

SPRING 2021

review



INSIDE:

Concerted Effort: *music non-stop*

Best Foot Forward: *keep on running*

Transforming Tales: *readers in disguise*

Springing into Life

opening up the Blundell's
experience during lockdown

“The commitment shown by the children and parents to support this 2nd home learning experience has been remarkable...”



We often talk about the key characteristics which we look to develop in all of our children here at Blundell's Prep. Kindness would be right up at the top of that list and that has perhaps been more important than ever this last term as we have navigated our way through this 2nd school closure. Throughout this Spring edition of the Review, you will see examples of the many ways in which our school community has rallied once again, often at significant personal expense, but always in an effort to provide the very best for the children, be that through our online lessons, our Critical Worker care or our broader Home Learning Programme and Engagement and Enrichment offering.

Having made our way through Lockdown 1 last Summer, we had our suspicions that we would need to be ready to adapt once again and sure enough, with one day's notice, we duly switched over to online learning for day one of the new term. So, as well as kindness, we knew that certain other characteristics were going to play a vital part in the term ahead. Resilience would be key, and in the pages that follow you will see examples of that in action, never more so than when we set the Family Challenge to walk, run or cycle the equivalent distance of Land's End to John O'Groats. Not only did our families make it all the way there, but back again and with even more to spare! We could have travelled to Athens and how many of us have wished at times during the last three months that such an escape would be possible?

Creativity also played its part, not only within the outstanding online lessons delivered by teachers across our Prep and Pre-Prep, but also in the wider Clubs offering or twice weekly Family and Recipe Challenges. We had The Masked Reader, Extreme Reading and even a Virtual Disco, which I will admit to being the highlight of the term for me. Joining all of our Pre-Prep children for 45 minutes of music, fun and games was as joyful a moment as could have been wished for and our thanks go to our FOBP Committee for making it all happen. We even had a talking dog join us in order to launch the Virtual Pet Show 2.0. Not to be outdone by Mrs. Clifford's dog, Scrabble, our dog, Alfie wanted to get in on the act as well, much to the delight of the children.

Commitment was also a characteristic which featured heavily this past term and never more so than from our wonderful staff, all of whom worked from home or from school to support the children. With nearly 100 children in school by the final few weeks of lockdown, including a full Nursery, it was a gruelling experience but one that colleagues here were determined to be part of. The commitment shown by the children and parents to support this 2nd home learning experience has been remarkable and throughout this term we have seen children gain Academic and Music Scholarship Awards, audition for the School Play, read over 1 million words and so much more besides. As the theme of this term's Review would suggest, the experience of the last three months has most certainly been a great deal more than just online lessons and I am indebted to all of the people who have made this possible.

As the Summer Term approaches, we look forward to sunnier days, a healthy, happy school and, if everything goes to plan, the chance for parents to join us for what I am sure will be a great celebration of our school community coming back together once again.

Andy Southgate
Head Master



On the Flip Side: PANCAKE DAY UP IN THE AIR?

Lockdown could not ground pancake day, and it was great to see so many families celebrating Shrove Tuesday by venturing out of the frying pan and aiming high with their own delicious pancake recipes!



Dance Away: Virtual Disco

Our pupils enjoyed a fantastic evening moving and grooving to the beat when a series of Virtual Discos provided an exciting and energetic means of keeping our community connected. Thank you to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising the event, and to Ryan from Party Peeps for leading us all on a merry dance!



Lockdown Blundell's style

so much more than online lessons!



SMOOTH OPERATORS: in the pink

Our Key Worker children enjoyed a fine blend of activities during their Lockdown time in school, and particularly enjoyed the fruits of their labour after making some delicious smoothies in the FT room!

Way to Go! LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS

Maintaining physical and mental health was a priority during Lockdown, and our first Family Challenge of the term went a long way towards addressing this. Our pupils and their families were tasked with the challenge of between them covering a distance equivalent to the 874 miles from Land's End to John o'Groats. Needless to say, they were up for a challenge and able to go the distance... and then some! Whether jogging around the school grounds, doing laps of the garden, taking the dog for a walk, cycling or horse riding around the locality, they made short work of amassing an impressive cumulative total of 2456 miles! Well done to everyone who stepped up to the challenge!



LOCKDOWN *landscape*

What is this life lived in Lockdown Not visiting outside our town?

Government briefings every day, Not able to see shows or plays,

Sanitiser and washing hands, Parties cancelled and changing plans;

Spending more time with Dad and Mum, Playing with pets and having fun,

Learning new talents and new skills, Online exercise, hockey drills;

Handing in finished work on Teams, Gymnastic fun on bars and beams...

Life can be fun lived in Lockdown, There's lots to see just in my town.

Morgan Tambllyn, Year 4

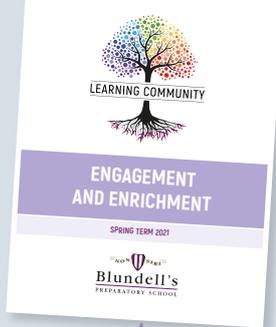


Animal Instincts: VIRTUAL PET SHOW

A particularly popular initiative was the return of the Blundell's Virtual Pet Show, which featured a magnificent menagerie of dogs, cats, horses, guinea pigs, chickens, cows, sheep, ducks, rabbits... and lots and lots of animal-loving children! Working with children and animals has never been so rewarding!



Engagement and Enrichment



CLUBBING TOGETHER

Book at Bedtime, French, Music, Games, Wild Wonders, Recipe Challenges, Debate, Quiz, Minecraft, Lego, Chess, Maths Support, Yoga, Creative Writing, Cartoon Drawing, Animation, Photography, Tea & Chat, Musical Theatre, Bushcraft, Brain Teasers, Family Challenges... over and above extensive daily curriculum provision, there was something for everyone on offer in the Engagement and Enrichment Programme during Lockdown! And with a combination of timetabled live lessons, drop-in sessions and offline activities to download at any time, flexibility was the name of the game, allowing our families to choose activities to suit their own individual circumstances and interests. It was wonderful to see the amazing range of responses and photos flooding in which showed so many of our families enjoying the many and diverse opportunities on offer! **LPM**



HIGH FLYERS

Things were certainly looking up when the Family Challenge embraced the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch – and a remarkable number of feathered friends were duly reported as we not only aimed high to scan the skies, but also encouraged birds into our gardens by building bird feeders, bird baths and bird houses...



Wild Wonders

Getting out and about during Lockdown was more important than ever, and it was great to hear of our families nature rambling out in the fresh air to see what they could see!



LOCKDOWN landscape

What is this life lived in Lockdown? Sometimes I smile, sometimes I frown.

Spending time with my family, Long walks and playing happily,

Time to myself, peace and quiet, Though too many biscuits in my diet!

I miss my friends, and also my gran, So we get on Zoom, that's the plan.

We had some pigs, and that was fun – We ate them up, and they were yum!

I wonder when this will all end, I feel I'm going round the bend.

So this is my life lived in Lockdown, Sometimes I smile, sometimes I frown.

Arthur Hyland, Year 4

Art HOUSE

When the Family Challenge invited the submission of artwork to reflect our Houses, Raleigh, Drake and Grenville, we were deluged with a range of creative, colourful compositions and impressed with the positive appetite for house work on show!



LET'S GET QUIZZICAL

Quiz Club was on offer as a live weekly challenge for anyone who wanted to tune into MS Teams and stimulate their brains with a range of musical, visual and general knowledge questions designed to bemuse, bewilder and bamboozle! We were particularly pleased to see that following the return to school at the end of term, many of our keen quiz clubbers were able to participate via Zoom in a live Quiz Club heat against many different schools from across the country. We tried our best and performed commendably against some fierce competition. A special congratulations must go to Joseph, Arthur, Alexander and Jacob, who qualified for a place in the National Finals Junior Competition, next term! Watch this space! LPM



Recipe For Success

The Recipe Challenges proved a particularly popular option from the Engagement & Enrichment menu, and the many photos of delicious culinary creations received gave a tantalising taste of our gastronomic Blundellians cooking on gas!

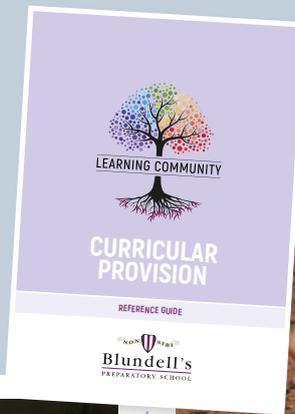


THE RECIPE CHALLENGE

THE RECIPE CHALLENGE and share photos of your decorated biscuits!

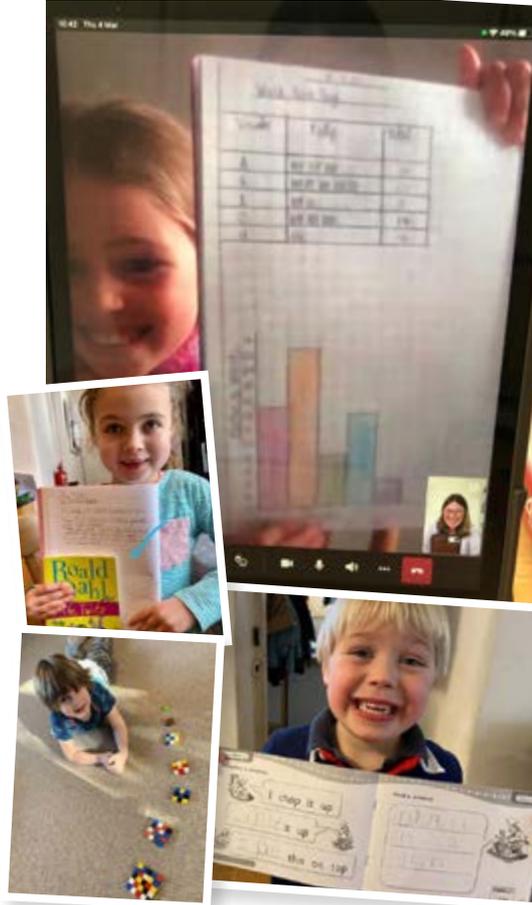


Learning Lessons IN LOCKDOWN



SUBJECT 2.0 REQUIREMENTS

Delivered through dynamic teaching on SeeSaw in the Pre-Prep, and live interactive lessons through MS Teams at the Prep, core curriculum subjects of English, Maths, Science, Geography, History and French formed the basis of the Lockdown curriculum each morning. These were complemented by a healthy dose of foundation teaching in the afternoons, including FT, ICT, Music, Drama, Art, DT and RPS, as well as a daily Sports activity, designated reading times, Assemblies and Form Times. The children excelled in their determination to keep up their learning from home, developing patience, resilience and ingenuity in order to deal with technology which could sometimes be temperamental, and both the quality and quantity of work submitted under such testing circumstances was remarkable to see. The considerable efforts and dedication of our parents and families in working with staff to support their children was also wonderful to see – and very much appreciated – as the whole Blundell's community truly came together to keep the children fully engaged and immersed in their learning throughout Lockdown. **LPM**



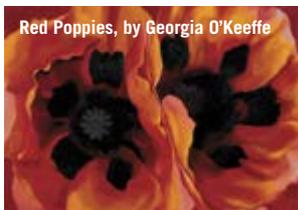
SPACED OUT

During Lockdown Year 5 were guided through their space project in Science, which covered the planets, the Mars Perseverance rover and how day and night and the seasons occur. The children were also given the opportunity to research topics that particularly interested them and to present their findings in their favoured style. Some star quality work was submitted, well done to all! **JMC**



State of the Art

Art lessons during Lockdown centred around looking at a series of paintings by a variety of influential artists, and using these as inspiration for creating some original artwork in the style of the artist.



Red Poppies, by Georgia O'Keeffe



Swinging, by Wassily Kandinsky



George and the Dragon, by Paolo Uccello



The Water-Lily Pond, by Claude Monet



LOCKDOWN landscape

What is this life lived in Lockdown,
We cannot drive into the town?

On my stool, staring at the screen...
At Mr. Moore I like to beam!

In the garden, playing football.
Sometimes I think I am quite tall!

On the canal, riding my bike,
Watching my mum and grandma hike.

Writing Kahoots, at least two a week,
Though I'm concerned that Dad might peek!

Making scones and delicious things;
Waiting for what the postman brings.

Working hard, trying not to frown,
This is the life lived in Lockdown.

Joseph Leaman, Year 4

Fully Booked

The importance of encouraging reading both for pleasure, and as a means for accessing the curriculum, has never been underestimated at Blundell's, and this remained a priority throughout Lockdown. Through English lessons, Form Time sessions, and Family Challenge initiatives, the drive to keep children reading took on some interesting guises... From dressing up as book characters, cooking meals from favourite books and sharing 'shelfies' in front of book cases, to reading in unexpected places, and even giving anonymous readings in our very own 'Masked Reader' competition on World Book Day, no avenue was left unexplored in the pursuit of book keeping and reading records... **LPM**



SHARING SHELFIES:
KEEPING BOOKS IN CASE
OF READING EMERGENCIES...

GUESS WHO: readers in disguise...



Making A Meal Of It

There was lots of great cooking during Lockdown and some fantastic assignments completed by those who didn't cook. The afternoon provision included recipes each week and a task relating to the year group's topic. Some pupils cooked along during the live lesson, which was really fun. Year 3 learned about and made different types of bread, including bread rolls, soda bread and breadsticks and designed their own favourite sandwich. Year 4 learned about a healthy, balanced diet and made lots of healthy snacks from omelettes to frittatas to fruit salad. They had lots of fun designing their own packed lunch and making enormous Eatwell Plates at home, raiding the cupboards and fridge to find food to put in the correct food groups. Year 5 took a World Tour, making recipes from Australia, Spain, France, Russia and China. They also designed and made 'shopping channel' videos selling kitchen equipment and some even tried their hand at being a Celebrity TV Chef! Year 6 looked at Simple Suppers with recipes ranging from sausages, mash and onion gravy, and pasta with bacon, to spring rolls and Pad Thai. They also made 'shopping channel' videos and did some great TV chef hacks and recipe videos. It certainly has been a busy term in the kitchen! **JL**





Back to School



Although social distancing measures were still in place, and life wasn't still completely normal, I think it is fair to say that everybody – parents, children and staff alike – were delighted when we were allowed to re-open the school for the last three weeks of the term! As successful as the Lockdown provision had been, there was just something special about having the whole Blundell's community coming back together again, and nowhere was this seen more clearly than on the smiling faces of children reunited with friends without the interface of a screen in between! **LPM**



SHORT AND SWEET

Nursery very much enjoyed returning to check on progress at the Senior School Garden, where they helped Mr. Flower plant sweet peas in the sunshine!



JURASSIC LARK

This term has seen an exciting topic in Year 1 – Dinosaurs! Year 1 had roarsome fun investigating different dinosaurs and finding out many interesting facts about them. The children designed their own dinosaur habitat boxes, created a human dinosaur T-Rex skeleton, made fossils using salt dough and even became palaeontologists excavating fossilised dinosaur eggs! The children were entrusted with the task of caring for and looking after some mysterious dinosaur eggs that had appeared one morning in the classroom. The eggs grew and after a few days of careful nurturing, cracked open to reveal baby dinosaurs emerging! We are delighted to now have so many tiny new friends joining us in the Year 1 classrooms. **AXS**



LOCKDOWN landscape

What is this life lived in Lockdown,
People feeling like they could drown?

Having lots of fun on our farm,
Keeping quiet and out of harm;

Home school learning while falling out,
Missing my friends without a doubt;

Thinking too much makes me so sad,
How life has changed, but it's not all bad:

More time at home and on the farm
Gives me a sense of utter calm;

Happy now the vaccine's here,
No longer do we live in fear;

Normality in our great town
Will mean that we no longer frown.

Victoria Yandle, Year 4

Our theme for Comic Relief was 'heroes', and we were delighted to be visited by so many super heroes at Blundell's – some of the caped variety, and some of the real life kind. Thus it was that we came to have Superman rubbing shoulders with our NHS heroes, Cat Woman fighting alongside the Armed Forces, Batman backing up the farming community, Wonder Woman supporting the suffragettes and Captain America walking tall with Captain Sir Tom Moore! It was a fabulous way to support this great cause, whilst acknowledging the amazing work of those who support us so well – and reminding us that we can all be heroes if we choose to! LPM



WE CAN BE Heroes



PAST MASTERS

As part of their studies in History, Year 3 travelled back in time to experience life in Victorian England. They learned about the kind of household chores that Victorian children were expected to undertake, they found out what lessons in a Victorian classroom were like, played Victorian games and tried their hands at some artwork inspired by William Morris. They all had a thoroughly enjoyable time... but were more than happy to return to the present at the end of the day!





SPORTING *Chance*

In true Blundellian style, I have been so impressed with everyone's efforts to stay fit and active over a far more challenging Lockdown period. Although it was tougher to try to maintain the traditional sports that we cover during the Spring Term, it was great to see so many children taking the opportunity to develop their individual skills at cricket, rugby, netball and hockey. Many also enjoyed taking part in the gymnastics and dance challenges that were posted throughout Lockdown. When we finally returned, it was fantastic to be able to get back out on the fields, astroturf and netball courts, and to get back into the swing of team sports again. House Matches saw the competitive spirit return with house hockey, netball and cross-country all taking place over the final weeks of term. It was lovely to see everyone working so hard to support their Houses and each event was tightly contested. Cricket, tennis and athletics fixtures are all pencilled in for next term so we are hopeful for a return to some competition against local schools after the Easter break. Keep your fitness levels up in between chomping Easter eggs and see if you can get your bowling and batting skills fine-tuned for your return! **LB**



PITCH PERFECT

If the effort and energy of all of the children could be put into words, a new word would need to be invented. My thesaurus on this occasion has failed me with words like titanic, gigantic, colossal, gargantuan and mountainous. They are simply not stupendous enough! With international coaching from former Olympian Simon Mantell on the hockey pitch, the progress made in this unusual and short season has been off the chart. House competitions bring out a passion in the children and at the end of term all of the children were determined to do their best for their Houses. Putting into practice in a competitive match the drills and skills which have been taught in Games lessons takes focus, concentration and teamwork. Everybody demonstrated an excellent control of the key hockey skills, with good stick work, control of the ball, passing to open up space and shooting of an impressive standard. Finishing the term with competitive matches back on the hockey pitch left us all on a high, and looking forward to continuing the journey towards full sports fixtures next term. **SGS**





IN THE RUNNING

Excitement and nerves were evident as everybody walked the House Cross Country course before the race. Everyone was keen to do the best that they could for their Houses, and some excellent races were run. Congratulations to Drake for claiming the Mildren Cross Country Cup as overall House winners. It was great to see every single runner digging in to give it all that they had, but a special mention must go to the victors in each category:

Year 3 Boys: Rafferty Smith

Year 3 Girls: Jessie Gow

Year 4 Boys: Oliver Benczur-Williams

Year 4 Girls: Eliza Griffiths

Year 5 Boys: Freddie Smith

Year 5 Girls: Martha Richardson

Year 6 Boys: Noah Turner

Year 6 Girls: Daisy Doyle

SGS & LB





MUSICAL Notes



RE: PERCUSSION

The love of music-making is something that cannot be introduced soon enough, and it has been wonderful to work with our very youngest Blundellians in Nursery 1 to explore a whole variety of percussion instruments. Sounding out an interest in the art of noise from the very earliest age can have long term repercussions in terms of inspiring future musical ambition, and can strike up a passion for music we hope our pupils can enjoy banging on about for years to come...



Year 3 Violins

There is always great excitement when Year 3 find out that they are going to be learning the violin in their Music lessons. This year was no different and the children began their lessons with great enthusiasm. Unfortunately their progress was interrupted by Lockdown. However, when we were able to return to the classroom at the end of term it was as if the children had never been away! We spent the last few weeks revising our pizzicato and bow hold, and we even moved on from open string notes to first finger notes. The children have been amazing and we are very much hoping that we will be able to perform to everybody next term. My thanks to our violin teacher, Mrs Smith, for her endless amounts of energy and enthusiasm with the children. **BLC**





Tea Time Concerts

With music lessons continuing virtually for the first half of term, many of the children were able to continue with their music. Our team of peripatetic music teachers have been amazing, adapting their teaching skills and making music lessons accessible to the children. This was reflected in the number of children who performed in our virtual tea time concerts at the end of term. Over fifty children performed with wonderful confidence and enthusiasm - not easy when your audience is an iPad! Well done to everyone who took part.

MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

It was a very different experience for those auditioning for the Music Scholarship this year, but we had six children who auditioned. Performances had to be recorded and sent in and the interviews were held over Teams. I think that this proved to be quite a challenge and I know that there were some very nervous children. I am delighted to say that three awards were given - congratulations to Rose, Lucia and Daisy.

MUSIC EXAMS

It has been a very uncertain time in terms of music exams. However, we had five children take exams this term. Bryony and Charlotte took Performance Grades which were recorded virtually and Alexander, Daisy and Noah headed down to the Senior School to take 'face to face' exams. I am delighted to say that all of them passed which is a true testament to their dedication and hard work during this difficult time.

DON'T STOP *the Dance*



Blundell's ballerinas keeping fit in style!



We were delighted to open our brand new dance studio for ballet lessons this term.

review *extra*



Chasing the Sun

We were delighted to see our botanical Blundellians looking on the bright side and aiming high in the garden during Lockdown – some impressive sunflower growing reminding us that from small seeds lofty ambitions may grow.



SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

The term began with excellent news for some of our Senior School students, who were delighted to receive well-deserved Oxbridge University offers – well done to Misha, Tilda and Tom who all gained offers from the University of Oxford, and to Harry and James who gained offers from the University of Cambridge.

Scholarship Exams for the Senior School were run a little differently for our Year 6 students this year, with remote testing and invigilation added to the mix during Lockdown. This extra hurdle did not put off our successful academic scholars, however, who took it in their stride and leapt at the opportunity to show what they could do! Congratulations to Toby, Matthew, Hugo, Alexander, Emma, Daisy and Purdy for gaining academic awards – we look forward to hearing of your illustrious achievements continuing at Senior School! LPM



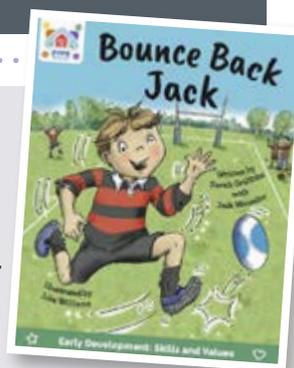
Two Heads Are Better Than One!

Well done to George and Daisy, who did a remarkable job as Head Boy and Head Girl this term. It was certainly an unusual term of office, but the two of them proved super stars from afar, really rallying the troops through Lockdown with some motivating video messages, before returning to provide a reassuring welcome back at the end of term. Thank you to both for keeping a cool head in trying times! LPM



Bounce Back Jack

Old Blundellian, Exeter Chief and England international Jack Maunder launched a new children's book with an interactive reading for our Reception children. 'Bounce Back Jack', written in association with EYFS Home, was our Bedtime Book of the Week, and its message of resilience in the face of adversity could not have been a more appropriate choice in Lockdown. Jack also gave up his time to lead pupils at school and at home in practising some fun techniques for developing ball skills and hand-eye co-ordination, encouraging us all to stay fit and active during Lockdown. It was delightful to see one of our old pupils doing so much to support and encourage some of our newest during these difficult times. LPM



STAFF ON THE SPOT



This term: *Mr. Allen*

How long have you worked at Blundell's?

A couple of terms now – I started in September.

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

I worked at a little Prep School in Somerset.

What do you do at Blundell's?

I am a Form Teacher in Year 4 and I teach English, Maths and Games.

What is your favourite part of the job?

I love the variety, the buzz of the classroom and a sunny afternoon on the Games field.

What was your favourite subject when you were at school?

I was a keen geographer and loved my Games.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

Anything that involves the outdoors: walking the coastal paths, cycling, surfing, kayaking...

What is your favourite...

TV programme? The Test Match Highlights

Film? Hacksaw Ridge

Song/ band? Bitter Sweet Symphony,

by The Verve

Book? Any inspiring autobiography

Food? A lamb roast

Holiday destinations?

The Isles of Scilly or Switzerland

What are your future ambitions in life?

To have a happy family and teach for as long as I can!

What would you buy if you won the lottery?

A holiday home for my friends and family to enjoy.

What has been your most embarrassing moment?

Trying to salsa dance in Cuba!



Blundell's Prep review *extra*

GET *Smart*

Congratulations to Elliott from the Pre-Prep, who featured on Animal Einsteins with Chris Packham on BBC 2 this term, looking at some of the smartest species on earth and the ingenuity, initiative and incredible tactics that allow them to survive in a world where brawn is not always best.



BEYOND A JOKE



To help support Comic Relief, Mr. Morris set the challenge of finishing these famous funnies on Red Nose Day... Can you match the jokes to their punchlines?

1. What is the fastest vegetable?
 2. What do you call a tiger at the north pole?
 3. What do you call a man with a car on his head?
 4. How do footballers stay cool?
 5. Why did the snowman go to the field?
 6. Why didn't the triangle want to talk to the circle?
 7. Why is Cinderella no good at hockey?
 8. What do you call a pig that knows karate?
 9. What did the policeman say to his tummy?
 10. Why did the scarecrow win the award?
 11. What type of music are balloons afraid of?
 12. Why wouldn't the prawn share his treasure?
- A. You are under a vest!
 - B. To pick his nose!
 - C. Pop music!
 - D. A pork chop!
 - E. A runner bean!
 - F. Because it was out standing in its field!
 - G. Jack!
 - H. Because he was a little shellfish!
 - I. Lost!
 - J. Because she runs away from the ball!
 - K. They sit with their fans!
 - L. Because he couldn't see any point!

Bob the Blob in: Opposites Attract | Can you help Bob to pair the opposites?

above spectacular loud rapid enormous
 miniscule heavy ignorant light despondent
 cheerful low there exterior high
 opaque deep superficial here
 interior future below
 quiet banal past erudite morose

WHICH WORD WILL BE LEFT OVER? CAN YOU THINK OF AN OPPOSITE FOR IT?



Spring Tones

As winter turned into spring and daylight hours lengthened to enlighten the darkness, Lockdown ended and we returned to school for the final few weeks of term... ready to celebrate Easter with a whole new lease of life! We recalled the story of Jesus defeating the darkness of death by rising to new life after three days in the tomb, and were quick to embrace all the symbols of Easter in activities including egg hunting, baking hot cross buns, egg and spoon racing, designing Easter bonnets, egg rolling, making Easter nests and constructing our own Easter trees. We used bunnies to inspire our artwork, read the Gospel accounts of the resurrection in RPS and even added fluffy chicks in Maths! At the end of a testing term we headed off to recover and relax during the Easter holidays, happy to look forward with hope to a bright Summer Term ahead.

LPM

