

AUTUMN 2012

review



A Day in the Life

OF A PUPIL AT BLUNDELL'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL



Christmas at Blundell's Prep:

Carols by candlelight in the chapel
Bowled over by festive banquet
Stable performance in nativity plays

“the sense of purpose... has emanated from every part of the school.”



On the penultimate day of term the whole school came together for a Christmas assembly and a chance to reflect on the last three months. It seems like an age ago that we returned after the summer break, hopeful that the sun would finally make an appearance and excited about the challenges of the year ahead. The theme of our assembly was ‘Celebration’ and we used the game of ‘Pass The Parcel’ to illustrate the true meaning of Christmas. The lure of the gift inside meant that I had 140 willing participants but only six could be chosen and all were rewarded with a chocolate treat. We went on to enjoy a photo slideshow, set to the Coldplay track, Paradise, in which all of the events of this

term were shown. There were plays, concerts, matches and trips. There were workshops, themed-days, parties and tournaments. The common theme that ran through all of the images was a sense of fun, of purpose and of enjoyment. I lost count of the number of smiling children who could be seen, from our very youngest children in the Nursery through to our senior pupils in Year 6. They love their school and if ever proof were needed then the pictures tell the story far better than I ever could. We are fortunate to have a ‘Photographer in Residence’ as she is now known, although most people know her as Sarah, my lovely wife. She has taken several thousand photos during this term alone and they can be found on our image gallery which is easily accessed through the school website. Do take a look as they are a stunning visual representation of what Blundell's Prep School is all about. Our very talented Review Editor, Mr. Lee Moore, then brings these images together, and adds the words of the staff and children, to create the story of the term as you see it here.

So what has been the highlight this term? I think that it would be remiss of me not to mention the wonderful Christmas plays and particularly the very touching and thought provoking Year 5 and 6 production. I would also mention our Carol Service and the high quality music that continues to grow and develop with every term. The sight of two little four year old girls singing solos to an audience of nearly 100 people was something very special indeed. The vast array of sporting opportunities and the success of our hockey and rugby teams brought great joy to players and spectators alike. What has stood out beyond anything else is the sense of purpose which has emanated from every part of the school and that comes from talented staff and highly motivated children. It is a lovely environment to be a part of.

So this Review is all about getting beneath the surface of the Prep School. It is about showing you what goes on between those times when you wave goodbye in the morning and then welcome the children back into your arms in the afternoon. It is about the realities of daily life for our busy, motivated and happy children. What I'll guarantee is that one or two of you reading this edition will utter the words “I wish I had got to do that when I went to school.” In all honesty, so do I.

I do hope that you enjoy seeing what we have been up to over the course of the Autumn Term.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Andy Southgate'.

Andy Southgate Head Master



Remembrance Service

Each child made their own poppy to wear to this year's Remembrance Service. The children in Year 6 recited a very moving poem called "Why wear a Poppy?" and the Year 2 children read the prayers. At the end of the service, there was a minute's silence followed by the Last Post. It was a lovely opportunity for the younger children in the school to share an assembly with their older brothers, sisters and friends. T.N.



King for a Day

The West Midlands Theatre Company performed 'The King of Copenhagen' in November. It was a fantastic show, with much audience participation, and was thoroughly enjoyed by staff and children alike. The play was based on the story of the Emperor's New Clothes and the children thought it hilarious when the King appeared in his 'unmentionables'! T.N.



Bus Stop

The arrival of the Life Education Bus in the school car park caused quite a stir this term. This is a bus that visits schools to provide children's workshops on general health awareness and life skills. A lively character called Eddie used his friends Harold the Giraffe, Derek the Penguin and Kiki the Kangaroo, to deliver messages about healthy eating, the importance of sleep and exercise, saying sorry and telling the truth.

T.N.



Parents in the Pre-Prep came into School to watch their children present a Harvest Assembly – and found out just how far the ingredients for a pizza had travelled across the world to be here too!



HARVEST FESTIVALS

Thank you to all who donated Harvest produce for local charity CHAT this term. The Churches Housing Action Team provides essential food, shelter and support for homeless people in Tiverton. Ruth Morley, a representative from the charity, came into school to talk to the children about how their Harvest contributions would help others in the community. T.N.



Christmas Market



The Friends of Blundell's Prep held its annual Christmas Market on Saturday 17th November. The day provided excellent fun for everyone, with games inside and out, a face painter, a craft room, Santa's Grotto, a raffle run by Year 6, as well as refreshments and many different stalls selling a huge range of Christmas goods. Our Children's Choir and Parents' Choir kept the shoppers entertained and more than £2500 was raised for the charity Kids Who Care. Thank you



to all who supported this wonderful event, and especially to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising it all.
Olivia Charteris and Tara Hayes-Pankhurst, Year 6



It's a Wrap: Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Day

Year 3 were transported back 3,000 years to Ancient Egypt, when they experienced a day full of exciting activities and challenges in November. They attended a mummification in which 'Pharaoh Zebedee' was prepared for burial; they built shadufs to collect water from the River Nile, constructed pyramids, designed Anubis headdresses, wrote on papyrus and made clay amulets. In Music they performed Egyptian tunes on their violins and created Egyptian dances. They managed to return to 2012 in time to go home! W.J.N.

"Papyrus writing was lots of fun. We had to write our full name in hieroglyphs on papyrus paper just like the Ancient Egyptians did!"

Lochy Cronkshaw, Evan Thorsett & Elizabeth Honey



Brushing Up on Dental Care

Mel, a dental nurse at Culmpton Dental Surgery, came in to visit Year 3 to share her expertise in caring for teeth. The children had been learning about food groups, healthy eating and teeth, as part of their half-termly Science topic. Mel visits the children each year to talk about types of teeth, how different foods affect our teeth and how to ensure good dental hygiene. The children enjoy interacting with the models and games that she brings in, and of course, the highlight is always brushing Star the horse's teeth correctly!

DON'T FORGET

You can keep up to date with the latest Blundell's Prep News at www.blundells.org/prep/news

National Poetry Day



Poetry Slam



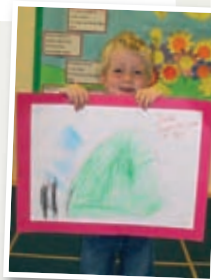
Glen and Claire from The Poetry Slam visited the School in September to host a Performance Poetry competition ahead of National Poetry Day.

All had great fun working in small groups to compose their own short poems,

before committing them to memory, adding actions and rehearsing to perfect expression. Finally the groups took to the stage to present their poems in front of a panel of judges! All had a great time and judging was not an easy task!



Children (and some staff!) in the Pre Prep came to school dressed up in some wonderful costumes for National Poetry Day, and a highlight was hosting children from the Senior School who visited to perform 'The Boneyard Wrap'. Many children in the Pre Prep took part in the Poetry Recital competition, or the Best Decorated Poem competition, whilst in the Prep School many great entries were received in the Poetry Composition competition – finally won by Jessica Payne and Anna Maunders with their poem 'Stars'... L.P.M. & T.N.



Stars

**Rockets going up, up, high,
Past the stars shining by
Stars, stars, I wonder why
I wonder why they're up so high.**

**The stars so bright,
Shining with all their might
Stars, stars, I wonder why
I wonder why they're up so high.**

**In the sky up so high
Rockets quickly zooming by
Stars, stars, I wonder why
I wonder why they're up so high.**

**Glistening, glowing, shining bright,
I wonder what we'll see tonight.
Stars, stars, I wonder why
I wonder why they're up so high.**

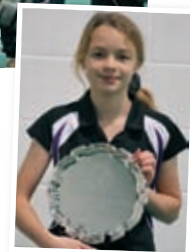
**In my dreams I'll go to a star
Though everyone knows it's too far
Stars, stars, I wonder why
I wonder why they're up so high.**

**But right now I shall not lie:
I LOVE the stars in the sky!**

Jessica Payne & Anna Maunders, Year 4



The Blundell's Prep Fencing Team, consisting of Kata Lee, Jasper Pring and Todd Brades-Payne, took part in a fencing tournament at Perrott Hill in November. Well done to all for representing the School in this cutting edge discipline, and a special congratulations to Kata, who won the Jim Perry Award for Best All Round Performance, by virtue of her courtesy and sportsmanship throughout the event.



Father Christmas at Parent and Toddlers

When Father Christmas was looking for his reindeer, he heard Blundell's Parent and Toddler Group singing and playing musical instruments, and decided to pay them a visit. The children were delighted to see him and were very polite in thanking him for their cuddly toy presents. Our Parent and Toddler Group sessions are on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm until 3.30pm in term time and you will be most welcome to join us if you have a baby or toddler under school age. Superb indoor and outdoor play facilities are available, as well as painting, playdough and a guided craft



activity to take home each week. Our meetings finish with refreshments and a sing-song! We look forward to seeing you in the New Year! W.J.N.

Prefects and Councillors



Prefects

Our Prefects were chosen in the first half of this term, and everyone in the school, including all of the teachers, got to vote for the girls and boys in Year 6 whom they thought set the best example to the school. The Prefects are expected to set an excellent example to all of the other pupils by their manners, their personal appearance, the way in which they behave and the effort that they put into their work. They also have several specific duties, such as assisting with drinks and sandwiches at Prep Break, supervising Years 3 and 4 during wet breaks and managing the Pupil Notice Board; they also are given a range of responsibilities, including reading in the Carol Service. They are given a special Prefect tie and a badge to put on their blazer. Grace Labdon, Sparkle Menzies, Frances Hunt, Dominic Vause, Jasper Pring, Rebecca Hamilton and Theodore Rees were made the first Prefects, with Rebecca and Theodore being appointed Head Girl and Head Boy for this term.

Also this term School Council Representatives were elected during a secret vote in Forms during Form Time on a Friday. The Council meets regularly with Mr. Kerr to put forward any pupil suggestions or discuss any school issues raised by the Forms; one particularly popular suggestion this term concerned the possibility of introducing themed menu choices next term... Jasper Pring, William Sawyer, Sophie Clough, Holly Nugent, Elizabeth Curgenvin, Matthew Tait, Henry Crease, Eliza Lloyd, Dominic Wielenga, Victoria Curgenvin, Harry Southgate and Ottilie Davy were all elected as Councillors this term. **Olivia Rhodes**, Year 6

Prefect Update

Congratulations to Sophie Clough, Louise Mountbatten, Zoe Labdon, George Gibbs, Henry Richards and William Sawyer, who at the very end of term were appointed as new Prefects to join the existing Prefect team in the Spring Term. Congratulations also to Frances Hunt and Dominic Vause, who were announced as the new Head Girl and Head Boy for the Spring Term.



Good House Keeping

There was much excitement at the introduction of a new system of Wrist Bands to raise the profile of House Points this term.

With Merit Marks (awarded for good work in class) already recognised through a series of Blazer Badges, it was felt only right that House Points (awarded for good citizenship around the School) should also be celebrated with awards – and so the colour coded Wrist Bands were introduced – starting with a White Wrist Band for 15 House Points, and going up to the Prep Wrist Band for 350 House Points. Congratulations to all those who have already gained their first bands!

“It has been great to see the children looking out for their buddies on the playground...”



The entire system of allocating children a House – Raleigh, Grenville or Drake – was extended to incorporate the Pre Prep this term, and alongside of this came the establishment of ‘House Buddies’. This has seen Year 6 children paired with Year 3s in their Houses, and Year 5s paired with Year 2s. This has been a very popular move with the children and one which has done wonders for encouraging a whole school feel to the Houses. To celebrate this development there have now been whole school House Assemblies, and opportunities for House Buddies to go to Lunch together. It has been great to see the children looking out for their buddies on the playground! L.P.M.

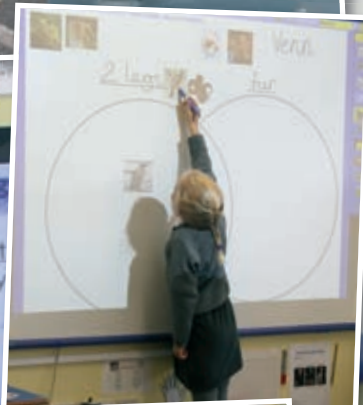




Arriving in school at the start of the day.



Literacy, Numeracy and Science in the morning – sorting animals into groups, and (main picture) reading my riddle to the class– can they guess who I am describing?



A Day in



Break time is a chance to catch up with friends.



Sausage and mash for lunch!



Evaluating my models of a seahorse and shells in Art.

Days at Blundell's Prep are long, busy and productive. Aside from the trips and visits, the plays, concerts, theme days and matches that are often highlighted in the Review, there is an awful lot that goes on every day of the week, in the classroom, the dining hall and the playground... Many thanks to Florence Chapman in Year 2, and Tom Reynolds in Year 5 for agreeing to be shadowed with a camera for a day in order to provide a glimpse into the nuts and bolts of what it means to be a pupil at Blundell's Prep...

the Life...

"My favourite subjects are ICT because I like going on the computers, Art because I like drawing and painting and Literacy because I like writing. I also like playing in the playground!"



Making a seaside picture in ICT, before practising Hockey in Games



On the fiddle: playing my violin in the afternoon.



Assembly starts the day, before Maths, Geography and English – sorting Nouns on the interactive white board.



Playing cricket on the playground breaks up the day nicely!



Making Harvest Jugs in Art.



Lunchtime: I love roast!



With longer days in the Prep School, there is greater movement around the building to attend more lessons by specialist teachers, and even more to pack in across the curriculum – inside and outside of the classroom...

A Day in the Life...

"The best things about school are playing sport and being with my friends."



Stir crazy: making chilli con carne in Food Technology.



Learning my words for the Christmas play in Drama, before playing Rugby and practising the drums in the afternoon.



Going home at the end of a very busy day!



STAR SHINE STAR

The **Kindergarten** performed a charming Christmas Nativity called Star Shine Star. It told the story of a star that couldn't shine. The other stars tried to help it to shine by dancing, reading stories, telling jokes and singing songs. Finally, as Jesus was born, the star started to shine. The children performed with great confidence and clearly enjoyed themselves. The music was delightful and some children sang solos and duets. A highlight of the play was the star dance with many of the dancers proudly showing off their tutus. T.N.

Starring

The Six Plays of Christmas: with all from Nursery to Year 6 involved in Christmas productions, ranging from classic Nativities to modern morality fables, the end of term heralded lots to sing and dance about...

A TALE OF TWO BIRTHDAYS

The **Year 1** Christmas Nativity was called A Tale of Two Birthdays. It told the story of one of the three kings travelling to find a bright, new star which had been spotted in the sky. The wives of the kings, who were particularly bossy and demanding, thought that it sparkled like a jewel and wanted to own it. The play was full of humour and the children did very well to learn so many words. The songs were very catchy and there were even exotic Eastern dancers who provided the kings with some entertainment. The whole performance was a lot of fun and enjoyed by all! T.N.



WHOOPS-A-DAISY ANGEL

Nursery performed their Christmas Play, Whoops-A-Daisy Angel, in the last week of term. All the children tried hard and they were delightful – it was clear that they enjoyed being on the stage. At one point the snowflakes did not want to come off!





Roles

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Years 5 & 6 made us all think about those less fortunate than ourselves in their sensitively delivered Christmas Drama.

An amazingly moving performance from Alice Lilley as Kate, Laura Smith as a very busy Mum, and Duncan Johnson-Ferguson and Sam Morrison as her boys, showed how we can all be affected by unfortunate circumstances in life – but can turn things around with goodwill and a desire to care for those around us. The appropriately dressed 'homeless people' – wonderfully played by William Farmer, Charlie Hutchinson and Olivia Cowap – provided some comic relief, and as in all good stories there was of course a happy ending! I am incredibly proud of both year groups, and I know that all have been left – like me – very moved by the play.

T.M.C.



CHRISTMAS WITH THE ALIENS

The **Year 2** play, Christmas with the Aliens, was a Nativity with a difference! It told the delightful story of some aliens who landed on Earth when their space ship broke down. They were found by some children who invited them to watch their Christmas play at school so that they could learn what Christmas is all about. The songs were super and the children spoke their words loudly and clearly.

It was a humorous play which provided the parents and friends who watched it with some great entertainment!

T.N.

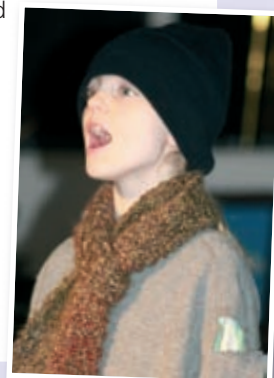


THE MAGICAL CHRISTMAS JIGSAW

Fantastic **Year 3** – what a performance you gave us this year, and it remains a mystery to all of us how our Golden Angel (Sophia Fields) managed to learn all those words in such a short time! The Nativity is a very old story which appears in many forms and this year we were really treated to a Magical Christmas, sharing every part of the story through a wonderfully dynamic and fun loving group of children. The authentic costumes contributed

towards the magic, especially in the final scene showing modern day children alongside Kings and Shepherds.

Year 4 gave continual support throughout all rehearsals and the performances, making their part as carol singers their own, and really helping to create a wonderful atmosphere which was incredibly well received by the very supportive audience of parents, family and friends. T.M.C.



Musical Notes

Christmas

"Our Carol Service was a celebration of music and readings with the candlelight creating a real Christmassy atmosphere."



As I sit writing this, I can't quite believe how much musically we have managed to fit into this term!

Our Tea Time Concerts provided the children with the opportunity to perform to an audience and to show just how hard they work in learning their instruments. The variety of instruments and pieces played has been fantastic this term and the children have all shown such confidence in performing to their audience.

Our School Orchestra had the opportunity to attend an open rehearsal with the EMG Symphony Orchestra in Exeter. Pieces being rehearsed included Troika, The Nutcracker and Capriol Suite. The children were able to walk around the orchestra as they played. The Musical Director talked to the children, introducing the instruments and giving some information about the music being played.

Left and bottom: Luca Kemp plays the saxophone and Mrs. Rivett accompanies her String Quartet at one of our two Tea Time Concerts this term.



Left: Pupils from Year 6 with Pudsey Bear at Exeter University singing for Children in Need.



Carols

In November we took our Festival Choir to the Taunton Music Festival. This was the first time that we have entered this and the choir sang fantastically, coming second in their class. Todd Brades-Payne, Grace Chapman and Amber Sharp all took part in solo classes whilst Frances Hunt and Sparkle Menzies sang in the duet class and were awarded first place.

On the same day we also took a small choir of fourteen children to Exeter University to take part in Children in Need. The children joined 200 children from Devon, Cornwall, Guernsey and Jersey to form a choir. Throughout the day there were three live broadcasts for the local news program 'Spotlight'. The day ended with a live broadcast of Bridge Over Troubled Water which was sung alongside the live performance in the London studio, conducted by Aled Jones.

The choir have been very busy in the run up to Christmas. They sang at the Christmas Market and a week later some of the Chamber Choir and Choir sang in town for the turning on of the Christmas lights. The Chamber Choir also took part in an Advent Service in aid of Action Medical Research at Chevithorne Church.

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. It is always so lovely to hear the sound of so many children singing together, joining to celebrate this wonderful time of the year. Our own Carol Service was a celebration of music and readings with the candlelight creating a real Christmassy atmosphere. It was lovely to see so many parents joining us and filling the chapel with joyous Christmas song at the end of term.

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

Main picture: The Head Master addressing pupils, parents and staff at the School Carol Service.

Left: Sparkle Menzies and Frances Hunt with their medals for winning the duet class at the Taunton Music Festival.



Teaching in the classroom is often supported by trips into the locality and a range of different subjects have been able to benefit from the many beautiful attractions in the local area this term...

out *and about*

LOCAL MOTIONS

For their recent Geography trip, **Year 3** explored the local Tiverton area. They enjoyed driving around the town and, as well as seeing Heathcoat's fabric factory, they saw the houses and school that John Heathcoat had built for his workers. After a packed lunch, the children walked around the walled garden at Knightshayes Court and, not only did they see a large variety of fruit and vegetables, they also had fun finding numerous scarecrows in different costumes! Following a very interesting tour around Knightshayes House, the next stop was Tiverton Canal. The children learnt that limestone used to be carried from quarries to the lime kilns in Tiverton on horse-drawn barges. What a fascinating day! W.J.N.



KILLERTON CHRISTMAS

Year 1 made its annual trip to Killerton House this term to experience a Victorian Christmas. The children and staff dressed up in Victorian clothes to help create the right atmosphere. We were able to tour around the house looking at the beautifully decorated Christmas trees, fireplaces and staircases. The volunteer helpers talked to the children about what types of food would have been eaten, what games would have been played and what toys would have been like in Victorian times. The cook was running around the house worried because she couldn't find a goose for Christmas day. The children were fascinated to find out that it was the job of a maid to stand by the Christmas tree all day making sure that it did not catch on fire. The session ended with a story time in the music room. The volunteer helpers then sang to us and the children sang two carols for them too. It was a wonderful way to start the festive season. D.McD.



FAIR SHARE

Year 3 accepted their annual invitation to Tiverton's Proclamation of the Fair at the beginning of October. This is a traditional ceremony proclaiming Tiverton's historical right to hold a fair. The event, which is held twice a year in the town centre, preserves an ancient custom dating back to the 1300s. In the past, the Lord of the Manor stated the rules and regulations that the fair's stallholders had to abide by. Today these are read by the beadle, before the mayor and councillors throw coins to a crowd of local schoolchildren. **Year 3** thoroughly enjoyed scrambling for the two-penny pieces, which were then put into a bucket so the money could be shared equally. In the past, hot penny pieces were thrown – if you could hold on to your penny, it was yours to spend at the fair!

J.M.C.

History

History
PSHE



WATER WAY TO GO...

Year 4 enjoyed an exciting Geography lesson visiting the River Lowman earlier in the term. After a quick walk to the river we all enjoyed a paddle in the shallows with only a couple of wet socks due to ill placed holes in wellies! After the recent floods there were lots of signs of erosion with visibly crumbling river banks, exposed tree roots and high water levels. The children behaved safely and sensibly, demonstrating a keen interest in all that we saw and asking lots of relevant questions.

J.F.W.

Geography



BESIDE THE SEA

On Thursday 13th September **Year 2** set off with great excitement on a coach to Budleigh Salterton. Once we got there the children looked at many of the local features including the beach huts, the promenade, plants and the estuary. We then carried on and walked towards the River Otter where we saw the river meeting the sea. We then did 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 we all bought a delicious ice-cream or lolly. We all had a paddle in the sea where we enjoyed playing with the seaweed and saw a jellyfish. Playing on the sand was fun and some children even buried Mr. Richards's feet! Luckily he escaped in time to catch the coach back to school. 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 really enjoyed their day and sang all the way back on the coach! D.M.K.

**Geography
History
Science**

SCHOOL DAZE

Year 6 went to visit School House at the Senior School this term to see what life will be like when they move up to Year 7. Mr. Marshman, Head of School House, welcomed them in the Dining Hall, where they had some squash and doughnuts with some Year 7 students who were on hand to answer any questions from a student's point of view. They then had the chance to see Big School, where the Entrance Exam will be sat in January, before being given a tour of School House with its newly fitted out Common Room. Mr. Marshman spoke about all the great opportunities on offer at SH, and all went back to the Prep School eager to move on!

Lily Mackay and Kata Lee, Year 6

PSHE



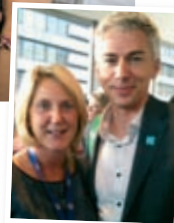


Pre Prep Fixtures

The children in Years 1 and 2 were very much looking forward to playing Hockey and Tag Rugby against Kelly College this term. All had worked hard preparing for this at School, and on the day the boys played several different matches and had a great deal of fun working out which way to run and where to throw the ball. The girls practised Hockey skills on the astro turf; it was a wonderful experience for them to play on a full sized pitch with girls from another school. The afternoon ended with a delicious match tea in the Pre Prep hall. The children from the two schools sat together and got to know each other whilst devouring hot dogs and chocolate biscuits! They all enjoyed themselves immensely. *T.N.*



Get Set 2012



To inspire a generation was the legacy of the London 2012 Olympics, and over 26,000 schools from all over the UK have become members of the official education programme, Get Set. As a member of the programme I was fortunate to attend their first annual conference in London. It was an inspiring day hearing from Lord Coe, Jonathan Edwards, Catherine Granger, Nicola Adams and many more, all talking about the importance of carrying the momentum of the Games on into schools to continue to inspire our young people in sport with the Olympic values. *L.M.M.*

Lending a Hand

Ciaran Williams represented Team GB in the London 2012 Olympics, playing Handball, so everyone was excited when it was announced that he was visiting this term. During the day, he fascinated everyone with his story of how he became an Olympic athlete, and he answered many questions about his experiences. Best of all, everyone had the chance to play a game of Handball with Ciaran. Almost everyone was desperate for his autograph and much interest was raised in the sport of Handball. Sophia Marr, Year 6



IAPS Regional Hockey at Millfield

This year 37 teams took part in the independent schools' Hockey tournament at Millfield, making it the largest regional round. It was a great opportunity to play against schools which we would not normally encounter. It was tough as the matches were only 10 minutes one way, and we started hesitantly and let Portsmouth Grammar School score first in our opening match. We tried and we had some good chances, but it wasn't enough. We also lost our second match against The Downs, after missing out on an early opportunity in the opening minutes. Tension was building and we were determined not to be beaten. The goals started to come and the team felt more confident as the tournament progressed. We finally finished 4th in the pool, making the Plate competition. We drew Queen's Taunton in the first play off and the match went to penalty flicks. Mia Butterfield took our first flick and scored convincingly, followed by Milly Curtis and Rebecca Hamilton. We went on to face Hazelgrove and had a great match until the final 30 seconds when they scored, knocking us out of the competition. Very well done to all the girls who played.

Devon Mini Hockey Tournament

On Friday 30th November we took the U11 Hockey Team to compete in the National Mini Hockey Tournament at Exeter School. We started confidently, and held off Mount House for a 0-0 draw. We faced Exeter Junior School next and things were looking good until the final seconds of the match when on the counter attack Exeter scored. We went on to play Maynard and managed a 1-1 draw against them. It was lovely to see Uffculme School in the competition, however due to fielding over aged players they were not eligible to qualify for the competition and so our fantastic win against them did not count. Our final match against St. Peter's was tough but exciting. I was pleased with the team's performance but overall we finished in third place, unfortunately just failing to qualify for the finals in May.

Hockey

It has been a promising season for the Hockey teams at Blundell's Prep and I have been pleased with individual and team performances over the term. All of the girls have demonstrated hard work and enthusiasm. Teams have performed well and experienced some convincing wins alongside some disappointing missed chances – but regardless of the result, it is always pleasing to see players exhibiting excellent sporting manners and attitude. Every girl from Year 3 to Year 6 has represented Blundell's Prep and I very much hope that they enjoyed the opportunity. Well done to all! L.M.M.





“The determination
of each member of
the squad has
shone through...”

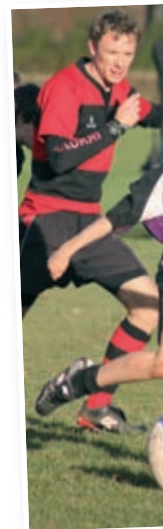
Rugby

U11 Rugby

We have progressed this season and had some hard fought battles with a few victories. With often simple defensive mistakes making the difference between winning or losing, the team learnt lessons in every game. The determination of each member of the squad has shone through, and during the tackle the team have vastly improved their skills of acquiring the ball to give them the advantage of a greater amount of possession.

U10 Rugby

The Under 10 A Team started with very convincing wins over Stover, St. Peter's, The Downs and St. Joseph's before they came across a very strong Plymouth side. In horrendous conditions they battled hard in what was more of an arm wrestle than a game of rugby, eventually losing by 14 points to 7. The boys could have allowed their heads to drop but instead they trained even harder, and went on to play with gritty determination in their Under 10 Tournament at Queen's, Taunton in November. During the group stages the boys performed well with wins against Sandroyd, Taunton and Queen's. This set up a quarter final against Wells Cathedral School which the team won in convincing fashion, 20 points to 0. The semi final against Millfield was about as thrilling a game of rugby as you could ever hope to see. After normal time the sides could still not be separated so it was down to Golden Try Extra Time to decide who would progress to the final. After a few half chances we simply could not break the Millfield defence and in the end pressure told and we conceded the crucial score. Although dejected, the Blundell's team knew that they had given their all and were proud of their achievements. The team were back to winning ways for the final three games of the season against Tiverton RFC, Wellington and Taunton Prep. The boys have been a joy to coach all season. They have always been full of energy in training and have thoroughly enjoyed being challenged on the rugby field. They have played as a team and that is the biggest compliment that I can pay them. I am sure that we will see them go on to even greater success next year.





Barbarian trials

Each year the School nominates a few promising players to take part in the South West Lambs RFC trial day hosted by Blundell's Senior School. The boys took part in a training session with other boys selected from around the South West to get them into a team, before playing two matches against each other. This gave selectors the chance to pick the best twenty to form a South West Barbarians Team to play against the South East. Theo Rees, Joseph Horsey and Joseph Hancock represented the school. All played well in their positions and Joseph Hancock was selected to take part in the next stage. Well done boys!



U9 Rugby

The Under 9 A Team struggled in the early season, too many times launching solo runs into the oppositions' defence with little or no support. The latter half of the season began to show significant improvements in ball retention and we had excellent wins against Exeter Prep, West Buckland and Tiverton. Christopher Churcher, our Captain and scrum-half, led by example and made significant contributions in all areas of the game. Finn Muirhead proved an excellent addition to the team and showed courage and tenacity in tackling and was ably supported in the backs by Kit Barnes, Freddie Labdon, Henry Crease, Nathan White and Thomas Labdon. Our forwards Toby Hull, William Venner and Finlay Williams also played their part and began to gel into a successful combatant unit.

The Under 9 B Team have played some scintillating rugby showing their hunger to score tries. This offensive style of game play can be very successful, but you need a good defence too, and this is where the team were at times lacking, preferring not to make head on tackles but to allow the attacker to run and then chase them to tackle them. Unfortunately with this head start the attacker has a good chance of scoring before he is tackled, and the team still has some work to do to bolster its defensive play.

U8 Rugby

The Under 8 Tag Team have had a marvellous season with improvements seen in every game. The support play has been fantastic. Runners routinely followed the ball carrier, taking up running lines and angles that took them through the defences of their opposition. This heads up rugby style will see the whole squad become a team to watch in the future, and with all of the boys already taking part in contact rugby they are ready and eager to play full rugby next season.

S.G.S., A.D.S. & S.J.M.



Primary Tag Rugby

On Tuesday 16th October Blundell's Prep hosted the inaugural Mid Devon Primary Tag Rugby Festival for Years 5 and 6. This was organised in tandem with the Community Police Team. Local primary schools took part, with the Duchy School winning the event. Tag Rugby is played with mixed teams of boys and girls and this was the first opportunity for some of our girls to

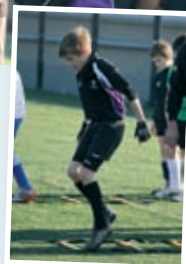
experience rugby. The girls found the experience to be "really fun" and would recommend it as a sport. They also noted that the boys had to co-operate with them and pass the ball! All the spectators enjoyed a super cream tea on a rare day without rain.



Super Saturday

Exeter Chiefs hosted the Year 6 boys in December, providing two hours of training with their academy and second team

players acting as coaches. This was followed by a 'behind the scenes' tour of the stadium, before the opportunity to watch England defeat New Zealand on the big screen, whilst the first team warmed up in preparation for their match against London Wasps. Before this match all of the children made a tunnel for the players to run through, and at half time we were back on the pitch for a lap of honour. With an Exeter win the day was a complete success, and thanks must go to Mr. Southgate, Mr. Kerr and Mr. Edge for their support throughout the day. S.G.S.





Christmas Cracker

Christmas Lunch once again proved a banquet fit for a king, with more festive fare than anyone could manage, alongside party hats, crackers and cheesy Christmas tunes to sing along to between mouthfuls! Many thanks to Barbara Moys and the catering team for all their marvellous efforts at Christmas – and throughout the year!

Non  Sibi

Blundell's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL
— 3 YEARS - 11 YEARS —

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