

AUTUMN 2014

review



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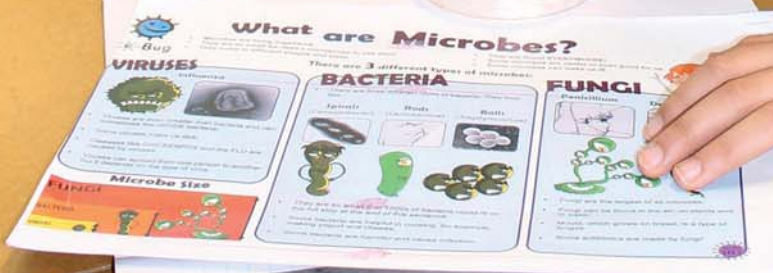
1914-2014:

Remembering the fallen 100 years on

Carol Kings: Making a song and dance about Christmas

Computer Science

embracing new technology across the curriculum



“Our children must be able to make those decisions but they must also be able to understand the very building blocks of technology and that is where the new Computing Curriculum comes in...”



One of the abiding memories of my first year as Head of Blundell's Prep was Grandparents' Day and the 20 minute forum that I set up with our 80 guests in order to talk about schools and the ways in which they have changed. I had thought, naively, that this would be very straightforward and yet the topic of conversation took a most unexpected turn. The first question that I was asked was “Head Master,

are you concerned by the electro-magnetic smog that is created by wireless networks?” I paused, gathered myself, tried to formulate an answer that was balanced and appropriate whilst still reeling from the shock. I managed to get through that question which was then followed by a discussion about technology and its place in schools. At that time it was the start of the ‘I-Pad Revolution’ when many schools appeared to be doing away with books and libraries in favour of tablet technology and the lure of the ‘App’. The room divided and a books vs technology debate ensued, much to my delight. It was a fascinating morning and one that I often reflect on when considering the future use of technology within schools. There is no question that it has its place and a great disservice we would be doing our children if we did not prepare them for the technology driven world in which we live and in which they are going to work. However, we must guard against the notion that exposure to technology will be enough as it is the skills to use that technology in the most effective and meaningful way that is the key to success and that is where the teacher's role is paramount. We want our children to be discerning learners, able to source, select, challenge and refute the information that comes their way on a daily basis and in such volumes that we could only have dreamt of when we were children. Our children must be able to make those decisions but they must also be able to understand the very building blocks of technology and that is where the new Computing Curriculum comes in. I am sure that some of our current Prep School parents have raised an eyebrow when their children have returned home to say “we played computer games today” but what they actually mean is “we made computer games today...and then played them!” The skill of coding is something that is making a comeback having seen the UK's position as industry leaders dwindle over the last 20 years. That is not to say that we are educating a whole generation of game makers but we are helping children to look beyond the simple use of technology and into its very building blocks. As parents, we must try to keep up!

At Blundell's Prep we have embraced these changes with a significant investment in technology, with new laptops across the school, Interactive whiteboards and surround sound in all classrooms, and a bank of tablets for classes to access information with ease. Add to this new ‘Beebots’ in the Pre-Prep and a purpose built Pre-Prep ICT suite and you have everything you need – well, not everything. You also need the teachers to shape the curriculum and the way that this equipment is used, and we are fortunate to have very capable staff who have fully embraced the use of tech in the classrooms. They use a wide range of software from Scratch to Purple Mash to Espresso (not the coffee!) in order to bring interactive opportunities to every lesson and this will be further enhanced over the coming months with support from our new Head of Computing in the Prep School. Digital cameras are in use on a daily basis and we even used the tablets to capture sounds of nature in the woods, recordings that were then edited in order to form a musical composition. Lego Mindstorms Club is as popular as ever and encourages programming skills as well as engineering. Our Design Technology room is soon to be fitted with a ceiling mounted camera to enhance group demonstrations and this will then be mirrored in Food Technology. As you can see, the use of technology is fully embedded in every subject area.

Throughout the school, the children are having the opportunity to discover new technologies and to see how they can benefit their learning. Will this mean “the end of the book?” as one concerned Grandparent suggested. “Far from it” was my reply, as the new and the traditional are not mutually exclusive, in fact at Blundell's Prep they mesh rather well.

You will notice that technology features as the lead topic in this Autumn edition of the Review but you will also notice the vast array of events that have filled the last 3 months. It has been another action-packed term and one that has been greatly enjoyed by everyone at BPS. My thanks as always to all who have contributed to this publication, especially our Editor, Lee Moore. Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Andy Southgate'.

Andy Southgate Head Master



OK Computer

IT'S MORE FUN TO COMPUTE

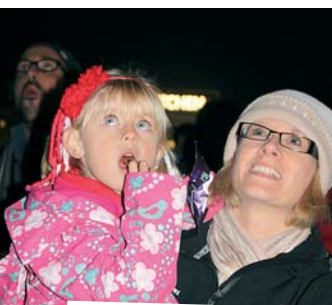
Many of the children here at the Prep School have been enjoying the start of an exciting new 'Computing' curriculum throughout the Autumn Term. With a greater emphasis on computational thinking and creativity, it has been lovely to see how quickly they have adjusted to the changes, throwing themselves into the subject in typical Blundell's style. There has been a real 'buzz' amongst pupils in Years 5 and 6; they have been constantly talking about their latest gaming creations developed through the coding platform 'Scratch', sharing their wonderful ideas and testing them out on one another! Coding, or programming, provides them with a wide range of skills that will be essential as active participants in a digital world – logical thinking, planning and 'debugging' to name but a few. Newly purchased laptops and tablets, alongside existing technical equipment such as cameras, Lego Mindstorms and digital microscopes, are used on an almost daily basis throughout the school, whilst websites such as Linguascope and MyMaths provide excellent opportunities for children to continue their learning in other subjects in a fun and enjoyable manner. The digital citizens of tomorrow are being developed right here at Blundell's Prep today! D.J.M.





Playing with Fire

It was a great treat to have a visit from The West Midlands Children's Theatre Company this term. They gave us a lively performance of the story of the Fire Bird. Children were chosen from the audience to help the actors tell the story. They listened spellbound as the story unfolded. T.N.



Bright Sparks

Blundell's Bonfire Night was a huge success and the turnout was great, even though it had been delayed by bad weather. Everybody loved the blazing bonfire burning brightly, and the spectacular fireworks which lit up the sky in an array of sparkling colours. We all enjoyed the sweets and light sticks, and the food was great too! Thanks to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising the night.

Kaira Hinchliffe
and Molly Joyner, Year 6

Remembering



To mark the centenary of the start of the First World War, the School Remembrance Service took place in the Chapel this year. Mr. Southgate talked to the children about an Old Blundellian pupil, Lieutenant Phillip Perkin, who had fought in the Great War and had died in active service at the age of twenty two. The Reverend

Hunt, our School Chaplain, led the prayers. After the service, the congregation gathered around the School War Memorial and children from each year group laid a tribute to those who had lost their lives fighting in action. Trumpeters from the Senior School then played The Last Post and Reveille. It was a very moving service and lovely to see so many of our school families represented in the congregation. T.N.



The Trench

Besides holding our Remembrance Service in the School Chapel, in recognition of the start of The Great War, 100 years ago, we also decided to build our very own replica trench in a field behind the Prep School, and enlisted the help of Head of Maintenance and historian, Tony Addison. The result was a super resource to be used in History lessons and Year 6 had the opportunity to spend time in the trench, learning about what life was like on the front line of the Western Front. Each child in the Prep School made their own poppy, some of which were placed at the School War memorial, but the remaining poppies were placed in front of the trench as a mark of respect to all who lost their lives during the First World War.

A.D.S.



Prefect Timing

Congratulations to Joseph Provis and Jessica Payne for leading the School as Head Boy and Head Girl this term. All in Year 6 have been trying hard all term to join them as Prefects and voting took place at the end of term to elect the new team of Prefects. Well done to William Cave, Abigail Horan, Freya Marr, Finlay Williams, Alice Williams and George Worcester, who were chosen as setting a positive example by their manners, appearance, the way in which they behave and the effort that they put into their work. They were awarded Prefect ties to wear, and will take up their new roles in January. Special congratulations go to William and Abigail, who were chosen to take up the mantle of Head Boy and Head Girl next term. Well done to all, and keep trying hard Year 6 – more Prefects may well be chosen as the year goes on!

Each form has also elected a representative to take their views to the School Council this time. The Council meets with Mr. Kerr to discuss issues raised by the pupils themselves, and this term discussions have centred on School Buddies, Lunch Menus and Children In Need. Congratulations go to the following for representing their Forms this term: Finlay Williams, Tyler Read, Abigail Horan, Kezia Holman, Oscar Winsley, Jasper Winsley, William Luxton, Harry Cracknell, Benji Provis, Alex Tarrant and Bea Morrison. There will be opportunities for others to step forward to represent their Forms next term.

Alice Williams and Estelle Tucker, Year 6

The Write Time



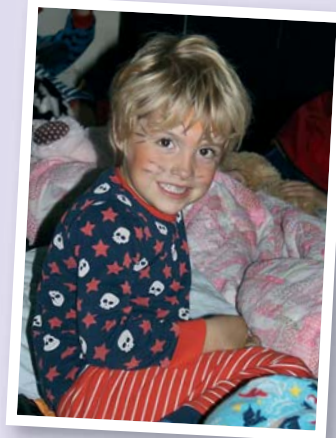
On Friday 26th September popular children's author Julia Jarman came and visited us. She talked to us about how she writes her books. She showed us the stages of making a book and we were all surprised at

how long it took! Afterwards we got a chance to buy signed books from her. Julia has written a lot of books including Ghost Writer (one of her favourites,) Pillywiggins (a story inspired by her Grandma) and the Time Travelling Cat series. She has also written books for younger readers, including The Big Red Bath, Class Two at the Zoo and The Bear on the Stairs. You can find out more about Julia at her website: www.juliajarman.com.

Jess Payne and Lottie Southgate, Year 6

AFTER WORD

Children in the Pre-Prep enjoyed coming to School dressed as favourite storybook characters, and returning to School after dark to have bedtime stories read to them by candlelight served as a fitting epilogue to the day.



RUGBY CHAMPIONS

England Rugby Captain and Harlequins flanker Chris Robshaw presented the triumphant Under 10 A Team boys with the trophy after a comprehensive victory at the Millfield Tournament.



Sum Times

The children enjoyed the opportunity to work in mixed-age groups on Maths Day and it was fantastic to see the older children supporting the younger ones. The day began with a problem solving number trail around the school grounds. There were 15 questions set out on a circular route. The children did a great job of finding each clue and then working out the attached problem. They also collected letters along the way which they had to re-arrange to make a maths-related word. All of the teams managed to complete the trail and were rewarded with cookies and hot chocolate before playtime! The next activity challenged the children to invent a new maths game. Some chose to make sports-related games in the playground while others opted for the more traditional board game. All of the games were original and the children had fun playing them. The Maths Day was a great success and the children enjoyed using their maths skills in different contexts. G.J.R.



Mr. Southgate led an outdoor Assembly looking at vegetable produce collected at Harvest.

Harvest

At Harvest lots of food was donated to CHAT (Churches Housing Action Team). There was a whole table full of food, including tuna, pasta, soup, canned fruit, sugar and a whole range of cereals; CHAT gives the food to local people who can't afford their own food or housing. Thank you to everyone who contributed! Estelle Tucker and Alice Williams, Year 6



Children in Need

On Friday 14th November it was Children in Need day. Everyone donated one pound to come to school dressed in stripy clothes, and cakes were made and sold by Year 5 to raise extra money for the appeal. Children in the Pre-Prep also brought a cuddly toy into school for the day, and there was a Guess the Bear competition in which the children could guess which teddy bear belonged to which member of staff. There were also bear biscuits to decorate and all enjoyed eating these at snack time. Children in Need use the money to help children with illnesses, disabilities and diseases. This year more than 32.6 million pounds was raised across the country. Thanks to everyone who contributed! Eve Nugent and Emily Sellar-Elliott, Year 6



Festive Fun

There were lots of lovely stalls and games at the Blundell's Christmas Market, including: 'the shooting gallery' (using water pistols to put out candles), toy and book stalls, a Name the Teddy competition (now named 'Brownie'), the Raffle (run by year 6), sweetie stalls, a lucky dip, face painting, tattoos, a bouncy castle and of course Father Christmas. Many thanks to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for putting the market together. Father Christmas also put in an appearance at the Christmas Parties on the last day of term, with a sack full of presents to give out after a delicious party lunch and party games played with great enthusiasm. Another highlight of the end of term was the festive feast that was Christmas Lunch – many thanks to Barbara Moys and the catering staff for working so hard to provide a veritable banquet of a roast with all the trimmings! Besides the nativity productions, carol services, decoration making and card sending, Christmas also provided the theme for the Year 2 Food Technology workshop, and Year 3 had 'treemendous' fun decorating the School Christmas Tree at the end of a very busy term. We wish everyone a very merry Christmas – and a peaceful new year.

L.P.M. (with help from Jessica Payne and Lottie Southgate, Year 6)



"...I am always amazed at the confidence with which the children perform in front of an audience and this was no exception..."

Mus





Our Tea Time Concerts have continued to show all the hard work that the children put into learning a musical instrument. Our Junior Tea Time Concert saw many Year 3 and 4 children taking part for the first time. I am always amazed at the confidence with which the children perform in front of an audience and this was no exception. The Senior Tea Time Concert highlighted the progression from children performing for the very first time to children who have developed real performance skills and the ability to play or sing a difficult repertoire.

As always, with the run up to Christmas, the Choir have been busy. They sang in town for the turning on of the Christmas lights. It was wonderful seeing so many of the children giving up their time on a Saturday afternoon and their singing was very much appreciated by the crowds, leaving them very much in the festive spirit.

Just after term finished a small group of singers entertained people at Knightshayes. It was 'late night opening' at the House and our singers sang to visitors in the Drawing Room as they walked around. The Christmas trees, candles and Christmas music created a really magical atmosphere.

Thank you to all the children who have performed this term and to all the staff who have helped in the music department. It has been a very busy term for all! **B.L.C.**



We hosted our annual Festival of Carols in the Chapel, with three other schools joining us – St. John's, Tidcombe and Two Moors. It was lovely to see so many children joining together to celebrate Christmas. Our own Carol Service was a celebration of music and readings with the candlelight creating a perfect atmosphere. The singing was wonderful and the readers read with confidence and clarity.

Starring *Roles*



The Little Angel

There were no shrinking violets in the Year 1 Christmas Nativity play this year. The children were full of confidence and you could hear every word they spoke and sang. They told the story of a little angel trying to find out about something special that was about to happen; along the way she met dancing snowflakes, children decorating their house in time for Christmas, a chef preparing the Christmas food and Father Christmas with a sack full of bulging presents. It was only when she followed the star that she was led to the stable where she found Baby Jesus lying in a manger. The loud clapping at the end of the play showed just how much the parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles had enjoyed the performance! T.N.



Ebenezer

The production of Ebenezer by Year 5 this year was a traditional way to look at Christmas and also set a challenge to the children and the costume department alike! This challenge was incredibly well met by all the cast who due to illness were often changing roles at the last minute. Lochy as Ebenezer took us brilliantly through time, visiting the past, present and future with all the attendant spectres. Our soloists were again outstanding and expertly supported by a very loyal Year 6. All involved clearly enjoyed the experience! T.M.C.



Gabriel's Big Break



The Landlord's Cat

The Year 2 children launched the Nativity season with their performance of *The Landlord's Cat*. It told the story of the birth of Jesus through the eyes of the landlord's very clever cat who knew that something special was about to happen. The children entertained us all with songs and well-rehearsed words and actions. Their friends and families came to watch them and thoroughly enjoyed the story. The play was followed by a cup of tea and hot mince pies; the audience went home feeling very seasonal! T.N.



It was lovely to see the Year 3 children put so much energy into their Christmas play - *Gabriel's Big Break*. They all acted their parts well and were supported by the Year 4 children who sang with gusto. A special mention should go to Floss who played Gabriel, and had many lines to learn and to Sophie who played Ariel and sang her solo beautifully. Floss, Poppy and Gracie also performed their star dance with poise and elegance. Everyone enjoyed the experience immensely. Well done to all! S.A.S.



The Grumpy Sheep

The Kindergarten children told the story of a very grumpy sheep in their Nativity play. The sheep felt grumpy about everything. She didn't want to walk anywhere; she was jealous of the angels because they had wings to fly and she was jealous of the Kings because they had camels to ride. Finally, she made her way to the stable and seeing Baby Jesus transformed her into a very happy sheep who smiled her first smile ever. It was a delightful performance; the children had obviously worked so hard to learn their words and songs. They looked wonderful in their costumes. Their families and friends thoroughly enjoyed watching them perform. T.N.



The Noisy Nativity

Nursery delighted us all with their performance of *The Noisy Nativity*. There were the usual nativity characters of Mary, Joseph, a donkey, shepherds, inn keepers, three kings and a dancing star. All the children enjoyed wearing their costumes, singing the songs and performing actions to them too, and the audience played their part too by joining in with clapping and singing to support this very young cast. Everyone involved should be very proud of all that was achieved. Well done to all the children in the Nursery!

D.M.K.





out and about

Classroom teaching is often brought to life by visits into the local community and beyond, and a whole range of subjects, from History and Geography to English and Art, have all benefitted from trips to some of the many beautiful attractions available in the local area this term...

ON THE BEACH

The sun was shining when Year 2 set off to Budleigh Salterton. On arrival we walked through the town and onto the pebbled beach for a snack. The children enjoyed looking at the art work made of pebbles along the shore line as well as watching the choppy sea, as it was quite breezy. The children were keen to explore and they found many interesting crab shells and pincers as well as other shells, stones and seaweed. While the children had a go at making their own beach artwork we were fortunate to see the Tour of Britain cyclists whizz past, which was an extra treat. We then carried on walking towards the estuary and the River Otter. After a challenge to find a pebble that looked like a ball we then walked all the way back to the town to enjoy a short coach ride to Exmouth where we were very keen to enjoy our packed lunch. After lunch children had the opportunity to buy their own tasty ice cream or lolly and then we went for a refreshing paddle. We even saw a few live crabs too. 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 out! D.M.K.

GROUP BOOKING

Children from the Nursery enjoyed sharing books from Tiverton Library this term.





SCULPTURE CLUB

On a glorious day in September, Year 3 headed to North Devon. They visited Broomhill Sculpture Park and explored a variety of sculptures hidden in the valley. Laden with ideas, they then travelled to Saunton Sands to create their own sculptures in the sand, followed by the obligatory ice cream! A fantastic day was had by all. W.J.N.



CHRISTMAS PAST

The Year 1 trip to Killerton House was as special as ever this year. The trees around the National Trust property were beautifully decorated with large, colourful baubles which twinkled in the sunlight as we walked up the path. The House was decorated in the theme of the story of The Nutcracker and every room reflected part of the famous story. To add to the occasion, the children dressed up in Victorian clothes. They learnt about what Christmas was like in the past. They learnt to waltz and waltzed from room to room; they were all naturals! They played party games from the Victorian times and handled and discussed Victorian toys. They also sang Victorian Christmas songs. It was a lovely experience for them and one that enhanced their understanding of the past enormously. T.N.



HOUSE GUESTS

On Tuesday 11th November Year 6 visited School House, to find out a little about life at the Senior School in general and Entrance Exam procedures in particular. We were met by Mr. Marshman, Head of School House, who escorted us to the lunch hall for doughnuts and a chance to talk to some Year 7 students about their experiences at the School. After a chance to ask questions, we were shown Big School – the exam venue – before being given a tour of the facilities at School House. Everyone found it a fascinating and informative afternoon – and were all very keen to make the move up to Year 7!

Emily Sellar-Elliott and Eve Nugent, Year 6



SKETCHERS

Year 6 enjoyed their sketching trip to the canal at Halberton. The children relaxed on the towpath in the sunshine, collecting ideas to use in their own watercolour landscapes back at school. J.A.A.



LOCAL NEWS

As part of their Geography topic on Settlement, 36 Year 3 children set off, with clip boards in hand, to locate various landmarks of significance in Tiverton. First port of call was Heathcoat's Fabric Factory where they learnt about John Heathcoat's influence on the town. Other stops included the confluence of the Rivers Exe and Lowman, a visit to Knightshayes Court and the Grand Western Canal. Finally they returned to the Prep School, which was founded by one of the wealthiest merchants of Elizabethan England, Peter Blundell.

W.J.N.



Animal Farm

Nursery children made a seasonal visit to Pennywell Farm at the end of term, where they enjoyed acting out the Nursery Story – with the help of some real farmyard animals – and even met Father Christmas!



"...Their commitment and attitude towards training has been second to none and as a result they have had a most successful season..."

Hockey

U11 HOCKEY

What a busy term it has been! The U11 A Team has played a total of 10 fixtures and participated in 4 locally held tournaments. To say this group of girls like their hockey is an understatement, in fact I think they eat, sleep and breathe hockey! Their commitment and attitude towards training has been second to none and as a result they have had a most successful season. They came runners up in only one Wednesday afternoon fixture where the Blundell's v Exeter battle continues. Don't worry, there is always the netball season! They accomplished convincing victories over King's Hall, Mount Kelly, Maynard and St. Peter's where goals flooded in left, right and centre. With the pace of Anna Maunder on the right wing, the tenacity to tackle that comes in the form of Lottie Southgate and the fearful strike of the ball from Honor Huggett, they have been a force to be reckoned with. Aside from weekly fixtures the girls have won silver medals at both the Exeter and Queens tournaments, progressed to the quarter finals at a very competitive IAPS competition and ended the season being crowned Devon Champions! I don't know about you, but I think they deserve a holiday!

It has been an impressive term of hockey for the U11 B Team with the majority of their games ending in victory. Jessica Payne

and Megan Sharp have been almost impossible to penetrate in defence, and together they worked with immense determination and competitiveness to keep opposing teams away from our goal. Issy Leyshon stepped up to the plate early on as goalkeeper and has gone from strength to strength, making some excellent saves as the season has progressed. On the wings Molly Joyner, Tyler Read, Alice Williams, Kaira Hinchliffe, and Emily Sellar-Elliott have all created fine attacking opportunities and also supported the defence when it was needed. In latter matches, it was clear to see the development of skills in all the players as they confidently used reverse stick and left to right drag manoeuvres in order to get around the opposition. In the centre, Eve Nugent made a big impact with her superb fitness and the ability to dribble the ball forward at great speed on the attack. Abigail Horan, as centre forward, has been a supportive team player throughout, committing 100% to every match and tirelessly working hard to improve her skills and tactics week in and week out. Ella Martin and Cerys Squibb have played well both as centre forwards and on the wing and have also been a huge help in assisting the U10s in several of their matches. Well done to the whole squad and enjoy the Christmas break. *F.L.E. & L.B.*

U10 HOCKEY

The U10 A Team proved to be a force to reckon with this term. The statistics showed 8 wins, one draw, silver medallists at the Queen's Tournament and Gold medallists at Millfield. Some great attacking hockey has been played, the two centre mids, Kezia Holman and Rachel Brown, often finishing well worked moves with clinical precision. Shea Clark proved a potent force on the right wing and showed some great technical skills. Phoebe Jerreat and Clem Bantock both played the difficult role at left wing with an abundance of determination and promising skill. The success of a good team is nearly always reliant on a good defence, and Elizabeth Honey, Millie Evans and Sophia Fields in goal all played their part, being totally focused and very reliable when the need arose. There is once again much to look forward to from this team next year. Well done girls!

The U10 B Team didn't have the best of starts to the hockey season, with two injuries before

we even started and neither hockey related! With the support of Kaira Hinchliffe and Cerys Squibb, and the occasional stand in performance from Ella Martin, Tyler Read and Alice Williams, the fixtures went ahead. As the season progressed the pupils developed their movement on the field and ability to close down players. The games played were closely fought with Lucie Spencer battling hard, making some effective tackles and demonstrating good use of her reverse stick. At the opposite end of the pitch there were some strong performances by Jas Shaddick in goal who made some outstanding and brave saves. With convincing wins over Wellington and Stockland and only narrow defeats by strong Millfield and West Buckland teams, these children have every right to feel proud of their participation and achievements this term. Well done girls! S.J.M. & F.L.E.



U9 HOCKEY

It always amazes me when you return after the summer holiday and see how much the children have grown in the space of just a few weeks. The U9 A Team have matured so much in only a year and have been an absolute pleasure to coach hockey. They have listened carefully, tried hard, and shown a real determination to progress. I have been most impressed with the development of their skill. They travel with the ball with pace and now have the confidence to move around players. Their ability to work as a team shone through at the Blundell's tournament; they came top of their pool and progressed to the quarter finals where they were unlucky to be knocked out on

penalties. Hattie Barnes, Otilie Davy and Constance Patterson tackled beautifully in defence and fed the ball out with ease to the wings. Jess Barnes, Flossie Ames, and Flo Cave have all developed their use of reverse stick drags and have contributed to the goal scoring this term. This, together with Georgia Withey's relentless hassling of the opposition and Isobel Morrison's athleticism and skill has made a successful team, so successful in fact that Honor Tobin hasn't had an awful lot to do in goal! Having not touched the ball during the 1st half of a match one Thursday afternoon, she played for the opposition and faced her own team mates, making some astounding saves! Her own teammates felt she could have let at least one in! Overall, five wins out of seven fixtures is an achievement the pupils should be proud of. Well done, girls!

The U9 B Team started the season with some demanding matches against Mount Kelly and St. Peter's. From this they learnt that they needed to work really hard when chasing back in defence and also that stepping up early to make a tackle was going to be important in order to prevent future losses. By the third game however, they had started to gel a lot more as a team and were able to create far more attacking opportunities. Florence Chapman and Amelia Mitchell showed great determination and fitness when working in both attack and defence and were always supportive on the wing and in the centre positions. The final three matches were won with a real flair and all the girls showed a huge progression in their skills from the first to the last game. Well done! F.L.E. & L.B.



U8 HOCKEY

It has been a term of many 'firsts' for lots of the Under 8s in Games. For many, it was their first competitive hockey match, and from this all the girls went on to play in several very successful subsequent fixtures where they all showed great enthusiasm and determination to do well. They had their first away fixture against Taunton where they travelled brilliantly on the minibus and did themselves proud both on and off the pitch. Ruby Wetherall's skills have really shone out this term and she was never far from the action in a game. Amara Lilley and Grace Horan played with vibrant energy and fortitude at all times and Poppy Borradaile totted up a satisfying number of goals in the last two matches played.

Aside from the success in hockey, the girls also enjoyed some cross country and netball this term. For many, it was the first time they had thoroughly enjoyed a very muddy and wet cross country route and in fact asked to do extra laps because they enjoyed it so much! Leading on from this, it was the first time they were able to take a shower in the changing rooms, which in itself seemed to be one of the biggest highlights of the season. Well done to all the girls! F.L.E.

Rugby



U11 RUGBY

The U11 A Team has developed a wonderful flowing style of play. With determined running backs and hard upfront forwards the team has battled well throughout the season, and with only the matter of a conversion deciding some games, all of the matches have been exciting to watch. The forward pack have supported each other well, and at scrum time they have come into their own, being able to turn many opposition scrums around. A touring team from King Edward's School in Bath had a pack twice as large, but in spite of this the Blundell's pack dominated and the hookers were lifted off their feet in the scrum as the force from the sides was transferred through the front rows. Behind the scrum the backs played with great purpose and ran hard and straight towards the opposition try line, often crossing it. Finn Muirhead led from the front as Captain, ably supported by Joseph Provis, Harry Lanyon, Toby Hull, Kit Barnes and others. Well done to all of the team!

This has been an enormously successful season for the U11 B Team in which a tremendous team spirit pervaded throughout. The boys were committed to playing for each other and for the team in every match. This was clearly seen by the joy shared by all when a try was scored, as was often done by one of the enormously hard working forwards such as Finlay Williams, Gabriel Harrison-Kinnaird and Alexander Lawler. These three boys committed themselves totally and selflessly to the team in every match, and their powerful running aligned with strong tackling ensured the quick running backs had plenty of good possession to use productively. This possession was distributed excellently by Oliver Butler and the backs were ignited by the powerful running of Nathan White from fly-half and the electric running of Sam Olive at centre. Outside Sam, George Worcester ran superbly at all times and his ruthless tackling belied his size to the enormous admiration of the entire squad. Oscar Prior-Palmer applied himself selflessly to all roles asked of him and thrived in the open spaces of the back-line, while he also provided excellent support to Nathan's place kicking. Out wide the improved running and defence of Carsten Wood and Christian Tiernan was a delight to witness and gave the team a genuine boost. Each boy took turns to lead the team and at every time they were supported wholeheartedly by the rest of the team.

S.G.S. & J.C.K.

U10 RUGBY

The Under 10s have had a fantastic rugby season with all 15 of our boys making tremendous progress and contributing fully to the squad. The term began with a convincing win against Mount Kelly (65-0) and all members of the squad keen to get their hands on the ball. The A Team then headed off to Millfield for a tournament against some of the stronger Prep Schools from the South West, and yet our boys proved to be too strong for them all, beating King's Hall (20-5), Millfield (30-0), All Hallows (10-0) and Bristol Grammar (10-0) on their way to lifting the trophy which was presented by England Captain, Chris Robshaw. Our next opponents were West Buckland and they put up a very tough test for our squad of players. It took every member of the squad to play well to hold them to 25-15 but this was a good test for the boys and one that they relished. There was then a chance for the Under 10 squad to split up and to merge with the Year 6 players to form the Colts B and C teams. Once again the boys made significant contributions and helped the teams to win both matches in some style. Another convincing win then followed, this time against Stockland before it was time to head to Bristol to face the very strong QEH. The B Team were in tremendous form and won their match but the A team, a side not used to losing, did exactly that and returned rather fed up to a coach who was also fed up, not least because he couldn't travel with the team that day. With customary grit and determination, the boys bounced back and became Colts teams once again, this time to face Exeter Cathedral. Convincing victories followed and some very impressive rugby was being played. It would be fair to say that our Under 10 squad did rather surprise their opponents on occasions as they are not the biggest but they are as ferocious and competitive a group of players as I have come across in my years of coaching. They just do not give an inch and this was the hallmark of their rugby throughout the season. This approach to rugby was very much part of the way that they trained together and with the extra support from our Director of Elite Rugby, Tony Yapp, we were able to form a side who were confident to play with the ball in hand and to defend as if their lives depended on it! After half term the squad went on to even greater feats with victory at Queen's followed by a winning performance in the Queen's Tournament. In conditions akin to a monsoon the children faced many challenges, both physical and mental, on their way to wins against Port Regis, Millfield, Exeter Junior, Exeter Cathedral, Hazlegrove and then finally Sandroyd, conceding only one try in the process. Wins at Exeter Junior School and Wellington followed before the final game of the season was upon us and another powerful performance saw the boys playing as Colts once more, the B team winning and the C team losing narrowly.

My congratulations to every member of the squad as all have given their very best throughout this superb season. A.D.S.



U9 RUGBY

The tremendous success of last year's season was going to be very hard to repeat for the U9 A Team, especially with a new set of rules from the RFU, but despite the challenges the boys registered four wins out of six matches at the St. Peter's Festival season opener. Our second tournament at Millfield saw us begin to display some well executed rugby with clean tackling and many phases of direct running. We comfortably won five games out of six and ended up runners up to a very strong Kingswood side. Matches at Exeter Prep, King's Hall, Mount Kelly and St. Peter's saw us develop further as a team working hard together. The pressure was on for our own tournament in late November, but three good wins in the early rounds and a clinical display against Wellington in the semis saw us face St. Peter's in the final, arguably one of the strongest teams in the tournament; the boys played to their strengths and ran out comfortable winners 6-0 to take the trophy. Two more matches saw wins at Wellington and Taunton which improved our statistics over the season: 28 games played, 24 won and 4 lost. This is a team which really has grown and developed; the boys have been a pleasure to coach, well done, you deserve your success!

The U9 B Team embraced the new RFU rules, ably showing the skills needed to take advantage of freer running in a more fluid and flowing game. They certainly showed their confidence at the King's Hall rugby tournament where the boys were undefeated across six matches. With notable wins in the season against Plymouth College and Wellington, the team showed a depth of rugby skills: great tackling from Sebastian Tarrant and John Wrightson often enabled the team to get on the front foot, while Hector Marr provided a quality ball for William Luxton to show what a good runner he is. Tom Prior-Palmer, Reuben Kerr and Romulus Hill backed up and supported every move so possession was maintained. S.J.M. & S.G.S.



U8 RUGBY

As the term has progressed the Year 3 boys have grown in confidence, skill and the ability to work as a team. Training sessions have become more efficient (less time spent getting changed/doing up shoe laces!) and matches played in mixed-ability teams against other schools have been a real highlight; particularly our away trips to Mount Kelly,

Wellington, St. Peter's and Taunton. Special mentions must go to Ethan Moran for his ability to read game situations like a pro, the Stewart and Cracknell brothers for their superb support play, Harry Clarkson and William Edwards for going about their jobs in a quiet, yet incredibly effective manner, and Rafael Crowe for his outstanding tagging, try scoring skills and constant energy. Recent House Matches showed just how far all of the boys have come, with some amazing handling from Jacob Tucker, as well as magical runs from James Saunders and Benji Provis, to name but a few highlights. The future looks great for this group of young rugby players – well done Year 3! D.J.M.



Outdoor Opportunities



Year 6 enjoyed a great morning when they came off timetable for a cross-curricular Outdoor Learning workshop at Paradise Woods. The children gathered rocks, logs and twigs to create a base in the woods complete with fire pit and seating area, before engaging in a variety of activities, including art work using mirrors to capture canopy views of the trees above and music using tablets to record a variety of nature sounds and pictures to be used as the basis for their own rustic compositions. They also enjoyed the opportunity of cooking their own 'dough stick' snacks over the campfire. Year 5 cooked pumpkin soup in their field kitchen and sang French songs around the campfire. They foraged for colourful plants and berries using these to create colour charts for their 'Field and Berry' range of paints. The winners of the Year 5 Pumpkin Carving Competition were Ben FitzHerbert, Lochy Conkshaw and Dominic Wielenga. Year 4 built a fire in the woods, where they toasted marshmallows and melted chocolate, and drizzled it over bananas. They were also charged with the challenge of giving Freddy the field mouse a home – investigating waterproof habitats for the stuffed rodent! The rainy start to the Year 3 Outdoor learning morning did not dampen spirits as they built emergency shelters in the woods using tarpaulins. They then went on to make adobe bricks and Egyptian boats made from willow grown at school. They later sailed their boats down the river. They enjoyed eating apple pancakes which were cooked on the camp fire together with hot chocolate, especially as the rain stopped and the sun came out! Children in the Pre-Prep have also been involved in Outdoor Learning this term. Many areas of the curriculum have been taken outside, story times have been a frequent occurrence in The Hub and Mr. Richards even organised a Bear Hunt across the school grounds! Year 1 created some amazing outdoor art in the style of Andy Goldsworthy. The fun experienced by children and teachers alike has been enormous!

In addition to dedicated time enjoying the outdoors, all staff are constantly looking for opportunities to use the outdoors during lessons, whether for foraging in FT, using the environment as a stimulus in English or Art or using the Teamwork, Leadership and Challenge activities (TLC) in Maths. The Hub is now in almost constant use and the children love using it at playtimes also. Bushcraft Clubs take place twice a week after school and the children in these clubs have great fun learning basic bush craft skills and using the TLC equipment. OL has been an out and out success!



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