

AUTUMN 2020

# review



## *Back to School*

because business as usual is  
**something to smile about**

**INSIDE:**

Having a Field Day: *farming out*

Not Afraid to Get our Hands Dirty:  
*grasping at straws*

Back to Back Drama: *bonding  
over Christmas*



*“Whenever we truly emerge from all of this, my sense is that we will be better placed to cope with whatever life chooses to throw at us...”*



I always write my introduction to the Review at the very end of the term and often the day after the children and staff have headed off for a much needed holiday. The process tends to be the same – I look back at the calendar and the photographs, scroll through our social media feeds, and take a moment to draw out the key themes which emerge. Inevitably, my focus turns to all that the children and staff have achieved and I wonder how on earth we managed it. As I reflect on these past 15 weeks, I find myself coming back to that theme once again but more so than perhaps ever before.

It has been a busy term but whilst we have not been able to welcome you in to school as much as would have liked, what we have done is produce the most wonderful lasting record of a term like no other, with performances and events shared with you via SeeSaw and Vimeo. We all look forward to a time when we can have our school community back together once again but the skills that we have learnt will certainly not go to waste. Providing our parents with an even bigger window into life at Blundell's Prep is here to stay!

Earlier this year we shared our five year strategic plan and at the heart of that was a desire to embed a selection of key skills across all subject teaching. That remains as important as ever but one of those skills which has been brought sharply in to focus this term is adaptability, and this applies to pupils and teachers alike. We have all had to be agile in thought and deed, with some long standing notions of how schools should operate having to change at very short notice. Initially, this did seem rather daunting as the proliferation of DfE guidance came hurtling our way but the truth is, we all adapted quickly and, dare I say it, managed to have a great deal of fun along the way. As is often the case, it is the children who adapt most quickly when the goal posts are shifted once again and this provides a valuable lesson to us all about dealing with adversity. Whenever we truly emerge from all of this, my sense is that we will be better placed to cope with whatever life chooses to throw at us.

This term has seen us pursue a very simple yet incredibly important mantra – ‘What can we do?’ It is understandable that after nine very challenging months, the inclination may well have been to baton down the hatches and strip everything back to the basics, but rather than focus on what the guidelines prevented us from doing, we chose to give our full attention to all that we were able to do, and the results are here to see in this edition of the Review. Quite simply, everything you see laid out in the pages that follow is the result of the extraordinary efforts of our teaching and support staff. Having a mantra is one thing but having a group of people who are all truly aligned to that mantra is another thing entirely. Our team has been amazing and I send my thanks to each and every one of them.

I wish you all a happy and healthy 2021.

**Andy Southgate**  
Head Master



## WORDS AND NUMBERS

Reading lies at the heart of the curriculum, and all children are constantly encouraged to read broadly for their own pleasure, as well as for academic purposes. We have many children with insatiable reading appetites, but a special mention must go to Isabella in Year 5 for becoming our first Word Millionaire of the year this term. We are sure that many more will join her as the year progresses! The UK Primary Maths Challenge is designed to encourage enthusiasm and boost confidence in mathematics by leading pupils through a series of problem solving challenges.

**Congratulations to all who took part this term, and especially to Alexander, Purdy, Hugo, Toby, Matthew, Daisy and Freddie, our Gold Certificate winners!**



## POSITIVE THINKING

The UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge was back again this term to stimulate analytical thinking and problem solving skills in a competitive national context. Some amazing results were achieved across the school, but special mention must go to Toby, Octavia and Isaac for achieving Best in School within their age groups.



# Let's go to WORK



## Not for Oneself

It was disappointing that we were unable to invite parents into school to join us for our annual Harvest Festival in September. However, we were delighted and extremely grateful to receive the very many kind and generous donations that were sent in to support the Churches Housing Action Team foodbank in Tiverton. We were also very thankful for all of the donations that came in to support the Children in Need appeal in November; as well as enjoying the opportunity to wear home clothes to school, the children were also able to reflect on the good that this fundraising will do for others.



## ROLE CALL

Representatives from each Form were elected to the School Council at the start of the year, giving pupils an important voice and the chance to have their say on how the school is run. A Head Boy and Head Girl were also appointed from Year 6 to support the staff and guide the pupils at this tricky time, congratulations to Alexander and Emma for embracing this responsibility so wholeheartedly. In addition, each of our Houses also chose new House Captains to rally the troops this term – well done to George, Tabitha, Daisy, Matthew, Harry and Viola for taking on this competitive role!



## Assembly Lines

Although they may have felt a little different – socially distanced outside when weather permitted, or in smaller 'Bubbles' inside – the ability to resume Assembly Times provided an invaluable opportunity for the school to come together again and re-connect as a community. Nowhere was this felt more strongly than in two particular Assemblies that took place this term. The first was run by our Senior School Monitors, all ex-Prep pupils who wanted to come back and share a message of kindness and tolerance with the school – showing very clearly how the non-sibi values of 'not for oneself' engendered at the Prep School are carried forward and held in high esteem by the very oldest students in the Blundell's family. A second Assembly that stood out with its poignant reminder of the need to come together and support one another – especially at the most challenging times – was our Remembrance Service. Our Year 6 pupils did a fine job in sharing the words of the soldiers who gave their lives for their country – including many Old Blundellians who made the ultimate sacrifice for the good of others.





# OUTDOOR *Learning*

## CONSERVATION DAY: BALSAs WOODS

The sun was shining when the children in Year 6 began the term with a Conservation Day in the school woods. Working towards the Service element of the Blundell's Adventure Leadership and Service Award (BALSA), they spent the day clearing the woodland and getting the outdoor learning camp ready for the children in Years 3, 4 and 5 to enjoy.



## ENTRENCHED IN HISTORY: SOLDIERING ON

History took our Year 6 children outside when they spent the morning in our replica First World War trench to support their studies of the war, and what life was like for soldiers during the Battle of the Somme. They also had the opportunity to handle some authentic artefacts brought back from the battlefields of France by our very own war historian, Mr. Tony Addison.

## MATERIAL CHANGE: PACKING HEAT

Outdoor learning for Year 5 provided the opportunity to put some of the theories that had been studied in Science classes to the test in a series of hands-on experiments in the woods. These included looking at different methods of filtration, as well as using heat to investigate reversible and irreversible changes.





## AUTUMN ALMANAC: HAPPY HUNTING GROUNDS

The Reception children braved the inclement weather for a scavenger hunt in Wild Wonders, collecting some artfully coloured leaves from the school grounds with which to craft wonderful autumnal ombre palettes. It may not have been a beautiful day, but the Nursery children also had lots of fun using the school grounds to go hunting – acting out the story 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt!' Towards the end of term, they also enjoyed a fantastic trip out to explore the beautiful grounds of the National Trust Knightshayes estate. Fully equipped with Santa hats and wellies, they were thrilled to run and dance around this sensational setting, building up an appetite for the shortbread biscuits they had made earlier!



## WOOD WORK: FIRE AWAY

The children in Year 4 also enjoyed a busy day of outdoor learning in the woods, learning such bushcraft skills as den building and fire lighting, as well as building bug hotels, using iPads to complete and create their own spotter sheets, practising a bit of orienteering and, of course, roasting the obligatory marshmallows!

## BRICKS AND MORE: WELL GROUNDED

The Year 3 children enjoyed a packed day of outdoor learning, making the most of our beautiful school grounds as the setting for a whole variety of outside activities, including trying their hands at whittling, upcycling wooden pallets by turning them into planters, using foraged materials to create some original 3D artwork and – by far the messiest part of the day – making mud bricks as part of their History topic on the Ancient Egyptians!



This term has been very different and we have certainly had to adapt the way in which we have managed some of our music making opportunities. However, while keeping to all the guidelines that have been put in place, we have been determined to keep music running throughout the school as best as we can.



# MUSICAL *Notes*



## Carol Service

Our Carol Service is such an integral part of our Christmas celebrations that it was important that we continued with this tradition, albeit a little differently this year. So much of the service is the atmosphere created by the beautiful setting of the candlelit chapel, and we were determined to create this atmosphere through our virtual service. We were able to film most of the service in the chapel, which left us with the problem of how to include our whole school carol singing. On a slightly chilly Monday morning, if you had been passing the Prep School, you would have heard the beautiful sound of carols being sung outside. Each year group recorded the carols and then we were able to use them in our carol service. The children were an absolute credit to themselves and, as a result, we were able to create a carol service incorporating carols, readings and candlelight. Thank you to everyone who helped us to make this possible. **BLC**



## MUSICAL Christmas Card

When this first came about as an idea I thought to myself "Oh my goodness! Which Christmas song can I choose which our very youngest children in Nursery and our oldest children in Year 6 will all be able to join in with?" I didn't have to worry though because, as is always the case with our children, they all embraced the project with tremendous enthusiasm. Every class across the Pre-Prep and Prep School learnt *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* and we had a wonderful day filming in our Christmas jumpers and creating a performance which I hope that you all enjoyed. The filming was made even more exciting by the appearance of Father Christmas and it was truly magical to see the reaction of our youngest children as they presented him with a special Christmas letter. **BLC**





## TEA TIME Concerts

We have had three virtual concerts this term. The first concert was recorded in the children's music lessons whilst the Junior and Senior concerts in the second half of term were recorded more as a concert, in the hall and under the stage lights. The children adapted fantastically and it was wonderful to see them really beginning to analyse their performances musically. With the chance of being able to do a 'second take' many of the children used this to improve their performances further. **BLC**

## MUSIC EXAMS

We had a few children taking music exams this term, including our first ever virtual drum exam! Congratulations to all of our talented musicians for an attitude that just could not be beaten!

**Music To Our Ears: Regular music practice is instrumental to success, and we were delighted that music tuition lessons were able to recommence in school this term.**



# Christmas Spirit

Just as the little Whos of Dr. Seuss's Whoville would not let the Grinch steal Christmas, so it was at Blundell's this year. Social distancing restrictions might have deprived us of a live parent audience, but the shows must go on... and so they did, with gusto!



From shepherds' headdresses and kings' crowns to Santa's fur-trimmed caps: a hat-trick of festive fun from Nursery 1, Nursery 2 and Reception.



## STABLE DIET

All across the school children enjoyed dressing up and taking to the stage to herald the Christmas celebrations. Whether re-enacting the traditional nativity story of the birth of Jesus in a Bethlehem stable, donning Christmas jumpers and catching the polar express to meet Frosty the Snowman in a wintery wonderland, or calling upon the Secret Service to rescue a kidnapped Santa, all threw everything they had into the performances, acting, singing and smiling with all the joy of the festive season beaming unapologetically from happy young faces! LPM



# STARRING *Roles*



## LIGHTS, ACTION, CAMERA!

Our Speech & Drama students may not have had a live audience to play up to, but this did not stop them from acting up to the camera, and filming of their recital this term only served to make screen stars of our budding young thespians!

Year 3 were thrilled to find themselves harping on about the greatest story ever told in their production: Bethlehem B&B.





Year 1 quickly warmed to their arctic roles, and Year 2 were far from feeling sheepish when tasked with bringing the famous festive barn yarn to life...

Our Year 5 Christmas production this year was appropriately named Christmas is Forever. The whole production was fantastically performed before a very supportive Year 6 audience. Year 5 excelled themselves with enthusiastic singing in small groups and some amazing solo singing performances, as well as with some great character acting. The Lead Elves (Barney, Elsie and Felix) helped to tell the story and keep their audience up to date with events as they unfolded. This involved Agent OOPS Blonde (Bryony), being sent to rescue and save Father Christmas (Mattie), who had been kidnapped by the evil Scarymonger (Hetty). Would Christmas be saved for all the girls and boys? With the help of Y, the Head of MI6 (Barnaby), and after such adventurous feats as flying by microlight, scaling a cliff, karate chopping the guards and outrunning piranha fish, Blonde finally... is also captured by the conniving Scarymonger! Fortunately the O'Connor brothers from MI6 (Daniel and Rory), dressed in disguise as a fake Father Christmas and his Elf, were on hand to step in and save the day, restoring the natural order of the world just in time for Christmas!



# CHRISTMAS IS FOREVER



# SPORT



## RUGBY

Although the boys would have enjoyed the opportunity to show their skills on the rugby pitch against local and regional opposition, the absence of fixtures from the school calendar could not stop them enjoying an excellent season of rugby.

The boys grew in their understanding of defence and attack strategies, and their increasing appreciation of teamwork was great to see. The majority of the games played were touch rugby, and this fast-paced brand of rugby suited everybody, yielding many wonderful tries scored on the back of clever field positioning and accurate passing. Coaching sessions with Mr. Yapp (at different times first team coach for Exeter Chiefs, Taunton Titans and Exeter University) really helped the boys to gain an insightful understanding of the game, and there is no doubt that when competitive play returns, Blundell's will be ready and raring to go!

The rugby House Matches were played in great spirit this year. These were won by Raleigh in Year 6 and Grenville in Year 5; Grenville and Raleigh were joint winners in Year 4 and Grenville won in Year 3. Playing against your normal school match teammates is a challenge as they know you and you know them, but in this competition the House comes

first! All of the boys in each year played their part for their Houses and the whole competition was exciting, close and full of excellent performances. Above all, the boys enjoyed the chance to play some competitive games and earn points towards the House Sports Cup. **SGS**





# HOCKEY

Sport at the Prep School has continued to thrive this term despite the absence of fixtures which usually form a large part of the weekly structure. I have been so impressed with all of the girls' enthusiasm and energy on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons as I know that they will have missed the buzz of fixtures (and match teas) greatly. Nonetheless, they worked hard on their skill development in both hockey and netball and I have seen a huge improvement in individual performances as well as an increased awareness of positioning and tactics within a match.

Interschool matches provided some match play focus each week and also the opportunity for parents to watch the progress that their children were making.

The House Matches were tightly contested in Years 3 and 4 with Drake and Grenville taking joint 1st place and Raleigh battling hard until the final whistle. Drake were the convincing winners for Year 6 with some highly skilful play, and Raleigh triumphed in Year 5.

It has been lovely to have the time to explore other sports this term and the girls have really benefitted from having the chance to play some rounders and cricket too.



## MAKING A SPLASH!

The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 were delighted at the opportunity to get back in the water at Tiverton Leisure Centre when swimming lessons resumed this term.



Fingers crossed that we can see the return of some fixtures next term, but if not, I am sure that the girls will continue to impress me with their efforts in all areas of sport. Well done to all! **LB**





## MAKING A MEAL OF IT: PLATE TECH TONICS

While Year 5 were having fun making Scotch eggs, and Year 2 were stirring things up weighing, measuring, mixing and baking cakes, the children in Year 4 pursued their Healthy Eating Plate topic by making a healthy fizzy drink, and a healthy pot noodle, as well as playing games to help them to learn about the importance of eating a balanced diet. Food for thought indeed!



# Food Technology

## farm to fork

### SMASHING PUMPKINS: A BIT OF A SQUASH

In the run-up to Halloween, Nursery enjoyed a frightfully fun time exploring the pumpkin fields at Halberton Court Farm Shop, before returning to make all manner of peculiar potions in Wild Wonders. Year 3 and Year 4, meanwhile were creating a variety of devilishly delicious treats in FT, from plum spiders to 'Witch's Fingers'! ... if that's not too hard to swallow?





## SUPERTATO: TUBER EATS

Inspired by Sue Hendra's books about the adventures of Supertato and his veggie friends, Reception were on a mission to find out more about vegetables! They had a great time visiting Darts Farm to see all the different foods being grown there, before returning to school to look more closely at the produce they had bought, getting up close and personal with pumpkins, celery, red cabbage, courgettes, carrots and corn, amongst others. They also had a go at constructing their own healthy salad mix, before trying their hands at vegetable printing, and even making their very own Supertato heroes! Not wanting to be left out, Year 1 and Year 2 also got in on the action when Mr. Olive invited them to visit the Blundell's Garden. They had a great time looking at all of the vegetables being carefully cultivated, before finding out all about the Cox apples grown there, and even having the chance to sample some!



# review *extra*



## The Royal Treatment

What would you do if you were king or queen? Year 1 reflected on what their crowning glory would be...



## Super Heroes

*"You're much stronger than you think you are. Trust me."*  
SPIDERMAN

The Reception topic of 'superheroes' saw our young superstars leaping dynamically to the challenge! From creating superhero artwork, to solving super tricky problems, from using their super skills to work out what might sink or float, to using their super speed to beat the obstacle course, they had a lot of fun and learned a great deal along the way –

not least that, even when things are tough, we can all be superheroes if we believe we can...



## FRENCH CONNECTIONS

The children in Nursery have been having a great time combining French with Geography, Art, History and FT, learning lots of new words in French as they have made some wonderful paintings and collages including French flags, bonfire scenes and even smiley food faces! Bon travail!



## SKELETON CREW

Getting down to the bare bones of scientific enquiry, Year 3 had great fun investigating the human skeleton, finding out which bones are connected to which bones, and even constructing their own bona fide models to add to their growing body of work...



## STAFF ON THE SPOT



**This term:** *Miss Roberts*

**How long have you worked at Blundell's?**  
Since September!

**What did you do before you came to Blundell's?**

I taught musical theatre in Guangzhou in China for two years, before deciding that I wanted to do my PGCE and be a real teacher!

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

I teach a lovely class of Year 3 children!

**What is your favourite part of the job?**

I love seeing children being proud of what they have achieved, for example all of Year 3 at the end of their nativity production! Oh... and treats in the staffroom!

**What was your favourite subject when you were at school?**

Tough question! I always loved maths as I like how there is a right or a wrong answer, but I could always be found in the drama studio!

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

CrossFit, dance, hiking, cycling – anything that is active or outside!

**Do you have any strange habits?**

I have recently realised that all my life I have been holding scissors upside down – I only found out when Miss Mahon told me!

**What is your favourite...**

**Book?** I love any crime drama books!

**Film?** Mamma Mia (the singalong version of course!) **Song?** You Will Be Found, from Dear Evan Hansen **Place to eat out?** Anywhere that has tapas! **Holiday destination?** Sri Lanka!

**Do you have any children or pets?**

I have two collies, two cats and lots of chickens!

**What are your future ambitions in life?**

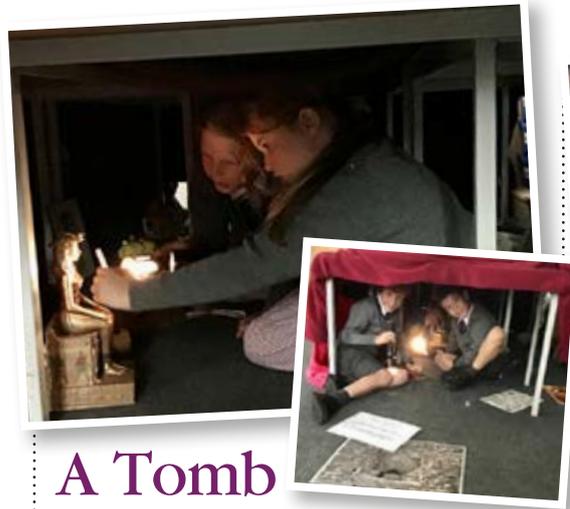
To travel around as many countries as possible!

**What would you buy if you won the lottery?**

A luxury villa on the beach in a beautiful hot country where I could spend the school holidays!

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

Kicking myself in the face and then slipping and landing on the floor in a dance show!



## A Tomb With A View

As part of their History studies on Ancient Egypt, Year 3 took on the mantle of Howard Carter, getting down on their hands and knees to explore what it must have been like for the archaeologists who discovered the tomb of Tutankhamun...



## TOP TABLES

The children in Years 3 to 6 enjoyed battling it out when Rock Out 2020 came to Times Table Rock Stars as part of Maths Week England. There was a real buzz of excitement about this competition, with many children making huge steps forward in learning their tables, but special congratulations must go to Barney, Alexander and Charlotte, who were the top three individual performers in school!

## Joke of the Term #42

**Q:** What do you call a deer which is equally able to use its left foot and its right foot?  
**A:** Bambidextrous!

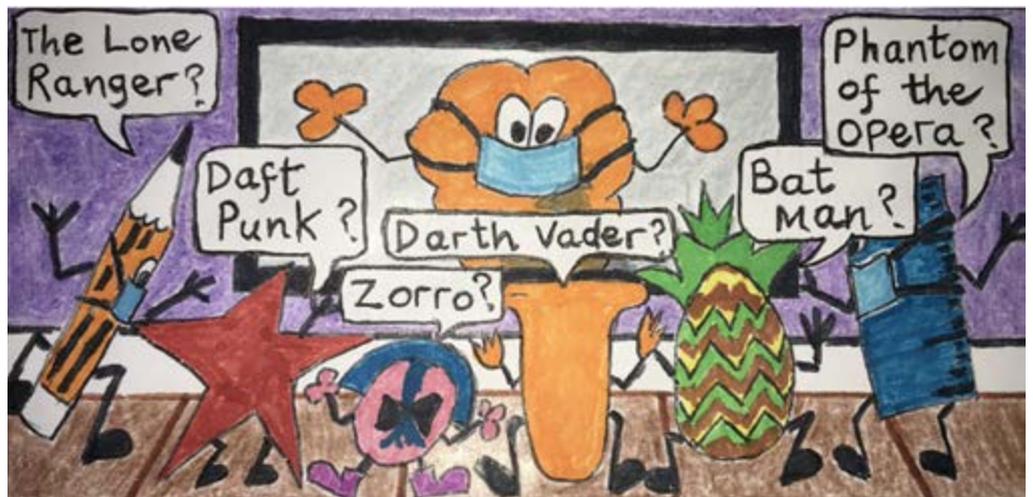
*Tell your favourite funny to Mr. Moore to see your joke published here next time.*

## Mixed Anagrams

Can you work out the anagrams from the clues given?

- 1 **cot soup** (ocean dweller)
- 2 **radio sun** (prehistoric)
- 3 **tap thy error** (hogwarts hero)
- 4 **stew with torch** (mildred hubble)
- 5 **spongy shoe glare** (learning places)
- 6 **horsey tonsils** (learning times)
- 7 **moss carol** (where we work)
- 8 **loft spiders** (where we play)
- 9 **hen or plot** (home to santa)
- 10 **terrier hound helped** (friend to santa)
- 11 **no calf** (sky glider)
- 12 **shot picker** (space invader)

## Bob the Blob and Friends in: Team Charades



**Bob:** "I haven't started yet!" Original characters created by Frances Auger, Kristiane Wheeler, Emily Nash & Olivia Rhodes.



# Christmas Covered



To brighten up our spirits as the dark winter nights started to draw in at the end of a wonderfully busy but tiring term, Christmas decorations made an appearance a little earlier than usual at Blundell's, including some new colourful lighting around the trees outside of the office. Inside, Year 3

did a sterling job of decorating our atrium Christmas tree, presenting a lovely, warm Christmassy welcome to all! The Friends of Blundell's Prep then went one step further, transforming the outdoor learning Hub into a fabulous festive Christmas Grotto – just in time for Father Christmas to pay a flying visit! Children from across the school had the chance to visit the Grotto to meet Santa, where they found boxes of props kindly provided by the FoBP, allowing each year group bubble to capture some festive selfies with their friends! Many thanks to the Friends for creating this magical Christmas experience, which paved the way beautifully for the end of term highlight that was Christmas Lunch! With some carefully measured social distancing in place between bubbles, all were able to share safely in this seasonal banquet bonanza. Thank you so much to our tireless catering team for not only preparing this mountainous feast to finish off the term, but for keeping us all so well fed and watered every single day we are in school. Happy holidays to all! LPM



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3 YEARS - 11 YEARS

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