

REVIEW

BLUNDELL'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL MAGAZINE

AUTUMN 2011

Come and *Join the Celebration*

Preparing for the Carol Service at Blundell's School Chapel



inside:

Show Time: acting up at Christmas
Reading Matters: character building
Sporting Chance: chief for a day

Regular features: Musical Notes ▷ Out and About ▷ Sports Reports ▷ Staff on the Spot ▷ Bob the Blob!



HEAD START

'Head Start' is a very apt title for a number of reasons, the most significant being the idea that we have made a start but there is a great deal more to come. I am not a subscriber to the X-Factor generation's use of the word 'journey', but there is the feeling that we are moving forward and I hope that everyone at the school feels the same sense of excitement that I have felt since arriving in September. We are looking ahead and I am certain that we are going to have a great deal of fun along the way!



This term has been packed full of excitement with events too numerous to mention in their entirety. Those times when the children are able to perform in public are always very special, both to the children themselves as they have practised for hours on end, and to the parents who have listened, encouraged and occasionally cajoled them along the way. The Tea

Time Concerts and the Speech and Drama Recitals gave individuals the chance to excel on stage. The superb Christmas productions also emphasised the huge array of talents that these children possess with tireless energy and direction coming from the staff in both Prep and Pre-Prep. How they manage to put together such high quality productions in such a short amount of time is still a mystery. The Festival of Carols and our own Carol Service further add to the sense of occasion and once again allow all of the children to contribute towards the success of the school community.

Sport forms an important part of school life and there has been plenty of success this term. The Under 11 A and B Hockey Teams have excelled, with the A Team win at Queen's a highlight. The Under 9 A Team performance at our own tournament was remarkable in its intensity and focus. The excitement that was generated when Year 3 had their first match was palpable and I am delighted that so many children have had the chance to represent the school.

I have also discovered the greatest tonic for those early morning, rainy day blues. Come and spend some time in our Pre-Prep. It is an incredibly vibrant and happy place to be and the children will welcome you with open arms – literally! The quality of learning that takes place is remarkable. I have thoroughly enjoyed the time that I have spent with the children, whether it be wrapping Christmas presents, measuring the height of dinosaurs or playing 'What's the Time Mr Wolf?'

We wish our Year 6 well for their forthcoming Entrance Exams. My message to them all is a simple one: make sure that you do some work over the holidays, but you also need a rest. You have all worked very hard and I am sure that you will do very well indeed.

Sarah and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andy Southgate Head Master

PREFECTS AND COUNCILLORS

New Prefects for the year were chosen from Year 6, with all at the Prep School having the chance to vote. The Prefects are awarded a special tie and a Prefect badge to wear on their blazers. They have a lunch meeting with Mr. Southgate once each week, and are expected to set a good example to the rest of the school by their manners, appearance and work ethic; they also have a range of specific duties, including managing the Pupil Notice Board, supervising Years 3 and 4 during wet breaks and assisting with sandwiches and drinks at Prep Break. This year a Head Boy and Head Girl were also chosen from the Prefects, with additional responsibilities including assisting Mr. Southgate in touring parents around the school when required, and reading in the Carol Service. The Head Boy and Head Girl were each awarded an additional blazer badge, but the roles would be for one term only, with the badges being handed over to a new Head Boy and Head Girl at the end of the term. This term **Imogen Hamilton-Green**, **Byron Knowles**, **Ralph Morris**, **Jack Klinkenberg** and **Jasmine Mackay** were appointed Prefects, with Jack and Jasmine being made first Head Boy and Head Girl.

School Council Representatives were also chosen this term. They were elected by a secret vote in their Forms. The Council meets every fortnight with Mr. Kerr to discuss any school issues raised by the Forms, and have the chance to put forward pupil views on matters including play equipment, break time rules and school menus. This year a Deputy Councillor for each form was also elected, who will become the new Form Councillor next term.

In addition, **Shea Clark** and **Noah Sanders-Dutton** were also elected from Year 2 to represent Pre-Prep views.

Article by **Anna Rose Gabbitass** and **Kitty Harvey-Brade**, Year 6



The Councillors and Deputy Councillors elected this term were:

Form	Councillor	Deputy
6MA	William Hall-Tomkin	Tristan Cox
6MI	Madeleine Wright	Jasmine Mackay
6MO	Joshua Cowap	Rory Bateman
5GA	Kata Lee	Liam Napier
5KE	Grace Labdon	Olivia Rhodes
5SW	Joseph Hancock	Amelia Curtis
4CH	Freddie Frankpitt	William Farmer
4HI	Harry Perring	Olivia Cowap
3HA	Estelle Tucker	Thomas Swain
3NI	Jessica Payne	Frederick Labdon

Prefect Update

Congratulations to **Tristan Cox**, **Anna Rose Gabbitass** and **Emily Mettam**, who at the end of term were appointed to become new Prefects to join the existing panel of School Prefects in the Spring Term. Congratulations also to **Byron Knowles** and **Imogen Hamilton-Green**, named as new Head Boy and Head Girl for the Spring Term.





Children in Need

Spots and stripes was the theme for *Children in Need* this year.



Ready Teddy Cook!

On Friday 18th November there was much excitement in Year 2. Not only was it Children In Need day, and all had come to school in spots or stripes, but we also got to go over to the Food Technology kitchen to make some mincemeat shapes. The children listened very carefully to Mrs. Watson and they even enjoyed washing-up. The mincemeat shapes were made to sell at the Christmas Bazaar, which was the following day. All the children made a special Pudsey Bear each and they were able to eat this with their snack. We had a fun morning and all proved excellent chefs! **D.M.K.**



Sphinx Aint What They Used To Be...

Year 3 spent a day in November looking at artefacts on loan from Exeter Museum to find out all about Ancient Egypt ... and getting a hands-on introduction to mummification and other customs from a banned age.



I liked it when we had to put the pot replica back together because it was fun.

Toby Hull

I loved watching other people performing mummification. My brother was chosen to be Anubis which was great!

Alice Williams

On the Ancient Egypt day I enjoyed sketching statues of cats because I enjoy art. **Eliza Lloyd**

The best part of the day was when we learnt how to mummify dead Egyptian people! **Freya Marr**

I enjoyed finding out if an object was real or a replica. You had to look really closely at the objects with a magnifying glass! **Gabriel Harrison Kinnaird**

I really enjoyed wrapping Thomas in bandages, as he was the mummy! My job was to be the worker who oiled him to make him smell fresh! **Bethany Keedwell**

Year 6 were invited to attend a Science lecture at the senior school in October. Visiting lecturer Tom Harrison, from Bristol University Chemistry Department, gave an explosive lecture on the theme of oxygen. Taking as his starting point the chemical compound of the planets in our solar system, he soon moved on to some practical experiments, demonstrating what happens when balloons filled with alternative gases are set alight, taking a liquid nitrogen shower (don't try this at home!) and creating various cocktails of multicoloured chemical candyfloss... It was really good fun!

Jodie White, Scarlett Fawcett & Charlotte Tait, Year 6



Weird Science



The Bluebird

We were looking forward to the annual visit from the West Midlands Theatre Company with great anticipation. This year they retold the story of The Bluebird. It was extremely entertaining for the children who loved seeing the different characters and following the story of Prince Ivan and his pursuit of the Bluebird. Three young actors played all the different parts which involved some very quick costume changes. Children from the audience were chosen to help and were very brave to appear in front of the footlights and their friends. **T.N.**



Enamelled with Success

Year 3 enjoyed a visit from Dental Nurse Debbie Coffey this term, who talked about effective brushing techniques, and used disclosing tablets to help the children check their own teeth.



Remembrance Service

This year as well as supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal we also made our own poppies to lay in a wreath at school. A service was then held to remember the men and women who had been



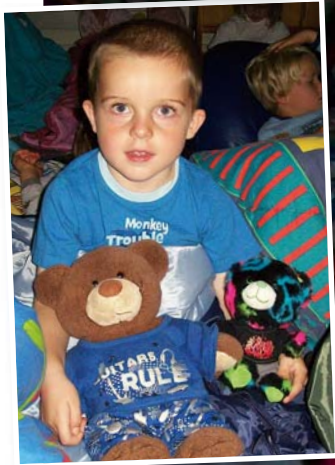
injured or lost their lives in war. We sang 'Make Me a Channel of Your Peace', there were readings by the Head Boy and Head Girl, Mr. Southgate spoke about the First World War, Reverend Hunt led us in prayers and then members of the Blundell's Wind Band played 'The Last Post'. It was a very moving service, and we followed it up by holding two minutes silence at 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month 2011.

Charlotte Tait and Scarlett Fawcett,
Year 6



The Big Draw

Congratulations to Gabriel Harrison Kinnaird, Holly Nugent, Zoe Labdon and Robert Wakem for winning The Big Draw art competition, with their drawings of fantasy creatures.



Dress-Up Day and Book at Bedtime

The Pre-Prep children loved coming to school dressed as their favourite book characters on Book Day. There were pirates, princesses, witches, wizards, cats, dogs and many other wonderful creations. The costumes were inspired and our thanks go to the parents who put so much effort into organising their children's outfits for the day.

Book at Bedtime was the highlight of the day as the children returned to school in the evening wearing their pyjamas and clutching their teddies, pillows and sleeping bags. The teachers read them bedtime stories by candlelight while they snuggled up in the hall.

The whole day was an exciting, worthwhile experience which gave us the opportunity to focus on the pleasure that can be found in books. T.N.



Fully Booked

National Poetry Day

National Poetry Day this year fell on Thursday 6th October, and all at the Prep School were invited to share some of their favourite poems in assembly, with verses by Roger Stevens, Michael Rosen, Ian Whybrow, Hilaire Belloc and Robert Louis Stevenson all featuring in recital. A poetry writing competition on the theme of 'Games' was also launched and saw lots of great entries submitted; in the end Harry Charlesworth was announced the competition winner for his poem 'How the Try was Scored'.



How the Try was Scored

It started with a maul and we all fought for the ball,
We passed it out to Jack
Who passed it to a back.
The crowd applauded.
The forwards joined in just in time to tackle him,
The ball went down.
The prop called Brown
Said it was a ruck but he got stuck.
The ball came out.
With a great shout the ball was passed to Joe,
We all yelled, "Go!"
He swizzled in and out
And passed it on to Dom,
Who went like a bomb,
And exploded over the try line!

Harry Charlesworth, Year 5



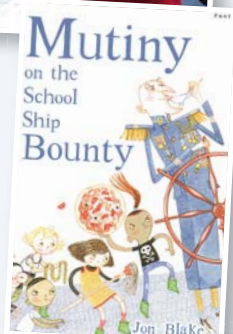
Blake's Heaven

Popular children's author Jon Blake visited the school in September to talk about his love of books. Jon has written humorous and serious fiction for all ages, and has had more than fifty books published, including *the Stinky Finger*, *Little Stupendo* and *Dogsbottom School* series, *The Supreme Dream Machine*, *The Last Free Cat*, *Mutiny on the School Ship Bounty* and *Oshie*, his most recent book, which tells the story of an amazing boy with cerebral palsy. Jon has also contributed to the Oxford Reading Tree reading scheme.

Jon ran several sessions working with children from across the school, talking about life as an author and answering questions on writing for a living. He gave readings from his comic book *Holiday Mania at the House of Fun*, and played a video presentation based on his best selling picture book *You're a Hero, Daley B*. He also ran a creative writing workshop for the older children, encouraging them to come up with their own ideas for story characters.

Jon left behind a number of signed copies of his books, which are available to borrow from the Prep School Library. You can find out more about Jon by visiting his website at www.jonblake.co.uk.

Issy Fraser and **Cara Read**, Year 6



Jon Blake Story Writing Competition

During author Jon Blake's visit, children in the Pre-Prep were invited to take up his challenge to write a story about a visit to a pet shop. There were some super entries, which Mrs. Nash read to the Pre-Prep during assembly. The children thoroughly enjoyed the stories and so did the staff. They were so good that it was hard to decide upon just one winner. However, after a great deal of deliberation, Lucie Spencer's story about a boy called Simon buying a pet giraffe was chosen to receive First Prize. She was awarded with a certificate and book token. Shea Clark, Louisa Chambers and Elizabeth Honey also won runners-up prizes and certificates. Well done to everyone who took part and particularly to the winners. There are some very talented story writers coming up through the school. **T.N.**

Amy Sparkes

The younger children in the school enjoyed a visit by local author Amy Sparkes, who read from her book, *Hodge the Hedgehog*, and also worked with the children to make book marks and puppets.



BLUNDELL'S PREP

Out and about



Young Farmers

At the beginning of November **Year 5** went to visit Halberton Court Farm as part of their geography work on farming. Mr. Stevens kindly showed us around his farm and told us about his work as a farmer. We rode on a huge trailer pulled by a tractor; it was rather bumpy but great fun!

This is what Jasper Pring wrote when he got back to school: "The climate in Devon is wet and mild so Mr. Stevens can grow a range of fruit and vegetables. He has polytunnels to protect his tomatoes and strawberries so they will not die from the cold and wet weather and they will ripen more easily in the warm conditions. Mr. Stevens also grows Tundra cabbages to survive the cold weather and frost. This means he can grow cabbages for longer in the year. The soil is a very good soil for growing crops, a mixture of clay and red sand that is called loam. He rotates his crops each year so that the soil can keep its nutrients and can produce good crops every year. In winter the cabbages have fleece on them to keep the frost off."

M.J.L.



Victorian Christmas

The sun was shining and the air was frosty as the Year 1 children arrived at Killerton House for their annual visit to find out about what Christmas was like during the Victorian era. They were greeted in the car park by the Housekeeper who led them up to the House. Toby had to knock on the grand door and a maid answered and summoned everyone into the warm, festive hallway. The house was decorated for Christmas in true Victorian style with beautiful garlands and wreaths made out of foliage from the locality. The Christmas trees were sparkling with decorations. A group of volunteers showed the children around the house and described what life would have been like for the servants and for the family who lived in the house. They were most surprised to hear that one of the maids had the job of monitoring the candles on the Christmas tree to make sure they didn't cause a fire or burn too low. They found out about the types of games that Victorians played and enjoyed playing a game of "Squeak, Piggy, Squeak" and "Blow the Feather." They also met the cook who talked about the Christmas food preparations. At the end of the visit, the children congregated in the Music Room and sang carols whilst Mrs. Shelbourne accompanied them on the piano. It was a lovely start to the Christmas festivities. **T.N.**



Tiverton Trek

On Monday 17th October, **Year 3** travelled all around the Tiverton area. We saw Heathcoat's Factory, Old Blundell's School, the Fire Station and Tesco. After that, we visited Knightshayes Court. We walked around the gardens which were amazing. There were chickens and scarecrows! Next we had our packed lunch which was cheese rolls and crisps. When we visited the house, our tour guide told us to look out for animals in each room. There were lots of old things in the house. Next we drove to Tiverton Canal. We learnt that the canal was built to carry lime from the quarries to the lime kilns on the horse-drawn barges. After this, we drove back to Blundell's. We had lots of fun. The trip was amazing!



Anna Maunder, Lottie Southgate and Eve Nugent, Year 3



Shore Thing

On Thursday 15th September **Year 2** set off on a coach to Budleigh Salterton. The children looked at many of the local features including the beach huts, the promenade, plants and the estuary. We were lucky enough to meet a friendly fisherman who kindly showed us all the different fish he had caught. We then carried on and walked towards the River Otter where we saw the river meeting the sea. We then made some sketches of all the things we had seen. The weather was gorgeous, so we ate our picnic on the beach and took in the sea view. We then travelled to Exmouth, where due to the Tour of Britain cycle race, we had to leave the coach a long way from the beach! After a trek through the streets of Exmouth we finally reached the seafront in time to have an ice cream and a quick paddle before trekking back! We noticed lots of interesting things in both seaside towns and the children were able to remember lots of things for our geography, history and science lessons this term. The children were very well behaved and many passers-by commented on this. Well done Year 2! **D.M.K.**

Proclamation of the Fayre

Children from **Year 3** gathered with pupils from other local schools at Coggan's Well in Tiverton to hear Mayor Neal Davey make his proclamation before scrambling for pennies thrown into the crowd at this local bi-annual tradition...

Life Skills

In September **Year 6** met up with other local schools to attend a Life Skills course at Tiverton Youth Centre. The police were there talking about cyber bullying and how to deal with it; St. John's Ambulance were also there and taught us how to deal with an unconscious person by putting them in the recovery position in an emergency; the fire service talked about the importance of fitting and checking smoke alarms, and demonstrated how quickly a chip pan fire can spread. The coast guard was also there, explaining the meanings of different safety flags at the beach, and other organisations were also there to talk about electrical hazards, safety in the home and the dangers of making hoax 999 calls.

Kiera White and **Emily Mettam**, Year 6



Starting

With no less than six Christmas productions to prepare for and perform, the end of term proved positively dramatic...

Donkey for Sale

Singing practices started in the **Nursery** the week before half term for *Donkey for Sale*. There were times in rehearsals when the angels felt little good will, Joseph forgot his need to care for Mary, the shepherds lost their sense of direction and the Innkeeper and his wife lacked marketing skills, but throughout a sense of humour prevailed amongst the children and staff, and everything came together beautifully for the Nativity performance. Christmas is a good time in the Nursery! **D.McD.**

Witnesses

The **Year 2** Christmas nativity play, *Witnesses*, provided a modern take on the story of the birth of Jesus, and involved two reporters interviewing the different characters who appear in the story. There were three very important kings, three sparkling stars who behaved like true modern day celebrities, three angels, two shepherds and, of course, Joseph and Mary. They all sang their songs beautifully and spoke their words with confidence and expression. It provided a super start to the Christmas season! **T.N.**

The Sleepy Shepherd

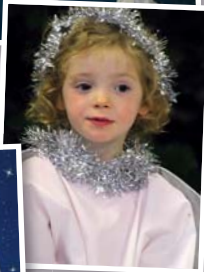
It was hard to believe how young the children in the **Kindergarten** were when they performed their Christmas play. They acted and sang with such confidence and cheerfulness and the audience was spellbound. Their play, *The Sleepy Shepherd*, told the nativity story from the perspective of a shepherd so sleepy that he even found it difficult to count his sheep without falling asleep! One night he was woken by the angels who told him about a special baby being born in the stable. He rushed down to Bethlehem to find baby Jesus in the manger. The children sang some super songs, and they all remembered their words and spoke out clearly. It was a charming retelling of this very special story. **T.N.**

Baboushka

The children in **Year 1** entertained their friends and families with a delightful retelling of the story of *Baboushka*. They all joined in with the singing and the narration of the story. The play told the story of Baboushka travelling to find the new king, baby Jesus. She stopped several times on her way to help other needy travellers and, when she arrived in Bethlehem, found that she had nothing left in her basket to give the baby. She felt sad about this until she realised that it was enough to give her heart. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves on stage and every word was spoken clearly and with enthusiasm. **T.N.**

The Twelve Days of Christmas

Years 5 and 6 gave their all in a dazzling performance based around the very famous song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*. The costumes made the whole play come alive (with our maids a milking bringing a smile to everyone's face!) We travelled to the North Pole with a troupe consisting of all the characters portrayed in the Twelve Days of Christmas, ably led by Mr. Partridge (Harry Charlesworth), where we were introduced to the two families the Christmases and the Grimgrumps. While the audience booed and hissed at Nasty Grimgrump (Henry Dyke), it was down to Father Christmas (Todd Brades-Payne) to save the day. After a lot of very cheerful singing the Christmas story unravelled itself to reveal all that was bad had turned good and so we ended with a very Merry Christmas! **T.M.C.**



Roles

Children of the World

A choir of **Year 4** children sang to support a wonderful production by **Year 3**. Christmas angels from around the world invited us on a very magical journey, collecting children, visiting countries and showing us how Christmas may be celebrated in Poland, China, Australia, Malawi, the U.S.A. and Ireland. The whole cast and singers, who obviously enjoyed being part of such a glittering, sparkling and bouncing production, played with considerable enthusiasm to a very appreciative audience. The costumes were very authentic and added to the great ambience of the occasion. **T.M.C.**



Musical Notes

"Our own Carol Service was again a thought provoking, atmospheric occasion. The singing was wonderful and the readers read with tremendous confidence and clarity"





As the term draws to a close, I am left reflecting on the musical activities which have taken place over this term. The music department continues to be busy with groups or ensembles meeting on most days. Our choir is the largest it has ever been with over seventy members. A new group which has been formed this term is the guitar ensemble. This enables the children to have the opportunity to play together as a group as well as individually in their lessons.

Our Tea Time Concerts gave the children the chance to perform to an audience and also to show all the hard work that they put into learning their instruments. It was fantastic to see such a large number of children performing in each concert, on a variety of instruments, and for some of them it was their very first concert.



The last week of term has been very busy. We hosted our annual Festival of Carols in the chapel, with three other schools joining us – St. John's, Tidcombe and Two Moors. The sound of so many children singing together filled the chapel and was a delight to listen to. The day after this saw the choir performing in the Town Hall as part of the town's Christmas Fayre. The children worked hard to learn a new Christmas repertoire for this and performed very well. Our own Carol Service was again a thought provoking, atmospheric occasion. The singing was wonderful and the readers read with tremendous confidence and clarity. The Christmas plays brought the children together through drama and music. A lot of fun was had with catchy songs and superb costumes.

A big thank you to all the staff who have helped in the music department. **B.L.C.**



Peripatetic music teacher David Cottam entranced the Prep School with his classical guitar playing in assembly earlier in the term.



Staff on the Spot

This term:
Mr. Southgate



1, Which school did you teach at before you came to Blundell's?

Moulsford Prep School in Oxfordshire.

2, What subjects did you teach?

History, Games and PSHE.

3, What is the highlight of your job as Head Master?

Learning about the children and the things that go on in the school.

4, What are you planning in the future for Blundell's?

Lots of exciting things – wait and see!

5, What are your hobbies outside of school?

Golf, football, body-boarding and playing with Lottie and Harry.

6, Who or what is your favourite...

Author? Ian Gilbert and Dan Brown.

Musician? Ed Sheeran, Bruno Mars, Cat Stevens and Stevie Wonder.

TV Programme? Spooks, Strictly Come Dancing and CSI (my wife also makes me watch The X-Factor!)

Film? Star Wars, The Shawshank Redemption and The Goonies.

Actor? Ben Kingsley and Liam Neeson.

Animal? A lion.

7, What would you buy if you won the lottery?

A big house in the mountains, and a Ferrari.

8, What would you take with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

My i-phone, a satellite TV, some matches and my wife.

9, If you were a fairy tale character, who would you be?

One of the seven dwarfs – you decide which one!

10, What has been your most embarrassing moment?

Getting 'gunged' on live TV in 1989.

Interview devised and conducted by
Imogen Hamilton-Green and **Jasmine Mackay**, Year 6



*Many thanks to all
the catering staff for
another cracker of a
Christmas Lunch -
with all the
trimmings...*

Festive Fun

CHRISTMAS AT BLUNDELL'S PREP





Christmas Around the World

Year 2 were lucky enough to welcome two visitors to help them with their geography and history topic about Christmas around the world this term. Mrs. Fields lived in Germany as a child and has only been in England for ten years. She told the children about the exciting street markets in Germany and even baked some German biscuits for us to try. Mrs. Cronkshaw was born in New Zealand but has also lived in Australia. She brought a picnic blanket for the children to sit on as many families in Australia and New Zealand have picnics at Christmas. The children were fascinated to hear that Christmas takes place during the summer holidays there but that many Christmas cards still have snow scenes on them! On both occasions the children really listened carefully to our speakers and we were very grateful that they gave up their time to talk to us. **D.M.K.**



Yule Log

You'll not be surprised to learn that even FT lessons took a festive turn at the end of term...

Christmas Bazaar

The Christmas Bazaar fell on Saturday 19th November, and as well as Father Christmas in his grotto there were arts and crafts activities on offer, refreshments available (including cakes made by the children!) and lots and lots of stalls. Year 3 were selling toys, Year 4 games, Year 5 books and DVDs and Year 6 ran the raffle. Other attractions included face painting, Christmas tattoos, go-karting and a treasure hunt. The bazaar was very well attended, with proceeds going to the local 'Balloons' charity. Many thanks to everyone who helped out on the day!

Kiera White and **Scarlett Fawcett**,
Year 6

Christmas Parties

Father Christmas was certainly busy at the end of term, following up his appearance at the Christmas Bazaar to return to visit the school on no less than two further occasions...

Pre-Prep Christmas Party

Everyone enjoyed the Pre-Prep Christmas Party. The children came to school dressed in their party clothes, the kitchen staff provided a wonderful party lunch, and there was time to play many super party games. We were even fortunate enough to be visited by Father Christmas, who brought presents for everyone. The children were incredibly excited and went home afterwards with big smiles on their faces! **T.N.**

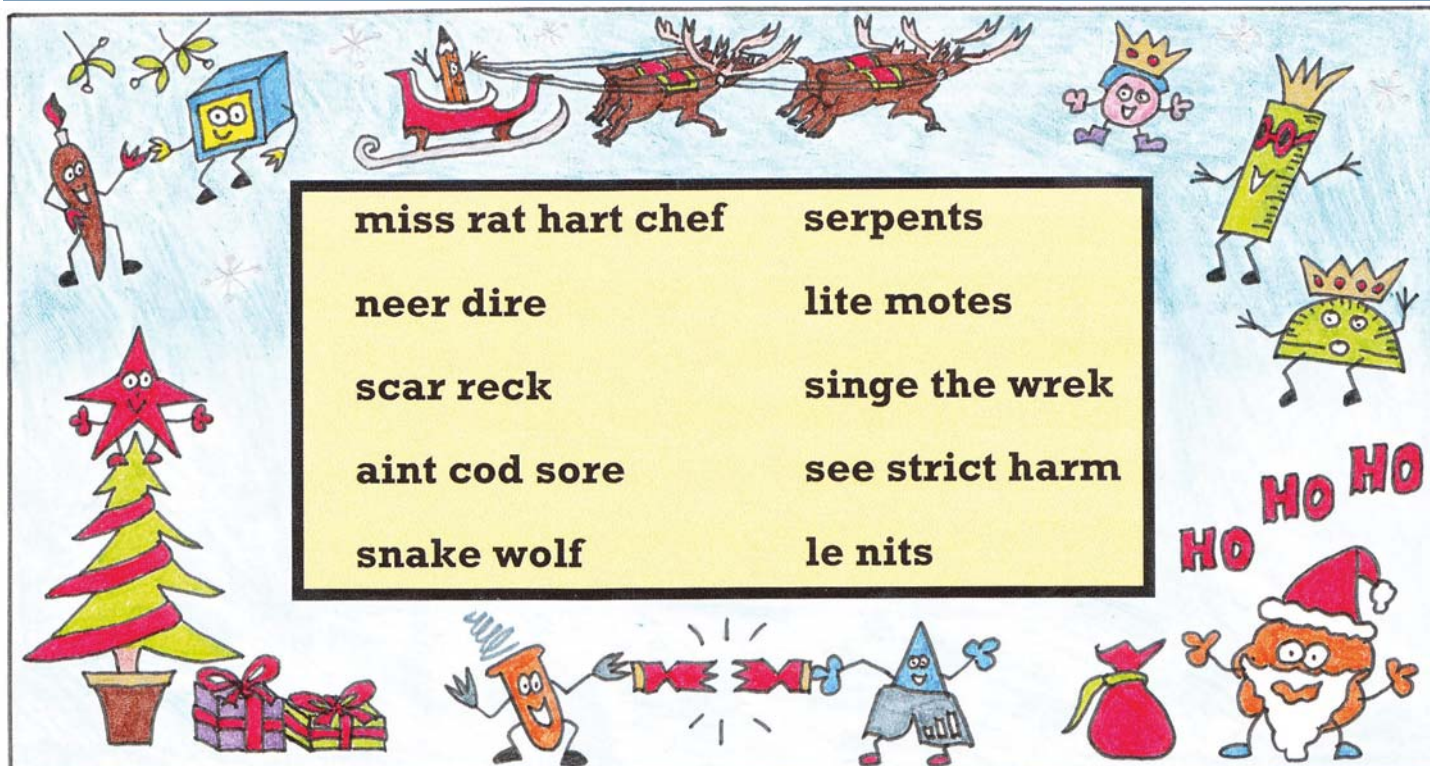
Toddler Christmas Party

The Parent and Toddler group finished a very busy term with a Christmas party for over 45 toddlers, babies, parents and grandparents. As the children were singing 'Jingle Bells', they were amazed to see Father Christmas arrive from the North Pole with a present for everyone! *If you are interested in joining our group, why not visit our section on the School's website for more details.* **W.J.N.**



Bob the Blob and Friends in: Christmas Anagrams

Can you help Bob and his friends unscramble these muddled words?



Original characters created by Frances Auger, Kristiane Wheeler and Emily Nash.
Anagrams suggested by Jodie White and Charlotte Tait.



With no pre-season training and several big name transfers, hopes for a successful season have been planted firmly in the laps of the team's Junior Academy. What is he talking about? I am talking about the new term for the Blundell's Prep School Christian Union, better known as 'J' Team, or Jesus's Team. We study the Bible to learn new tactics for life. We pray and share our concerns with our leader – Jesus. We sing, we play and sometimes we even dance. The Junior Academy, mainly in the shape of Year Three, has done the club proud this season and attendance has been very good. Juliet Dean continues to lead the musical right and left wing of the club and we thank her for that. The popular new song on the terraces is, 'One Foot Forward and One Foot Back' although 'Who is the King of the Jungle?' continues to be a perennial favourite. We finished the term with a fantastic picnic, provided by Mrs. Moys and the catering staff. We look forward to the new year with high hopes and we welcome everyone to come along to 'J' Team – Be there! Or be somewhere else! **E.S.H.**



Busy Bees

The **Busy Bees** have had a lot of fun this term dressing up, sharing at Show Time and making and eating club sandwiches. There were some very interesting combinations of sandwich fillers but the children seemed most happy to munch their way through such delicacies as jam and cucumber! **T.N.**



Joke of the Term # 17

Q: How do you get two whales in a mini?

A: Down the M4!

Joke supplied by **Greg Kitson**, Year 6.

Tell your favourite funny to Mr. Moore or any member of Newspaper Club to see your joke published here next time.

Sport *Report*



Hockey

It has been an outstanding season for the young teams at Blundell's Prep and I have been more than delighted with each and every girl's effort and performances over the term. All of the girls have demonstrated hard work and commitment. Teams have performed very well and experienced convincing wins. Regardless of the result, it is always pleasing to see players demonstrating excellent sporting manners and attitude. Every girl from Year 3 to Year 6 has represented Blundell's Prep and enjoyed the opportunity. Well done to all!

A special mention must go to our **U11 A Team** who won the Queen's College Hockey Tournament in October and were the plate winners at the IAPS Regional competition at Millfield in November. The team also performed superbly at the National School Girls Devon Mini Hockey competition at Exeter School on 2nd December - winning all five of their matches and

qualifying for the regional finals at Millfield in March. The team scored a massive 17 goals and only conceded 1 in the whole competition. The whole team have demonstrated commitment throughout the term and worked excellently together. Their success has very much been due to their fantastic attitude. **L.M.M.**



The U11 A Team being applauded in assembly, following their success in the Devon Mini Hockey Tournament at Exeter.

U11 A Team: Anna Rose Gabbitass (Captain), Imogen Hamilton-Green, Grace Labdon, Tabitha Vause, Jasmine Mackay, Kinna Yewdall, Grace Francis, Maddie Wright, Sparkle Menzies & Rebecca Hamilton.

Above: The U8 Squad at the St. Peter's Hockey Festival.

Right: The U10 Team at the Exeter Junior School Tournament.

The **U9 Blundell's Prep Hockey Tournament** took place on Saturday 26th November with 12 schools participating and was a great success. It was a lovely competition with some enjoyable Hockey from the young sides. A big thank you to Mr. James Mayes, from our Senior School, who kindly gave up his time to help umpire the Blundell's Prep A Team, and to Mrs. Cracknell who looked after the B's; also to Miss Harrison for keeping the scores in order and to Mrs. Southgate for presenting the medals. It was great to see the **U9 A Team** winning the bowl competition. Millfield were the overall tournament winners and Plymouth College the winners of the plate.

Thank you to all the girls for their co-operation and their desire to play in matches and to do their very best. It makes my job much easier and far more rewarding!

L.M.M.



Sport *Report*

Rugby

The **U11 Rugby** season of 2011 has been an enjoyable one for the boys in which everyone has played many times, and this has created a strong spirit and sense of purpose within the squad. The season has seen many team performances rather than individual ones. These secured victories even though on some occasions the play went against the team, and this includes one hard fought win in the last minute of the game. There have been a few losses which the team put behind them before marching on to the next match having learnt the mistakes of the last. Support play has been key and this is the true essence of teamwork. Are you there for your team mate? The answer has to be yes! The whole team have worked on this all season, and it has been very pleasing to see the large number of players who have developed and improved, allowing a greater depth to all the teams.

As far as **U9 Rugby** is concerned, weaknesses – well we had a few, but fortunately our strengths were in abundance and the boys were always positive, purposeful and very direct. We travelled the length and breadth of two counties and always played with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm – something that was recognised by all of the spectators this season. Alex Curtis ably captained a strong A Team, and I look forward to seeing the boys develop their skills and tactical understanding of the game further next season. **S.G.S. & S.J.M.**

The **U9 Blundell's Prep Rugby Tournament** took place on Saturday 26th November, and saw 12 of the best U9 prep school rugby teams visit Blundell's Prep. After an exciting pool stage in which the teams played two matches each, they entered into a knockout stage. Blundell's were against Plymouth in the semi-finals of the main competition. Plymouth were billed as the favourites at the start of the whole tournament, but Blundell's came out firing and Plymouth didn't seem to have an answer to the passion Blundell's showed. So a final of Blundell's versus Millfield was set. After a close first half in which both sides traded tries, Millfield scored a couple of late tries to win. Many thanks to Mr. Kerr, Mr. Saunders and Mr. Taylor for refereeing, and well done to all those who took part! **S.G.S.**

U9 A Team: Alex Curtis (Captain), William Blowers, Leo Dummett, William Farmer, Rocco Hartley, Charlie Hutchinson, Duncan Johnson-Ferguson, Tom Reynolds, Jon Robinson, Ben Robinson, Ollie Wright & Ben Wright.





Super Saturday

With two minibuses full of future rugby stars, Blundell's Prep took the Exeter Chiefs Super Saturday event by storm in December. First up was a two hour training session with the academy players and some of the first team not involved with the match that afternoon. This was fun and informative – and a great experience to be able to take part in cutting edge rugby drills from a premiership rugby team. After training we were given a tour of the ground and a behind the scenes look at how players get ready before a match and what they do afterwards. Once lunch was eaten in the main stand the children took to the pitch and stood as the tunnel for Worcester Warriors and Exeter Chiefs to run through. At half time of a very exciting match we were all back on the pitch doing a lap of honour waving to the ten thousand strong crowd who had come to watch. Thanks to Mr. Southgate, Mr. Kerr, and Mr. Morris for their support throughout the day – a great time was had by all, and in the end Exeter won the match! **S.G.S.**



Barbarians Trials

The Barbarians are made up of a collection of the best rugby players from each prep school in the country. Five boys from Blundell's Prep were selected to take part in the South West Barbarian Rugby Trials, hosted by Blundell's. This saw the Prep School boys work hard in a morning training session before playing in two matches watched by the selectors. With all of the players competing for a limited number of places, Oliver Kilbride and Greg Kitson were selected to represent the South West against the South East for a place in the South of England team. Ralph Morris, Archie Hare and Jack Klinkenberg were singled out by the selectors as having played extremely well, but only one team of twelve players could be selected.

Thanks to Mr. Morris for his help during the training phase of the day. **S.G.S.**





Up in Smoke

On Thursday 3rd November Blundell's Prep School staged its annual bonfire display. Everybody enjoyed watching the spectacular fireworks, and seeing the guy burn on the bonfire. The weather was kind, and there were lots of refreshments to keep everyone going – including hotdogs, burgers, sweets, hot chocolate, squash and mulled wine (for the adults!) We also had our own glow sticks to brighten up the sky! Thanks to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising this wonderful event!

Issy Fraser and **Cara Read**, Year 6



Non  Sibi

Blundell's
PREPARATORY SCHOOL
— 3 YEARS - 11 YEARS —

Blundell's Road, Tiverton

Devon EX16 4NA

Telephone: 01884 252393

Email: prep@blundells.org

www.blundells.org/prep