

SPRING 2024

review



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Rising to the challenge

Growing in Confidence

"It never ceases to amaze me how quickly and enthusiastically our pupils take on any challenge that is presented to them."



The theme for this term's Review is 'Rising to the Challenge' and I think that we could all come up with plenty of examples as to how that theme has been seen in action since we returned in January. Our Year 6 pupils rose to the challenge of the 11+ Scholarship process when they sat their exams in week 2. Our musicians rose to the challenge of being part of the Spring Concert, 'Around the world in 80 minutes' as

they performed alongside their Senior School peers. Our Pre-Prep pupils rose to the challenges presented by their teachers during their Thursday swimming lessons. In the pages that follow, you will see examples of the many positive ways in which children at Blundell's Prep respond when a challenge is presented to them.

It never ceases to amaze me how quickly and enthusiastically our pupils take on any challenge that is presented to them. Sometimes, it takes a while for them to build up the confidence to take the first step but we are blessed with an outstanding group of teachers, teaching assistants and support staff, all of whom provide encouragement and comfort so that children see that finding things difficult, scary or exhausting is part of the learning process. At Blundell's, we talk a lot about the process of learning and how getting that process right enables the outcomes to take care of themselves. Of course, that process will look very different in Nursery to that of a GCSE cohort, but it is no less important. If we can help children to see challenge as something to embrace rather than to fear or avoid, we are setting them on the right path and giving them the best chance to find success in whatever they choose to do. What a privilege it is to be part of that process and to witness it in action each day.

As I write this introduction, the sun has decided to put in an appearance and slowly, very slowly, the fields are drying out in readiness for the Summer Term. The children have been in fine voice during the much-loved House Music Competition and the Easter break now beckons. I hope that everyone enjoys a restful and restorative holiday.

Andy Southgate
Head Master

House Music

Excitement levels were very high during the last week of the Spring Term as the Prep School and Pre-Prep joined together to hold our annual House Music Competition.

This year there were two themes. The Pre-Prep sang songs with a friendship theme and included 'With a Little Help from My Friends', 'Count on Me' and 'If I Didn't Have You'. The theme for the Prep School was songs that are heard at sporting events. Songs performed were 'Roar', 'Three Lions' and 'Waka Waka'. Small groups also performed including guitar groups, piano groups, brass/wind groups and string groups. All of the performances were performed with tremendous enthusiasm and confidence. There were fantastic dance moves, masks, flags and streamers, all of which added to the performances. Miss Atkins had the very difficult task of judging the competition. She was hugely impressed with all of the music, and it was an extremely close decision, but in the end, Drake were announced the overall winners. **BLC**

PREP PANCAKE RACE

In February, children in Years 3 to 6 were full of excitement as they took on the challenge of the annual House Pancake Race. As you can see from their faces, they had a flippin' good time!





RALEIGH CAKE SALE

The Raleigh cake sale was a great success. It was a delight to see so many children and parents sharing in the joy of home baked goods after a week of focused learning. Thank you to all the parents who baked, volunteered on the stall and of course all those who bought a cake. We can gladly announce that Raleigh raised £196.20 for Ballons, a charity helping to support bereaved families.

KLW



HOUSE spirit

HOUSE MATCHES

PRE-PREP HOUSE MATCHES

The 2024 Pre-Prep House Matches were a resounding success, providing an opportunity for some of our youngest sporting enthusiasts to put their skills to the test in front of a lively and willing crowd!

The Year 1s kicked us off with some great passing and catching skills. Next up were the Year 2s who were super speedy on the court and really showed off the power of their passing.

The Year 1 boys, many of whom had not picked up a hockey stick before Christmas, displayed tremendous enthusiasm and competitive spirit. The talent on show is incredibly promising for the future, with such resilience and heart on show. Well done boys!

JE & LB

RESULTS:

Year 1 – Raleigh, Grenville, Drake
Year 2 – Grenville, Raleigh, Drake

GIRLS YEARS 3 & 4

The U8 girls thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon of house matches. There was some accurate shooting on display and a great work ethic to defend and stick closely to their opponents.

It was lovely to see all the U9 girls competing to be crowned winners, whilst also showing good sportsmanship. There was super passing, great movement, accurate shooting and fierce defending on display. **LB & FLE**

RESULTS: 1st Drake, 2nd Raleigh, 3rd Grenville

BOYS YEARS 3 & 4

The boys' house hockey matches were filled with excitement as they showed great enthusiasm for their house teams. Despite the close margins, the boys displayed determination and teamwork throughout, cheering each other on and giving their all on the field. **SS**

RESULTS:

U8's – 1st Raleigh, 2nd Drake and 3rd Grenville.

U9's – 1st Drake and 2nd = Grenville and Raleigh

BOYS YEARS 5 & 6

House coloured bibs on, gumshields in, shin pads adjusted, and hockey sticks primed! House hockey was officially set to go. Everybody was 100% behind their house team with lots of support for each other. The teams were very evenly balanced, but overall hockey was undoubtedly the winner across the games and age groups. **SS**

GIRLS YEARS 5 & 6

The U11 & U10 House Netball took place on a blustery (albeit dry!) Monday afternoon. The netball on display was really impressive and the pupils worked hard to find space. They marked well, made good decisions with their passes and the shooting was very accurate. Congratulations to all the girls for their hard work and determination. **FLE**



PRE-PREP EASTER GAMES

The Pre-Prep children finished their Spring Term with some **CRACKING** fun! In 'House' teams the children ran, bounced and hopped their way through six **EGGS**-haunting challenges! Culminating in an epic 'House Relay'. Grenville took the points for Y1 and Y2 but Raleigh grasped the top prize in Reception. The children took part with great spirit and I **CARROT** believe how much they have all improved! **JE**



MUSICAL Notes



PRO-CORDA

In January, three of our musicians took part in the National Pro Corda Chamber Music competition. Pro Corda provides inspirational ensemble training in Chamber music and our Trio of Tilly (violin), Herbie (cello) and Gabriel (piano) performed for them. Following the first round of the competition, which saw a performance of Strauss' Emperor Waltz, our Trio was invited to take part in the semi-finals. They enjoyed performing to an adjudicator who then worked with them on how to develop and improve their piece, challenging their musical understanding and performance skills. Unfortunately, the Trio did not make it to the Finals but I was incredibly proud of the children, especially as they were competing against children who were at least a year older than them. **BLC**



MORNING MELODIES

Our Year 1 and 2 children performed in our first Morning Melodies concerts at the end of February. There were performances on the piano, guitar and violin and our very youngest musicians, many of whom were performing for the very first time, performed with wonderful confidence and a smile on their face! **BLC**

CHORAL EVENSONG

Our Choristers joined the Blundell's Cantorum to sing a joint Evensong with the Exeter University Chapel Choir. The music included canticles by Charles Stanford and the beautiful spiritual 'Steal Away' by Tippett. The sound of the Choir in the University Chapel was truly spectacular and it was wonderful to see our young Choristers enjoying the opportunity to perform in such an atmospheric and inspiring setting. **BLC**



SPRING CONCERT AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES

Our Spring Concert took place in Big School this year. Our Choristers, Pop Choir and instrumentalists joined the Senior School to embark on a musical voyage Around the World in 80 Minutes in which they were taken on a journey across continents and cultures. The first half of the concert featured our Choristers singing *Finlandia* and an Estonian Lullaby whilst our instrumentalists joined the SH Orchestra to play *Mambo Italiano*. The second half of the concert saw the journey reaching America and our Pop Choir joined the Senior School Choirs to sing an American Medley including 'American Pie', 'Country Roads', 'America' from West Side Story and 'Sweet Home Alabama'.

The children performed in the afternoon to the Pre-Prep, Prep School and local Primary Schools and then again in the evening to a very appreciative audience of family and friends. It was a truly magnificent celebration of music, providing a tremendous amount of inspiration and enjoyment for all of our children and creating wonderful memories. **BLC**





SPEECH & DRAMA RECITAL

We have a large number of children having Speech and Drama lessons and our latest Speech and Drama Recital provided the perfect opportunity for nearly forty of our children to perform some of the pieces that they have been working on. The children performed a variety of poetry and prose including works by Spike Milligan, JRR Tolkien and JK Rowling. It was a wonderfully entertaining evening. Well done to all of the children who performed so confidently. BLC



This term our Tea-Time Concerts are focussed on specific instruments. Our concert programme began at the end of January with our singing concert. All of Mr Jeffrey's singing pupils bravely took to the stage, singing solo songs including Colours of the Wind from Pocahontas, Who Will Buy from Oliver, Viva La Vida by Coldplay and the traditional Cockles and Mussels and Land of the Silver Birch. The concert ended with Mr Jeffrey and all of his pupils singing Let's Go Fly a Kite. Well done to all of the children who performed so confidently.

Teatime Concerts

PIANO CONCERTS

We had two Piano Concerts in March for Years 3&4 and Years 5&6. Both concerts were delightful and highlighted the confidence and courage that the children have to be able to sit at a piano and play for an audience. We have a large number of children learning the piano and it was lovely for all of the pianists in the school to be able to sit and listen to each other play, whether they were beginners or more experienced players.

BRASS & WOODWIND CONCERT

Our Spring Term teatime concerts continued with our Brass & Woodwind Concert. We have a wonderful variety of brass and woodwind instruments being learnt, such as French Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Flute, Clarinet and Saxophone. Music included popular music such as I'd Do Anything, Love Me Tender, You Are My Sunshine and Raiders March. It was another fantastic concert which showed our promising young musicians from Year 3 to Year 6.

PERCUSSION CONCERT

Our Spring Term teatime concerts continued with our Percussion Concert at the end of February. We have over thirty children having drum lessons and we were treated to a wonderful variety of music. The drum kit took centre stage with coloured lights flashing in time to the drumming. Music included Billie Jean, Another One Bites the Dust, Uptown Funk, Sweet Child O' Mine, Dancing in the Moonlight and some of our younger children performed their own compositions. It was a super concert which highlighted the confidence and enjoyment in everyone's performance.

STRING CONCERT

Our series of Spring Term teatime concerts concluded with our String Concert at the end of March. Our violinists, cellists and guitarists all joined together to perform in a concert which was wonderfully varied and really showcased the growing talent that we have in the Prep School. There were solo performances, duets and larger groups of performers playing together. Music performed included traditional pieces and pop pieces. It was another fantastic concert and a wonderful way to finish our series of concerts. Well done to everyone who took part. BLC





Creative Arts Week

YEAR 6 TRIP TO KNIGHTSHAYES

Our recent trip to Knightshayes for Art Week was an amazing experience for all those involved! We got to see the fascinating buildings and the beautiful plants there. Inspired by the intricate patterns found in both nature and architecture, the children enthusiastically sketched pictures that captured the essence of Knightshayes' beauty. We learned a lot about how nature and buildings can have interesting shapes and lines. It was a fun way to explore art and nature together! **JWF**



During Arts Week, Year 5 took inspiration from our trip to Exeter Cathedral to produce a variety of artistic pieces across the week. Whilst visiting the cathedral, the children went on an informative tour tailored specifically to some of the intricate and artistic details impressively displayed throughout the building. Here, they completed sketches of stained-glass windows and undertook an art workshop in which they produced some lovely medieval themed animal bookmarks. Following the visit, the children created building designs inspired by those located nearby to the cathedral in readiness to produce mono-prints later in the week. As the art workshops progressed, Year 5 also had the opportunity to create some wonderful clay gargoyles whereby they successfully used their observations to skilfully bring their models to life in characterful ways. We also welcomed visiting artist Tony Minnion into school who led creative workshops based on stained glass window designs and photoshop sessions where children had the opportunity to digitally input both themselves and endangered animals on to a backdrop of Exeter Cathedral. **IRS**





YEAR 3 – ARTS WEEK

Year 3 visited the RAMM in Exeter. The trip focused on a story called 'Take flight with Alfie' which the year group had read earlier in the week. Whilst at the museum, children retraced the steps of the book and uncovered fascinating discoveries for themselves. Each group had the opportunity to sketch artefacts, study amazing artwork by artist Steffan Dam and learn about influential people throughout history. The main purpose of the visit was to work towards achieving an Art Award for every pupil. Once back at school, children added to their arts award book by completing a number of exciting activities.

A further highlight of the week was the opportunity to create a magnificent willow structure of a dragon with visiting artist Stefan Jennings. Pupils had to build upon their previous willow weaving knowledge gained in Wild Explorers. The dragon now sits proudly at the front of the Prep School. **LJA**



Arts Week in the Pre-Prep

This year the Pre-Prep enjoyed a very colourful Arts Week. Our theme was Colours of the Rainbow. Each class chose a colour of the rainbow to explore. There were lots of fabulous activities from collage and painting to colour mixing and music. We thought about how colours make us feel and read lots of stories about colours and rainbows.

The whole school project was for each child to draw a portrait in their class colour, which came together to make a wonderful rainbow display. **ELT**

YEAR 4 TRIP TO COLDHARBOUR MILL

Year 4's Arts Week was a captivating blend of creativity. A highlight was the trip to Coldharbour Mill, where students witnessed functioning Victorian machinery and delved into the lives of the children who used to work in the mill. The children weaved a wonderful creation themselves. Local artist Simon Ripley enriched the week with a really fun printing workshop. The children also loved sampling various tie dye styles and making a beautiful t-shirt of their own. **JJA**



GRAFFITI WORKSHOP

The Prep School children had the opportunity to work with the amazing graffiti artist Steve Fitzpatrick. The children were dressed in protective overalls complete with masks and goggles and given some spray art top tips by Steve. They then enjoyed spraying a name board and a picture board of their own. A big thank you to the FoBP for funding this fantastic experience. **JAA**



AMAZING ANIMATION

Year 6 spent time with artist Ed Jobling, looking at the incredible work of Keith Haring. Having found out more about his colourful and bold work during the morning, the children then set about creating their own images and figures, bringing them to life through the use of a stop motion app on the iPads! Aliens, dogs and people all made their appearances in the final pieces, and the sessions really helped the children to refine their skills of patience, collaboration and creativity! **DJM**

OUTINGS *and Visits*



YEAR 5 WILDSIDE EXPERIENCE DAY

The Year 5 children enjoyed another visit to Wildside Experience in Hemycok as they continue to work towards their Wild Leader award. The focus for this visit was putting up tarp shelters using a variety of useful knots including timber hitch, clove hitch and a very popular handcuff knot! They also learned lots of fascinating facts about the many trees and plants growing in the woods and had the chance to identify animals from their footprints.



Jersey Tour 2024

Excitement built all week with the departure date of the Jersey tour 2024 getting closer. The day before the tourists hosted the shirt sponsored for lunch, who kindly paid for a playing shirt for all of those going on the tour. Many thanks to XL Planning LTD and Pollingtons Decorators for their generous support.

The morning of the tour the sun came out and stayed out throughout the tour making it dry and warmer than the rest of the British Isles.

After landing everybody visited Jersey Zoo which was set up by Gerald Durrell (who would be 100 years old next year if he was still alive). A quick visit to the zoo shop saw most children buy a soft toy version of one of the animals in the zoo.

After the zoo an excellent tour of one of the German War bunkers was taken with many thoughtful questions asked of the guide at the end. The day was finished with a game of bowling.

The second day saw the start of the matches against Jersey's finest sports players. Blundell's held their own in all the sports played and racked up some good victories.

Many other activities were undertaken, and everybody had great fun at Aqua Splash, Gorey Castle, The Maritime Museum or on the beach playing some games.

With the flight home being super smooth, many wish to visit The Channel Islands again. **SS**



YEAR 3 TRIP TO TIVERTON MUSEUM

Year 3 had a wonderful time enriching their Victorian topic with a trip to Tiverton Museum. They explored life in a Victorian home, played with a wide range of toys from the era, learnt about local farming life through the era and experienced life in a strict Victorian school. They were certainly grateful to return to school and modern-day education! What an amazing learning experience right on our doorstep. **HGM**

CHICK VISIT

Reception were very egg-cited when six tiny visitors appeared in their classroom earlier this term.

Barney very kindly brought in his pet chicks that had hatched after he had been looking after them in an incubator at home. What a special Show and Tell! **CAM**





Young Voices

Our trip to the Resorts World Arena took place on Friday 26th January. The children joined 6000 other children to sing and dance together. They performed a variety of music including a Pop Medley, a Matilda Medley, a Gospel Medley and a fantastic finale as a tribute to Tina Turner. The children were joined by Urban Strides, Natalie Williams and the amazing thirteen-year-old drummer Nandi Bushell. It was a fantastic experience for the children who thoroughly enjoyed performing in such an impressive arena and with a live band. Thank you to everyone involved with Young Voices. We are looking forward to learning the songs and dances for next year's concert! **BLC**



YEAR 2 TRIP TO TIVERTON CASTLE

Year 2 enjoyed a brilliant trip to Tiverton castle. We started the day with a tour of the castle grounds, taking in the views over Tiverton, the ruins that are classified as an ancient monument and even a very old toilet! Mrs Gordon then gave us a tour of the inside of the castle, which included a copy of the Bayeux tapestry, paintings of famous ancestors and the opportunity to wear helmets and hold cannon balls. We thoroughly enjoyed our visit. **KLW**



NURSERY TRIP TO KNIGHTSHAYES

What an egg-citing adventure the Nursery children had on their Spring visit to Knightshayes in March. After a lovely walk looking for signs of Spring, the children's eyes lit up as they noticed the Easter Bunny had been and hidden eggs all around some old trees.

With hearts full of excitement they collected all of the eggs and then to their delight they found a cuddly Easter Bunny toy too. The reward for all their hard work was of course some chocolate eggs!

After such a thrilling discovery they all settled down to enjoy a picnic in the fresh air, where many sandwiches and treats were consumed.

What a lovely way to lead us into the Spring season! **ELT**



Students from Year 6 enjoyed a day of "Maths in Action" at Taunton Racecourse in February. Workshops provided by the charity "Racing to School" helped the children to better understand the racing industry, learning about the speed of horses, the heights that they jump over and distances covered. They also went inside the weighing room to find out more about the handicapping system and went out on the parade ring in order to work out how many horses could fit on it at a time. Dressed in the colours of various teams, the children then got to watch a race, aptly named "The Blundell's Preparatory School Racing To School Novices' Handicap Hurdle", and enjoyed guessing who they thought would win! **DJM**

RECEPTION TRIP TO EXETER CATHEDRAL

To kick start their 'Out of this World' topic, Reception headed to Exeter Cathedral to see Mars and to make their very own rockets. They couldn't wait to write down the amazing facts they had learnt about the red planet and even had a go at painting their own pictures of Mars. **CAM**



news

PRE-PREP LEARNING SHOWCASE



It was a pleasure to welcome our family into school to look through our books and show off our learning. It was a super way to start the day and it was enjoyed by all. **AXS**



RECEPTION AIRPORT ROLEPLAY

Reception children were greeted at the gate with a passport and boarding pass! On entering the classroom they were excited to find it had been transformed into an airport and aeroplane! After checking in and heading through passport control, they took to their seats accompanied by Mr Southgate and Mr Morris and jetted off to Antarctica to see if they could find their new penguin friends! **CAM**

COMIC RELIEF

It was non-school uniform in Prep and Pre-Prep for Comic Relief with some of our children accessorising their outfits with the iconic red nose! Very generous donations have meant that we've raised an incredible £592.93 for a wonderful cause.



Dinosaur Day

Year 1 immersed themselves in all things 'prehistoric' for a fun filled 'Dinosaur Day.' Activities included hunting for dinosaurs at Wild Wonders, dino PE with Mr Evans, salt dough fossil making, chocolate chip excavating and dinosaur rap creating! We also enjoyed a delicious dinosaur cupcake and muddy swamp water for snack time! **LM**



PARENT LUNCHES AND TOURS

During this term, both Year one and Year three enjoyed a wonderful lunch with their special guests. The children were keen to share their lunchtime experience, demonstrating how to tidy away and remember our table manners. It was lovely to see our guests enjoy the lovely lunches that we are lucky enough to have every day! Thank you to everyone who joined us for these lovely occasions.



TEA & TOURS

Both Years 4 and 5 were able to invite their families to come and sample some light refreshments by way of coffee & cake followed by showcasing their classrooms and school. A lovely afternoon was had by all.



NURSERY MOTHER'S DAY EVENT

The children were buzzing with excitement as their Mum's and Grandma's were invited into the classroom to participate in some of the children's playing and learning. From delightful crafts to a charming performance of a Mother's Day song, it was a memorable tribute to the unconditional love and dedication of mothers everywhere.

It culminated in a wonderful cake decorating activity where much pink icing was consumed! **ELT**



FOBP – PREP DISCO & PRE- PREP PARTY

The Friends of Blundells Prep didn't disappoint by laying on two terrific events this term. The Pre-Prep had fun watching the hilarious Professor Bumble with his balloon magic, they enjoyed party games and lots of lovely party food. Whilst over in the Prep school for the older children, a disco allowed them to dance and enjoy time with their friends outside of the classroom. Many thanks to the Friends for making this possible. **LML**



THE RUSSELL

On a soggy day in March, the infamous Russell took place. The picture speaks for itself – Mud galore!

CROSS COUNTRY



The sun was out on a frosty day, but this did not stop all year 3 & 4 boys and girls taking part in cross country races against 4 other schools and giving their all! **SS**



PRE-PREP SHOWCASE ASSEMBLY

Children from Nursery to Year 2 wowed us in our Showcase Assembly. Nursery and Reception sang beautiful songs and Year 1 and 2 spoke confidently and beautifully about their work. It was a really lovely way to show their pride in their learning. **AXS**



TODDLER GROUP & COMMUNITY

This term our baby and toddler group has been enjoyed by many under fours from our local community. Plenty of indoor and outdoor fun, crafts, toys and songs for all ages. The highlights this term were Winter Wonderland, Dinosaurs, Let's Pretend and our Easter Springtime special! Our Messy Play event in March proved to live up to its name, with plenty of seasonal sensory play to be had with a colourful Rainbow theme.

EE



YEAR 2 – FILM MAKING

Year 2 were delighted to welcome Matt Windon, a director of photography, to explain how green screens are used in real life film production. It was fascinating to hear all about the use of blue and green screens in top blockbusters such as Pinocchio and Fast and Furious. He enjoyed watching our green screen projects and gave us lots of top tips to keep improving. We learnt all about green bounce and how to make our classroom green screen more professional. We asked so many questions and were left feeling very inspired to continue learning about film production. **KLW & AXS**

BALLET & FUNKY JAZZ SHOWCASE

Our lovely young dancers did fantastic with their showcase, showing off their hard work, new skills and talent. They wowed the audience with their Ballet and funky Jazz dance numbers, and it was so lovely to see smiling faces and pride in their achievement. They just love performing and dancing their hearts out. **LD**





U11 HOCKEY

The Under **11A** boys' hockey season commenced with a tournament at Sherbourne School. Here ten of some of the best Under 11 hockey teams were showcased from the Southwest. The boys got through the semis with a win on penalty shuffles against Sherborne Prep. A reverse stick shot pipped Millfield Prep to it in the final. Later on in the term, Blundell's hosted this year's Boys Devon Under 11 hockey tournament. Blundell's Prep clinched victory with an exciting round of shuffles in the final. The boys also had wonderful experiences at the IAPS at Queen's Taunton and the West of England championships at Millfield School. All the boys involved played an excellent part in a very successful term for the Under 11 A team. **JJA**

The **U11B** boys' hockey squad have had a wonderful journey this season in development and success. With an impressive record of victories, the team has showcased outstanding teamwork, resilience, and determination. Their unwavering spirit and camaraderie have been evident in every match they played. Defensively, they have been rock-solid, thwarting opponents' attacks with great goalkeeping and coordination. Overall, the U11B squad has exemplified sportsmanship and unity, making their journey this term an excellent one. As they conclude this chapter in their school sport, they leave behind teamwork and determination that will undoubtedly make them better hockey players in the future.

U9 HOCKEY

The end-of-term review for the U9 boys' hockey squad reflected a journey marked by enthusiasm, progress, and commendable teamwork. Throughout the season, the squad has exhibited unwavering enthusiasm for the sport, infusing each practice and match with energy and passion. Their commitment to collective success has been evident in their cohesive teamwork, fostering a supportive and unified environment on and off the field. Notably, the squad has diligently developed their all-around hockey skills, demonstrating improvement in various aspects of the game. Whilst their attacking prowess has been impressive, their defensive capabilities have shown promise, albeit with room for growth. Nevertheless, the squad's perseverance and dedication have been palpable, as they consistently adhered to tasks during practice sessions, displaying a commendable work ethic. **SS**

U10 HOCKEY

The **U10As** had a wonderful season and were a joy to coach. Through hard work and dedication, the skill level of all players improved, and it was lovely to see their confidence grow. All players demonstrated significant progress with their stick skills, showcasing improved control and precision in their handling of the ball. In attack, the team moved the ball swiftly and accurately, leading to many scoring opportunities. Defensively, there were notable improvements in positioning, resulting in a more cohesive unit thwarting the opposition attacks effectively. Overall, the season has been a real mixture of solid goalkeeping, resolute defending and outstanding goalscoring laying a solid foundation for future growth and success. I very much look forward to seeing the children continue to develop their hockey next year.

JWF

The **U10B** Team have had a tremendous season of hockey. The boys have demonstrated a brilliant understanding of how to play the game and, especially in recent weeks, really applied coaching points to their game. I have been impressed to see how the boys have begun to use the width of the pitch when attacking but defend with pressure. The outstanding performance must belong to our match against Wellington, where the boys played nearly an hour of hockey and scored 11 goals, conceding just one! They have been a pleasure to coach, and I look forward to seeing what they can do in Year 6.

JE



BOYS HOCKEY DEVON TOURNAMENT

Blundell's hosted this year's Boys Devon Under 11 hockey tournament. All the participating boys thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon with every team adding to the impressive hockey on display in Devon. Blundell's Prep clinched victory with an exciting round of shuffles in the final. All the players involved played an excellent part in their team's success. JJA

U8 HOCKEY

In the Spring term, the **Year 3** boys played an exciting brand of hockey, what was, for many a new sport. Throughout the season, the boys showed notable improvement in their skills and understanding of the game. Confidence levels grew as they mastered new techniques and gained a better grasp of teamwork concepts. The boys really enjoyed showcasing their newly learnt skills against other schools, achieving some wonderful results as well as embracing the values of sportsmanship with enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of our young athletes and look forward to watching them continue to excel both on and off the field in the seasons to come! JWF



MINI RED TENNIS TOURNAMENT

We held our first Mini Red Tennis Tournament this term. This free red ball tournament was open to Year 3 and 4 pupils of all levels of play. Every child played two warm up games followed by two matches and we were lucky to have each court officiated by a volunteer. We look forward to holding another tennis event soon.



U11 BOYS FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

The Under 11 boys football team had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon at the Exeter Junior School tournament. Many fantastic saves were made. Excellent work ethic was shown to press hard and track back enthusiastically. Although it was not a day for an abundance of goals, this defensive prowess led to the boys only conceding goals in one out of 5 games. They were delighted to receive a runners up medal which was very well deserved for everyone involved. JJA

U11 GIRLS WEST OF ENGLAND HOCKEY

The U11A girls' Hockey team travelled to Clifton for their final Prep School tournament, after qualifying as winners in the Devon round in December. They had 6 matches to play in the pool stage and started against a very strong Monkton team. The speed and quality of the play took the girls slightly by surprise and it was a disappointing 3-0 loss. They quickly picked themselves up for the next game against Millfield and played some much stronger Hockey for the next 12 minutes. Unfortunately, with only 1 minute to go, Millfield slotted one in the back of the goal to win 1-0.

The girls had to show real grit and determination for the final 4 matches and worked solidly as a team to win 2, draw 1 and lose 1 in the final stages. This put them 4th overall in the group and sadly they did not progress to the semis. It didn't go quite as we had hoped, but there were certainly lots of periods of great play to be proud of as well as lots of things to work on. Well done to all of the girls and also to Monkton who were the eventual winners and Millfield who came second. FLE





NETBALL

U11 NETBALL

It has been a super term of netball for the **U11A** team with wins in all of their weekly matches bar one, and a very high goal score of over 100 goals this season.

The IAPS regional competition saw them progress as winners in their pool and narrowly miss out on the semifinals by just 2 goals. The Exeter tournament at the end of the season was a triumph with the team winning all of their matches and coming home with the much-desired gold medals and trophy. I have been massively impressed by all of the players versatility at Bee netball, and as a team they have all been able to play every position to a high standard. Well done! **LB**

The **U11B** girls were fortunate to have nine matches organised for them over the season, facing Queen's, Exeter Cathedral School, St. Peter's, Wellington, Millfield, Exeter School, West Buckland, Taunton and King's College. The improvement over the season was a joy to watch. Greater accuracy with passing and catching, better spacial awareness and the all-important shooting, all contributed to turning our initial losses in our earlier matches to more and more wins as the season progressed.

The five a side Bee Netball rules with position rotations gave the girls the chance to play in every position over the course of a match. This meant that each girl had to be a versatile player and able to shoot, defend and play centre.

The girls have been great to work with: showing perseverance in the early tough stages of the season and huge improvement from every team member.

I look forward to seeing their cricket skills next term. **CFH**

U11 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

The **U11A** team had an excellent afternoon of netball at the Exeter tournament. They played 4 matches and managed to win them all to bring home the trophy. Well done to the whole team for great determination and effort, especially in the final game which was closely contested. **LB**

IAPS U11A GIRLS' NETBALL

The **U11A** netball squad travelled up to Millfield this week for the IAPS regional tournament for a day of competitive netball where they would be required to put all of their hard work this term into action. They had 4 matches in the pool stages and started strong with 3 wins out of 3. The 4th match was very closely contested with end-to-end action and an equal scoreline for almost the entire match. Sadly in the final minute we went down to 4-3 so finished 2nd in our pool overall. This was still an excellent result and meant we progressed to the cup stages. The quarter finals put us up against Millfield and we knew it would be a tough game. It was very exciting (and nerve wracking) with a half time score of 3-3 and an opportunity to progress to the semis. The girls put everything into the final 6 minutes but sadly it was not quite enough to emerge triumphant. The final score line was 7-5 to Millfield, who also went on to win the competition and qualify for the nationals. Well done for a super day of netball girls, and I look forward to the next tournament at Exeter. **LB**



U10 NETBALL

What a season the **U10A** netball team have had. The entire group of Year 5 Girls have been an absolute pleasure to teach this term and have made huge progress. They have braved cold, wet and windy conditions, and just as they finish the season it feels like Spring has arrived. Better late than never! The U10A team have played most weeks and have looked to develop their understanding of the game, and of every position on court. They have had days where they have gelled as a team and days where it has felt like hard work. They played a plethora of local schools winning all bar one game, against Taunton. Goals scored have been in excess of 70, with goals conceded in the region of 15. Not only have they achieved great success midweek, but they attended two tournaments back-to-back and won both. The season finished with a nail-biting game against Queen's. We went 2-1 down against their talented team at the Queen's Tournament and clawed back a 3-2 victory to win gold, so we knew it would be a challenging game. I can honestly say every child rose to the challenge. They played some of the best netball I have seen but perhaps more importantly showed great teamwork and determination. Well done to each and every one of you! **FLE**

During the season, the **U10B** team have made so much progress which they should be commended for. This has been achieved through hard work in lessons to improve skills and apply them to game situations, and then their determination to succeed during matches. The season started slowly and although the team experienced a couple of losses, they soon set out on their winning streak! Goals started going in more easily, footwork was becoming more precise and the interception of opposition passes were consistently good. The team left their best netball to the final game of the season against Queen's. They put on a first class display for everyone to witness which culminated in a resounding victory! **JER**



U10 NETBALL SUCCESSES

What a busy week the U10 Girls' Netball team have had. They attended the Exeter Tournament where they saved their best play for last and won all of their matches, finishing strong with a 12-0 victory over Maynard to come home with gold medals. The very next day, they attended the Queen's College Netball Tournament. Four back-to-back games meant little rest for the girls. After a tired 3-3 start against King's Hall, they quickly turned things around, beating Perrot Hill 16-1 and Wellington 8-0. The crunch match was against Queen's (who had also had a very successful morning), but Blundell's were not about to go down without a fight. They went into the second half a goal down, but with sheer grit and determination, great defence and accurate shooting they won 3-2. They were crowned winners and thoroughly deserve a good rest. Well done and we are very proud of all of you! **FLE**



U8 NETBALL

The Year 3 girls have made huge progress with their passing, movement, defending and shooting skills this term and it was great to see them show off their skills in the house matches at the end of term.

Towards the end of term, they began to familiarise themselves with the 5 positions for next year and I can already see that we will have a very strong team in Year 4. Enjoy the Easter break and start practising those cricket skills ready for the summer!! **LB**



U9 NETBALL

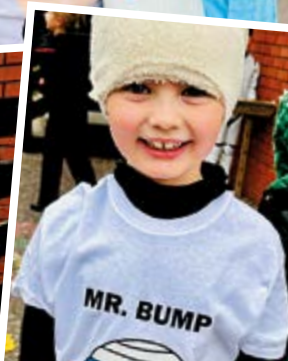
The **U9** netball team have had a most successful season. The step up from U8 to U9 is a significant one, and the children have taken it in their stride. They have experienced playing small-sided games across a third where they have focused mainly on movement and finding space. The girls have also had the opportunity to play full court (5 v 5) netball and have learnt the roles and responsibilities of a variety of positions. The children have worked hard to master the 'double run' and have managed to link together beautiful passages of passing and movement. Their knowledge and understanding of positions and tactics have also been a focus and this has been evident during weekly fixtures. I think they have built a solid foundation of skills, and I hope to see them continuing to develop their love for the game next year. **FLE**



UNDER 7 TOURNAMENT

Our Year 2 children were treated to a brilliant afternoon of Netball and Hockey from our wonderful hosts at Taunton Prep School. Spread across eight separate sporting pitches our children were mixed into groups to engage in some competitive matches of "Unihoc" and a variation of Netball called "Endball". Our children demonstrated outstanding skill and an understanding of the various disciplines as they dribbled, passed and shot their way through a fast-paced event. There were some real standout performances, particularly in the netball arena, where Year 2 were able to showcase superb handling skills! The event closed with them enjoying tea with the opposition. The children engaged in conversations about their sporting exploits, whilst enjoying a drink and a sausage roll! **JE**





The arrival of book week brought great anticipation as we headed 'Around the World in 80 books'. The week was launched with two brilliant authors; Claire Culliford, who shared one of her books from the 'little helpers' series in assembly and Ema Rowe, who inspired the children that they too could be an author through her Wild Wellies session. It was fantastic to see further Prep and Pre-Prep collaboration, as the Year 6's visited the Pre-Prep to explore photography manipulation with book covers.

Tuesday brought the arrival of Multistory theatre who gave a rapturous performance of the Norwegian fairytale 'East o' the sun, West o' the moon'. The KS1 and KS2 children enjoyed the opportunity to interview the actors following the show.

As part of the week, our ambition was to make reading links within our community. As part of this, KS1 children enjoyed a trip to the local library where they shared in a story, Q&A and library tour. Further, running throughout the week was our World Book Week Readathon challenge which resulted in £620 being raised for the local charity, Uplift.

On World Book Day, the children brightened our classrooms and corridors with their fantastic costumes. A highlight of the week was certainly the Pre-Prep fashion show as it was brilliant to see the children so enthusiastic about each other's costumes.

Friday was the finale! We welcomed the Year 5 pupils to the Pre-Prep to judge the eagerly anticipated door competition. All of the doors were fantastic, well done to 2W and Nursery for their fantastic winning doors. Last but not least, the brilliant book at bedtime returned. We heard a range of hilarious stories for many different teachers and enjoyed a hot chocolate and flapjack too. **KLW**



SPONSORED READ

During book week this term we chose to raise money for a local charity called Uplift, who work with young children and parents in Tiverton. We raised a grand total of £620 and two representatives from Uplift came to meet some of the children and say thank you. Well done to all for raising such a wonderful sum of money. **AXS**



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