

# review



## *Aiming High*

nurturing potential,  
aspiring to achieve and  
fostering ambition for all

Inside:

Community policing:

*aiming to please*

Stretching the comfort zone:

*reaching new heights*

Expanding horizons: *beyond*

*blue sky thinking*

*"...all of our children will be encouraged to aim high and achieve the very best that they can in all that they do."*



This is a special, 'Bumper Edition' of the Review in which we capture the many highlights from the Spring and the Summer Terms. The theme is one that we would all recognise as a fundamental part of a Blundell's Prep School education – the idea that all of our children will be encouraged to aim high and achieve the very best that they can in all that they do. In its simplest form, this is easy to recognise in the shape of scholarship awards, national sporting success or speech and

drama trophies. These successes are wonderful and we celebrate them loudly and rightly so, but, for us, 'aiming high' is far more nuanced than these very visual accolades. Not all of the children here will be awarded an academic scholarship nor will they play in a national final, but they will all have the opportunity to find success, they will be recognised for that success and they will be given opportunities to build on that success with a vast array of experiences and relentless support from the staff here at school. What they do with those opportunities is up to them and our aspiration is that every child will grasp them with both hands. In the pages that follow, you will see that they do exactly that!

As you look through these pages, you will see the various ways in which children are encouraged to aim high, be it singing in our Choral Choir at Evensong, presenting to peers at the end of an inspirational STEM Week or simply having the courage to stand in front of a hall full of parents at one of our learning showcase assemblies. We also want our young Blundellians to have role models and being able to work alongside Senior School students to complete a dissection in Science or playing a part in the spectacular Spring Concert, Blundell's in Space, helps us to achieve that. The different Summer Plays in the Pre-Prep, the three Sports Days full of fun and a healthy amount of competition, and our end of term Speech Day, in which children from across the school were recognised for their many achievements, are just a few examples of how we show our children what can be achieved through hard work and dedication.

On the theme of hard work and dedication, I am extremely grateful to all of the staff for their many contributions to this Review and to Mr Moore, for his editorial efforts.

With best wishes,



**Andy Southgate** Head Master



## Speech Day:

### SIR PRISES OPEN THE SILVERWARE



From across the curriculum, every day of the week, children of all ability levels are constantly gaining 'little wins'. Whether scoring a personal best in a spelling test, moving up a level on Times Table Rock Stars, gaining a Merit Mark for a piece of work done well or enjoying the satisfaction of that eureka moment when something previously incomprehensible suddenly 'clicks', knowingly or unknowingly small breakthroughs and important steps along the learning journey are made. Sometimes higher profile successes will be celebrated in assembly, perhaps with a Head Master's Commendation for a project impressively completed, a certificate or medal for a sports fixture won, or a book prize in recognition of increased effort in class. Occasionally, Colours for Excellence may be awarded in sporting, musical or academic disciplines. But at the end of every academic year, all gather together in the Marquee on Speech Day to hear the Head Master summarise the successes, triumphs and achievements enjoyed across the school during the year. Many will win prizes in celebration of individual successes. Some will not. And this is an important learning point in itself, to recognise that nobody can be the best at everything all of the time – and that this does not matter. For far more important is understanding that everyone can improve, move forward, develop, grow and enjoy successes at their own level. And this is what the Blundell's ethos is all about – finding out what makes every single individual tick, and supporting, encouraging, nurturing, coaching and leading each and every Blundell's Prep School pupil to discover, achieve, enjoy and celebrate success, whatever this may look like for them. From the youngest to the oldest, whether finding academic study easy or difficult, whether naturally sporty, musical, dramatic, artistic, creative, technically minded, socially adept – or whether finding any or all of these areas a struggle – all at Blundell's can expect to embrace ambition and respond to inspirational teaching with aspirational expectations in the pursuit of personal success. **LPM**





## SPORTING CHANCES: RUNAWAY SUCCESS

Sport is hugely important at Blundell's Prep, and week in, week out, all the children are involved in physical activities designed to promote their health and fitness, co-ordination skills and strategy awareness. Games lessons also have a crucial role to play in teaching our children how to deal with winning and losing, managing emotions and developing an ethic of good sportsmanship in a competitive environment. Many extra-curricular clubs run to cater for those with a desire to pursue their sporting interests further, including tennis, football, fencing and swimming, to name but a few. The establishment of A, B and C Teams in different sports ensures coaching can be targeted to support players of all ability levels, as well as offering a motivational ladder of progression for those ambitious and able to move up through the ranks. All ability levels benefit from the experience of playing in competitive fixtures, tournaments



## PERFORMING ARTS: *Acting Up*

We are proud to be able to offer weekly Drama lessons for all, over and above our English lesson provision, and this is a most popular subject, as you might imagine! The dramatic arts are hugely beneficial in encouraging teamwork, public speaking, social interaction, personal confidence and empathy skills, all of which are crucial to the navigation of a successful pathway across the wider stage of life – and they also provide some fantastic opportunities for all of our pupils to perform in plays before peers, parents, family and friends, quite often a highlight of the term! For those who are keen to pursue drama further, we offer afterschool Drama Club sessions run by our own talented Head of Drama, Miss Roberts. In addition to this, many choose to invest in peripatetic Speech & Drama lessons, run by a team of experienced acting coaches giving individual tailored tuition. Children on this course can enjoy their turn in the spotlight at termly recitals before a live audience, and can also choose to pursue their ambitions further by aspiring to try out for nationally recognised Speech & Drama qualifications. Pictured: Year 5 & 6 pupils proudly pose with certificates after enjoying success across a range of Acting and Public Speaking categories in the Devon Performing Arts Festival. LPM



or festivals against other schools, and for our more talented sports players opportunities abound for pursuing higher level challenge through national competition against a wider range of opposition from further afield – congratulations to our Year 6 sprinters for qualifying for the IAPs national athletics finals this summer! Wherever sporting interest may lie, or whatever the ability level, there is always a goal to aim for. As Mr. Southgate likes to say, it's all to play for! LPM



# Reach for *the stars*



## SCHOLARLY PURSUITS: TESTING TIMES

Competition for a Year 7 Scholarship Award to the Senior School was fierce, with many talented academics and musicians, from both the Prep School and further afield, rolling up their sleeves and throwing their hats in the ring. Not all can win an award, but all of those who put themselves forward should be congratulated for their hard efforts and ambition to succeed. Further chances await at Year 9! A special mention must go to our successful candidates – congratulations to Daisy, Ava, Elizabeth, Daniel, Aaron, Lizzie, Freddie, Barney, Elsie and Charlie for gaining an academic award, and to Izzy, Bryony, Hetty and Barnaby for securing a music award. We look forward to hearing of your future illustrious achievements at the Senior School. Keep aiming high! LPM



## FINE TUNING: LOST IN SPACE

Music plays a massive part at the Prep School, and beyond weekly Music lessons for all pupils, huge numbers learn an instrument or sing with the choir. For those who are keen to take their musical talents to the next level by working their way up through the various Music Grades available, our team of talented peripatetic support staff is always on hand to provide tailored, individual tuition. In addition, a range of showcase concerts provide opportunity for our young musicians to begin to grow accustomed to playing before a live audience. These range from inhouse performances for Prep parents in the hall, to national choral and instrumental competitions, and performance opportunities in more formal settings, such as joining with the Exeter University Choir to sing Evensong at Exeter Cathedral. Our Spring Concert this year took place in Big School, where our choristers and instrumentalists joined the Senior School to take part in a space-themed concert on an epic scale. The concert opened with a message from British astronaut Tim Peake, and featured classical music courtesy Holst's Planets Suite, as well orchestral film music from Star Wars and Doctor Who, and popular choral music from David Bowie. There was even an appearance from Darth Vader, causing all to feel the compelling force of music at this universal celebration of sound! LPM

# news



## COMIC RELIEF: SEEING RED

Living in poverty, or suffering from neglect, abuse or discrimination, is no laughing matter, but Comic Relief is committed to making difficult lives a little easier, and has supported millions of people over the years, both in the UK and across the world. Blundell's Prep is always keen to support this charitable cause, and it was lovely to see the smiles on people's faces when the school got dressed to impress on Red Nose Day in March. Thank you to all who gladly paid through the nose to contribute towards fundraising for this most worthwhile of charities this year.

LPM



## REIGN CHECK: Coronation Treat

Before the sad news of the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II in September, Blundell's Prep was delighted to be able to play its part in celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to mark a record breaking 70 glorious years on the throne. Our Nursery children had great fun dressing up to recreate the Queen's coronation from 1952, while the Prep children really got their teeth into a wonderful Platinum Pudding Contest, dreamed up by Mrs. Lampard. During their FT lessons, each Form took it in turn to create their own wonderful desserts for entry into the competition, and there was no shortage of appetite for taste-testing the entries! After chewing things over, the Butterscotch & Blueberry Cake, the Traditional Trifle and the Chocolate Brownies were all crowned winning desserts, and subsequently went on to be served up when the whole school came together for a grand patriotic party in Her Majesty the Queen's honour. The banqueting was accompanied by much flag waving, and national anthem singing, as everyone enjoyed the romp and circumstance of a right royal knees-up on the playground! LPM



## CHINESE NEW YEAR: SPEAKING DRAGONESE

February 1st marked Chinese New Year in 2022, welcoming in the Year of the Tiger, and our Nursery and Reception children were keen to join in the celebrations! Many children brought their own Chinese artefacts in to share with each other, leading to much dressing up, dragon dancing, wok wielding, noodle noshing fun, but the real take-away from the day was the broadening cultural awareness seen growing in the next generation of young Blundellians, each learning to understand and appreciate their own positions and roles within a far wider global community. LPM





## POLICE, CAMERA, *Action*

Working together with some of our Senior School students, and police officers Lucy and Lindsey from the Devon Constabulary, pupils from Year 5 were delighted to lend their support to a campaign to persuade the council to install a speed awareness camera on Blundell's Road. They had already been busy gathering data on traffic flow outside the school, before gunning for speeding motorists with the latest police speed camera technology. Their message was clear – slow down to keep pupils safe – and they are hoping for a rapid response from the council. **LPM**



## THE BLEAT GOES ON

Cute, adorable, slightly awkward on their feet, just starting out in life and curious to explore the world around them... And then there were the lambs! A huge thank you to Thomas and William for bringing your little lambs to visit our curious kids in Pre-Prep. Cue lots of thoughtful questions, loving cuddles and happy young farmers flocking together in sheepish wonder! **LPM**



## MOVING ON UP

As our Year 13 students prepare to leave Senior School and move on to start new courses at university, begin new careers in industry or embark upon other exciting new adventures, we remember with fondness all those Blundellians who began their education at the Prep School. We wish them all the best, confident that the strong roots established here at our school in Tiverton will equip them to fly on wings of ambition towards whichever far-flung destinations their interests and passions may take them. Good luck to each and every one! **LPM**

## CLIMBING THE WALLS

We were super excited to introduce a new Traverse Wall into our play area at the Prep School. This was a facility which we had been hoping to have for some time, and, thanks to our very generous Annual Fund donors, we were finally able to build it! The wall is already getting a great workout during break times, so thank you very much to everyone involved in this project, we couldn't have done it without your support! **Blundell's Development Office**



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Children from across the school always thoroughly enjoy hosting their parents for lunch. They look after them beautifully, showing them how to get their food, which tables to sit at, how to clear their plates and most importantly where to get their yummy pudding from! Chatty children, smiling faces, good food and family fun are always on the menu at a Blundell's Meat and Greet. **LPM & LLC**





## OUR FRIENDS ECLECTIC

Many thanks to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for continuing to keep us all so well entertained throughout the course of the year. Following the somewhat quieter and more relaxing experiences of Movie Night, it was time for the children at the Prep School to up the ante and expend some serious energy rocking their best dance moves to the groove of a thumping disco beat late into the night (well, at least until 7:30pm). The Nursery and Pre-Prep children, meanwhile, welcomed the return of old favourite Professor Bumble, who kept all of the children giggling with his jolly jokes and magic tricks galore. Party games, dancing and delicious party snacks all added sparkle to a fabulous afternoon at the end

of another busy term for the children. Thank you so much to the FoBP for the hard work and organisation that goes on behind the scenes to put these many and varied events on for the children.

LLC & LPM



## SENSES WORKING *Overtime*

Mrs. Clifford's Sensory Storytime initiative, in partnership with Tiverton Library, has proven to be a huge success within our local community. Once a month Mrs. Clifford reads a story and follows it up with a number of sensory activities linked to the story. This is open to anyone aged under four, together with their parents or carers, at Tiverton Library, and sessions have been exceptionally popular – with storytimes based on *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers, and *Dear Zoo* by Rod Campbell, each attended by upwards of 50 local families! See Tiverton Library for details of future sessions – no need to book! LLC

## TOSSING AND TURNING

After two years without this epic event, the day arrived when House pancake races could return to the Prep School playground once more! The weather could have been kinder to us but in true British form we were not going to let it dampen our spirits! Years 3 and 4 were first to go and it was a slightly treacherous course in the rain with four pancake tossing stations around the circuit. Miss Stribling proved to be the Simon Cowell of the pancake tossing judging panel – and no-one was moving on without her witnessing good air between the pancake and the pan! It was a highly contested competition throughout, but on the last round Grenville finished in gold medal position. Years 5 and 6 was a busy event with thirty runners in each house having to navigate the now waterlogged track. There was the added difficulty of soggy pancakes too, making it far more challenging to toss them at each station. After a long battle it was neck and neck until Drake managed to dig that little bit deeper and sneak the lead to win. Well done to everyone and I've made a note to book sunshine and extra pancakes for next year! LB



## RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE 1: MAKING IT COUNT

It was a fantastic achievement to gain so many worthy certificate winners from our participation in the UKMT Junior Mathematical Challenge this year. This was a particularly fine achievement for our Year 5 and 6 students, considering that this competition was open to children from Year 8 and below. A special congratulations to Aaron for achieving Best in School! DJM

## MANTLE PIECE: SUPER VOLCANOES

Children in Nursery and Reception looked at exploring the science of volcanoes during STEM Week, engineering all manner of experimental eruptions to fire their imaginations on a seismic scale! LPM



# Sharing the **WORKLOAD**

This term the Pre-Prep children managed to invite their parents into school not only for a Celebration Assembly, showcasing the most recent learning successes of each year group, but also in the final week of term we managed to host a classroom-based Learning Showcase too. Parents enjoyed joining their children in their classrooms to see what they had been getting up to in school, and the children enjoyed sharing with their parents all the fabulous learning in their books, and on vibrant display in the classroom! **LLC**



## ROCKET SCIENCE: KEEPING UP TO SPEED

Throughout the Spring Term in Engineering, all Year 6 children learned about the Bloodhound project and its quest to obtain the world land speed record. Class work included researching the car and its achievements to date. Pupils were then set the challenge of making the fastest car possible in groups. They made prototypes, scientifically tested the designs, and then modified their cars accordingly. Finally in STEM week, the children took their decorated cars down to the Senior School and met with Mr. Morrison, to race them along a track using actual rocket fuel! Everyone learnt a lot about aerodynamics and enjoyed analysing the results. **JMC**

## RIISING TO THE CHALLENGE 2: THINKING IT OVER

Having finished within the top 10% nationally when sitting the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge in November, five of our Year 6 students had earned themselves a place in the University of Oxford Computing Challenge in February, a tremendous achievement! Using logic and reasoning skills to solve a range of demanding puzzles, problems and challenges certainly put the brain cells to the test, encouraging intellectual acuity, mental resilience and lateral thinking skills. Well done to all **DJM**



# ECO-MATTERS: GIVING A BLUE PLANET AN EARTHLY CHANCE



## Blundell's **ECO-COMMITTEE**

This year our school made the decision to work towards Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation. Eco-Schools began in 1994 and is the largest educational programme on the planet (there are currently 70 countries delivering the Eco-Schools programme around the world); in England it is operated by the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy. To have any realistic chance of being successful in promoting environmental action reflecting our green values, all stakeholders at the school would need to give unanimous support to the initiative. We began by opening this up to the pupils, from whom we invited applications for a place on the newly created Blundell's Prep Eco-Committee. The response was huge, indicating from the start the breadth and depth of feeling on this matter across the school.

Once our wonderful Blundell's Prep Eco-Committee had been established as an alliance of representatives from each Form who all shared a common passion for looking after our ailing world, the first action of the committee was to undertake an Environmental Review, involving a series of checks and interviews with children and teachers to identify key areas for our school to focus upon. Using the data collected, we identified these areas to be: waste management, energy consumption and litter control. Subsequent discussion of these matters generated plans and ideas to transform our school by making significant environmental improvements...

**Eco-Smart** is an ongoing weekly competition launched to find the most environmentally responsible Form by encouraging the switching off of lights when classrooms are not in use during break and lunchtimes, the correct use of recycling bins to manage recycling efficiently in each classroom, and an end to leaving smartboards and other electronic devices switched on – or left on standby mode – when not in use. This initiative has proven to be brilliantly competitive as each Form has been desperate to receive the Eco-Smart Award in a Friday Celebration Assembly, and we hope that everyone will remain committed to becoming more and more energy efficient in the future!

**Earth Hour** took place as a global opportunity for people across the world to stop and think about things we can all do to help make the Earth a more sustainable environment in which to live and work. At Blundell's, during a computer-free hour of low lighting and reduced energy usage, the Prep School focused on designing plans for an eco-inspired, sustainable Blundell's campus, which really helped the children to reflect upon our energy consumption across the school and how we can make small steps to become more energy efficient in the future.

**Eco-Avengers Assembled** saw the Eco-Committee determined to share their passionate environmental message by running a series of assemblies for children in the Prep and Pre-Prep, in which they delivered some important information to raise awareness of waste, energy and litter issues, and sought

to inspire others to get involved in supporting plans to protect our planet. As part of this mission, the Eco-Committee informed the school of 'The Great British Spring Clean', an eco-initiative which aimed to encourage everyone to pledge to pick up litter and work together to help keep our environment clean, tidy, fresh and healthy.

**Eco-Week** made its inaugural appearance in the summer term, when we were incredibly excited to be able to follow a range of eco-themes throughout the week. From exploring ways to protect the marine life in our oceans from plastic pollution, to visiting Exeter's recycling centre to see what recycling looks like in action, from attempting to get through a day at school without using electricity (more difficult than it might sound!) to aqua-challenges aimed at highlighting the need for water conservation, everybody threw themselves into all the activities, before finishing the week by signing up to the Blundell's Pledge to Help Protect our Planet – not just for an Earth Hour, or for an Eco-Week, but for every day that we want to enjoy living here.

Learning more about saving energy or reusing and upcycling waste materials may only be the first steps towards living more sustainably, but they are crucial steps for our future custodians of the planet, who, more than any other generation before them, are coming to understand the enormous responsibility they will shoulder in leading by example a life more in harmony with the interests of the world.

IRS & JZR

TOP LEFT: The Eco-Committee undertaking an eco-audit of the Blundell's Campus with Harry Flower, Head Gardener. TOP RIGHT: Year 1 investigating minibeasts living in a compost bin with Sally Jackson from @recycle.devon.

# Blundell's ECO-WEEK

The Blundell's Eco-Week was a great way of encouraging everyone to be a little more eco-friendly at school. Everyone from Nursery to Year 6 took part to find out what we can do to help look after our planet.



## MONDAY – SAVE OUR OCEANS DAY

On Monday we learned about the terrible impact of plastic pollution in our seas and oceans. Did you know that a plastic bag containing sweet wrappers was discovered at the bottom of the Marianna Trench in the Pacific Ocean, the deepest natural point on the planet? It is thought that approximately 100,000 marine mammals, 100,000 sea turtles and around one million sea birds are killed each year as a result of entanglement or consumption of plastic.

## TUESDAY – NO WORKSHEET DAY

On Tuesday we moved towards trying to use as little paper as possible in school. Most people take an average A4 sheet of paper for granted, often screwing it into a ball and tossing it into a bin without a thought for what has gone into making it. Did you know that 42 million trees are cut down every year to make wood or paper products? That is making an awful lot of wildlife homeless for the sake of that disposable sheet of paper.

## WEDNESDAY – NO FOOD WASTE DAY

On Wednesday we aimed to generate as little food waste as possible throughout the day. In the UK it is thought that about 9.5 million tonnes of uneaten food is thrown away each year. When some people in the world are dying from malnutrition or starvation because they do not have enough food to eat, this is not a good statistic. At lunchtimes at school we have some choice about how much food we take to eat – but we are encouraged to eat what we take.

## THURSDAY – NO TECH DAY

On Thursday we were all wondering how we were going to get through the day without technology, although we knew it was for a good reason. The burning of fossil fuels is still a substantial factor in generating electricity on a large scale; that electricity may power many luxuries in life, but it comes at a price. The generation of electricity from fossil fuels releases a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere – one of the greenhouse gasses

responsible for the climate change having such a dramatic impact on the global environment.

## FRIDAY – SAVE WATER DAY

On Friday we tried to use water as efficiently as we could. Fresh water is of course essential to our survival, so with increasing demand at a time when rising temperatures and unpredictable weather patterns can mean more frequent and more severe water shortages, not wasting water has become a high priority. Each year group was put into teams and challenged to transport water across the playground without spilling any. This was not easy, but helped us to understand that we have to look after the natural resources that we have if we wish to avoid going into liquidation as a species...

PIPPA WOOD, YEAR 5



## VISCOUS CIRCLE: SLICK WORK

Sticking with the theme of looking after our often abused environment, Year 1 investigated the catastrophic damage which can be caused to marine life by oil spills at sea. Creating their own artificial oil slick, they could see for themselves the effect of oil on feathers, and how difficult this can be to clean up. Encouraging respect for the world in which we live amongst the

coming generations can only help to oil the wheels of change when it comes to turning from a mindset fixated on plundering, to protecting the planet.

LPM



## WASTE AWAY

Year 4 were invited to learn all about reducing, re-using and recycling at Exeter's Pinbrook Road Recycling Centre. The education staff set up a series of experiments designed to teach the children about the properties of different materials, and how this knowledge can be used to help sort the different items arriving at the centre from household waste. After lunch we headed to the Viridor Exeter Energy Recovery Facility where each year approximately 60,000 tonnes of local non-recyclable waste is diverted from landfill to create valuable low carbon energy. In the education suite the children got to have a go at operating a miniature grab crane, before visiting the plant control room, where they saw the actual grab crane being manually operated to lift waste from lorries into the hopper. JMC



## WILD EXPLORERS



Our Wild Explorers in Year 3 have been busy looking after our beautiful natural environment at school, and all of nature's creatures who may visit or live there. Our Year 3 Bird Watch in support of the RSPB did not reveal a great number of birds, beyond a few bluetits, but we did enjoy hiding and listening out for birdsong, as well as making bird feeders from recycled milk bottles to leave out for any future wild winged visitors who might descend upon our school grounds. One of the targets for achieving their Wild Explorer Passports was for the children to develop their skills by using the school grounds to organise and run a class project to promote green values. We therefore spent a lot of time gardening in preparation for holding a plant sale, where peas, courgettes, pumpkins, squash, broad beans and more were all available to buy. We had also made bags of seed bombs for people to use in their gardens and green spaces to encourage the growth of wild flowers. The Plant Sale was very well attended, and the money raised was subsequently used to adopt a seed at the Millennium Seed Bank at Kew Gardens, with the intention of protecting a species of plant for generations to come. Many thanks to everyone who supported this great initiative. **JZR**



We are delighted to have been awarded Wildlife Friendly Status by the Devon Wildlife Trust. Our children, along with our amazing grounds team, take great care of their Wild Wonders area, and were thrilled to be recognised in this way.

## Beetles, Bugs and Butterflies

Being blessed with such lovely grounds makes it very easy to remember that we are only one species among many sharing such a beautiful common natural ecosystem. The variety of cohabitants on campus is really quite impressive, from Scrabble the dog taking his daily walk across the school fields, to the squirrels and birds nesting in the trees, from the rodents and rabbits making their homes in the hedgerows and the water voles and dormice scurrying down by the riverside, to bats and owls or foxes stealing furtively through the copse and woodlands. Some members of the rich biodiversity of creatures inhabiting the Blundell's microcosm can take more tracking down than others, meaning that in order to appreciate the minibeasts in our midst it can be necessary to organise a bug hunt! Year 3 and Reception children worked wonderfully well together when they teamed up to do just that, hunting high and low in our Wild Wonders area for all kinds of critters and creatures! A further opportunity arose for Year 3 and 4 Eco Club members to search for some of our tiniest friends when they teamed up in Eco Week to create their own Pitfall Traps using yoghurt pots, bananas as bait and leaves and shrubbery to camouflage the traps. The number of beetles, bugs and many-legged visitors attracted in this way afforded the children the chance to examine many often overlooked members of nature's community up close and personal, before, of course, ensuring their safe return to their local habitats. **LPM**



In the Summer Term, children from Year 6 relished the opportunity to visit the Senior School for an Enrichment session led by the Biology Department, in which they got to investigate some slightly less familiar but most incredible little dwellers, when they took charge of some very tiny caterpillars. The children watched fascinated as they grew bigger each day before finally changing into cocoons. After nearly two weeks of patiently watching and waiting, they were delighted to be able to see the butterflies emerge, dry their wings and start flying around their butterfly pavilion. On a lovely sunny day, just before half term, the children took them outside to release them. Some of the butterflies stayed around them, sitting on their hands and the girls' dresses. Others flew straight off. The children waved goodbye to each of them and were very proud to have successfully taken them from tiny caterpillars to beautiful painted lady butterflies, setting them free to complement the burgeoning population of nature's wild wonders to be found happily living out their lives all across our lovely grounds. **SMA**



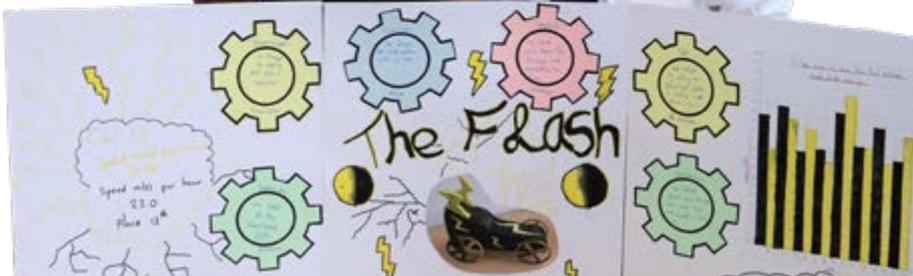
## SPATIAL REASONING: OUT OF THIS WORLD

Children from across the School had a great time finding out all about Earth and its place in the solar system in a Science project on Space which climaxed with a visit from Heather and Natalya of the UK Space Agency in STEM week. The opportunity to get dressed up in a space suit like Tim Peake's immediately captured the children's interest, and they learnt so many fascinating facts about astronauts, rockets, planets and everything space related. They became particularly excited when Natalya was able to explain why it might be possible for alien life forms to exist in distant galaxies, prompting much discussion about what they might look like! Thank you very much to our visiting experts for bridging the gap between science fact and science fiction, and for leaving us all staring into space in wonder! **SMA**



## STEM SELL TECHNOLOGY

Persuading staff and children to come off timetable to undertake a series of thought-provoking and practical workshops for STEM Week was not a hard sell. STEM, or Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, as a group of related subjects with a focus on hands-on learning, critical thinking and problem solving for real-world applications, seemed to be the perfect vehicle for thinking about what we need to do – and what it might be possible for us to do – in order to address, arrest and reverse some of the quickly growing threats to the environmental stability of our world. All were excited to work together in vertical groups to drill down into some of the most pressing key eco-issues – seeking to understand the underlying causes and catastrophic consequences of climatic change, the impact of fossil fuels on the planet, the destructive trail of carbon footprints trampling over nature, and the huge importance of all potential renewable energy sources. Challenging the children to think about cleaner, greener methods for powering transportation without compromising the convenience of contemporary infrastructures, or to investigate new, innovative means of harvesting wind, solar or hydroelectric energy to make more efficient use of sustainable resources without watering down the quality of expected service standards, revealed a clear appreciation of the sheer scale of challenge ahead, and led to some creative and forward thinking ideas for change. We may not have all the answers yet, but it was incredibly heartening to see the next generation asking all the right questions. **LPM**



## SEEING *Eye to Eye*

*Year 6 enjoyed performing an eye dissection as part of their Light project in Science, with the help of Dr. Ratcliffe and some Sixth Formers from the Senior School... We worked in pairs, under the supervision of a Year 12 student, to dissect a cow's eye. To start with, we cut away the muscle surrounding the eye with scissors. Then we cut open the pupil and iris (which was brown) to search inside for the lens (which looked red). We also saw the vitreous humor, a clear jelly-like liquid that came out whenever we squeezed the eye. At the back of the eye, we could see the optic nerve, which would have led to the brain for the visual image to be processed. We also saw a part called the cornea, a white substance which covers the outside of the eye. My favourite part was when we found the lens because I was very proud of myself when I pulled it out of the eye using my tweezers. Thank you very much to Dr. Ratcliffe and his team of helpers for coming to see us! Aaron James, Year 6*



# House Music

After a break of two years, we were finally able to hold our House Music Competition at the end of the Spring Term. It was wonderful to see so many smiles on faces as the whole school came together to celebrate the diversity of musical provision at Blundell's in a more lighthearted context. This year the Houses were able to choose their own songs to perform, on the theme of Disney. Songs chosen were 'We Don't Talk About Bruno' from Encanto, 'We're All In This Together' from High School Musical and 'You're Welcome' from Moana. Alongside these songs sung by the whole House, small groups also performed, including guitar groups, piano trios/quartets, brass groups, string groups and wind groups. The Pre-Prep performances were a particular highlight, as our youngest House members delivered their songs from Jungle Book with tremendous confidence and enthusiasm. Mr. Graham, one of our talented singing teachers, had the very difficult task of judging the competition. He was hugely impressed with all of the music, but in the end it was Raleigh who were announced the worthy winners this year.



## PRO CORDA

In January we were invited to take part in the National Pro Corda Chamber Music competition. Pro Corda provides inspirational ensemble training in Chamber music and our Cello Trio were thrilled to be asked to perform. Following the first round of the competition, our cellists were invited to take part in the semi-finals where they enjoyed performing to an adjudicator who then worked with them on how to develop and improve their piece. This performance resulted in an invitation to perform in the National Final at Millfield School. I was incredibly proud of the children, especially as they were competing against many children who were at least a year older than them. Huge congratulations to Bryony, Charlotte and Joseph, who all performed very impressively, holding their own against some truly exceptional Chamber groups from across the country.



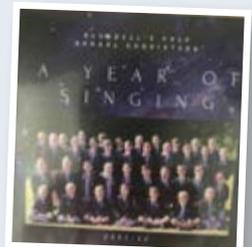
# Musical Notes



## CHORAL CONCERT AND EVENSONG

Our Choristers sang beautifully when they joined with the Senior School to take part in a wonderful celebration of choral music just before Easter. Held in the grand setting of the Blundell's Chapel, the children performed with poise and confidence. Well done to all, and a special congratulations to Isabella who performed the unaccompanied solo superbly. Later our Choristers returned to the Chapel for Evensong, where they joined together to sing with members of the University of Exeter Choir and the Blundell's Eight Choir. The children performed what was some very technical and challenging music, beautifully. A special mention must go to Hetty, who sang an unaccompanied solo with real confidence and accuracy. It was a truly special service.

The establishment of a Choral Choir this year has been extremely successful for our young Choristers. They have been hugely committed to rehearsals and have performed to a consistently high standard throughout the year. To mark this achievement, in the Summer Term our Choristers spent a morning in the Chapel recording a CD of all the pieces that they had performed throughout the year. The children were incredibly excited to have produced their very own CD – a fantastic memory to have of their first year as Choristers.





## TEA TIME CONCERTS

It has been great to be able to continue to put on instrument-specific Tea Time Concerts for family and friends to hear their children performing at the Prep School. Our Percussion Concert, featuring all of our pupils who have drum kit lessons, was a banging success. The programme included solo performances as well as four drum kits being played at the same time! String and Brass & Woodwind Concerts followed, both providing fantastic concert opportunities for our young musicians, whether just beginning or having more experience, to perform for a live audience – a very different experience from rehearsing alone or working 1:1 with a music teacher. Our Piano Concert showcased more than fifty children performing, making a black and white case that the 88 keys to success involve practice, practice and more practice! And Mr. Jeffrey, our accomplished singing teacher, singing alongside all of his singing students to perform Any Dream Will Do, will leave a lasting memory from our Singing Concert. My thanks to all of our appreciative audiences for coming along time after time, and supporting the children so whole-heartedly. **BLC**





# SPRING CONCERT

The Blundell's space-themed Spring Concert saw our Choristers and instrumentalists join the Senior School to take part in an intergalactic extravaganza of music. The young musicians entertained an audience of children from the Pre-Prep, Prep School and local Primary Schools with a concert run-through in the afternoon, before performing again to an enthralled audience of family and friends in the evening. It was a truly cosmic celebration of music, which not only showcased the talent of the children receiving musical tuition at Blundell's, but also went a long way towards inspiring a musical ambition in all those who listened.



## STRINGS ATTACHED

Early in the Summer Term, our string players joined together with the Senior School string players to put on an enchanting Strings Concert in the Chapel. It was a wonderful evening of string music and provided a fantastic opportunity for our string players, some of whom had only been playing for a few months, to learn from playing alongside older and more experienced players.



## YOUNG VOICES

After a two year break, our trip to the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham finally took place in May. It was the 25th Anniversary of Young Voices and children from Years 5 & 6 joined 6000 other children to sing and dance live together. They performed a variety of music including a Pop Medley, a Muppets Medley, a Lion King Medley and a fantastic finale of a medley of songs from the Beatles. The children were joined by Roachford, Urban Strides and The Beatbox Collective. The excitement was huge this year and we had more children taking part than ever before. I would like to say thank you to all of our parents who made the journey up to Birmingham. It really means a lot to the children to know that they have got people supporting them in the audience. Thank you also to everyone involved with Young Voices. We are looking forward to learning the songs and dances for next year's concert already!



## Music Hall

We have been very lucky to have some of the Senior School pupils perform in assembly for us this term. It is always very rewarding to see what our pupils can go on to achieve with their music as they move further up the school, but it can also be most inspirational for our younger children, who can be motivated to keep going with their own instrument practice, or may even develop the ambition to take up an instrument for the first time! Many thanks to all at the Senior School who have come to share their musical talents with us – it is always music to our ears to hear the quality of performance being achieved.





## TEA AND TUNES

It was wonderful to have so many children taking part in Tea and Tunes concerts for their parents at the Pre-Prep. There was such a buzz of excitement as the children prepared to perform, at what, for many, would have been their first public concert. More than twenty pianists, along with a healthy number of recorder players and guitarists, as well as our first trumpeter and J-Sax player, kept us all thoroughly entertained, performing on stage with confidence and gusto. Even at such a young age, it was clear that these dedicated musicians had shown commitment in listening to – and following – the sound advice given by their teachers. SMA



## SUMMER CONCERT

This year's Summer Concert was an extremely special event and it was just wonderful to have everybody coming together again to celebrate live music in the marquee. It was a gloriously sunny evening, the perfect setting for an evening of music and picnics. The concert began with Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance played by the Orchestra. Other groups performing included the String Group, Cello Trio, Wind Group, Guitar Ensemble, Piano Trios/Quartets, Brass Group and the Scholarship Group. The children in the Pre-Prep also took part with their recorder group taking to the stage early on.

As always, singing featured strongly throughout the concert. Songs performed included Annie and a Queen Medley. Year 2 performed You've Got a Friend in Me and the whole school joined together to sing When You Believe. The Choristers also performed, and the staff sang Reach which included some very well known and enthusiastically performed dance movements!

A huge thank you must go to all our visiting music teachers for their sterling work with the children throughout the year, to our happy staff for helping out so enthusiastically throughout the evening, to our wonderful live audience for creating such a supportive atmosphere and of course to all of the children for providing a truly fantastic evening of music! **BLC**





## WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

Our Nursery children wowed with their heartfelt end of year performance when they took to the stage to present We're On Our Way! The children spoke and sang with beaming smiles on their faces and

a clarity and confidence beyond their years, leaving few in the audience dry eyed before they were done! **SJS**



## RAINFOREST BONANZA

The children in Year 1 finished the year with a spectacular finale when they took to the stage to present their Rainforest Bonanza to an enthralled family audience. They delighted with their confident delivery of fun facts, rainforest riddles, super catchy songs and powerful poems all on a tropically topical environmental theme! **LPM**



## PRE-PREP MEMORIES

It was an emotional occasion when the children of Year 2 took to the stage for their final Pre-Prep performance. The children shared their favourite memories, recited some wonderful poems and sang some tear-jerking songs, before hosting a special tea party for their parents. It was a fitting tribute to their time in the Pre-Prep and they spoke with fondness; they also spoke with a confidence which was both a testament to the strength of character fostered during their time in the Pre-Prep, and also a sign that they were ready to cross the carpark and embark on new adventures at the Prep School. We wish them well! **LPM**



# MAKING A scene



## MAD ABOUT MINIBEASTS

Having spent the first half of the Summer Term learning all about minibeasts, our Reception children were delighted to be able to present their knowledge on a stage transformed into a glorious garden scene. Dressed up as caterpillars, butterflies, worms, bees, flies, ants and snails, the children recited rhymes and sang about the many different minibeasts to be found in the garden. They performed with great confidence, singing and dancing with glee to delight a packed hall full of proud parents and grandparents – before finishing off the show by sharing with their audience some delicious bug-themed snacks which they had made earlier! **SMA**



## Milling Around



Children in Year 4 had a fantastic time when they came off timetable for a day during Creative Arts Week to put on a 'Play In A Day'. The theme of the play was working conditions for Victorian children at the time of the Industrial Revolution, which was an eye-opening topic for some of our children who might otherwise have been tempted to complain that they are oppressed by work demands today! The play was set in a mill, and the children had great fun preparing their performance. After some brief acting exercises to get them warmed up, a whirlwind of improvisation, a smattering of dressing up and a pinch of rehearsal time passed by in a flash, and before they knew it, parents were arriving to watch the drama! The children responded brilliantly to make sure that the show went on, and it was clear to an appreciative audience just how hard they had all worked throughout this very busy day. Important life skills including teamwork, co-operation and collaborative learning, and oracy, public speaking and presentation, as well as prioritising, working to deadlines and working efficiency were all put to the test as the children successfully came together to avoid any trouble at the mill. Well done to all! **LPM**



## SPEAKING OUT

Children from across the Prep School were brimming with confidence when they took to the stage for their latest Speech & Drama Recital. Engaging with the audience in a solo or small group performance can be a daunting experience, but the energy, humour and self-belief, the assured vocal expression, body language, timing control and animation on show made it seem so easy! Well done to all. **LPM**



## Show time

It is always wonderful to be able to share with parents a taste of the learning taking place in school, and regular Showcase Assemblies at both the Prep and Pre-Prep have given many children the chance to present a small slice of their project work and achievements from across the curriculum. Providing opportunities for children to express themselves in a range of public speaking contexts of varying levels of formality is so important to boosting confidence and self-esteem, and from the warm reception always received, we know that our parent audiences very much enjoy these occasions too! **LPM**



## BALLET & DANCE

# Showcase

Miss Kayla, our new Ballet and Dance teacher, had prepared all our excited young ballerinas and Funky Jazzers for putting on a superb performance for their parents at our Ballet & Dance Showcase celebration. From Nursery up to Year 2, it was marvellous to see the progression made, skills learned and, most importantly, the happy smiles beaming from all of our performers. Ballet and Dance is becoming ever more popular and, with our state-of-the-art dance studio, it is not surprising! **LLC**

MAIN PHOTO: Lola performing at the Michaela Poulton Dance Show at the Exeter Corn Exchange in July.

Ballet and Dance tuition from the Michaela Poulton School of Dance at Blundell's Prep is open to all, and classes catering for a wide range of ages and ability levels take place on a Tuesday and Saturday at the school.

While many children enjoy attending classes for the fun, fitness and finesse of learning to dance, expert coaching can support those keen on working their

way up through their ballet grades, and a range of dance show opportunities are available for all to perform their dance routines in front of a live audience. For more details, please visit: [www.michaelapoulton.schoolofdance.co.uk](http://www.michaelapoulton.schoolofdance.co.uk). **LPM**





# CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

This year we chose for the Year 6 Leavers' Play a dream script to direct and produce in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. The play has a famed story line fusing fantasy, invention, imagination, adventure, romance, comedy and the inevitable triumph of good over evil from the author of James Bond. As my last play at Blundell's Prep School, I would like to thank every one of the staff, new and old, for their support over the years, especially my colleague and friend Bethan Cracknell, Musical Director. It has been immense fun to work with all the staff and children over a ten year period as Head of Drama. My family has also been incredibly supportive over the years – especially my husband who, this year, built the fantastic car Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

It is the cast, however, who truly bring a script to life, and this year every single child in Year 6 has been amazingly positive and supportive, showing energy, commitment, and hard work in every rehearsal along the way. They have been an incredibly inclusive ensemble, pleased to welcome every challenge to sing, dance and act their way far beyond the comfort zone, and fully supporting each other in this most theatrical of team sports.

The cast as a whole were outstanding and thoroughly deserved their standing ovation for the performance of their lives. Special mention must go to Bryony for playing Truly Scrumptious, Rory for taking on the demanding role of Caractacus Potts, and to Hetty and Sam for their quite exceptional double-act as the Baron and Baroness. I thank all of the children though for throwing themselves so fully into whichever roles they found themselves playing, and I know that as they move on to Senior School and beyond, each and every one has the strength of character to make the very most of the parts that may fall their way. And if things ever seem tough, don't give up, but remember the ultimate growth mindset mantra: up from the ashes grow the roses of success! **TMC**



*“It is the cast, however, who truly bring a script to life, and this year every single child in Year 6 has been amazingly positive and supportive, showing energy, commitment, and hard work in every rehearsal along the way.”*





# Out and about

## MATERIAL CHANGE

In January, children from Year 3 visited Coldharbour Mill for a dramatic opportunity to see what life was like for Victorian children during the industrial revolution. Arriving at the textile mill dressed the part in Victorian attire, they were immediately put through their paces by Mr. Robson, the factory foreman, to try and land a job at the mill. They had to follow orders, clean, stack bobbins and complete many other labour-intensive tasks. Whilst they were all successful and to some degree claimed to have enjoyed the experience, the children all seemed very thankful that our teachers are not as strict as Mr. Robson! Back at school, the children wrote some excellent diary entries about their experiences. **JZR**



## LIFE'S A BEACH

The children from Reception had a great time when they visited the lifeguards at Exmouth seafront. They looked at the lifeboats, talked about the safety flags flown on the beach and found out all about staying safe at the beach. There was also time for collecting and sorting shells, building sandcastles, and enjoying ice lollies! **CAM**



WHETHER CROSSING THE ROAD TO VISIT THE SENIOR SCHOOL, EXPLORING THE HISTORIC MARKET TOWN OF TIVERTON, OR TRAVELLING A LITTLE FURTHER AFIELD, DEVON PROVIDES US WITH SO MANY RICH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE LEARNING EXPERIENCE, RIGHT ON OUR DOORSTEP!



## A Taste of Honey

Did you know that a bee has five eyes? Or that only female bees can sting? There was a real buzz about the Reception trip to Quince Honey Farm, where the children enjoyed a fun filled, hands-on day finding out all about bees and other minibeasts in May. From honey tasting, candle making and seed planting, to meeting stick insects and handling giant snails, there were many awe-and-wonder moments to engage and inspire the children, none more captivating than the chance to see the inside of an active bee hive! Exploring the pollinator-friendly gardens was fun, and taking a guided tour of the honey factory was fascinating, before the children very much appreciated the opportunity to unwind in the soft play area at the end of a long, tiring but productive and rewarding day. **JSR**



## ANIMAL INSTINCT

Children in Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic day out when they visited Paignton Zoo to take part in an awesome hands-on rainforest workshop. The importance of conservation to help endangered species – and prevent more species from becoming endangered – in our fragile world is such an important topic for our young people to learn about. Seeing the diversity of wildlife thriving at the zoo encourages hope that there is still time left to make a difference, and the children were delighted to see the entertaining animal antics on show as they toured the zoo after their workshop.

LPM



## OUR LITTLE WORLD

As part of our topic 'Our Little World', some of our youngest Blundellians from Nursery set off on a grand adventure to explore Tiverton. Obviously, the highlight of the trip was the ride on the minibus, but the children also fed the ducks on the River Exe, explored St. Peter's Church and Tiverton Castle, brought fruit from the Pannier Market and took shelter from the pouring rain in Mrs. Gill's café (who couldn't have been more welcoming to a group of bedraggled 3-year olds!) We finished with a visit to Old Blundell's School where we marvelled at the thought of people "even older than daddy" being taught there, before another exhilarating ride on the minibus back to school! AMS



## ROCKS OF AGE

Having been learning about palaeontologist Mary Anning, children in Year 3 followed in her footsteps when they spent an afternoon fossil hunting with experts from the Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre. Although they may not have discovered any previously unknown species of dinosaur, they found no shortage of ammonites on the pebble beach! SJS



## PLASTIC MEMORY

Children from Year 2 enjoyed a fascinating trip to visit the Senior School Design Technology Department. They wanted to find out all about the properties of plastic, why creating new plastic can be harmful to the environment, and how existing plastics may be reused or recycled. A huge thank you to Mr. Wheatley and his team for hosting us so well and using some of the powerful machinery in the DT workshops to show us the answers to our questions! LPM



## LIKE A FISH TO WATER

Year 2 went to Plymouth Aquarium where we did some ocean science. There were three science activities: we looked at the different body parts of sea creatures, we saw that salt water is heavier than normal water and we saw the different ways to eat plankton. Then we went around the aquarium and saw many different sea creatures. We saw jellyfish, sharks, turtles, rays, starfish, a hermit crab and a cheeky eel. Becky from the aquarium told us lots of facts about the animals there, including some rather disgusting facts about sea cucumbers! It was a great trip, everyone learned a lot and had a lot of fun too!

Wren Dobson, YEAR 2



## HORSES FOR COURSES

Investigating the real-life application of Maths, children in Year 6 were thrilled to be off to the races at Exeter Racecourse. Happily gambolling around the venue, and learning much about the racing industry along the way, they visited the parade ring and weighing room, as well as walking some of the course, taking measurements and making calculations to help them tackle a series of problem solving challenges concerning optimum jockey weights for riding different horses for different races. And after such hard work, the children were most excited to stay and watch some of the afternoon racing. Many thanks to everyone at the racecourse for making us feel so welcome. What are the odds of us repeating this trip for other children in the future? A dead cert! LPM



**Gorge Walking** was really fun because there were tunnels and air pockets behind the water so you could put your head through the water, and still breathe!

Arthur Stephens



# OVERNIGHT *Sensations*

## SIMPLY OUTDOORS

A mixture of immense excitement and trepidation brewed in the lead up to the Year 5 residential! Not quite knowing what to expect and whether fears would be conquered, Year 5 soon realised once they got to the Simply Outdoors centre in Tavistock, however, that they were in for a fun packed week trying lots of different activities. A few had been experienced before by some of the year group and other activities were completely new such as the gorge walking up the River Plym, which produced lots of squeals of excitement as the children clambered over rocks and slid down rocks as they made their way through the water. Fears of heights were overcome on the abseil and the high ropes course with so much achievement being felt when these were completed. The rock scrambling and squeezing through tunnels of rock produced real adventure and much fun was had on the lake when kayaking and canoeing, with a few enjoying capsizing! The archery produced some great aiming skills, and the orienteering around the centre and wide games on the moor in the evenings were a highlight and very competitive. Throughout the week, so many new friendships were formed, fantastic teamwork was shown and proud moments were had by all! **JER**



Of the many and varied trips and visits that take place across the school throughout the year, the residential stays are far and away the most anticipated! These begin in Year 3 with the provision of a one night stay at school, together with a number of themed daytrips offsite. Throughout Years 4, 5 and 6 the residential experience grows, moving to a range of locations further afield, and extending over multiple nights spent away from home. For some children the experience can at first seem a little daunting, and separation anxieties may arise. However, it is often the case that children at first trepidatious at the thought of being away from the family home very quickly come to forget their worries entirely as they become fully immersed in an action-packed schedule of numerous exciting, dynamic and fun filled activities with their friends. The experience, which many of our children regard as more of a holiday than a school trip, is an important step towards developing confidence, self-belief and independent life skills, and will almost certainly live long in the memory of our young learners as one of the highlights of their time at school. **LPM**

**Abseiling** was great fun, although I would not recommend it if you are not a fan of heights! We had to climb up two ladders and then onto a high platform (fortunately attached to a rope with a harness on!) Then we had to step off the platform! My legs were wobbling then! When our instructor lowered us down to the ground, it felt like I was flying!

**Kitty Atkinson**

**Canoeing** in the lake involved more than paddling... We also played games such as the get-the-most-rubber-ducks-as-you-can challenge, and the sabotage-other-people's-boats-to-get-more-rubber-ducks challenge... It was a lot of fun!

**Joseph Leaman**

**Rock Scrambling** was so much fun! When we first started to climb up a rocky mountain I was nervous that I might slip, but once I got going it was amazing! When we got a bit further up the mountain we had to pass through a very small hole onto a very narrow ledge. I got nervous again, but all my friends encouraged me and I did it! I really enjoyed rock scrambling and would love to do it again!

**Eliza Griffiths**

**Wide Games** on Dartmoor were super fun! My favourite was playing a giant game of Capture the Flag, this had everyone puffing and panting and running around like mad. Everyone enjoyed it, and I would rate this game 10/10! **Molly Ware**





## Home and Away

Children in Year 3 dipped their toes into the residential experience with a single night sleepover in the school hall, complete with a calm-down-before-you-go-to-sleep film showing, sandwiched between evening supper and morning breakfast served by our own catering staff! Either side of this super supine slumber, the children had been wearing themselves out with an action-packed range of dynamic activities, including Surf School at Saunton Sands, paddle boarding at Haven Banks, high ropes at Haldon Forest Park, and nature trailing along the Grand Western Canal! **LPM**



## BATTISBOROUGH HOUSE

Year 6 enjoyed a fantastic break away when they stayed at Battisborough House, a beautiful rustic retreat in the South Hams. Blessed with wonderful weather, this scenic coastal idyll was the perfect setting for relaxing with friends and reflecting on happy times at Blundell's Prep before preparing to move on to Senior School. And when not sunbathing on the beach or taking a dip in the sea at the gorgeous secluded Mothecombe Beach, chatting, playing games or relaxing with friends around the house and its delightful grounds or toasting marshmallows and singing songs around the obligatory evening campfire, a wealth of more demanding outdoor pursuits were laid on to keep everyone fit and active. The children rose to the challenge of climbing, archery, abseiling and ziplining at the Dynamic Activities Centre in Totness, they enjoyed balancing paddle-boarding with canoeing and kayaking on the River Dart, and finished the week on the crest of a wave surfing at Bigbury-on-Sea. **LPM**



## Folly Farm

Children in Year 4 enjoyed three great days away at Folly Farm, an eco-friendly retreat near Bristol. There was a host of activities and an abundance of opportunities to learn about and engage with nature within the stunning grounds of Folly Farm. The children explored the woodland to find out more about the minibeasts and mammals that live there. They dipped nets into one of Folly's fantastic ponds to discover what lives beneath the surface! The children found out all about the food chain of the pond. They took dusk walks to spot nocturnal animals in their different habitats and set wild life camera traps. Footage revealed Folly's notorious badgers. The children were introduced to the concept of camouflage with a game of hide and seek in the Folly woods.

They learnt the different techniques animals use to camouflage themselves, before putting their own camouflaging skills to the test! They had the opportunity to dissect owl pellets and found out more about the eating habits of these nocturnal creatures. They worked in teams to build the ultimate weatherproof den, which was put to the test with a big storm that came their way! The children explored what makes for good teamwork by carrying out team building games, and generally had a lot of fun relaxing in the farmhouse and its beautiful grounds with their friends! **JJA**





## LOOMING LARGE

When children in Year 4 visited Coldharbour Mill, they got the opportunity to use hand looms and spinning wheels to investigate the art of textile weaving... all part of the rich fabric of Creative Arts Week! **LPM**



# Creative Arts Week

## TAKING THE STAIN

Children in Year 5 had the pleasure of taking their art focus to Exeter Cathedral, where they studied the beautiful stained-glass windows, as well as touring the cathedral and sketching some of its impressive architecture. Back in school, the children worked with visiting artist Tony Minion to develop their own stained-glass designs. They explored how separate glass panes can join together harmoniously to build a bigger picture, before using black ink and vibrant paints to create their own wonderful eco-themed scenes. **SJS**



Whether working outside or inside, whether working independently, with each other or with visiting artists, whether linking art to our curriculum studies or simply appreciating the inherent value in creating art for art's sake, Creative Arts Week at Blundell's saw everyone from Nursery to Year 6 enjoying the opportunity to step back and consider the bigger picture that art plays in all our lives. **LPM**





# Starting afresh

Children in the Pre-Prep enjoyed an environmental focus on reusing and recycling plastics to create some original art models. From dinosaur sculptures, snowmen pots and styrofoam fish to bird feeders and milk bottles artistically decorated with upcycled materials, there really was no limit to the creativity of eco-crafting possibilities! **SJS**



## WEAVING MAGIC

Children in Year 3 studied the artwork of William Morris, decorating trees with delicate clay birds crafted in his distinct style, and working with visiting artist Stefan Jennings to weave willow into a majestic herd of deer sculptures which can still be seen prancing proudly across the Blundell's landscape! **LPM**



## PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS

Stop-motion animation has enjoyed a popular resurgence driven by the success of Aardman Studios, and children in Year 6 had a great deal of fun immersing themselves in this film-making technique during Creative Arts Week. They worked with visiting artist Ed Jobling, who helped them to plan, film and edit their own short stop-motion animations, complete with novelty sound effects! **SJS**





**WORLD BOOK DAY**

Reading is clearly a high profile and very much valued activity every day of the year at Blundell's. Over and above the key curricular teaching of phonics and reading comprehension skills in English lessons, reading is very well supported across and beyond the curriculum with initiatives including dedicated Accelerated Reader sessions, the celebration of Word Millionaires, termly book prizes and Holiday Reading Challenges firmly established. Reading support groups are in place to help those who may require a little more practice, and Mrs. Southgate, in her role as librarian, is always keen to stretch and push our more able readers to choose an increasing range of more challenging books to read for pleasure. This year, World Book Day fell on Thursday 3rd March, and to mark this occasion, Blundell's held a whole Book Week... LPM



## TELLING TALES

Sharing stories has always been central to the development of strong social skills, and it was lovely to see the warm glow of satisfaction beaming from the faces of story tellers and audiences alike throughout Book Week. Parents visited to read to the children, teachers shared some of their favourite children's stories, children read together in Reading Dens they had constructed and it was a particular highlight to watch our Year 6 readers capture completely the attention of our youngest children, when they visited the Pre-Prep to read for the little ones. Bookended by the visiting Book Fair which opened our week, and the tranquil calm of Book at Bedtime which closed it on a cosy candle lit high with a sleepy story time served up with hot chocolate and cookies for supper, the story of Book Week was the story of a healthy reading appetite successfully stimulated for all! LPM



# Neverending Stories



## BOOKING AN AUTHOR

On World Book Day, local award-winning author Claire Barker came in to talk to us. Claire is based in Devon and has made a career out of doing what she loves – writing for children. Claire is famous for writing Picklewitch & Jack, and the Knitbone Pepper Ghost Dog books, a main theme of which is the importance of friendship. She performed a book reading for us, told us all about her life, pets and books, and answered many questions on how to write a good story and what it is like to be an author by trade. After staying for a book signing, Claire left us with the inspiring message that we can all be successful authors – and the top advice that the more we read, the better we will write!

Daniel Elson, YEAR 6





GETTING INTO  
*Character*

It seemed as though Blundell's was hosting a Who's Who of children's literature when staff and pupils came to school dressed as their favourite book characters. While *The Cat in the Hat* could be seen rubbing shoulders with *The Highway Rat* and *The Tiger Who Came To Tea*, and *Willy Wonka* and *Cruella Deville* could be spotted enjoying the company of *Ariel*, *Tintin* and *Captain America*, *Rapunzel* was clearly having a great time letting her hair down with *Alice in Wonderland*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and *Goldilocks* and the three *Harry Potters*. The glittering gallery of fictional friends really helped to bring the wonder of a good story to life!

LPM





## U11 NETBALL

The U11 girls enjoyed a cracking term of netball, quickly getting to grips with the new Bee Netball rules, including position rotations which gave the girls a wealth of opportunity to play in every position over the course of a match. This saw each girl honing both their shooting and defending skills every week. I was really impressed with the way they embraced the new five-a-side game and with how quickly they became proficient at organising their rotations. The A Team won all bar one of their weekly matches, while the B Team remained unbeaten! All of the girls showed great versatility and impressed with the accuracy of their shooting when put under pressure. The regional IAPS tournament didn't quite go our way, but sometimes that's the way it goes and as always, the girls worked their socks off and were a credit to the school with their resilience, hard work and good sportsmanship. They played some brilliant netball at the Millfield Tournament, beating some tough competition and can feel justly proud after finally winning the tournament by 1 goal in the last game. It was a strong season for this talented group of girls, who will surely go on to achieve many further successes on the sports field. **LB & CFH**



## U10 NETBALL

What a superb season this was for the U10 squad! While the B Team enjoyed some brilliant victories against other schools – including beating West Buckland 9-1, and Queen's Taunton 10-0 – the A Team finished the netball season undefeated, winning seven matches and drawing three. In total they scored a whopping 99 goals, while only conceding 26. Perhaps the highlight was victory at the Queen's festival, where they won all their matches, scoring a total of 26 goals and only conceding 2. All of the U10 girls showed remarkable commitment, really working as a team to learn new skills at every opportunity. Everyone enjoyed rotating positions and learning the tactics needed for both defence and attack. With fantastic drive and determination, the girls should be incredibly proud of their achievements, and watching their hard work and resilience pay off has been an absolute joy! Well done, girls! **JER & IRS**

## U9 NETBALL

The U9 girls had a superb netball season. They worked hard during lessons to improve some of the fundamental skills of the game and their passing became more powerful and accurate. They looked to receive the ball on the move and to make good use of space on the court. The U9s experienced playing full court 5-a-side netball this term, as well as the newly encouraged Bee Netball which promotes inclusion and is a lot of fun! Whatever the style of netball played, the girls adapted and fully embraced the game. They enjoyed huge successes against a variety of local schools including St. Peter's, Exeter Cathedral, Stover, Plymouth College and Mount Kelly. Their unstoppable run culminated in both U9 teams remaining unbeaten at the Exeter Netball Festival. I was impressed with every aspect of their game this season and, perhaps more importantly, the support they showed for one another on court, and their sportsmanship throughout the season. Well done, girls! **FLE**





## U8 NETBALL

The U8 girls made tremendous progress in developing their netball skills, and really enjoyed playing the new version of Bee Netball. This meant that all the girls were able to play as shooters, centre court players and defenders, and all therefore were able to practise and improve every important skill needed in netball. They scored many goals in their weekly matches and I was particularly impressed with their efforts in the Millfield Festival after a late night at the disco the day before! Each team played 10 matches and only lost 1 each. Well done to Nancy and Bella, our Players of the Tournament that day, for their resilience, hard work and focus in every match. I look forward to coaching this exciting squad of girls as they move up through the school **LB**



## U11 HOCKEY

The U11 squad gathered on a cold wet Monday afternoon for the start of the hockey season with bags of enthusiasm, and they finished the season on a warm sunny Wednesday afternoon having played Millfield where they acquitted themselves very well with a win for the C team, a close loss for the B team and a draw for the A team. All the boys played lots of matches for the school against all of the local prep schools in the area and recorded a great set of results. With many away fixtures and home festivals, the frequency of the matches saw the boys improve dramatically across the season. Their training was helped by specialist coaching from Miss Harris (Senior School hockey coach) and Mr. Smith (ISCA coach), both of whom were able to give expert insight into developing the boys' hockey skills. The A Team had an excellent year, winning many accolades. They played in three large tournaments and won silverware in each. A highlight was placing second in the West of England hockey finals, having qualified as Devon Champions. These boys worked so hard for their teammates, stuck to the team system, and pushed their personal skills to an incredibly high level. Certainly, this is a group which will go on to win many more hockey plaudits. Many thanks to all those who have supported the boys in their matches. **SGS**

## U10 HOCKEY

As is always the case, the end of this short season came too soon, as we had just started to find our form and play some exciting hockey. Our last match against Millfield proved to be our best and although we did not win, the commitment, skill and sheer determination from all the boys to compete and play their part was plain to see. From goalkeeper to centre forward, we produced some excellent performances and all those who represented the team did so with enthusiasm and played with pride. To their credit not one member of the team gave up when playing against some tough opposition. They never let their heads drop and they all trained hard and always gave their best. The desire to pressurise opposition and try to play team hockey was admirable and some of the attacking, particularly, in one of our last matches, against Perrot Hill, was sublime. With their enduring passion for the sport and with firm fundamental foundations of the game laid ahead of next year, I am looking forward to an exciting Year 6 hockey season! **JE & SPH**

## U7 NETBALL

The Year 2 girls had a wonderful trip to St. Peter's School in Lymstone. The girls worked hard to improve their catching and throwing skills, focusing on moving into a space after passing the ball and marking others to prevent the opposition from scoring. Excitement levels were high on our journey down to St. Peter's and the weather couldn't have been better! After a fun warm up the girls split into small groups and took part in a festival of games against schools including Woodbury School and Exeter Cathedral as well as St. Peter's. It was wonderful to see their skills put into practice and to see other important qualities such as teamwork and communication on display. After all that hard work, a slice of cake and cup of hot chocolate were welcomed by all – what a fantastic afternoon! **FLE**



## U8 HOCKEY

In the Spring term, the Year 3 boys gave 100% when playing what was, for many, a new sport. They worked fantastically well to improve all aspects of their game: from passing and dribbling, to shooting and positioning on the pitch. The boys really enjoyed having the opportunity to play against other schools and achieved some impressive results along the way. There is certainly much promise here for future hockey achievements at Blundell's! **TDG**

## U9 HOCKEY

The U9 hockey teams had an action-packed season in which they delighted at the opportunity to tuck into an array of festivals and fixtures. The boys developed new skills and tactics in games sessions and displayed an impeccable commitment and desire to push their hockey forward. They played a free flowing and exciting style of hockey, often resulting in a flurry of goals. They also defended resolutely to withstand the onslaught of many formidable attacks. This led to huge success against some tough oppositions. This is certainly a group of boys to look out for in the future! **JJA**



## U7 FOOTBALL

The Year 2 boys had already been practising their football skills, and had enjoyed the competitive play of House Football, but with the opportunity to play against other schools the excitement levels leapt up! When they arrived at St. Peter's, Lymptone, for their friendly football festival, the boys were eager to impress, with lots of passing, shooting – and even some scoring – in the series of short 5-a-side games that followed. It was also great to see clear sportsmanship on display, and everybody tried their very hardest to the final whistle of each game. This was very pleasing to see and testament to the drive and enthusiasm of the boys. Well done! **SGS**

## U9 FOOTBALL

The Exeter Junior School Football Tournament was eagerly anticipated by the U9 boys. Not having played a huge amount of football, they were certainly not favourites. The boys' determination to bring back the trophy, however, was astounding. Due to some seriously clinical goal scoring, the reliability of our midfield work horses and some rock steady defence, the boys were able to beat the odds and return with winners' medals. Well done boys! **JJA**



## HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY: MILDREN CUP

The sun was out, and the children were excited to run in an attempt to win the Mildren Cross Country Cup for their House. With the ground being soft but not muddy, the races were going to be quick and hotly contested. The competition in each year group was clear to see on the start line, with runners trying to get the best starting positions. House spectators this year were based in the middle of the course, giving a brilliant 360-degree view of the event, and they cheered vociferously for their House runners in each of the events. Many fantastic individual race performances were recorded, with the top three runners in each category rewarded with medals. But ultimately this was a team event, and when all the individual results were in, Drake were declared House winners this year. Well done to Drake, and well done to everyone who tried their best, regardless of finishing positions. **SGS**



## BLUNDELL'S CROSS COUNTRY: LARKMAN CUP

As usual, the Larkman Cup cross country races attracted lots of schools and their runners. The weather was glorious, and the course had dried out, making the racing very exciting! When the U9's, U11's and U13's had all taken their turn to run, Blundell's placed a creditable third overall, with Taunton out in front to take the Larkman Cup this year. At the end of the event there was a special guest to present the prizes. Mr. Larkman, formerly the Headmaster of All Hallows School, had originally introduced this cross country race, which was adopted by Blundell's when All Hallows closed its doors for the last time in the late 1980s. Renamed the Larkman Cup, it has been run at Blundell's every year since. Mr. Larkman was delighted to see so many children enjoying running, and thrilled that the Larkman Cup cross country races are so firmly established at Blundell's. **SGS**



## SOUTHWEST ATHLETICS

On the hottest day of the year so far, 13 pupils had an early start heading up to Millfield for the Southwest Regional Athletic rounds. I was impressed with their energy and enthusiasm after 2 nights of performing their fantastic play, but I often underestimate the power of fizzy laces and Tangfastics at 8.30am on a minibus! Looking the part in their shiny new vests, the students were eager to do their best. The 1500m runners were first up and did an amazing job in the stifling heat. Well done Ellie, Sam and Freddie. After hours of waiting in the hot sun, Oscar, Felix, Tilly and Bryony ran brilliantly in the 800m but sadly didn't quite make it into qualifying positions. Our sprinters had great success when it came to their heats, with almost all of them qualifying for the finals in the 100m and 200m. Well done Martha, Amelia, Lilly, Paddy, Daniel and Xander. Paddy managed a 4th place in his 100m final with Daniel close behind and Xander did brilliantly in his 200m race to come 3rd, narrowly missing out on qualifying for the nationals. Martha won her 100m heat by several meters and then went on to take second place in the 100m final, securing her a place at the nationals. Amelia stormed both her 200m heat and 200m final to take 1st place overall and claim her position at the nationals. Tilly managed a 3rd place in the long jump and narrowly missed qualifying. Both relay teams made it through to the finals with the girls winning and the boys just missing out. Well done to all on an amazing day of athletics! **LB**



# SPORTS DAYS

We were fortunate to be blessed with glorious sunny weather for all of our Sports Days this year – Nursery, Pre-Prep and Prep! It was great to see children from across the school taking part in track and field events with great enthusiasm and huge smiles! Whether sprinting or distance running, throwing or jumping, everyone gave 100%. Many individual school records were broken, but with children competing for their Houses, this was also an important team sport event, and it was perhaps no surprise that the fiercest competition could be seen at the Prep School's final event, the House Relays! Congratulations to Drake for claiming the House Cup and well done to every single child for taking part with such enthusiasm in all of their events! It was lovely to see children from across the school enjoying themselves and doing so well in athletics. **LB**



# U7 ATHLETICS FESTIVAL

The Year 2 children thoroughly enjoyed their outing to St. Peter's for the annual athletics festival. The weather was kind to us and the sun shone, allowing for a most enjoyable afternoon. The boys and girls participated in a carousel of activities including a long-distance run, a sprint, and a variety of throwing, jumping and balancing activities. What a super introduction to all of the athletics disciplines and great practice for Sports Day! All of the children worked to the best of their ability and did so with smiles on their faces. The highlight was probably the ice lolly at the end of the afternoon, and I think they thoroughly deserved it! Well done to each and every one of you. **FLE**





## U11 CRICKET



For the boys' U11A Team, it was very much a season of two halves, the first going a great deal better than the second! That said, at all times the team enjoyed their cricket and were involved in some very close matches, none more so than the one wicket win against Wellington in their first game, with Felix Neil holding his nerve to score the winning runs. Match 2 was a rather more straightforward victory, with a 96 run win against Queen's. Five players retired not out with skipper, Barney Cronkshaw, scoring an impressive 28no. Game 3 was played against Exeter Junior School and with confidence high the team managed to win by 48 runs, Xander Rickford top-scoring with 34no. Winning ways continued in game 4, played against Exeter Cathedral School as Blundell's scored 153 in 20 overs to win by 73 runs. Game 5 saw arguably the most entertaining match of the season against touring side, Papplewick, with Mr. Martin returning to Blundell's as the visiting coach. Our team were keen to impress and impress they did, scoring a determined 122, Jack Panter making an invaluable 18 and Tilly Hill (joining the boys) a powerful 14 on debut. In reply, Papplewick could only amass 120 all out, prompting great celebrations from Blundell's. With 5 games played and 5 games won, confidence was high, but a very strong Millfield side put an end to the winning streak with a 96 run defeat for our team. This big step

up in competition continued as we travelled to King's Hall, a side packed full of county players. Our opponents scored 195-1 from their 20 overs, with George Connolly taking that solitary one wicket. In response, we could only muster 87, with Barney making 38 from 25. Taunton were next and the 34 run defeat did not really reflect how close a game this was, with just one or two mad moments and missed opportunities making all the difference. Freddie Smith made an impressive 17 and Spencer Baxter smashed an entertaining 14. The final game of the season was played against Plymouth College and this was a game that our side really should have won, eventually losing by 4 wickets, in spite of Felix's excellent 30no. This squad were great fun to work with and, win or lose, they certainly enjoyed their cricket. There was plenty of 'cricket chat', some good, some less good, but always upbeat. Everyone played a part and my thanks go to each and every one of the players for their hard work throughout the season. **ADS**

The boys' U11B Team also played some marvellous cricket, truly impressing with their enthusiasm and determination to improve. They all worked tirelessly in the nets at their batting and bowling, and it was the latter that really caught my eye as the main factor for success. All the boys bowled with accuracy and with a good length, meaning the opposition often

found it hard to score runs and we ended up playing some very close matches! Coupled with some fine fielding displays, the boys showed themselves to be a worthy set of opponents against any school. Their batting at times was also very good, although on the odd occasion the boys did threaten to give me a heart attack when they set off for quick singles without any need... keeping the opposition fielders on their toes, and me gasping for breath! I would like to wish them every success in the future. They have been a real pleasure to take this term and I look forward to watching their cricket develop over the coming years. **SPH**

For the girls' U11 team, the summer term made for an impressive end to an already amazing year of sport, with the girls winning every single cricket match that they played. I was particularly impressed with how every one of them managed to improve the quality of their batting and bowling each week. Special mentions go to Ellie White and Tilly Hill who played hard ball games with the boys' team in several matches, and well done Ellie also for getting the most wickets in the season. Top batting scores went to Amelia, Tilly and Grace, who consistently hit 4s in their overs, finding the gaps in the field and striking with power and accuracy. Well done to all for your manners, effort, enthusiasm and sense of fun throughout! **LB**



## U10 CRICKET

Moving up to play hard ball cricket involves facing some new challenges. To bowl with a hard ball takes a bit of getting used to, as the ball is larger and weighs much more. Striking a hard ball also takes more effort and can seem more daunting, not least because of the unstated fear of getting hurt which may linger – in spite of the protective kit provided. There can also be a certain anxiety in the desire not to get out first ball and see your time with the bat cut short. The boys' U10A Team took all these challenges in their stride, however, and were never fazed at all. All were keen to improve and develop their skills with both the bat and the ball, but what particularly impressed was seeing the boys gel as a great fielding unit, taking their role in the outfield very seriously with a determination to support their teammates bowling. The team

was victorious on many occasions, and all very much enjoyed their cricket, growing in confidence with each practice and match. Well done boys! **SGS**

The boys of the U10 B Team were likewise keen and enthusiastic all season. They enjoyed playing many action-packed 20-20 matches, which suited their desire to make quick runs. A huge amount of fun was had and each game saw a growth in the boys' batting, bowling and fielding skills. It was pleasing to see an increasingly consistent line and length in bowling deliveries, and, although the boys would always enjoy going big and looking for boundaries, some mature refinements began to be seen in their shot selection as the season progressed. All were an absolute pleasure to teach. **JJA**

The girls' U10 team experienced mixed success this season. However, as the season progressed, so the team began to grow in confidence and gain more self-belief, leading in turn to more positive play during matches. The bowling increased in accuracy and power, with notable performances from Raphie Clapp, Kitty Atkinson and Eliza Griffiths, and the batting became stronger with many boundaries being found as the girls began to hit through the ball. Morgan Tamblin was extremely good at locating the right space to hit the ball into, and Emily Rhys-Davies and Octavia Knight communicated well when batting to achieve those important extra runs. In the field, Carlotta Taxis, Victoria Yandle and Layla De-Vey were always alert and quick to stop the opposition from scoring runs, often making the difference between winning and losing a match. Well done to the entire team for making so much progress with your cricket this season! **JER**

## U9 CRICKET

The U9 boys had a lot of fun this season, bringing an abundance of enthusiasm to the game and playing some exceptional cricket. The boys fielded remarkably well for their age, with an eagerness to stop quick singles and boundaries. The energy in the field did not drop as games progressed, which led to many opposition teams being limited to low scores. The boys' bowling improved considerably throughout the season, with a more consistent line and length from many. There were many excellent individual performances, but a special mention must go to Jack Holman, who should be very proud of his hat-trick. As the season progressed, the boys became more and more eager to pad up for a taste of the real deal. There are many promising cricketers in this squad, who are ready and champing at the bit to take on hard ball cricket in Year 5. Watch this space! **JJA**

The U9 girls hit the ground running in the cricket season. They were quick to display their skills with both bat and ball in hand and worked hard to develop their understanding of the game. I was particularly impressed with the progress that all were able to make with their bowling, and this was certainly evident in our fixtures. The girls bowled with accuracy and consistency, giving away very few wides and no balls. I look forward to seeing them develop the speed of their bowling and run-up next year. Our season opened with a successful fixture against West Buckland, followed shortly after by a fixture against King's Hall, in which the Blundell's batting was on fire! It was great to see so many boundaries being hit and quick runs being taken. The girls dominated the season and continued their successes with victories over Stover, Exeter Cathedral and Exeter School. All players remained focused in the field, demonstrating a strong throwing technique and a keen awareness of the need to back each other up. A special mention must go to Evie Baily for the catches she took in the field, but well done to all of the girls, who are clearly shaping up to become a most promising cricket team for the future! **FLE**



## U8 CRICKET

There was no shortage of talent on the cricket field during the Summer term with many of the U8 boys already playing cricket outside of school. In the glorious sunny weather, huge progress was made across the term, with all of the boys continuing to further improve their batting, bowling and fielding skills. Match days were a full whites highlight for the boys, with fours and sixes testing the boundaries on a regular basis. Well done boys, for never failing to provide entertaining cricket for our avid supporters! **TDG**



The U8 girls had a very successful season of cricket, having worked really hard to improve their skills in every aspect of the game. Cartwheels were kept to a minimum on Thursday afternoons and saved for after match teas due to a good level of focus on the field. I was amazed by the quality of the bowling, with every child able to bowl a successful over in matches, and all constantly striving to develop and improve their technique every week. Batting was also very strong, with many of the girls crossing the boundary line in matches. Well done to all! **LB**



# reviewextra

## Ridiculous Riddles

by Aaron James

Can you match the riddles to their solutions?

RIDDLES:

- What do you have to break before you can use it?
- What has seas with no water, mountains with no rocks and buildings with no stone?
- What is so fragile that just speaking would break it?
- What has branches but no leaves and no trees?
- What gets wetter the more it dries?
- If two snakes marry, what will their towels say?
- What belongs to you, but other people use more than you?
- What can run all the way around a garden without taking a step?
- What is lighter than a feather, but cannot be held for long?
- What can be caught but never thrown?

SOLUTIONS:

- A shop
- A towel
- An egg
- Hiss and hers
- Your name
- A fence
- A cold
- Your breath
- Silence
- A map

## Garden Party

Years 1 and 3 were thrilled to team up when they were invited to the Senior School's Garden Open Day for a glorious morning full of garden themed activities in May. Scavenger hunts, pond dipping, outdoor games, seed planting and simply having time to appreciate the wonderful beauty of nature on show in our stunning school gardens was a refreshing, relaxing and very much appreciated opportunity for all! Many thanks to our Senior School friends for looking after us so well. **SJS**



## Bob the Blob in: I Lack Integrity – Get Me Out of Here!

Can you help Bob to escape from the maze before the bomb goes off?

From an idea by Max Loveridge; original characters created by Frances Auger, Kristiane Wheeler, Emily Nash and Olivia Rhodes.

## Club Class 1:

### QUIZ CLUB



Competition was fierce to gain a place in the Blundell's Prep Quiz Club Team this year, and it was great to see the enthusiasm from so many keen to get involved. The preliminary heats of the Quiz Club National Prep Schools General Knowledge Championship were conducted remotely, and Blundell's Teams 1 & 2 – each comprising one representative from each year group – found themselves in a National Heat against eighty other schools all hungry for victory! The questions were suitably challenging, and after a promising start, both of our teams began to feel the pressure, before rallying to finish comfortably within the top half of the table. This was a creditable result, although not quite good enough to gain a place in the National Finals held in London this year. Well done to both our teams - there's always next year! **LPM**



## Joke of the Term #45

**Q:** How do Scientists freshen their breath?

**A:** With experiment!

Joke supplied by **Jago Price**, Year 6

**STAFF ON THE SPOT 1**



This term: *Mrs. Richardson.*

**How long have you worked at Blundell's?**

Two years.

**What do you teach at Blundell's?**

I teach Reception – all subjects.

**What is your favourite thing about the school?**

How friendly everyone is – and the food!

**Why did you choose to go into teaching?**

Although both of my parents were teachers, I didn't always want to be one. After university, I wanted to go travelling – I went to Japan, where I found myself working with children and loved it! For me, the creativity involved, and the feeling that you can really make a difference, are both important reasons for doing this job.

**When you were at school, what were your favourite subjects? What are your favourite subjects to teach now?**

When I was at school, my favourite subjects were History, Art and PE. Now I find teaching children to read to be the most rewarding.

**What are your hobbies outside of school?**

I used to do a lot of running before Lockdown, and I love going camping in my camper van.

**Do you have any pets?**

I have a dog, Simba – a Maltese Poodle.

**What is your favourite...**

**Food?** Tapas

**Drink?** Sauvignon Blanc

**Holiday destination?** Spain

**Film?** The Greatest Showman

**Song?** Your Song, by Elton John

**What are your top qualities?**

Patience, optimism and a sense of fun!

**What has been your most embarrassing moment?**

Falling over the final hurdle in a 400m hurdle race, and sprawling in the middle of the track.

Interview devised and conducted by **Hetty Parker** and **Elsie Beszant**, Year 6



**Joke of the Term #46**

**Q:** Why are teddy bears never hungry?

**A:** Because they always feel stuffed!

Joke supplied by **Robert Wallis**, Year 6

**Club Class 2:  
NEWSPAPER CLUB**



Many thanks to our intrepid team of Newspaper Reporters, who were all so keen to help put the Review magazines together this year. Meeting weekly for Newspaper Club, our young journalists enjoyed sharing ideas, researching events and activities, interviewing staff and pupils, taking photos, creating puzzles and reader challenges, writing script and expressing editorial input before publication of each edition. The inclusion of an active pupil voice is central to keeping The Review relevant for the whole school, and our Year 6 contributors this year have worked together brilliantly to perform a fine job! We wish them well as they take their media-savvy literary talents on to their Senior Schools. Stop Press. **LPM**

**NUMBERING OFF**

With each year that passes at Blundell's Prep, a number of school records seem to slip beneath the radar... Can you match the numbers given to the events listed for this year?

- The number of scones consumed by parents and visitors this year.
- The number of music lessons which take place every week.
- The number of goals scored by the U11 girls in hockey.
- The number of meatballs eaten by pupils and staff throughout the year.

**130**      **29,904**      **171**      **1298**

**STAFF ON THE SPOT 2**



This term: *Mrs. Lampard.*

**How long have you been teaching at Blundell's?**

Seventeen years, on and off.

**What do you enjoy most about your job?**

Seeing the pupils develop their skills, and the pride on their faces when they bake something brilliant.

**Where did you used to work before you came here?**

Buckingham Palace.

**What is your favorite food topic to teach?**

Food on a Victorian theme, because so many of the ingredients, recipes and equipment are things that we still use today.

**What is your favorite food to make and eat?**

Stir Fries!

**Where do you do most of your food shopping?**

Halberton Farm Shop, and Morrisons.

**What are your hobbies outside of school?**

Gardening, walking and rifle-range shooting.

**Do you have any pets?**

I have a dog – a cockapoo named Whisp.

**What is your favourite...**

**Holiday destination?** Kenya

**Sport to play or watch?** I like to watch my daughter playing cricket.

**Music to listen to?** I like The Corrs, and especially Summer Wine.

**Film or TV programme?** The Great British Bake Off.

**Do you have any ambitions still left to achieve?**

I would love to win the lottery, although I think that this could be a little tricky since I don't play it!

**What three words would best sum you up?**

Cheerful, practical and kind.

**What has been your most embarrassing moment?**

Breaking my leg after falling down just one step at home!

Interview devised and conducted by **Daniel Ellison** and **Aaron James**, Year 6



# All Together Now

Gaining the confidence and capacity to work independently, especially when things are tough, is key to character development and central to the teaching and learning ethos at Blundell's Prep. However, developing the interpersonal skills of smooth social interaction is equally important if we are going to equip our young learners with the full range of skills necessary to thrive and flourish in the wider world in the future. Therefore collaborative work plays an important role across the school in so many different ways. Children often work with partners or in small groups in class, and are encouraged to appreciate the collective responsibility we share for looking after each other and our environment; they also learn to balance competitive motivation with respect for the opposition, and grow to

understand that the most effective teamwork can lead to the whole seemingly adding up to more than the sum of its parts. Where appropriate, the children particularly enjoy vertical groupings, with the younger children benefiting from an alternative teaching voice, and the older ones consolidating and deepening their own understanding by teaching their skills or sharing their knowledge with others. Whether coming together from Nursery to Year 6 in their Houses, teaming up with another year group for shared learning, cooking with House Buddies, collaborating on themed project work, or simply sharing a good book with a younger reader, all enjoy the dynamic potential of teaming up, pulling together and helping one another to achieve their collective best. **LPM**



## Blundell's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Blundell's Road, Tiverton  
Devon EX16 4NA  
Telephone: 01884 252393  
Email: [prep@blundells.org](mailto:prep@blundells.org)

[www.blundells.org/prep](http://www.blundells.org/prep)