

SUMMER 2014

review

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Prize Giving at
Speech Day
Plain Sailing
for Leavers'
Play



Hungry for Success

planting the seeds, growing up naturally,
harvesting just deserts

“...The teachers sit with the children and encourage conversation and good manners, important skills that we would wish all of our off-spring to have...”



It seems like only a few moments since I was writing the introduction to last year's Summer Review and what a lot has happened over those 12 months. During Speech Day this year our Prep School Chairman, Peter Johnson spoke on the theme of 'Opportunities' before our guest speaker, Alice Plunkett then described the opportunities that she had had during her glittering career.

What follows in these pages are countless examples of the many chances that our children have to take on new things and to find what they are passionate about. My thanks as always go to the teachers who contribute to this excellent publication and to Mr Moore for the many hours spent editing.

In the words of George Bernard Shaw: 'There is no love sincerer than the love of food' and at Blundell's Prep we would wholeheartedly agree. This Summer Edition of the Review explores the many food-themed events that have taken place over the term, from cooking in FT lessons through to delicious teas with cream covered scones. I have lost count of the times that I have heard it said that "the food at Blundell's Prep is great" and when you look more closely at what is going on at school you will understand why. Our legendary match teas are spoken of across the region and greatly enjoyed by all who visit Blundell's Prep.

'An army marches on its stomach' and I would agree with Napoleon Bonaparte's assertion and suggest that it translates quite seamlessly to schools as well. The children here are very well fed and if you ask them they will tell you that their favourite lunch is 'meatballs and noodles'. They may also tell you about the salad bar that contains plenty of common favourites as well as some items for the more discerning pallet: prawns, olives, radishes and even pickled onions. We encourage the children to try everything and to find what they like, after all they are often surprised that something previously untried is actually much tastier than they had imagined. We are in the fortunate position of having all of our food cooked on site by our own team, led by Mrs Moys. These ladies know every child from Nursery to Year 6, not just by name but also by what they eat and this ensures that every child is encouraged to have a balanced and healthy diet. The teachers sit with the children and encourage conversation and good manners, important skills that we would wish all of our off-spring to have.

Our children know their food. I recently met with the School Council and much like the barons at Runnymede back in 1215, they presented their demands to me, although I might add, not by sword-point. Whilst the 25 barons wanted their freedoms and rights guaranteed, our school councillors were after more culinary considerations and we discussed doughnuts, dips and wraps (including the ghastly combination of ham and Marmite!) I was very impressed with the range of foods being suggested for inclusion on our menus. What is so impressive is the knowledge and interest that our children have in food and this comes from their weekly Food Technology lessons. Once a week our children are tasked with preparing a range of treats, many of which you will see in the pictures that follow. Our state-of-the-art Food Tech classroom would be the envy of any school and it is used by all of the Blundell's community, including parents as well as pupils. Some lucky guests have spent the morning with our FT teachers, the wonderful Mrs Edge and Mrs Watson, and have cooked up Chinese themed banquets and four-course dinner parties. We even invited the Dads to get involved with a curry cooking session, complete with appropriate liquid refreshment of course.

This term has seen all of the children involved in a wide variety of 'foodie' events. In our Nursery the children have been growing their own tomatoes and beans with the promise that they will taste them all. The Prep School children have been involved in the Farm to Fork project and this has included visits to Tesco and some hard work in our vegetable gardens in order to produce some ingredients with which to cook. Rhubarb crumble was a big hit! Our Year 3 children became part of Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution and joined thousands of children from across the world in the biggest live cooking event of all time. They made tasty and nutritious Rainbow Salad Wraps and had a lot of fun in the process. Our Year 6 children cooked up a real treat for their parents during our Balsa evening this term with guests treated to asparagus parcels and chocolate tiffin to name but a few of the items on offer. Earlier in the term our Year 6 children were tasked with planning, purchasing and preparing a picnic for the year group with a very limited budget, something they all found to be challenging and enlightening in equal measure. There are plans to create more opportunities for the children in our Pre-Prep to cook and I know that this is something that they will greatly enjoy.

I wish you all the best for a sun-filled summer break.

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

Andy Southgate Head Master



Farm to Fork



All year groups in the Prep School were involved with the Farm to Fork topic throughout the Summer Term. We looked at where our food comes from, how it is grown and also behind the scenes at its production. We had visits to Tesco to take part in a food trail and visited Halberton Farm to tour the vegetable fields and to pick strawberries. All the children were involved in seeding, planting and growing vegetables and flowers in our own School vegetable garden before picking and cooking some of our best produce in FT lessons. S.N.W.





BALSA:

Blundell's Adventure, Leadership and Service Award

The BALSA programme offered a challenge to Year 6 in the two terms following Entrance Exams, encouraging all to show their initiative and develop their citizenship and service skills both inside and outside of School.

In May the year group enjoyed a day at Croyde pursuing the 'Adventure' element of the scheme. The weather was not kind, but did not dampen spirits as wetsuits were donned for a surfing workshop and some serious coasteering challenges on and off the rocks. Many were able to take a leap of faith beyond the comfort zone with some impressive rock hopping, and all responded fantastically to the opportunities on offer.

Many in Year 6 had shown their spirit of adventure and a determination to take the lead in any number of School events across the two terms, whether it be by volunteering to serve on the School Council, helping to organise team events such as the House Music Competition, leading by example on residential trips to Jersey and London, or playing a key role on the sports field. What was so lovely about the BALSA scheme, however, was the opportunities it provided to see what the children could offer in terms of adventure, leadership and service outside of School as well – and many tales of helping the community came forward, from gardening and litter picking, to letter writing campaigns against tobacco sales and fundraising events for a range of charities, amongst many others.

It was great to see all getting involved, and every single child in the year group earned their Shackleton Award. Some went further, earning their Scott Awards, and four pupils earned the highest award, the Fiennes Award, for pursuing a range of sustained independent initiatives that demonstrated excellent commitment to the scheme. Congratulations to Mia Butterfield, William Blowers, Zoe Dare and Holly Nugent! We were very fortunate to have Mr. Oliver Shepard come to School to present the awards at the end of term. Explorer Mr. Shepard, who had accompanied Sir Ranulph Fiennes on a number of expeditions, spoke to the group on the qualities encouraged by the BALSA scheme, and read out an email from Sir Ranulph Fiennes himself, in which he congratulated all for their efforts. It was great to see the efforts of the children recognised in this way at the end of their time at the School. L.P.M.



“

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Babbacombe

We were blessed with blue skies and sunshine for the Year 1 trip to Babbacombe Model Village and Kents Cavern this year. The first stop was to watch a 4D film called "Two thousand Leagues Under the Sea." This was as much fun for the staff as it was for the children as we enjoyed the full sensory experiences of the story. We then toured around the Model Village and had great fun looking at the different miniature scenes. We had a delicious picnic lunch in the garden at Kents Cavern followed by a guided tour of the caves. Many of the children were fascinated to hear about the bears, lions and hyenas that inhabited the caves many years ago. After the tour, we enjoyed eating an ice lolly in the sun. Bea Morrison said that it was the best trip she had ever been on!

T.N.



T.V. Dinners



Year 3 children joined thousands of others across the country to cook with Jamie Oliver on screen as part of 'Food Revolution Day 2014'. This live nationwide event provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to learn some nutritional food lessons from a chef well known for his interest in promoting healthy eating in schools, and all enjoyed grating vegetables in an enthusiastic attempt at creating some delicious Rainbow Salad Wraps. L.P.M.



Ancient Greek Day



On a scorching English summer's day, not dissimilar to weather in Greece, Year 3 was paid a special visit by

Alexis of Corinth (aka, Stuart Davies, who has appeared on the CBBC's Horrible Histories.) The children and staff looked wonderful, dressed in the Ancient Greek costumes of hoplite soldiers and Ancient Greek gods and goddesses. Many thanks to the parents for providing such amazing costumes.

Alexis put us all through our paces. We learnt about Ancient Greek history, made puzzles created by Aristotle, filled in quiz sheets, took part in the play of Theseus and the Minotaur, (Hector made an excellent 'superhero', Archie a scary minotaur, Barnaby the grumpy King Minos and Florence, the beautiful Ariadne) obeyed instructions from the General of the army, marched in a phalanx and participated in Ancient Greek Olympics. It was a fantastic day, which was finished off with a tasting of Greek food. Definitely a day to remember! W.J.N.



Food for Thought

Year 6 enjoyed working in groups to plan and prepare a nutritious al fresco dining experience. Each group was given a set budget and had to agree upon the ingredients that they could afford in Tesco, before returning to School to prepare their meals, which included pasta, salad, fruit and dips. Fortunately the sun was shining as the groups withdrew to the Hub to try out the fruits of their labours!

L.P.M.



Otters

The children in Otters loved making clay creatures. They worked the clay into the bark of the tree trunks and moulded it into the shape of a face or an animal. They used their imaginations well and made a variety of different creatures. They also loved making wormeries, layering compost, sand and soil into plastic containers. They added some leaves and put in a couple of worms. This was wrapped in black paper and left to see what would happen! S.A.S.



Newspaper Club

Your Reporters for the Review this year have been: Elizabeth Curgenvin, Olivia Cowap, Mia Butterfield, Alex Pawson, Kaitlyn Sellar-Elliott, Isabella Smart, Imogen Davy and Emma Edwards, Year 6.

IAPS Concert at Exeter Cathedral



On Friday 16th May eight children took part in the IAPS South West Regional Concert at Exeter Cathedral. The concert - Songs for All Seasons - was a collaboration between twelve schools and 'Show of Hands', a Devon folk band. The concert featured folk songs, reflecting the passing of the seasons, and was a truly wonderful evening's entertainment in a superb, historic setting. B.L.C.



Music in the Woods



The children in the Pre-Prep enjoyed a fun afternoon of music making in the school grounds with Mervyn Bedford from Musikgarten. They played various kinds of bells to accompany an action song about bluebells. They used colourful scarves to

represent flowers in a song about seeds growing. The children danced and sang with a partner in a song about a merry go round. Everyone joined in all the activities with tremendous enthusiasm! J.K.P.



“The concert began with over 40 violinists, from both the Pre-Prep and Prep, playing together.”



ical notes

Summer Concert

A glorious summer's evening provided a perfect atmosphere for this year's Summer Concert. Children from Year 1 through to Year 6 performed in what was a real celebration of music throughout the school.

The concert began with over 40 violinists, from both the Pre-Prep and Prep, playing together. It was lovely to see the Pre-Prep brass group playing - their brightly coloured instruments looked wonderful on the stage. Other groups performing included the wind group, orchestra, guitar ensemble, piano trios and a flute duo.

Singing featured throughout the concert. Laura Smith, Duncan Johnson-Ferguson and Will Farmer performed Counting Stars and had the whole marquee clapping along. Other songs performed included Best Day Ever, A Disney Medley and A Tribute to Michael Jackson. Year 2 sang You've Got a Friend in Me and the whole school joined



together to sing Thank You For the Music. The Choir, Boys Aloud, Girls Aloud, Staff and The Mamas and Papas all performed and everyone in the marquee joined in with Summer Holiday.

A huge thank you must go to all the children for providing a fantastic evening of music. Thank you also to all the visiting music teachers who have worked so hard with the children throughout the year.

B.L.C.



Many children enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their musical skills during this term's Tea Time Concerts, where violins, piano, drums, recorder and guitar could all be heard alongside solo and small group singing. Congratulations to all who performed so confidently!



out and about

In order to complement the curriculum and push the learning experience beyond the classroom, children from across the School have been lucky enough to visit many of the local attractions and facilities available in Devon this term.



TIVERTON MUSEUM

Year 1 children had great fun visiting Tiverton Museum. They enjoyed finding out the differences between our school and a Victorian school and thought there were many rules. They would have had to stand up when a teacher walked into the room, not speak unless spoken to and they could not ask questions. And of course there was the cane! The children played with a variety of different Victorian toys, discovering they were all made of wood, fabric or metal and they looked at things found in the home. One of the hardest things to

do in Victorian times, they discovered, was the laundry. It was a good job they didn't have many clothes to wash!
S.A.S.



ESCOT

Year 2 enjoyed an amazing day at Escot Country Park at the end of the Summer Term. The sun was shining all day and this added to the excitement. As soon as we arrived at the park we got straight on with the activities of the day with an exploration of the maze. All of the children managed to solve the maze and made it to the centre. Once we had escaped, we headed back to camp and made name badges using a hand-drill and bits of wood. The children then marched off through the woods to feed some wild boar and climb on some old tree stumps and branches. Our next adventure was a thrilling look at some birds of prey. They flew very close to us, using our heads as a guide for flight! After lunch we toasted some marshmallows on an open fire before heading to the otter enclosure. We watched them eat their prawns and play in the water. Then it was our turn to play in some water as we entered a swamp for the legendary 'swamp walk'. To their credit, every child went into the swamp and most made it all the way to the end. Once we had climbed through the mud to get out we went for a swim in a pond before being hosed off! It was a fantastic end to a great day out. G.J.R.

TIVERTON CASTLE

Year 2 visited Tiverton Castle on a lovely sunny morning. We were met there by Mrs. Gordon and she kindly gave us a tour. We looked at many interesting features and the children could clearly see where the people used to make their fires and how the floor was held up. The children learnt a lot about the work children had to do in a castle such as cleaning the chimneys... as you can imagine, they were horrified and were glad that they did not have to do this today! The children really enjoyed looking at the armour, trying on the helmets and holding the heavy cannon ball. The children listened carefully to Mrs. Gordon as she told them the history of the castle and a few ghost stories too! D.M.K.





“ After that they went to walk some of the young goats... It was a case of seeing which ‘kid’ was in control of the other! ”

THE WORLD OF COUNTRY LIFE

There was tremendous excitement rumbling through both **Kindergarten** classes as they waited to board the coach for their day at The World of Country Life, Exmouth.

On arrival, they went to explore the enormous pirate ship. They had great fun running in and out of the ship, jumping in the sand and running over the rickety bridge.

They then went to feed the lambs. They had to hold on tight to the bottles as the animals were very hungry! After that they went to walk some of the young goats. This was very entertaining for the children as the goats had a mind of their own. It was a case of seeing which ‘kid’ was in control of the other!

Before lunch the children had great fun on the adventure playground then tucked into their rolls, ready for the afternoon’s adventures. The deer train was their next port of call and they all bundled on just as it started to drizzle. Spirits weren’t dampened though and they had a rare chance to see a white calf as it came right up to the train. Nearly all the children had a go at feeding the deer and some very proud looking llamas.

The afternoon was topped off with a Birds of Prey demonstration. The children absolutely loved this and they all had the opportunity to have one or two birds land on them. They were shown a Golden Eagle named Buster, an Eagle Owl named Echo and a very small African Owl named Taz. He was very small and young but definitely won over the audience. We all clambered wearily back onto the coach after a fantastic day out... C.B.



THE BIG SHEEP

The Nursery classes, along with many of their parents, had a fantastic day out at The Big Sheep, Bideford. There was great excitement as they boarded the coach, as for many, it was the first time they had been on one.

Once there, they went to the Sheep Show and discovered that there are many different types of sheep. Several children thought they spotted Baa Baa Black sheep. There were lots of animals, and more sheep to see in the Animal Barn and while on the Tractor Safari.

Later there was the opportunity to feed the lambs, which they thoroughly enjoyed. The children quickly realised that they had to hold on tightly to the bottles of milk as the lambs were very strong and thirsty. They were excellent at passing the bottles around so that everyone was able to have a go.

There were rides on the train, during which the children enjoyed spotting Nursery rhyme characters, and the Piggy pull along was extremely popular, especially when it went over the bumps and through the muddy puddle! Many took part in the duck trials, helping the sheep dog to guide the ducks through the obstacles, and many of the children watched fascinated as a sheep was sheared.

With tractors to pedal, jumping pillows to bounce on, pony rides, and a large indoor play area, the day passed all too quickly and it was a much quieter coach full of children that returned to school. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and certainly came away knowing a lot more about sheep! S.M.A.



Knightshayes

Year 3 had already had a busy week visiting Tesco and Paignton Zoo, but the children still had enough energy left to enjoy a super day at Knightshayes too.

We were met by the Education officer, Rachael Hall, who looked after us brilliantly throughout our visit. Firstly she took us to see the kitchen gardens and we saw where all the plants and vegetables grow. In small groups the children labelled a flower and were able to show Rachael how good their knowledge was, she was impressed! The children also enjoyed making cress heads using tights, cotton wool and felt pens.

After our picnic dinner, we went for a lovely quiet walk around the grounds of the house. Then we met up with Rachael again and she showed the children how to make a bug hotel using straws and pots and they decorated them to use in their gardens at home.

The day ended with us all going for a lovely energetic walk through the woods and the fields. The journey back to school was a lot quieter than the journey there in the morning! K.E.M.





"I really enjoyed just being a part of the play!"

Imogen 'Tinkerbell' Davy



Playtime

Peter Pan



This year's Leavers' Play was Peter Pan, and Year 6 rose to the challenge of bringing this well known tale to the stage with admirable enthusiasm. With Indians, Lost Boys, Pirates, Fairies, Mermaids, a Dog, a Crocodile and lots of little Darlings all playing their part, this really was a team production and it is fair to say that every single member of the year group stepped up to the mark on stage at Ondaatje Hall to give their all. Special mention must go to Grace Chapman, playing Wendy Darling, Olivia Cowap, playing Peter Pan and William Farmer, playing Captain Hook, for learning so many lines and delivering such strong solo singing performances. The costumes, the make-up, the lighting, props and set design all came together to complement the whole cast perfectly on the night, and whilst the children performing must inevitably grow up and move on themselves, I am sure that they will never forget this magical part of their childhood L.P.M.



The Elephant's Child

The Year 1 Summer Play was called 'The Elephant's Child'. It was a play based on the story by Rudyard Kipling that tells the tale of how the elephant got its long trunk. The children loved dressing up as the different animals; there were giraffes, ostriches, snakes, hippopotamuses, monkeys, elephants and of course, a crocodile. They really loved performing for their friends and families, sang some super songs and performed some great jungle dances too. The mums, dads, aunties, uncles and grandparents who attended thoroughly enjoyed watching the children have fun on the stage! T.N.



A Midsummer Night's Dream

Year 5 had great fun when they came off timetable to learn Shakespeare's comedy from the Bottom up... They performed their play-in-a-day with appropriate merriment and magic!

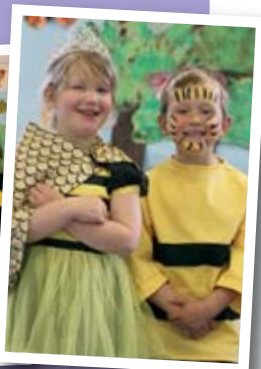
Rumble in the Jungle

The Nursery Summer Play was called 'Rumble in the Jungle' and all thirty-four 3 and 4 year old children took part in the production. It involved a group of explorers travelling around the jungle discovering the different types of animals that they encountered. The children entertained their audiences for nearly an hour with their poems, songs and dances. It was an absolute delight to watch! T.N.



Billy No Buzz

It was a real treat to watch the Kindergarten children perform their Summer Play 'Billy No Buzz' – a story of a bee who could not buzz like the other bees. The other bees did not want to be his friends because he was different from them. Luckily, a group of dragonflies came to his rescue and taught the bees that they should be his friend whatever he was like. The children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up as bees and dragonflies; they sang beautifully, acted their parts very well and were all buzzing with excitement to be a part of the performance. T.N.



Overnight *sens*



“

The next day we had a massive breakfast before going off to explore Dartmoor, where we did climbing and abseiling before walking up a giant mountain to have lunch. ”



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Year 5 on Dartmoor: Five Go Adventuring Again

Year 5 enjoyed four days at the Kelly College Adventure Centre on Dartmoor...

When we got to Kelly College we took our bags to our dorms – there were loads of bunk beds and a loo in each dorm! The Instructors met us at a place called Sheep's Tor and told us that we were going to go walking in the river! We got soaking wet! The next day we had a massive breakfast before going off to explore Dartmoor, where we did climbing and abseiling before walking up a giant mountain to have lunch. On the way back we walked through another river and I got soaked again! The next day we went canoeing and kayaking in a lake in our wetsuits and we built rafts... and got soaking wet! We had to do challenges on our rafts, and sadly my group came last! On our last day after another lovely breakfast we went climbing in trees and did the trapeze. It was fun but very high up and scary! We also did orienteering, which was fun, but sadly our time in Dartmoor soon ended and we had to make the long journey home again.

Ollie Butler, Year 5



Year 3 at Paignton Zoo: Animal Instincts

Following the closure of Beaford Arts Centre, Year 3 was looking for a new venue for their Residential Trip. Paignton Zoo not only provided an excellent alternative, but such an exciting time, that it would definitely be repeated next year!

Cooked food featured highly throughout our trip! After a train ride to familiarise ourselves with the layout of the Zoo, we headed for the restaurant for the first of many delicious hot meals. We then met up at the Education Centre for a Welcome Talk and a Zoo Safari. The children set off in small groups with their Activity Booklets to explore. Three hours later, we drove to the hotel for an early Roast Turkey dinner and then returned to the Zoo, with our torches, for an evening walk. It was a special experience because it was eerily very quiet as we were the only people visiting the animals. A delicious hot chocolate drink was waiting on our return to the hotel before bed. Everyone slept really well!

A cooked breakfast of our choice set us up for the next day. We packed up, said goodbye to our lovely hosts at the hotel and returned to the Education Centre at the Zoo for the second day. Our talk about Habitats and Adaptation re-enforced what we had learnt in school about bird adaptations. We then had time to visit areas of the Zoo that we had missed the previous day, and to play on the assault courses, before assembling again at the restaurant for the last of our meals. Lastly, we visited the Gift Shop to buy presents to take home. We returned to the minibuses for the trip back to school, very tired, but happy!
W.J.N.



Overnight *sensations*



Year 4 at Folly Farm: A Natural Selection

On Wednesday 21st May Year 4 embarked on 'Operation Folly Farm', arriving at 10.45 am ready to face the challenge of the two day 'Predators and Survival Course'. Everyone passed the course with flying colours and survived to tell the tale! Badger watching and fire lighting were just two exciting events in a packed programme. We arrived back at school on Thursday afternoon tired but hungry for more! *E.S.H.*

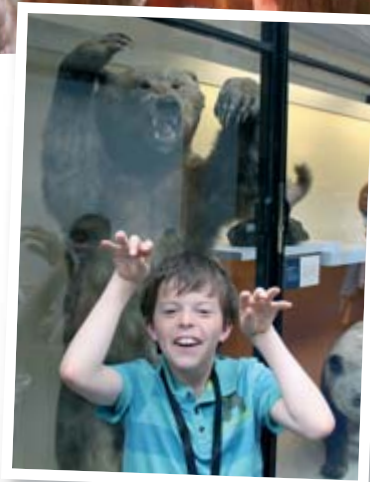


Year 6 in London: City Break

We had the smartest coach ever with a cool driver called Steve. The journey seemed to take forever but playing Top Trumps helped it go faster! As soon as we got to London we went to look around the Natural History Museum, where the enormous blue whale was my favourite exhibit. Then we had a meal at Southwark Cathedral's Refectory before boarding the Golden Hinde for a dress up and role play as sailors on Drake's flagship. It was very exciting to sleep on the ship's gun deck – although rather uncomfortable without a soft bed! In the morning we had a tour of the Tower of London, where we tried our best to make the beefeaters laugh but couldn't! We checked into the Baden Powell House youth hostel (which was much more comfortable than the Golden Hinde!), and after tea set off to see Wicked at the Apollo Victoria. This really was wicked – and the highlight of the trip for me, I loved it! We got back very late, and were woken up early again the next morning when the fire alarm went off! We were scared, but it turned out that there was not a real fire, but it was a toaster that had set the alarm off!

The Science Museum was fun and we all bought cool things in the shop to remind us of our trip and keep us busy on the long journey home. We were so lucky to go to London, it was AWESOME!

Tom Reynolds, Year 6





Athletics



We started our season as usual with the annual Blundell's meet in which all ages were represented. We seemed to start slowly but a good win from Ollie Wright in the U12 800m served to galvanise the team. We had resounding success in the 200m with wins for the U10 Girls and Boys and U12 Girls and Boys; all but one of our relay teams were victorious too. There were some excellent results in the field events and our U12 Boys and Girls retained their trophy, with the combined Prep and Senior School winning the overall trophy. We then took 15 athletes to the South West Championships at Millfield. We had mixed results throughout the day with many athletes finding the step up hard going, but the experience will have been invaluable especially for those who were competing a year young. Notable performances came from Mia Butterfield in the 200m, Will Blowers who placed third in the discus and Zoe Dare who won the discus with an excellent series of throws to gain selection for the area team at the National Finals held in Birmingham. S.J.M.

PRE-PREP SPORTS DAY

It was a rare treat to have such a hot, sunny afternoon for the Pre-Prep Sports Day. The children thoroughly enjoyed running in their races; some of the races involved skills such as throwing, balancing and kicking a ball. There was a traditional sack race which is always a favourite, and novelty races for the Nursery children. This year we introduced House Races which involved children from across the years working together. A highlight of the afternoon for the children was watching their Mums and Dads becoming very competitive in their races: the Dads in a Bunny Hop Race and the Mums in the Egg and Spoon. The fun ended with a presentation of certificates to all the winners. T.N.

PREP SPORTS DAY

With picnics on the field, the sun kindly made an appearance for what was set to be the best Prep Sports Day ever! New events, great participation and new records all made for a thrilling afternoon and by the end of the day over 120 medals were presented. Everybody had the chance to compete at the highest level they could achieve and to gain points for their House. The field events continued during the fast track events, and a few school records fell, including in the Year 3 Cricket Ball Throw, when the old record was broken then broken again! From Girls' Shot Put and Boys' Vortex to the new 300m and Dash events there were things happening all around the field. The final events were the Relay Races. These were close, especially the Boys' U11 race which nearly turned into a photo finish. Many thanks to all the staff, the catering team and the parents for supporting and making this year's Prep Sports Day a huge success. S.G.S.



"... I was really pleased with the girls' drive and determination on that day, they supported each other."

Rounders



U8 ROUNDERS

The U8 Team has worked hard and shown a good improvement in Rounders this term. The girls have developed their understanding of the game and are beginning to work well as a team. With Jess Bunting's accurate bowling, Tilly Lane's fast fielding and Georgia Withey's hard hitting, they are showing great promise. Thank you to the parents for your support too. W.J.N.

U11 ROUNDERS

Although the sun is shining now, this season didn't get off to the best of starts with rain cancelling a few fixtures and tournaments for the **U11A Team**. You can always rely on an English summer! Rounders is a challenging game with two very different disciplines in batting and fielding. It was evident very early on in the season that the U11A Team are more confident at fielding. When play finally got going, we started strongly with wins against Stover, Taunton and St Peter's. Stopping the score has been far easier for this team than putting a score on the board during our own innings. I must however congratulate Mia Butterfield for her contribution with the bat; it is always useful to have a 'leftie' in the team and her consistent hitting has been crucial during each game. I have been most proud of the fielding effort the team have made this term; there have been some superb catches from Zoe Dare at backstop, Olivia Cowap as bowler, and Mia Butterfield and Holly Nugent in the field. Fielding deep can often be quite pressurised and Grace Chapman and Emma Edwards have managed to keep their cool and use their strong and accurate overarm throws to return to 4th post. It was the game against Millfield in which their fielding was most impressive; Blundell's had managed to get six of their players out and hold them to 4½ rounders! I was really pleased with the girls' drive and determination on that day, they supported each other and Zoe Dare managed to keep the team focused and pumped up! Unfortunately, you can't simply win games in the field, rounders have to be scored as well and that has been the greatest challenge for the U11As. These girls have been a pleasure to teach this year and I hope they continue to enjoy their sport next year!

F.L.E.

Despite a very early loss against King's Hall, the **U11B Team** began to put together some very encouraging team performances this season. Our bowler Isabel Leyshon was accurate and kept the scoring down with some sensible decision making, Kaitlyn Sellar-Elliott at back stop was extremely effective at controlling the field, showing sound tactical awareness. Imogen Davy at 4th, Emily Sellar-Elliott at 2nd, and the deep fielders of Ella Martin, Isabella Smart, Alice Lilley and Tyler Read all improved their accuracy when throwing and contributed well in the field. Scoring rounders did not come easily at first, however, Megan Sharp developed in her tenacity and went on to score some memorable rounders which helped secure wins against Exeter Prep, St Peter's and The Maynard. Well done girls for working hard on some great tactical performances. S.J.M

U9 ROUNDERS

The U9A Team have fought hard this term to achieve an unbeaten record! There have been some nail biting moments and although some games haven't been easy the girls have worked hard and taken instructions on board. There is great potential in this team, so much so that the England cricket team could welcome some of the fielding and batting talent! The pupils have played in a variety of positions in a bid to find each person's individual strength. There have been some super hits from Honor Tobin, Isobel Morrison, Elizabeth Honey and Millie Evans. In the field, Rachel Brown has bowled consistently well and Lucie Spencer's competitive character and good hand eye coordination have prevented anyone who dare try and approach 2nd post! I have been most impressed with the quality of overarm throwing from Shea Clark and the pupils' mature awareness to back up fielders. These girls have been a pleasure to work with and I'm sure as they further develop their understanding of the game they will be a force to be reckoned with! Well done girls!

F.L.E.

The weather at the beginning and the end of the season wasn't particularly kind to the U9B Team. Early fixtures against Millfield, St Peter's and West Buckland were cancelled due to heavy rain. Our first match was against Wellington and we came away with a great win. At home we hosted a festival with The Maynard; all the girls played well but Jessica Barnes had a really strong innings and Tilly Lane was excellent on 2nd base. In more recent weeks we have come up against Kelly College and Taunton School. Both teams were tough to play. We managed to come away from Kelly with a draw but unfortunately despite Hattie Barnes scoring a whole rounder and Otilie Davy playing admirably at back stop, we narrowly lost the match against Taunton. Despite the weather we have had a fairly successful and progressive season. Well done girls, it has been great fun! K.E.M.



U10 ROUNDERS

After a dreary start to the season and several matches having to be cancelled due to rain, the **U10A Team** finally got the chance to show off their Rounders skills against Taunton Prep in their first match. It was a fantastic game for Blundell's, with the girls fielding brilliantly in the first innings and keeping Taunton to a very low batting score. They then stepped up to bat, and hit some powerful shots deep into the field to secure early rounders. By the second innings, they really began to hit well as a team, and by the end of the game they had doubled the Taunton team's score. They narrowly lost to Exeter school by 1½ rounders in their next game and then beat King's Hall convincingly in the final match of the season. The highlight of the term has to be the Millfield Tournament, where the girls did themselves proud beating Millfield, Wells, Bristol Grammar and Port Regis in the group stages to qualify for the semi-finals. Here they played Perrot Hill in a much more tightly contested game, but managed to win by ½ a rounder to put them through to the final against Exeter School. The final was a very tough game with both teams fielding extremely well, but unfortunately we narrowly missed out on becoming champions by ½ a rounder. The girls' performances throughout the whole day were outstanding and they should be very proud of achieving runners-up status and in particular for beating Millfield. Lottie Southgate bowled consistently well and took several great catches in the field alongside Alice Williams, and Honor Huggett. Cosima Mundy and Freya Marr were a dynamic duo on backstop and first post, getting several players out immediately if they missed the ball. Eliza Lloyd, Lottie Southgate and Honor Huggett found their finest form in the batting, and Jessica Payne and Anna Maunder also hit several outstanding shots deep into the field to secure rounders. Gabriella Ciappara fielded strongly backing up second post and Abigail Horan put the opposing teams under pressure with her tactical hitting and running. It was a great end to the season and all of the girls should be very proud of how much they improved over the term. Well done! F.L.E.

"...There were some stand out performances but the strength of the side was in the way that they played as a team and credit must go to all of the players for their efforts with both bat and ball."

Cricket

U8 CRICKET

The U8 Team has bowled hard and fast in the nets, toiled in the field practising their fielding, smashed the ball during batting practices and looked into the tactical side of cricket. This preparation stood every member of the team in good stead for their first matches. With some teams worried about our batting they turned to under arm bowling, but this only increased our batting scores. Some teams feared our bowling so moved their order about, but with strength and depth in the team all bowlers were up to bowling against anyone. Every aspect of the game has developed and improved throughout the season. Some unlucky weather saw a number of matches cancelled early on in the season, however the final part of the season saw the U8 Team go on to compete at the highest level. A special mention must go to Romulus Hill who cracked bowling and ended up with the best bowling average, to Alexander Fewtrell who played the greatest variety of shots, including sweep, reverse sweep, pull, reverse pull, and cut, and to Joshua Sellar-Elliott who amassed the greatest amount of runs. Well done boys! S.G.S.



U9 CRICKET

The **U9A Team** were unbeaten this season, although we were deprived of matches due to some mistimed downpours. The boys as always played in a very attacking manner, batting freely and bowling with a fair degree of accuracy. Best bowling figures in our four matches came from Dominic Wielenga, with the best batting pair being the two Year 3 players, Harry Southgate and William Maunder. Our U9A's played with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm and focus during training sessions and matches alike and showed real promise as a unit S.J.M.

Although a number of matches were cancelled because of bad weather, the **U9B Team** still played plenty of matches and achieved a fair amount of success. It was good to see how much our bowling had improved when we played Shebbear and Kelly College and finished the season with victories in two close games. Lochy Cronkshaw worked hard as captain, Gus Tiernan impressed with the bat and Oscar Winsley proved an able bowler. Joshua Ramsay-Smith showed commitment and improved steadily as the season progressed. Well done to all the boys. E.S.H.



U10 CRICKET

The **U10A Team** played 7 out of 8 scheduled fixtures, winning 3 of the matches and having a couple of close finishes whilst playing against mainly U11 players. Kit Barnes was our captain this year and he worked hard during the matches to keep all players alert and in the correct positions. Some of the highlights were Kit scoring 54 in the first game against Queen's and also Harry Huggett's 51 at King's Hall. Harry was leading batsman, scoring 126 runs, just two ahead of the captain. Our leading all-rounder was Nathan White, who scored 85 runs and took 6 wickets, three wickets behind our leading bowler Henry Crease, whose 9 wickets highlights his consistency this season. Freddie Labdon also took 6 wickets. It was a big learning curve for all involved as at U10 level you begin to play full 20 over matches. Players are in the field for a long time and need to be alert at all times. Our wicket keeper Will Venner deserves a mention as he only let 32 byes through in all matches. A great effort! S.G.S.

This was a season where some matches were won and some were lost and the team improved as the season progressed. The **U10B Team** played with a happy spirit and they were able to play together throughout the season without any great changes to players in the team being needed. Sam Olive captained from the front, and Thomas Labdon must be congratulated for such a strong contribution with both the bat and ball. A special mention too to Ben Hutton, for showing the most improvement in the team. Well done boys! E.S.H.



U11 CRICKET

The U11A Team have had a really enjoyable season with the final stats of 4 wins and 3 losses not telling the whole story. The season began with an exciting, last ball defeat to Queen's (Will Blowers 44no and Ben Wright 3-5) and then a heavy loss to Taunton (Leo Ogden-Barker 15no) so confidence was a little low as the boys went into their third game without a win. Our opponents were St. Peter's who bowled well and restricted our boys to 85 from 20 overs so some tight bowling was called for. That is exactly what happened and all 10 bowlers performed with great skill to restrict our guests to 79 (Duncan Johnson-Ferguson 1-1). This set us on a roll with three more wins in a row, the first against West Buckland (Tom Reynolds 54, Alex Curtis 2-8) then King's Hall (Leo Ogden-Barker 24, Rocco Hartley 2-14), and finally Exeter Cathedral (Tom Reynolds 57no). The final match of the season was against Millfield and this was a close affair but in the end our boys were not

quite able to chase down the 167 set by Millfield, finishing on 126 for 8 from their 20 overs (Tom Reynolds 54no). There were some stand out performances but the strength of the side was in the way that they played as a team and credit must go to all of the players for their efforts with both bat and ball. Boris Ames, Sam Morrison, Will Farmer, Charlie Hutchinson, Ollie Wright, Leo Dummett, Isaac Low and Zoe Dare have all worked hard in a very enjoyable season and I thank them for their efforts. A.D.S.

The U11B Team had an immensely enjoyable season, winning six of their eight matches with every boy having regular opportunities to perfect their batting and bowling skills. Primarily we played pairs cricket with the batting order reversed for the bowling order, which enabled every boy to have an equal share of the bowling and batting; the wicket keeping position was also shared amongst those boys who wanted to give it a go. Throughout the season the team was superbly led by Harry Rackham who mixed his excellent knowledge of the sport with a wonderful desire to win. In the bowling department Matthew Tait and Freddie Frankpitt bowled with ever increasing levels of skill and accuracy while Isaac Low developed into a penetrating leg spin. When it came to scoring runs, Harry Perring and William Honey improved throughout the season and Boris Ames proved to be an excellent scorer of runs throughout, ably supported by the whole team. J.C.K.



Speech Day

Chairman of the Governors Mr. Peter Johnson, Head Master Mr. Andy Southgate and Guest Speaker Miss Alice Plunkett all addressed pupils, staff and parents at Speech Day. While Mr Southgate highlighted the many successes and achievements at the School during the past year, Miss Plunkett spoke a little of her equestrian experiences and urged the children to make the very most of all the many and varied opportunities open to them. Prizes were then awarded, many to Year 6 leavers, in recognition of the numerous triumphs achieved in the classroom, on the sports field and beyond, and all in Year 6 were presented with their fabulous Leavers' Books. Whilst parents enjoyed afternoon tea following the speeches and presentations, Year 6 enjoyed gathering signatures for their Leavers' Books – a fine memento of their times at Blundell's Preparatory School. L.P.M.



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PREPARATORY SCHOOL
— 3 YEARS - 11 YEARS —

Blundell's Road, Tiverton

Devon EX16 4NA

Telephone: 01884 252393

Email: prep@blundells.org

www.blundells.org/prep