge but one that our young Blundellians took on with customary determination and resilience. In the years to come, those children will fondly remember the flat, dry course as they crawl up ‘Heartbreak Hill’ during the infamous Russell! We also saw our first Pre-Prep House charity event, as Drake sold some delicious cakes in order to raise funds for their chosen charity. In the Prep, children had the opportunity to take part in Body Percussion workshops for the first time and sticking with the musical theme, our Choristers had the chance to be part of Evensong in Exeter Cathedral, donning their new cassocks for their public debut.

Of course, one significant highlight from the Autumn Term was our inspection and I was delighted to be able to share the wonderful findings of the team from the Independent Schools Inspectorate with you all in early January. Whilst the visit itself was as thorough and as rigorous as you would expect it to be, there was a collective sigh of relief during the final two weeks of term and the chance for all of our school community to focus entirely on all of the special Christmas plays and activities that mark the festive season.

My thanks to Mrs Lewis who has taken on editorial responsibility for the Review and to Mr Nadolski for his design work. Happy reading!

**Andy Southgate**  
Head Master



## CHRISTMAS CROWNS

In December, pupils from 6MR had a fantastic time helping children in the Pre-Prep create their own special Christmas crowns! Opportunities to collaborate across different year groups is a big part of life at Blundell's, with everyone gaining a huge amount from it. The crowns were made to be worn at Christmas parties and at Christmas lunch - don't they look great?! **DJM**



## TCS MINI LONDON MARATHON IN SCHOOLS



On Tuesday 18th October, children in Year 6 took part in the 'TCS Mini London Marathon in Schools'. This involved running 2.6 miles around the school fields (four loops!) as a part of the 'Physical Challenge' strand of their Balsa projects. The children genuinely seemed to enjoy taking part in this non-competitive event, cheering each other along and supporting one another all the way around. Some of the children even decided to do an extra lap at the end! During the Spring and Summer Terms, the students in Year 6 are encouraged to complete a physical challenge of their own away from school as a part of Balsa, and this was the perfect warm-up! **DJM**





## YEAR 6 Balsa CONSERVATION DAY

The Year 6 children spent the morning creating spotter sheets and scavenger hunts for the Year 3 and 4 children. In the afternoon they ran their activity with a small group of Year 3/4 children. This was part of their Balsa project... 'Giving up time to help others'.

JAA



## YEAR 6 CIRCUS WORKSHOP

The circus skills workshop was part of the Year 6 children's Balsa project which is 'Trying something new (showing a growth mindset)'.

Doug and Amber from Flotsom the Fool visited us for the day, teaching the children lots of different circus skills which included juggling, slack line (low tightrope walking!), and diablos.

The day ended with an amazing performance to the rest of the Prep School.

JAA



# BALSA

## BLUNDELL'S ADVENTURE, LEADERSHIP & SERVICE AWARDS

## Make your £5 grow

For the children in Year 6, one of the strands of their Balsa projects is to develop an entrepreneurial spirit. This is promoted in school through the 'Make £5 Grow' initiative, where they are each 'given' £5 and asked to try and make a profit on it. This year, splitting into three groups they chose to make some fabulous products which were then sold at the Christmas Market. Working as part of a team, they had to factor in the costs of materials, sale prices and ease of manufacturing before starting their production lines! Bumble bee survival kits, beautifully sewn bookmarks, dog snuffle mats and doggy treats were all on offer this year and the pupils took great pride in finishing them to a very high standard. At the Christmas Market the children took it in turns working shifts and were delighted to have sold all of their goods, making a profit of over £200 in the process! This will be donated to the fabulous charity, 'Balloons', along with the other proceeds from the Christmas Market. DJM





**OUR THREE HOUSES – DRAKE, RALEIGH AND GRENVILLE – ALL PLAY A CRITICAL PART IN GIVING THE CHILDREN A SENSE OF BELONGING AND TOGETHERNESS. ENCOURAGING THE CHILDREN TO FEEL PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN THEMSELVES AND A SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR COLLECTIVE SUCCESS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF SCHOOL LIFE.**

# HOUSE *spirit*

## HOUSE RUGBY MATCHES

**YEAR 5 – 1ST DRAKE, 2ND GRENVILLE, AND 3RD RALEIGH**

**YEAR 6 – 1ST RALEIGH, GRENVILLE, AND 3RD DRAKE**

House matches are played in great spirit. The children are playing for their house against other houses and their friends in a competitive match. Often different positions and tactics are tried out as the house team runs itself with minimal guidance from staff. This year's house matches were thrilling to watch with end-to-end exciting play. All the boys threw themselves into each match to sure up defences and create attacks resulting in tries. With rugby the winner in school matches and no result taken, it was refreshing to have a position table although rugby and the spirit of rugby came out on top.

Many thanks to Mr Allen, Mr Fawkes, and Mr Howkins for their input. **ss**



**YEAR 3 – 1ST = DRAKE AND GRENVILLE AND 2ND RALEIGH**

**YEAR 4 – 1ST DRAKE, 2ND GRENVILLE & 3RD RALEIGH**

The rain held off until the last minute which enabled the boys to play fast attacking rugby. Both age groups saw many tries scored. Being house matches, boys helped each other up after tackles as they are friends in day-to-day school. Rugby is the ultimate winner as the boys all enjoyed playing for their house, many scored, but all joined in to produce a team effort.

Many thanks, to Mr Allen, Mr Fawkes, Mr Genders and Mr Myer for their support and refereeing. **ss**





# HOUSE HOCKEY MATCHES

## U11 & U10 HOUSE MATCHES

1ST RALEIGH, 2ND GRENVILLE, 3RD DRAKE

The senior house matches were so incredibly close that only one goal was scored across the three games. The children approached the afternoon with a competitive spirit and good sportsmanship was on display. The hockey was end to end with super tackles, dribbling and passing. It was particularly encouraging to see the children applying their tactical awareness when playing set pieces. A special mention goes to Layla De-Vey for scoring the goal which crowned Raleigh the champions.

Many thanks to Mrs Baily and Mrs FitzHerbert for their umpiring and coaching. **FE**

## U9 & U8 HOUSE MATCHES

U8: 1ST DRAKE, 2ND RALEIGH, 3RD GRENVILLE

The year 3's thoroughly enjoyed their first experience of house matches in the Prep School. The girls took part in small-sided games and were so eager to participate that the substitutes took it upon themselves to re-join the game! When the numbers on field were correct, the matches were hard fought and competitive. The children were eager to demonstrate some of the stick skills practiced in lessons. Well done, all!

Many thanks to Mrs Baily, Miss Stribling and Mr Olive for their umpiring and coaching. **FE**

U9: 1ST RALEIGH, 2ND GRENVILLE & DRAKE

House matches took place in great spirit and finished just as the heavens opened! The Year 4 girls put all they have been learning during lessons to the test. Some hard passes, good dribbling and snippets of reverse stick skills were evident. There were certainly some red faces at the end of each match showing just how hard the children were working. Well done to Raleigh for such great attacking displays!

Many thanks to Mrs Baily, Miss Stribling and Mr Olive for their umpiring and coaching. **FE**



## DRAKE CAKE SALE

Drake House in the Pre-Prep all very much enjoyed baking and creating all sorts of delicious cakes to sell for their first House cake sale of the year. Children and parents from Drake house kindly had great fun running the stall, despite the driving rain. A brilliant £207 raised for their chosen charity, 52 Lives.

**LLC**



## PRE-PREP FUN RUN

All our children from Reception to Year 2 took part in our first ever House Fun Run. Mr Evans had marked out a fabulous 1.4km course filled with all sorts of extra obstacles, such as cargo nets, hurdles, and a water splash for our children to enjoy as they raced around our gorgeous grounds. All the staff were super impressed with the perseverance, determination and teamwork shown throughout the afternoon. The children certainly deserved their sweet treat at the end, as did their parents with a proper match tea. A huge well done to all our runners and a particular mention to Grenville for being the overall winners. **LLC**



# news

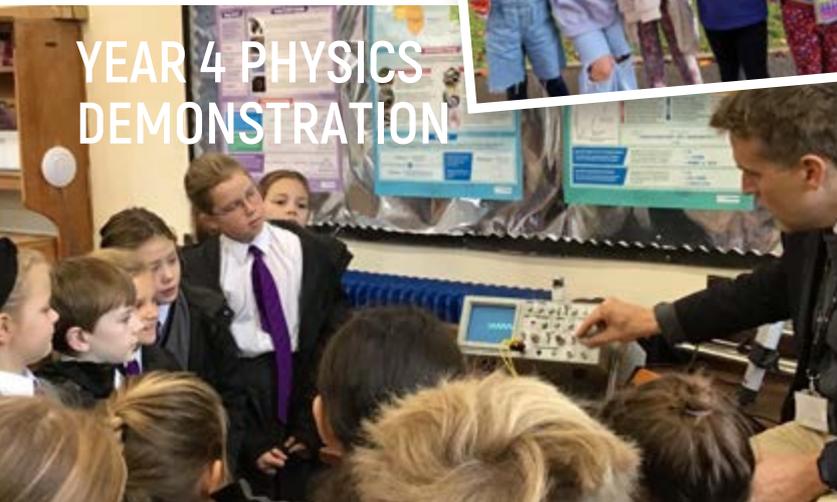
## CHILDREN IN NEED



Our pupils threw themselves into the spirit of 'Children in Need' during November by bringing in donations for wearing home clothes and to buy delicious cakes. Some fabulous outfits were on display and lots of money was raised for Pudsey in the process. A big thank you to all the parents who supported Year 6 in baking their delicious cakes at home - they were very much enjoyed at morning break! **SJS**



## YEAR 4 PHYSICS DEMONSTRATION



The year 4 children were invited to a science demonstration by Mr Morrison to help them with their sound topic. They were excited to see who could hear the highest and lowest pitch (it was not the teachers) and feeling the vibrations from the low pitch sounds. They were amazed to see a bell ring but not when it was in a vacuum jar. Their favourite activity was watching the soundwaves change the height of the flames in the Ruben's tube. It was a brilliant science lesson and so much fun to go to the physics department.

**CEW**



## Tea and Tours

After just a few weeks of being in the Prep school, Year 3's became hosts to their parents for their 'Tea and Tours' event. The excitement was high as they created menus and practiced their waitress skills in the morning which paid off beautifully. They served up lots of tea, coffee, sandwiches and delicious cake before giving parents a tour of their new school. They were superb hosts and no one got lost!



## YEAR 5 ARTWORK



Year 5 really enjoyed using close observation skills to help them complete some beautiful pencil drawings. Next term, they will all begin their own individual acrylic flower canvas painting. **JFL**





## CHRISTMAS LUNCHES & PARTIES

The Christmas countdown was celebrated in style in the Pre-Prep. All the children enjoyed their year group parties with plenty of festive games and dancing. The children adored a visit from Father Christmas, who never misses a Pre-Prep Christmas party!

We finished the term off with the much-anticipated Christmas lunch. Mrs Moys and her merry team of elves excelled themselves by cooking a Delicious festive fare which was enjoyed by us all both in the Prep and Pre-Prep. LLC



## YEAR 2 PARENTS' LUNCH

In October, Year 2 welcomed their parents into school to enjoy one of our famous roast lunches to be followed by apple crumble and custard. There were many sounds of 'oohh' and 'mmmm' for the pudding, which mostly came from the parents! It is always a special time for our children to share the wonderful food we are so lucky to enjoy every day, with their parents. AXS



## PRIMARY MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

On Friday 11th November, children from Years 5 and 6 took part in the Primary Mathematics Challenge. This annual event included a range of problems which encouraged the pupils to think outside the box, and to apply their learning from inside the classroom. 36 certificates were given out in total, with a huge congratulations to Kirill and Jacob who got the highest marks overall.

DJM



## MOVIE NIGHT

Thank you to the wonderful FOBP for hosting a brilliant Movie Night for all our children. Enjoying a film with all your friends, delicious hotdogs and a sweet treat is the perfect end to a busy week at school. LLC



## FOBP BONFIRE NIGHT

A massive thank you to the FOBP for their spectacular Bonfire Night fun. Wonderful hot food stalls, plenty of refreshments and fun had by all ages. The torrential rain stopped just in time for a magnificent bonfire and spectacular fireworks display. LLC



## GRUFFALO CRUMBLE

In November Reception baked Gruffalo Crumble as part of their 'Tell Me a Story' topic. The children loved identifying all the different parts of the Gruffalo such as his orange eyes, purple prickles, poisonous wart and black tongue as they stirred it all together to make the crumble. The best part was eating it during Wild Wonders in the afternoon. It really felt like being in the 'deep, dark, wood' and spurred the children on with their storytelling and acting skills. JSR

## YEAR 2 ARCTIC WRITING

Our Year 2 children have been studying the Arctic. They have also been learning about Fact Files and what key features are needed to write on successfully. Each child followed the writing process to produce a final piece. Check out their Arctic Fact Files! BH





## PUMPKIN PICKING AT HALBERTON FARM

Nursery One rounded off the first half of term with a trip to the pumpkin fields at Halberton Farm Shop. The children found enormous pumpkins, tiny pumpkins and all sizes in between. They enjoyed pumpkin rolling races and balancing on the biggest pumpkins they had ever seen. They topped off their visit with a drink and a piece of cake in the café garden under beautiful blue skies. The highlight of the trip was, as ever, the minibus ride to and from Halberton, allowing for multiple renditions of The Wheel on the Bus, sorry Driver Karen!

Thank you to Halberton Farm Shop for a pumpkin filled morning. **AMS**



# BEYOND *the classroom*



## TUDOR MORNING

The children in Year Five were very lucky to be visited at school by none other than King Henry VIII himself! During the morning, King Henry explained about his family's life and he entertained the children with stories of his six wives. He also told tales of life in Tudor England including stories of torture, execution, punishment and various illnesses and their cures. To finish, the children competed against each other in a fiercely contested jousting tournament.

It goes without saying that this was a particular highlight for most of the children! **JJA**



## SUPER SUNDAY AT EXETER CHIEFS

Wonderful conditions waited for the best rugby to be played at Sandy Park, Home of the Exeter Chiefs. Year 6 were invited to Super Sunday, where they took part in multiple training sessions with The Chiefs Community Coaching Team, a behind the scenes tour of the stadium including the first team changing room, physio room, weights room and cool down pool. The tour was led by The Head of the Community Team and was very informative about life as a professional rugby player. Luckily BT sports were televising the match and a couple of their presenters were in the first team changing room - Dave Flatman and Ugo Monye. They answered the children's questions and talked about their input to the day.

After lunch we took our seats to watch the warmup of the two teams. Then we formed a

guard of honour for the players to run through at the start of the game. An exciting first half was watched, and the children were back on the pitch to walk around it during the interval. The second half was just as riveting with Chiefs scoring in the last second to win the match. The children's support of the Chiefs was second to none on the day and many would have horse voices the next day.

Fortunately, on the way out of the stadium Jack and Sam Maunder (Exeter Chiefs scrum ½'s) came over to the children to sign autographs and chat to the children about their day. Jack and Sam are both Blundellians of The Prep School.

Many thanks to Miss Roberts, Mr Allen, Mr Evans, and Mr Myer for their help on the day.

**SS**





## NURSERY 2 VISIT TO THE GOAT FARM

As part of their topic on Fairy Tales Nursery 2 explored the story of The Three Billy Goats Gruff. They went on a trip to Westcott Goat Farm in Talaton where the lovely goat farmer, Mrs Mel Forward, showed them her wonderful Boer goats as well as many other farm animals. The goats were very friendly and gentle and the children thoroughly enjoyed their visit. **ELT**



## NURSERY TRIP TO KNIGHTSHAYES

At the end of last term, the Nursery children went on an Autumn trip to Knightshayes where we explored the grounds, looking for signs of Autumn. They enjoyed investigating the trees and flora and fauna but were most impressed with the number of conkers that they found!



## SPACE ODYSSEY

Year 5 and 6 visited the Space Odyssey. It rocketed the children's learning about the planets and star constellations, historical astronauts as well as forthcoming missions such as Artemis 1. The darkened dome with projected images was an inspirational way of teaching the children about astronomy.



## KILIMANJARO EXPEDITION TALK

Year 2 have been learning about explorers. Claire Weeks came into Year 2 in November and presented about her trip to Mount Kilimanjaro. She was very formative and inspirational to our children. She left on the message that we should never stop following our dreams because we can achieve anything. **BH/AXS**



## YEAR 5 BUOYANCY WORKSHOP

The workshop was run by Richard Quin from the Marine Society and Sea Cadets as part of their force's topic. Richard told the Year 5 children a bit about the Sea Cadets and then the children enjoyed lots of practical activities exploring ideas about buoyancy. **JAA**



## RECEPTION TRIP TO DARTS FARM

On Friday 7th October Reception visited Darts Farm as part of their healthy eating topic. We were all excited to don our wellies and become farmers for the morning. First, we went for a walk over the many fields to see what was growing. We learnt the names of lots of unusual veggies such as chard, purple cauliflower and Romanesco. After that, we visited the food hall which was rather like an Aladdin's cave filled with hundreds of different local produce. We bought lots of amazing vegetables to cook with back at School and we even helped Mr Dart to stock the shelves!



We also paid a visit to the many animals on the farm, including beautiful Devon Red cows and the hen house where we could see many rare and heritage breeds. The trip was not complete without a scramble over in the fun play area which certainly did not disappoint!

Back at School, we learnt many new skills including washing, peeling and chopping vegetables bought at Dart's Farm shop. It was a cooking bonanza in the reception classrooms that day and everyone in the Pre-Prep could smell our delicious creations. All the children were able to take home a three-course meal consisting of vegetable soup, broccoli and cauliflower gratin and carrot cakes. Delicious! What a wonderful way to encourage trying new things and eating healthily.



## YEAR 6 HISTORY MORNING

On Monday 21st November the Year 6 children had their WWI History Morning.

This was led by Tony Addison, who kindly brought in his artifacts, which have been collected from the Battle of The Somme.

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

All the children enjoyed learning about the fascinating items and trying to work out what they were used for. **JWF**



# BEYOND *the classroom*



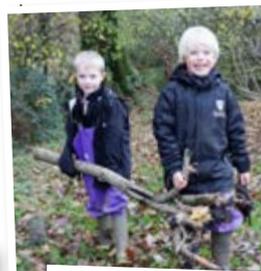
## OUTDOOR *learning*

The sun came out just long enough to allow Year 5 to enjoy their outdoor learning day this half term. During the morning sessions, the children got to try their hand at three different activities: Pumpkin carving, nature art and soup making on the fire. As always, the children demonstrated their creativity and teamwork when creating their fantastic pieces of art and pumpkin designs. Their FT and cutting/chopping skills were put to the test in the soup preparation, and it was lovely to see all the children trying the finished product, many going back for second helpings! The afternoon took on a storytelling theme, where the children were given the task of creating a story, which included creating a setting, based on their pumpkins. Year 4 then came out as part of their Wild Explorers session to listen to the performances of the stories told by each group. All in all, a wonderful day! **TDG**



## Tool Skills

Year One and Two children have been busy working on their tool skills this term. The children have been using tools like hammers, palm drills and conker clamps and learning the importance of keeping themselves safe whilst working on exciting projects like making leaf prints onto material and bird feeders. **CAM**



## NURSERY TRIP TO SCHOOL GARDENS

The Nursery children enjoyed a visit to the Senior school garden. Nursery 2 had been exploring the story 'The Enormous Turnip' so they wanted to see if there were any enormous plants in Mr Flower's Garden! They went on a hunt around the garden for hidden turnip pictures, looked at the pond and enjoyed trying on the safety helmets in the garden shed. A big thank you to Mr Flower for being so accommodating. **ELT**



# ECO WEEK

## at Blundell's Prep

In the run up to half term, Blundell's Prep enjoyed hosting our very own Eco-Week which saw our fabulous Eco-Committee deliver their important messages to help protect our planet in assemblies to the Prep and Pre-Prep School. The week consisted of workshops run by Planet and the People, various eco themed assemblies and plenty of opportunities to discuss important topics based on our precious planet. As a result of the events, activities and mean green eco machine competitions, it has surely strengthened our pupils' awareness of the small changes we can try to apply to make our planet a happier and healthier one!

As part of our Eco Week, our Year 5 and 6 pupils were involved in a workshop titled 'Speak Up' which aimed to inspire our pupils to speak up for the planet and use their voices to motivate and encourage us all to make the changes they wish to see. They designed some wonderfully creative t-shirts to deliver their important messages to the world. In addition to this, Years 2, 3 and 4 were also involved in a 'Planet Minded' workshop which aimed to encourage our pupils to focus on how the natural world can impact our minds and prompted us to think about how we can gain more benefits for well-being, thinking skills and brain boosts from time spent connecting to our planet. **IRS**



Our Pre-Prep children were very much involved in our 'Be Planet Minded' Eco Week this term. Following an inspiring assembly by the Prep School eco-committee and a workshop led by Planet Action, our youngest pupils set to work putting their engineering skills to the test on a project to design a 'Mean, Green, Eco Machine'. The children were also asked to get involved in the whole school house competition to collect used plastic bottle tops which they then transformed into impressive artwork with the help of the Year Four pupils before sending them away to be recycled and transformed into furniture by a 'Recycle and Raise' charity project. During the week, the children also came up with many ways that the school could become more 'planet minded' and our very own Pre-Prep Eco club are now working hard to put these measures in place. **CAM**





# MUSICAL Notes

## TEATIME CONCERT 13 OCTOBER 2022



Our first teatime concert of the year saw over thirty-five children taking part. There was a huge variety of instruments on show and genres of music being played. Well done to everyone who took part but especially to those children who had only been having lessons for a few weeks! **BLC**

## BEAT GOES ON WORKSHOP

On Thursday 15th September all the children from Reception through to Year 6 took part in a body percussion workshop. The workshops were taken by Ollie who used to be a member of the world famous 'Stomp'. Each of the year groups explored a variety of sounds that can be made using their bodies and many were left in wonder as to the extraordinary sounds that Ollie was able to make! The workshops were full of energy and all the children had huge amounts of fun.



## ARMISTICE DAY REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On Friday 11th November our Choral Choir joined Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 in their Armistice Day Remembrance Service. The Choristers sang the beautiful Lacrimosa from Mozart's Requiem. The service was followed by the laying of poppies at the foot of the war memorial and a two-minute silence. **BLC**



## Advent and Carol Services

On the last Sunday of term, our Choristers joined the Senior School Choirs to celebrate Advent in the Chapel. It was a lovely occasion with readings, prayers and wonderful singing – the highlight being the beautiful 'O Holy Night'. **BLC**

Our own Carol Service provided a wonderful Christmassy feel to the end of term. The service began with the traditional singing of 'Once in Royal David's City' with Sophia singing the first verse beautifully. Music, readings and candlelight filled the Chapel and created a joyous atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. **BLC**

## Evensong in Blundell's Chapel



Our first Evensong of the year took place in Blundell's Chapel.



# Evensong IN EXETER CATHEDRAL

Our Choristers joined pupils from Blundells' School and the University of Exeter Chapel Choir for Evensong in Exeter Cathedral. The setting was beautiful and the sound from the choirs was just wonderful. The children thoroughly enjoyed the service and looked incredibly smart in their new choir cassocks.



## TEATIME CONCERTS 16 & 17 NOVEMBER

Christmas came early in our Junior and Senior Teatime Concerts in the middle of November! Over 70 children took part over the two concerts with a real variety of instruments being played. There were many Christmas carols to enjoy and there were even a few Santa hats making an appearance!

Well done to all the children for taking part in two fantastic concerts. A special mention must go to all those children who were taking part in their very first concert. **BLC**





## NURSERY NATIVITY

All the practising paid off when the Nursery children entertained their families with a star-studded Nativity. Every child rose to the occasion, taking to the stage with confidence, joining in all the songs and remembering their lines. Mrs Thornton and Mrs Spencer are extremely proud of each and every one of you.

AMS



## YEAR 2 NATIVITY

Year 2 were superb during their Christmas Around the World Nativity. They took their families on a journey across the globe to teach them about how different countries celebrate Christmas. Their message was delivered with excellence and we all learnt that, despite our differences, all Christians share the same important message about Jesus' birth. Well done everyone, you were amazing!

BH & AXS



## YEAR 1 NATIVITY

After many weeks of intense practise and rehearsals, Year One presented the fantastic nativity, 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw.' Although seasonal illness threatened the show, the children rose to the occasion, performing with bundles of enthusiasm and confidence to get everyone in the Christmas spirit! The staff and children were all very proud - a great job Year One! LM



# STARRING *Roles*

## RECEPTION NATIVITY

Reception took to the stage to perform A Bundle of Joy! The children sang and told the story of a grumpy donkey who struggles to smile until, at last, a special baby is born. The children sang and spoke with such confidence and wowed the audience with their dance moves. CAM, JSR, SMA



## PREP REMEMBRANCE ASSEMBLY

In drama this term, Year 6 have been studying a play based on WW1 to enhance their learning in history. The opportunity of showing part of their work in a remembrance assembly and being able to allow the younger children to understand the circumstances of war was one not to be missed. A small group of year 6's worked incredibly hard with extra rehearsals and lines to learn to portray the real life of WW1 to the school in a short 15-minute performance.

The audience saw the contrast in the exciting first recruitment process to the misery of being conscripted. The actors showed brutal trench life in comparison to the more positive letters some soldiers wrote home to family. They presented the true story of the German-British football match before the fighting continuing the very next day. This showcase very luckily ended in the father, Jacob, returning from war. The assembly finished with reflection on how this wasn't the case for most families and with a minute's silence. Lest we forget.



# Cinderella - Year 5

Year 5's had the audience in hysterics as they performed a take on the traditional pantomime of 'Cinderella'. Rockerfella (Raff) aka Prince Charming turned rockstar, decided the celebrity life wasn't for him and he just wanted to be free to fall in love with the girl of his dreams, much to the dislike of his manager Dan Deeny (Thomas)! His dream came true at the after-concert ball where he met the wonderful Cinderella, played by Saskia. She was helped to the ball by her Fairy Godmother (Molly) and the wonderful Fairy Bigrade, who became qualified fairies by the end of the show! Things were looking bad as the Ugly Sisters (Sebastian and Harry) were reminded by Fairy Nasty boots (Evie) about the cellar where they locked up poor Cinderella to stop her from trying on the shoe left at the ball! Buttons (Jay) and his amazing taking Dog (Freddie) saved the day by rescuing her and they all lived happily ever after! The show was a success due to the hard work of all of year 5, principal roles and the ensemble, who auditioned to be the NBT (Next Big Thing, of course!) and played a variety of characters. A huge thank you to our audience for their participation and laughter which made this a truly uplifting occasion for all! Well done year 5! **JZR**



## A FIRESIDE NATIVITY

The year 3's and 4's wowed everyone with their performance of 'A Fireside Nativity' this Christmas. Year 3's played a group of campers at 'Blundell's Big Christmas Camp Out 2022!' and they sat around a campfire telling each other the traditional Nativity story. As they recalled the events, the hall filled with music as the characters arrived and the year 4's joined in by singing their hearts out. The show was full of fun, laughter, dancing and sheep jokes! **JZR**





# RUGBY

## U11 RUGBY

The **U11A** rugby team has grown in confidence, skill set and teamwork throughout the season. All the squad have developed in their personal skills along with those needed by the team. It has been pleasing to see everybody support everybody throughout team in the different aspects of the game.

In rugby there are ball winners and ball runners. However, each needs to do each other's job as well. But an emphasis is placed on certain positions to do different jobs to enable the team to attack and score. To win the ball from the opposition is key so they cannot score and give the home team a greater advantage of winning. But in rugby at U11 'there are no winners, except rugby' as the scores are not kept. This frees a side up to make mistakes, take risks in attack and learn from their mistakes. The

best 'growth mindset' game currently played by the children. Ultimately the children will be better rugby players for it and the teams they play for later in the school will be more successful.

Having been in the ascendancy over many teams in the local area it is great to be stretched by other teams where a sterner test is found. This stretch zone is critical in sport to find where a team lies and what is needed to improve. This current set of U11's played very well against all comers and credited themselves with sportsmanship and fair play. Many thanks, for the input of Mr Yapp (former Exeter Chief and current Taunton Titans first team coach), Mr Evans and Mr Mayor. Also, all the support the boys have had at each game. I know they appreciate it inwardly if not outwardly. **SS**



Once again, it has been a real pleasure taking the **U11B's** and harnessing their enthusiasm into something that resembled the game they are so passionate about. We had some real stand-out performances, particular our home fixture against Plymouth - for this game in particular, it all seemed to click; an organised aggressive defence, paired with some outstanding ball movement and running skills, made for excellent viewing. I hope the boys continue to enjoy their rugby, taking confidence and pride in the achievements they have made this season; whether that be making their first tackle or scoring their 15th try. They all contributed. I look forward to seeing what the hockey season brings. Thanks again for your hard work chaps. **JE**

## U11 IAPS RUGBY FESTIVAL

The U11 A boy' rugby team travelled to Sherborne School for the IAPS Southwest rugby festival. The boys have been developing their rugby this season and improved each week against other schools. In the opening three games, Blundell's scored over 14 tries and only conceded 3. The final game in the festival was a close game which Blundell's won. Therefore, to come away undefeated was a great achievement. All the squad performed with pace, power, skill and an unwavering sense of teamwork. H Goodwin was voted by the Sherborne referees as one of the players of the festival. He ran, tackled and passed with accuracy, under pressure showing his potential. J Hill captained the side and accepted the end of festival team photographs, which each of the boys were given a mounted copy of. Throughout the day the squad were a credit to the school and the spirit of rugby. Many thanks to the travelling supporters who enjoyed watching the boys play and to Mr Myer for his input. **SS**



## U9 RUGBY

The **under 9's** had a superb season and they are certainly a very promising group of players. It was the boys first taste of contact rugby and all the team relished the opportunity to make their first tackles against opposing schools. They certainly did not hold back but they also understood that it was imperative to go low and tackle safely. Over the course of the season, the boys developed a very attractive brand of rugby where the ball was kept alive through plenty of overloads, pops off the floor and passing out wide. The boys also learnt to defend resolutely as a team and hold their shape.

Huge amounts of fun where had from the coaches, referees, spectators and players! **JJA**

## U9 BOYS RUGBY FESTIVAL

The sun came out for the U9 boys' rugby festival and the skills on display were sparkling! With 8 teams taking part in the festival everybody had lots of rugby. All the tackling was determined, the passing crisp, the running angles acute and team tactics put into operation. The format of the festival allowed rugby to be the winner. The children enjoyed each game and before they knew it, they had a different opposition to play until everybody had played everybody. Following the rugby, a brief presentation was made, and it was clear to everybody rugby is developing well throughout all the schools.

Many thanks the catering team, the ground staff, Mr Howkins, Mr Genders, Mr Allan, and all the great supporters. **SS**

## U10 RUGBY

The **Under 10's** had an excellent season and they continue to be a very talented group of players. With the introduction of the tackle, ruck and scrum in matches, it was an exciting time for the boys. A focus on a low and safe tackle technique were always encouraged. Huge amounts of progress were seen here. The boys desire to win led to some very competitive contests. Alongside this, an environment of fun and good sportsmanship was given the highest priority.

The boy's body positions in the ruck improved vastly throughout the season leading to them securing their own ball well and learning to steal the opposition ball well too. **JJA**



## U8 RUGBY

The **Year 3** boys have enjoyed an exciting term of tag rugby and have made some fantastic progress. Through hard work, the boys are now confidently competing in matches, tagging enthusiastically, making excellent runs into space and looking to pass to their teammates. They have really enjoyed the experience of playing fixtures against other schools (especially the match teas!) and are already looking forward to the Autumn term when they get to build on the success of this season. **TDG**



# UNDER 7'S RUGBY & HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday 8th November Year 2 had their very first competitive match at St Peter's School. They were facing tough opponents from St Peter's, ECS and Mount Kelly. The children were extremely excited for their match and were absolutely brilliant. The girls went off to play Hockey and the boys to play Tag Rugby.

The Year 2 boys triumphed their way through their first ever fixtures at St. Peter's Preparatory School. Everyone showed excellent team spirit and congratulated all players after each match. It was great to see the teams working together, putting all their hard work into practice out on the field. Well done to all!



The girls split into two teams and played 6 mini matches with each of the opposing teams. Their sportsmanship was impressive. The standard of hockey was excellent and our girls carried out some super tackles, great defending and many goals were scored. The afternoon ended with a handshake and a well-deserved cupcake!

# HOCKEY

## U11 GIRLS HOCKEY DEVON TOURNAMENT 25TH NOVEMBER

The **U11** girls' hockey team were fired up for the Devon tournament and keen to qualify for the West of England competition held in March of next year. They got off to a flying start with a 2-0 victory in their first match but just couldn't convert their short corners in the second game, ending with a 0-0 draw. They knew they needed to give it everything in the next 2 matches and played a fantastic game in the third match to win 3-0. It all came down to the final game which was end to end excitement but unfortunately a slight lapse in their defending led to a goal scored by Exeter. The final score was 1-0 against us and we were unsure if we had done enough. Luckily our top goal scoring in the third game had secured us a place as runners-up so the team are very excited to keep their hockey going next term and compete in the West of England competition. Well done to the whole squad. **LB**



## U11 HOCKEY

The **U11As** have had a very successful hockey term, winning all bar one of their weekly fixtures.

They played particularly well in the Queen's tournament in the early part of the season, coming third overall and securing the highly sought-after medals. The highlight of the season was the Devon tournament where they played some superb hockey at Exeter school and only lost 1-0 to Exeter in the final, thus qualifying as runners-up for the West of England tournament in March. Well done to the whole team who scored over double the goals that they conceded. **LB**

The **U11 B** girls have been a delight to work with this term.

Our first match was against Taunton School and for some of our girls it was their first ever

hockey match: there was much to learn. We drew 4-4, with Ellie May getting player of the match. Our next match resulted in a 3-1 win against St.Peter's. Pippa showed great defensive skills and was quick to take the hit outs. Sophia was our next player of the match, as we played our first away match and beat West Buckland 5-4. We then met Stover, in our next home match and beat them 2-0, and Raffy scored two excellent goals. Our next match saw our first loss of the season, against Wellington. It was a close finish with a score of 3-4. Ava and Izzy were both putting in more tackles here and growing in confidence. A stormy away fixture at Perrott hill, saw a second defeat of the season, when the team battled with high winds and driving rain. They were resilient and determined to the end but lost 3-1. The next week saw

a strong comeback, beating Millfield 3-1. Finleigh had a great debut as goalkeeper and made some great saves. The girls had not lost their magic touch! Izzy then made her debut as goalkeeper against Exeter Junior School, and we came away with a 4-0 win. Our penultimate match was away, against Queen's and we came away with a 5-0 win. The hockey was a pleasure to watch. Our last fixture of the season was against Maynards and St.Peter's again. Both games resulted in a draw, and it was a pleasure to see how the girls had improved their skills, fitness, and determination.

They were all keen to compete, keen to win and keen to be coached: a winning combination. **CFH**

## IAPS U11A REGIONAL HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

The U11A team hockey girls met some tough competition at the IAPS regional hockey tournament held at Millfield on 4th November. They played some of their best hockey this term but struggled to convert their efforts into goals in the pool matches. Drawing 2 games and narrowly losing 2, they unfortunately didn't make it through to the knockout stages and a chance to qualify for the national tournament. They have learnt a lot and are ready to keep training hard in preparation for the next big challenge in a few weeks' time where they are entered into the Devon tournament. **LB**



## U10 HOCKEY

The **U10** girls have had a most successful hockey season. The term has not been without challenges, however, the girls have worked incredibly hard in training and displayed superb teamwork. The competition has been fierce and Blundell's have managed to secure good results against tough opposition from West Buckland, Mount Kelly, Stover, Wellington, Perrott Hill, Exeter and Queens. Our most challenging fixture was undoubtedly away at Millfield (never easy!) where we played an incredibly strong group of girls and as a result lost our first and only match this term. Being challenged is never a bad thing and the experience against Millfield spurred the girls to train hard and develop certain areas of their game. I was most proud of their achievements when they later took part in the Millfield Tournament, returning victorious on goal difference with gold medals! The season has been a real mixture of some amazing goal keeping, solid defence and outstanding goal scoring and set plays. Well done to all of the girls involved, you should be proud! **FLE**

**U10 team:** S Barber-Swaly, Tilly Best-Shaw, J Loveridge, D Beszant, B Keysell, G Whewell-Webber, E Baily, C Duarte-Jones, M Harper, M Maund.

## UNDER 10 GIRLS V MILLFIELD 12 NOV 2022

The U10 girls' hockey team travelled to Millfield on a gloriously sunny Saturday. Their opening match was against a strong Millfield side. The girls started the game with hunger and quickly closed Millfield down, with Evie Baily scoring an early goal to put us in the lead. Some amazing defending and good saves from Miele Maund meant we finished victorious.

The girls continued their next two matches with the same determination, beating Queens 2-0 thanks to a great team effort and two goals from Chloe Duarte-Jones. Shortly after, they were victorious against The Downs, winning 1-0 when a period of great attacking play left Tilly Best-Shaw to convert. The final game was the crunch match against All Hallows. The girls conceded a goal early on and despite their best efforts to fight back could not score. With Blundell's and All Hallows tied on points the winner came down to goal difference and Blundell's deservedly came away with Gold medals. Well done to the whole team! **FLE**



## U9 HOCKEY

The **U9** girls have worked incredibly hard this term and their hockey skills have improved week upon week. It has been wonderful to see the children growing in confidence when carrying the ball and putting their reverse stick skills to the test. Many of the basic foundations are laid in Year 3 and it has been super to see the players beginning to think about their positioning on the field and tactics within the game. The term began well with success at the St Peter's festival followed by a super experience at the Millfield festival where six goals were scored, and none were conceded. The U9s have had some challenging matches this term. I think Miss Stribling would agree with me that our match away at Exeter School left us beaming with pride. The practice and hard work that takes place in lessons was on display and every one of the girls played some wonderful hockey that day. A highlight must be the U9 Blundell's Hockey festival which took place on a gloriously sunny morning. All of the children played some wonderful hockey and enjoyed competing (without pressure!) against an array of visiting teams. The season has not been without challenges, and it is clear to see the girls are much more comfortable when they have space to move into. In order to improve the girls would benefit from working on closing down a player and passing to eliminate the opposition. I very much look forward to seeing the children continue to develop their hockey next year. Well done, girls! **FLE**

**U9 Squad:** 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.

## U8 HOCKEY

What a great term of hockey it has been for the Year 3 girls, and it has been fantastic to have such a large number of girls this year group to teach. They have all worked hard on developing their dribbling, passing, defending and shooting skills and have been able to put these to the test in their weekly fixtures against local schools. They are really beginning to understand the different positions and roles within a team and in Year 4 it will be great to see them playing full pitch games of 6 or 7-a-side. **LB**





## SENSORY Storytime

Mrs Clifford continues to run her monthly Sensory Storytime with Laura at Tiverton Library. This is a hugely popular event with on average fifty children joining her for a story and linked sensory activities. This term she has enjoyed sharing two classic stories, We're Going on a Bear Hunt and Stickman. Lots of mess, fun and creativity is had by all, as well as raising the awareness of such a brilliant free resource on our doorstep that is Tiverton Library. **LLC**



## BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Our weekly Baby and Toddler Group sessions run for our school and local community continue to be a huge success. We offer a large indoor and outdoor space for parents, grandparents or nannies to meet in a friendly and caring environment. Themed crafts, lots of exciting toys, construction activities or simply racing around our large playground all provide fun for under 4s, as well as allowing their carers to enjoy a hot cup of tea or coffee. As ever, the highlight of this term is the Baby and Toddler Group Christmas party with a very special visitor. **LLC**



## Messy Play

Our termly Messy Play event for the local community was a sell out as ever. With a seasonal theme of Halloween and Fireworks Night, the activities were full of colour, sparkle and slime. From potion making to bug filled green goo, there was plenty for our local under 4s to get stuck into. **LLC**



# Our community

## BLUNDELL'S BRAVES *Touch Rugby Tournament*

The Blundell's Braves are the parents touch rugby group who meet once a week for 52 weeks a year to play touch rugby at school. They are made up of current parents, Old Blundellians and teachers.

Every year The Braves host a touch rugby tournament for local teams made up from schools, clubs, and other Old Blundellians. This is supported by The Friends of Blundell's Prep to make the day into a family day of fun watching The Braves play in the tournament.

This year saw 10 teams take part and a fast-paced set of matches launched into action. After many tries the final saw two Braves teams face off against each other. The game went to golden try as the score was equal after normal time. With a try scored to win the game everybody could enjoy the rest of the day with the BBQ and many friendly faces.

There are many people to thank for their input to the day; Mr Southgate for refereeing, Mrs Scoble and her FoBP team, Tom Cowle, Andy Turner, but above all everybody who came to support the tournament.

For more information about joining The Blundell's Braves please contact Simon Swain at The Prep School – [ss@blundells.org](mailto:ss@blundells.org) **SS**



# Blundell's

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