

SUMMER 2015

review

Reach for the Skies

Year 6 aim high at the Ultimate Adventure Centre

Overnight Sensations: all at the Prep School add venturing away to their busy Summer Term schedule... and rise to the challenge!



Inside:

Quality Control: food for thought; **Training in Progress:** a day out with Nursery; **Quiet Backstage:** drama to shout about

"This Summer Term has seen the children embrace all number of challenges... and they have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into every activity."



The Summer Term has been one to remember for a whole variety of reasons. It has seen the children embrace all number of challenges whether they be in the classroom or on the games field. They have enjoyed residential trips to Paignton Zoo, Folly Farm, Dartmoor Adventure Centre and The Ultimate High, and have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into every activity. For our Year 6 children and some brave teachers, the Ultimate Assault Course will live long in the memory! There have been many musical highlights with the super Summer Concert showcasing the opportunities that our children have to play and perform. To begin the concert with 54 stringed instruments was very special indeed. As always the Summer has seen Drama at

the forefront of our thinking with the adorable 'Commotion in the Ocean' performed by our Nursery children and the spectacular 'Around the World in 80 Days' performed by our Year 6 pupils in our Ondaatje Theatre.

Sport has played a significant part in the Summer Term and the children have enjoyed cricket, rounders, athletics, swimming and tennis aplenty. There have been wins for the Under 10 Girls' Rounders team at Millfield and success on the National stage for two of our senior athletes. Even more importantly, there have been numerous chances for all of the children to enjoy playing sport in the glorious Devon sunshine.

This year has seen our Blundell's Adventure, Leadership and Service Award enter its third year and our senior pupils have embraced it fully, particularly the Service element. After their Entrance Exams in January they embarked on a whole variety of charitable fund-raising and voluntary activities for the benefit of the local community as well as some of our most famous national charities. In total they raised in excess of £6,000 and demonstrated the school's motto, 'Non Sibi' in its truest form.

Our Speech Day remains a highlight of the term and this year we welcomed poet Matt Harvey to Blundell's Prep and what a treat it was to hear him speak. Entertaining an audience of over 500 with ages ranging from 5 to 85 is no mean feat but Matt managed it brilliantly. The howls of laughter that emanated from all corners of the marquee were a sure sign that his speech had hit the mark, particularly with our youngest children who were in fits of laughter throughout.

This term also marked a fond farewell to Mr Steve Mildren after 28 years of remarkable service to the school. He leaves a legacy that is going to be impossible to replace and the children showed their appreciation in the final assembly of the year, providing "three cheers" and a card signed by every one of them. It was a lovely moment and one that shows, once again, how important our teachers are in shaping the lives of the children. In September we welcome four new members of staff to both Prep and Pre-Prep, and they will join a team of outstanding professionals. As our inspection report clearly shows, pupils' personal development is exceptional, and this is down to the on-going efforts of our committed team, efforts that are beautifully illustrated in the pages that follow. My thanks to each and every one of them.

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

Andy Southgate Head Master



BALSA

Blundell's Adventure, Leadership and Service Award

Year 6 pupils at Blundell's Prep School celebrated all that they have achieved through an Adventure, Leadership and Service project, including raising thousands of pounds for charity. The project aims to help pupils build life skills such as developing confidence, independence and the ability and initiative to work with and for others.

Trips tailored to helping the children work towards these goals included a visit to the Eden Project in Cornwall, and a residential stay at The Ultimate Adventure Centre in North Devon, where all pushed themselves to the very limits in order to build resilience and perseverance in the physical pursuit of the adventure and leadership elements of the award.

Year 6 were particularly keen to embrace the service part of the project by taking part in voluntary work, including a litter pick in Tiverton, a concert organised for the Margaret Allen Care Home, working at an Age Concern Shop and at a Tiverton Care Home. They also came up with many imaginative ways to fundraise for local, national and international charities. These included holding a dog show in aid of the Dog's Trust, selling horse photos for the Injured Jockey Fund, plus a swimathon, a cricket match, sponsored walks, a bike ride, balloon appeal, sales of cakes, books, toys and plants and other events, raising over £6,000 for charity in total.

The Year 6 pupils marked the culmination of the project at an awards ceremony where they were joined by Pen Farthing, founder and Chairman of Nowzad, which rescues stray and abandoned animals in Afghanistan and which was one of the charities benefiting from the fundraising efforts. It was great to see so many of the pupils being presented with the Fiennes Award, the highest accolade, for all their efforts in pursuing the BALSA scheme.

At the ceremony, Andy Southgate, the Headmaster said: "I am proud of what Year 6 have achieved in their final year at the Prep School, they have shown remarkable initiative in choosing, organising and raising money in inventive and selfless ways."

B.J.S.



“

In the evenings we had loads of fun too. We got to play games on the astro like Tail Grab, Cross Ball and Dwarfs, Wizards and Giants – and my team won!”

Lucie Spencer

”

Overnight *sens*



Year 5 on Dartmoor: Rocks, Haytor, Rivers

“The first activity we did when we got to the Dartmoor Adventure Centre was river walking – and straight away Harry lost a shoe! Other activities included scrambling over rocks and abseiling on Dartmoor. We also went canoeing, kayaking and raft building on a lake, and we did the trapeze and the high ropes – which was really high! Our final challenge was to build the tallest free-standing flagpole. The trip was so much fun!” **Joshua Withey**



"My favourite part of the trip was the food and the kayaking and the canoeing... it was so much fun, especially the splash time at the end, we slid down the canoes into the lake, it was totally awesome!"

Ben FitzHerbert

"The river running was very cold and scary. We had to walk onto rocks in the river but you couldn't see where your foot would go! Then there was a ledge where you could jump off, we had to jump over the instructor... I preferred the high ropes, which I did not find scary. It was great fun, I really enjoyed it!" Kezia Holman

ations



Year 3 at Paignton Zoo: Wild Life

Thirty-five intrepid Year 3 explorers set off for a two day expedition to Paignton Zoo at the end of May. On their Zoo Safari, they encountered not only dangerous lions and tigers, but also poisonous frogs and scary crocodiles. All survived intact! They enjoyed listening to talks about habitats in the education rooms and bravely travelled on an open-sided train around the Zoo. Accommodation was not under canvas but at a delightful hotel nearby. A great time was had by all. Many thanks to Mrs. Shelbourne, Mrs. Willder, Mr. Morris and Miss Bennett for courageously accompanying us! W.J.N.



"I enjoyed the hot chocolate drink before bedtime. It felt cosy." Lucy FitzHerbert

"I really enjoyed seeing the baboons on the night walk. I especially liked the one called Lemon Slice." Nicky Hutton

"I enjoyed seeing Duchess, the elephant, because she kept knocking a ball of food with her trunk and it was really funny."

Poppy Borradaile

"I really enjoyed seeing the porcupine, capybara and the red panda because they are so cute." Amara Lilley

"The food was super good. I really enjoyed it at the hotel. I didn't want to leave!"

Meredith Thomas



Overnight *sensations*



Year 4 at Folly Farm: Super Furry Animals

This term Year 4 made their annual expedition to Folly Farm. Weather conditions were not ideal but a good time was had by all. Badger watching proved a very wet experience but we all enjoyed watching the badgers on film, for not surprisingly they only came out late at night when it had stopped raining and we were all tucked up in bed! Making animal motels and pond dipping were much more fruitful exercises with many newts and furry little animals being caught. Thank you to Mrs. Fitzherbert, Mrs. Carter and Mrs. Charlesworth for making the whole trip such a success *E.S.H.*

"It was fun doing den building at Folly Farm – we had to make our dens waterproof, using moss, leaves and grass. When they were built we had to throw water over the dens to test them... James found that his team's den was not waterproof when he got soaked!" *Otilie Davy*

"My favourite activity was mammal traps. We had to use seeds, apple and worms as bait then leave the trap in a field overnight and check it in the morning. I was hoping to catch a shrew or a mouse but I did not catch one." *Reuben Kerr*



Year 6 at the Ultimate Adventure Centre: Ready Assaulted

"Our first activity was the High Ropes, this was one of my favourites. We got to go around the suspended rope course as well as having a go on the zip wire, Jacob's Ladder and the climbing wall. Next we went on to the Ultimate Assault Course, which included lots of fun obstacles including the giant jumping balls and a cold plunge into a freezing pool by slide! Another of my favourite activities was surfing at Westward Ho! The surf was great! We also visited The Big Sheep attraction, which we had all to ourselves. We got to do whatever we wanted, including going on the Death Slides! Our final activity was Laser Tag – we were in two teams, who had to shoot each other... if you died you could respawn, but the team which respawned the least amount of times was the winner. Overall the residential was really fun and everyone really enjoyed it!" *Molly Joyner*



"The highlight for me was the surfing. We were taught the basics on the beach before heading into the sea, and when we were quite a long way out we immediately started catching loads of waves and standing up. Me and Will tried doing 360 degree spins on the boards... that's when Will face planted straight into the sand!"

Finn Muirhead

"The Ultimate Assault Course was like an easier version of Total Wipeout. My favourite part was the big balls... you ran along a raised platform, jumped onto the first ball then tried to jump onto the second. It was really funny watching other people having a go – but you didn't want to fall in the water when it was your turn because the water was freezing!"

Lottie Southgate





Outdoor Learning



It has been a great term for Outdoor Learning!

From the children in Nursery taking their Maths outside, to Year 6 preparing alfresco dining, all in the School have been making the most of taking their learning outside during the Summer term.

Year 4 experienced orienteering at Killerton House. They did three courses, starting simply, and culminating in a long walk around the grounds in small groups, using their map to locate each post. This was quite challenging and they were on their own (with staff placed strategically round the grounds!)

Year 3 walked along the canal from Halberton to the canal basin in Tiverton. It was a beautiful day and they saw much wildlife along the way. At the basin they did pond dipping which was great fun, and even managed to find a newt.

Year 3 also had opportunities during their Trips Week to experience the outdoors. They went to Knightshayes where the weather was not so good! However, they loved looking around the kitchen garden and then doing a trail in

the main garden of the house before having some free time to play.

They also had a great day in the woods when they worked together to make some fabulous dens, and they practised making their own campfire outside their den. The children loved sitting round the main campfire to eat their packed lunch.

The children love any opportunity to be outside and have learnt that there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing! S.A.S.



Pre-Prep Outdoor Learning Day



The skies were blue and the sun was shining for the Pre-Prep Outdoor Learning Day. Children in Year 2 and Kindergarten made their own fires and then whittled sticks for marshmallow toasting. Children in Year 1 made popcorn on the open fire. They all enjoyed a mug of hot chocolate that had been cooked on the fire and toasted their own marshmallows. All the children went off foraging for wild plants to put in a soup; the older children picked home grown vegetables from their gardens as well. During the afternoon, the children made shelters together whilst the soup was cooking. They made bread on the fire and enjoyed a hot bowl of soup at the end of the day. We certainly had a lot of fun! T.N.

Tesco Tiverton

Children in Year 3 enjoyed a trip to the local Tesco supermarket where they got the chance to go behind the scenes to see how fresh food is prepared, and were even able to sample some of the finest produce on offer!



TIVERTON CASTLE

Year 2 were very excited to be setting off in the school minibuses to visit Tiverton Castle. Mrs. Gordon was there to give us a cheery welcome when we arrived and then she gave us a guided tour. The children were fascinated by the information they heard and they listened really well to learn all about the history of the castle and those who had lived there in the past. They 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 were fascinated by the old castle toilet in the round tower and were really pleased that they did not have to clean them as young children had to in the past. The children really enjoyed looking at the armour, trying on the helmets and holding the heavy cannon ball. They were all very well behaved and Mrs. Gordon commented on their good manners. We all had a great time at this lovely local historical site. D.M.K.



Year 1 children spent a thoroughly interesting morning at Tiverton Museum learning about a Victorian Childhood. They dressed up in Victorian clothes, helped with laundry day, played with Victorian toys and learned about home and school life. They were particularly interested in finding out about how strict teachers were in the Victorian times! After the workshops, they were then able to go around the museum looking at the different artefacts. They were very excited about all that they had seen and heard! T.N.

The World of Country Life

All the children in Kindergarten had a fantastic day out when they visited The World of Country Life in 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 darting 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 great fun for the children as the goats had a mind of their own and they were definitely the ones in control!

Before lunch the children had more fun on the deer train. They saw lots of deer and even a two week old white calf. Nearly all the children had a go at feeding the deer, as well as some very proud looking llamas. On their return they tucked into their rolls, ready for the afternoon's adventures. They had great fun on the adventure playground before heading off to see the Birds of Prey demonstration. The children loved this especially when the birds flew right overhead. Madeleine had an Eagle Owl land right next to her – I'm not sure who looked more surprised! They were shown a Golden Eagle, an Eagle Owl, a very small African Scops Owl and a Harris Hawk. Before it was time to board the coach they had a chance to go and visit the rabbits and ducks in the nursery too.

We all clambered back onto the coach after a brilliant day out with perfect weather!

L.B.





DINOSAUR PARK

The Nursery classes along with their families enjoyed an exciting day at the Coombe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Park. There were lots of animals to see. The lions, meerkats and monkeys were a hit, and we all ate our lunch watching a sea lion show. The children were very impressed that the sea lions could balance balls on their noses, jump high out of the water and dive in from a high platform. They particularly liked the way the sea lions clapped each other.

The most eagerly anticipated and exciting part of the day was seeing the dinosaurs though. They braved the roar of Tyrannosaurus Rex and the horns of Triceratops!

Thanks to all our families who came with us and made it such a memorable day out. S.A.



out and about



PECORAMA

At the beginning of the Summer Term the Nursery classes visited Pecorama in Beer. They loved looking at the model railway exhibition and particularly enjoyed a ride on the Beer Heights Railway. They were able to look closely at the engine and saw the other trains in the engine shed. They explored the gardens and found a wiggly snake path, the sun and rainbow gardens and an octopus made out of shells in a cave. A great day was had by all! S.A.

Escot Park

Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic 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. A special mention must go to Theo McFadyen who managed to make it through the maze on his own and well before anyone else. Well done Theo! Once we had all escaped, we headed back to camp and made name badges using a hand-drill and bits of wood. Our next adventure was an encounter with some animals. First we went to the otter enclosure where we saw the otters eating. Then we went to feed some wild boar. We then had an amazing look at some birds of prey. They flew very close to us and some children felt a feather or two through their hair! Year 2 then went off on an adventure into the woods where we enjoyed our lunch by an open fire. After lunch we toasted some marshmallows on the fire and played in the woods. Then it was the moment that the children (and teachers!) had been waiting for - the challenging '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 great end to a fantastic day out. The children behaved really well and were a credit to the school. G.J.R.



Around the World in 80 Days

This year's Leavers' Play was *Around the World in 80 Days*, and Year 6 rose to the challenge of bringing Jules Verne's classic to the stage with gusto. With a circumnavigation of the world to cover in two acts, the cast were called upon to bring to life a rich tapestry of characters from all manner of cultures and nationalities, with Indian monks, Japanese dancers and American cowboys amongst many others all putting in their very own special appearances! Special mention must go to Christopher Churcher, playing Phileas Fogg, to Lottie Southgate, playing Passepartout, and to Gabriel Harrison-Kinnaid, playing Fix, for learning so many lines and delivering such strong speaking and singing performances. The costumes, the make-up, the lighting, props and set design all came together to add to the wonderful production, and the whole cast pulled off performances to be proud of as they leave the Prep School behind and continue onto the next phase of their own life journeys. We wish each and every one all the best! L.P.M.



Playtime





Hooray for the Little Red Hen

Kindergarten performed 'Hooray for the Little Red Hen' with much energy and enthusiasm and really sang their hearts out for the audience!

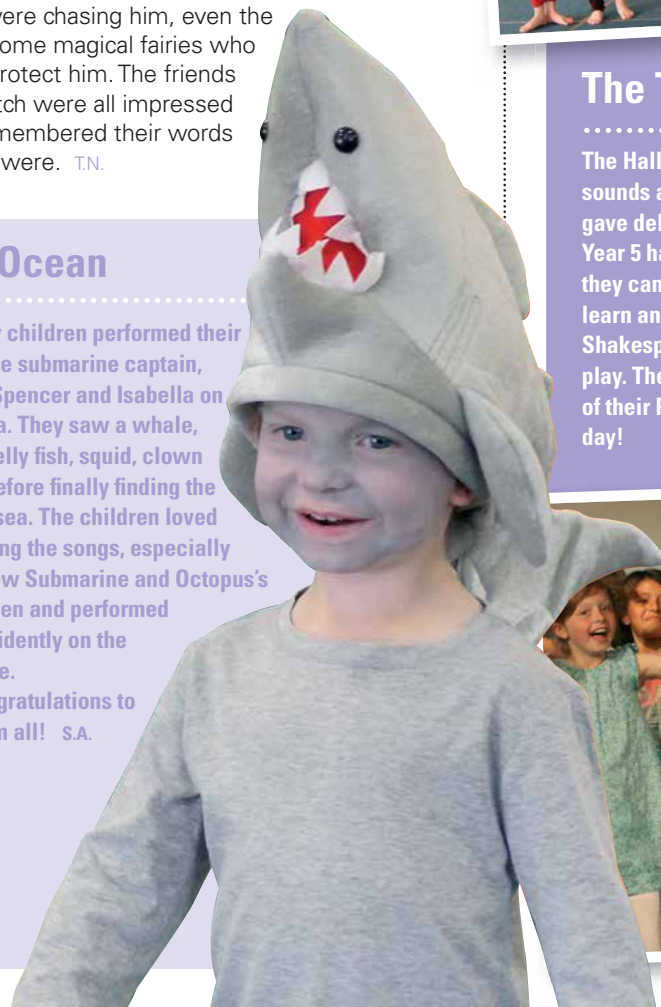


The Gingerbread Man

The Year 1 children thoroughly enjoyed performing their Summer Play, The Gingerbread Man, and they came on stage with big smiles and loud, clear voices. They sang some super songs and there were one or two delightful dances as well. The Gingerbread Man managed to fool many of the different characters that were chasing him, even the wily fox! Luckily, there were some magical fairies who cast a magic spell on him to protect him. The friends and families who came to watch were all impressed with how well the children remembered their words and by how confident they all were. T.N.

Commotion in the Ocean

Just before half term the Nursery children performed their play Commotion in the Ocean. The submarine captain, Barney, took the children Elsie, Spencer and Isabella on an exciting journey under the sea. They saw a whale, fish, shark, star fish, mermaids, jelly fish, squid, clown fish, Mr. Lobster and Mrs. Crab before finally finding the octopus in his garden under the sea. The children loved singing the songs, especially Yellow Submarine and Octopus's Garden and performed confidently on the stage. Congratulations to them all! S.A.



The Tempest

The Hall was full of noise, sounds and sweet airs that gave delight and hurt not... Year 5 had great fun when they came off timetable to learn and rehearse Shakespeare's farewell play. They then gave an enchanting performance of their Play-in-a-Day to parents at the end of the day!





Tea Time Concerts

Our Junior and Senior Tea Time Concerts continued this term and we now have more children than ever performing in them. I am constantly amazed at the confidence and enjoyment which is shown in the performances and it just highlights how much time and hard work the children dedicate to learning their instruments. Congratulations to all who have performed this term and over the past year.

B.L.C.



Summer Concert

The marquee was up, the sun was shining and picnics were packed... a perfect evening for our Summer Concert!

Getting 54 children on the stage with violins and cellos was quite a challenge but we managed and the concert began with three string pieces performed by both Pre-Prep and Prep children. Other groups performing included the Pre-Prep brass and recorder groups, the wind band, guitar ensemble, piano trios/quartets and our newly formed cello group.

Singing featured throughout the concert. Songs performed included a *Frozen Medley*, a *Pop Medley*, *Chim Chim Cheree* and *When I Grow Up*. Year 2 sang *Under the Sea* whilst the Choir, Boys Aloud, Girls Aloud, the Staff and The Mamas and Papas all performed. The concert ended with the whole school joining together to sing Gary Barlow's *Sing*.

A huge thank you must go to all the children for providing such a fantastic celebration 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.



“The most popular activity was pretending to be a long train with Mervyn, like the Pied Piper, leading the children around the trees.”



Musikgarten

Grey clouds and drizzle did not spoil the enjoyment of the Pre-Prep children when Mervyn Bedford, of Musikgarten, visited the school. The inclement weather meant the younger children started in the hall for their session with a variety of weather related action songs and rhymes. The sun came out just as they were singing about a rainbow and so the children were able to go outside where they learned a song about a mole which caused great excitement as they crawled through a tunnel. The most popular activity was pretending to be a long train with Mervyn, like the Pied Piper, leading the children around the trees. In addition the children learned about pitch and identifying low and high sounds. The children had the opportunity to play different kinds of bells to accompany a song about bluebells. J.K.P.





Write On

Four children from Years 5 and 6 were invited to attend a Writing Enrichment Day organised by LendMeYourLiteracy as part of the Tiverton Literary Festival in June. Molly Joyner, Estelle Tucker, Joshua Withey and Lucie Spencer joined children from other local schools at the Beale Centre for a workshop run by visiting author Charlie Carroll. They thoroughly enjoyed using Charlie's creative writing input to craft their own stories – which can be viewed online at Lendmeyourliteracy.com.



Pyjamarama

Many thanks to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising our PJ and Movie Night this term. Whilst the younger children enjoyed The Penguins of Madagascar, Paddington screened in the Pre-Prep and the older children settled down to A Night at the Museum! Everybody was excited to don their pyjamas for a relaxing night of snack munching cinematic entertainment!



Greece is the Word

Young Writer of the Year

As Abisha peeped round the pyramid she saw the most beautiful place she had ever seen: waterfalls were sparkling in the moonlight, jewels were gleaming on the candle lit path, the new King was dancing with Tutankhamen's wife on the twinkling amethyst dance floor. Tall pillars with emerald leaves carved into the base were towering over the palace casting strange, dark out-of-shape shadows above the dance. Abisha had always dreamed of entering the palace and going to the midnight dance...

Congratulations to Estelle Tucker, whose story 'Hieroglyphics' earned her the title 'Young Writer of the Year (Primary)' at the inaugural Mid Devon Gazette Pride Awards in June. Estelle's story was highly commended after having already made it through the first round of Radio 2's National 500 Word Short Story competition...

Year 3 was fortunate to be visited by 'Ancient Greek' Dom Russell. He was delighted to see everyone dressed in authentic costumes from this era. We met in The



Hub, which was our Ancient Greek base, and learnt about life in a democracy (Athens) and an oligarchy (Sparta), by acting out various scenarios. The children loved all the unusual facts that Dom introduced, such as that Spartan children slept on beds made from thistles!

Next, the children re-enacted the battle of Thermopylae. The Persian king Xerxes (Nicky) led the invasion against the Greeks. The Spartans chose to defend a narrow pass in the mountains, so the Persians were forced to fight in a narrow space. Needless to say, great fun was had by all, under Dom's guidance.

After this, the children were challenged to hit a target with a catapult, find the answers to a quiz and complete a wooden shape puzzle, which was designed by Aristotle! Finally, Dom showed us Ancient Greek armour and weapons. The children all tried out the spear and sword, as well as dressing up in the headdress and bronze greaves.

Everyone had a very exciting and action packed day. Many thanks to parents for providing the wonderful costumes. W.J.N.

If You Go Down To The Woods Today

Children and parents from Nursery and Kindergarten had great fun bringing their favourite furry friends to School to partake in the Teddy Bear's Picnic at the end of term!





Athletics

PREP SPORTS DAY

All in the Prep School had the opportunity to take part and compete in many different field events, including the mini discus, junior discus, vortex, shot put, cricket ball, rounders ball and long jump. There was an equal variety of track events open to all, including the 75m, 100m, 200m, 300m, 600m and 800m, different distances suiting different running styles. The final races saw the best junior and senior athletes taking the relay baton around the track in the 4x100 relays. All of these races were very closely contested and gave double points towards the House totals. After the last race the competitors and parents gathered around the announcer's tent and nearly 200 medals were given out by Mr. Mildren, Mr. Hirst and Miss Edwards. Mr. Mildren has now fired his last starting pistol at Blundell's Prep. We all wish him well in his next adventure and thank him on behalf of all of the athletes he has helped to coach over his time at the School. It was fitting that his House, Raleigh, won the Prep School 2015 Sports Day, with Grenville second, closely followed by Drake.

Thank you to all of the staff team at Blundell's Prep for helping to run the events throughout the afternoon, and to the parents for creating such a wonderful atmosphere.

S.G.S.



PRE-PREP SPORTS DAY

Our Pre-Prep Sports Day had to be held in the sports hall as the weather was unkind to us. This did not dampen spirits though and our parents were treated to an assortment of races from the traditional sprints through to the less traditional teddy bear races, with prams and silly hats. The children, some as young as three, had a wonderful time and did their very best in every event. As tradition dictates, the final two races required fathers to 'bunny hop' across the hall and the mums then took on the potato and spoon race! Needless to say, these were the most competitive races of the

day! A great afternoon was had by all, thanks to the children for giving their very best and to the parents for supporting so wholeheartedly.

A.D.S.



We started our season with the U9 and U11 Trophy meeting at Blundell's with the Senior School hosting the event on their grass track. We got off to a superb start with two excellent victories in the 800m and a clean sweep of victories in the 200m. A strong field events squad dominated the afternoon events and with an almost clean sweep of the relays, Blundell's retained the U11's Trophy for the 7th year in a row. The South West Championships at Millfield saw us taking a team of 10 U12's to compete in an event which gains selection for the National Athletics Championship in Birmingham. We had mixed results throughout the day with many athletes finding the step up hard going. Despite this there were excellent performances by Eve Nugent in the 1500m (2nd), Anna Maunder in the 800m (2nd), Honour Huggett in the Shot Put (2nd) and a fine performance from Thomas Labdon who won the Shot and was 3rd in the Discus. All four athletes were selected for the Nationals, Anna Maunder placing a very creditable 5th in one of two 800m graded finals and Thomas Labdon finishing an impressive 7th in the Boys U12 Discus. S.J.M.

Rounders

U8 ROUNDERS

The U8 A Team had a great first Rounders season and made huge progress. We comfortably won four matches against Exeter Cathedral, St. Peter's, Mount Kelly and Tidcombe and each match saw a greater understanding of the many rules of the game and an increasing awareness of tactics. Our toughest matches came towards the end of the season where we narrowly lost to Taunton and Exeter. The last match against Exeter was definitely the closest fought and I was so proud of the girls. Ruby Wetherall, Amara Lilley and Olivia Imregi made outstanding catches to get Exeter players out and Grace Horan, Mele Borradaile, Amber Tucker and Maya Corbin fielded with excellence. Lucy FitzHerbert scored a rounder or half a rounder on every ball and played with great skill at backstop. Floss Crease bowled consistently well throughout both innings and made wise decisions when fielding. It was a really exciting match to finish on and we only lost by one rounder. I was really impressed by the 'non sibi' ethos developed in the team and the words of encouragement heard for each other in every match. As Ruby pointed out to the team before the Exeter match, "There is no 'I' in team." Well done for all your hard work girls. *C.F.H.*

It has been a fun packed term for the U8 B Team this term. For most of the girls it was their first ever experience of playing Rounders and certainly their first experience of a Rounders fixture, both at Home and Away. I have been incredibly impressed with the tremendous enthusiasm and drive to do well that this young team has displayed throughout the season. Although we have not won all of our fixtures, the girls have developed their skills in all aspects of the game and, without exception, the batting and fielding skills of every team member have improved enormously. I have been very proud of the beautifully polite and courteous way that the girls welcomed visiting teams to our school while also being very impressed with the mature way that they handled themselves at our Away matches. Lovely manners and good Sportsmanship have been constantly in evidence. All in all a great term of energetic, lively and enthusiastic Rounders, so very well done to all of the girls. *J.W.*

U9 ROUNDERS

The U9 A Team had a most successful, undefeated season. They worked hard in lessons, took on board suggestions for improvement, thought carefully about tactics and most importantly they worked as a team. It has been wonderful to watch their confidence grow and to see them communicate with one another on the field. They have beaten Exeter Cathedral, West Buckland, Taunton, Mount Kelly, St. Peter's and Plymouth College this term. They have had some tough challenges too, facing strong opposition at the Millfield Tournament. Their fielding was stretched as they faced good batters, however, they still managed to come 3rd. Sometimes it takes more challenging experiences to help you learn from some of the mistakes you make and the girls certainly bounced back during their following weekday game. Honor Tobin and Issy Morrison were outstanding when batting, scoring many rounders and showing great commitment when running between the posts. As the season progressed Flossy Ames, Georgia Withey and Sophia Rochfort all became more consistent with bat in hand and used their initiative to steal posts when possible. Flossy Ames bowled with confidence saving many half rounders and making it difficult for the opposition to hit the ball. At backstop Constance Paterson's strong and accurate overarm throw was superb; she helped get many a batter out at 1st and 2nd. Georgia Withey and Sophia Rochfort stayed alert in the field and did a great job backing up 2nd. I was really pleased with Lucy Squibb's determination and foresight to think about stumping secondary runners. A superb season – very well done to all who contributed to the success of this team! *F.L.E.*

The U9 B Team have gone from strength to strength this season with their Rounders and have had great success as a team. They have beaten Exeter Cathedral, St. Peter's, Plymouth and Mount Kelly and only lost by a narrow margin to a strong Taunton side. Florence Chapman has been a determined and focused backstop playing to a consistently high standard in every game and Tilly Lane and Hattie Barnes have shared the role of bowler, both demonstrating great accuracy. All of the girls have fielded well and kept the other teams to a low score when batting and towards the latter part of term there were a great deal more rounders scored by the team as a whole. Well done. *L.B.*

U10 ROUNDERS

The U10 A Team have had a near flawless season. If only there had been one more week of training before fixtures started! The girls have won every single match they have played this season with the exception of their very first game when they were defeated by ½ a rounder! They have had victories over St. Peter's, Taunton, Wellington, Millfield and Exeter Junior School. Batting has been superb from Kezia Holman, Rachel Brown and Clem Bantock who have amassed a huge amount of rounders between them. Shea Clark and Elizabeth Honey have also connected with the ball well and have run cleverly between the posts to secure valuable halves. In the field Millie Evans has demonstrated an accurate overarm throw from her position at backstop and has managed to contribute to running players out at 1st and 2nd posts. Their final touch of a Rounders bat this season took place at the Millfield tournament where they were crowned champions. A fitting end to a most successful season! A special mention must go to Honor Tobin who stepped in at the 9th hour. Who would have ever thought she was U9? Her batting, fielding and bowling were superb! Another highly successful season – very well done! *F.L.E.*

The U10 B Team has come a long way since the start of the Rounders season and the girls have worked hard in order to improve their batting and fielding skills, as well as their understanding of the game. The team came across some tough opposition but continued with commitment, batting practice began to reflect in the girls' game and was rewarded with rounders beginning to be

scored. The delight in the girls' faces was evident and they began to work together as a team and develop some confidence in their game. Let's build on this confidence next year girls! *B.L.C.*





U11 ROUNDERS

The U11 A Team have had another outstanding term of sport, displaying the highest level of skill in all matches they have played. The biggest highlight was winning the Millfield tournament against some very tough competition and also getting through to the third round of the IAPS competition where they narrowly lost to Millfield, who eventually came runners-up in the National finals. Lottie Southgate's bowling was superb throughout, putting huge pressure on the batters with her fast bowling, and Cosima Mundy backed her up brilliantly as backstop, scooping up the missed balls and getting them to first or second post. Honor Huggett took some fantastic catches in the field and Freya Marr dealt swiftly with many non-hitters by stumping them out on first. Anna Maunder took her batting to the next level by using a huge variety of shots to find the spaces in the field and was the top scorer of the season. Well done to all the girls this year and I look forward to hearing of your future successes at the Senior School. L.B.

Wins at Queen's, Taunton Prep, St. Peter's, Maynard and Plymouth College saw the U11 B Team put together some very impressive results this season. The pairing of Isabel Leyshon as bowler and Molly Joyner at backstop often reduced the oppositions' scoring chances. Estelle Tucker and Tyler Read both improved their catching skills at 1st and 2nd base and were very ably backed up by some excellent deep fielding from Megan Sharp, Eve Nugent and Kaira Hinchliffe. Our batters often amassed some large scores with the best results coming from Eve, Meg, Isabel and Molly. Despite the one defeat against Millfield, the B's put together a near perfect set of statistics and should be very proud of their endeavours this season. S.J.M



U9 CRICKET

With the weather not up to its usual tricks this year the U9 A Team were able to play and complete a very busy fixture list. The boys played with their customary attacking approach, a tactic our own national side has just begun to employ to good effect. Runs came easily and our experienced batting pair of Harry Southgate and William Maunder topped the batting averages, ably supported by Barnaby Hull and James Clarkson, who are fast emerging as two batsmen to look out for. Our bowling attack didn't always prove accurate enough and we often gave away too many wides and no balls. However, there were spells of excellent individual performances, with Toby Low taking three wickets in an over on two occasions, and some fast and accurate bowling from James Clarkson, Harry Southgate and William Maunder. My thanks go to Harry Southgate who captained the side with a maturity well beyond his year, and to that hardy group of parents who follow us all over the county and have been so supportive this term. S.J.M.

The U9 B Team has the raw ingredients of energy, teamwork and a will to succeed, our batsmen have always come out fighting, and all have made good progress, proving dedicated pairs cricketers ready to progress to hard ball and 20/20 matches. Well done boys, I look forward to seeing you developing your skills in action again next year. S.G.S.

Cricket

"...My thanks go to that hardy group of parents who follow us all over the county and have been so supportive this term.."

U10 CRICKET

The U10 Squad has had a strong backbone of players who have constantly played their part in both batting and bowling. In the nature of cricket it is possible to miss-time a shot and lose your wicket, being out and for not many runs. But the team has got batsmen throughout the order who contribute to the total. This was seen as the whole year group was rotated across the A Team matches. Therefore all had the opportunity to experience hard ball 20/20 matches, where being out ended their day with the bat. The whole squad need to develop the confidence to hit the hard ball but everybody bowled a couple of overs in every game, showing the all-round qualities of the year group and the energy in the field never dropped, highlighting what an enthusiastic group of promising cricketers they are. I am sure next season will see the team mature into a forceful victorious unit. S.G.S.

Not to be outdone by the boys, the senior girls have also been quick to the crease this term, keen to wield the bat and bowling the ball with all of the spirit and enthusiasm of their male counterparts, and then some!



U8 CRICKET



The start of the cricket season brought about much excitement amongst the U8 Squad – the chance to bring in their own bats, the opportunity to wear their new whites and the possibility of having ‘tea’ outside were all key talking points! The first lessons

and matches played quickly identified the need for lots of practice at bowling. In the format used for the Under 8's, wide balls give away two runs – the boys soon realised that too many of these could lose a match before a bat was even picked up and so they maturely spent lots of time at break, lunchtime, in Games lessons, down the corridors and possibly in living rooms at home, practising their swings. The results were remarkable and they should be very proud of the improvements that they all made as the season went on. Wins against Mount Kelly, St. Peter's and Exeter Cathedral were all very well deserved, but perhaps the most exciting match was a narrow 5-run loss against Exeter School – who needs The Ashes when you have tension like that?! Special mentions must go to Will Edwards and Harry Clarkson for the way in which they delivered to a very high standard on a consistent basis, but praise must also be given to Edward Harris for his brilliant attitude through the term, to Ethan Moran for his superb ‘sixes’ and to Charlie Cracknell for his determination to make a speedy recovery from his broken leg. A wonderful season of cricket, well played everyone! D.J.M.

U11 CRICKET

There were highs and lows during the cricket season with the U11 A Team experiencing resounding wins alongside nail-biting defeats. What remained consistent across the term was the boys’ determination to improve and to give their best to the team, something that they should be very proud of. Game one of eight saw the boys achieve a 92 run win at Queen's (Kit Barnes 50no, Joshua Brown 22no) and the team of eight bowlers all contributing to get the season off to the best possible start. Confidence was high as the boys took on St. Peter's on a postage stamp pitch and an exciting 7 run victory was secured (Kit Barnes 29no, Nathan White 24). Our third opponents were East Devon and this was a tough task with the side losing by 38 runs (Nathan White 20, Joshua Brown 3-18, Finn Muirhead 2-9). Game four saw us travel to West Buckland for a thrilling match in which defeat was snatched from the jaws of victory, our opponents putting together a 30 run 9th wicket stand to win by the narrowest of margins (Nathan White 14, Finn Muirhead 2-4). With confidence still high we travelled to King's Hall and were given a lesson in cricket, being bowled out for 57 having been 2 for 4 at one stage (Finn Muirhead 23). King's Hall then scored the runs in 7 overs, with one of their batsmen scoring a 15 ball 50 which included 6 straight sixes! Another tough fixture followed and a 99 run defeat at the hands of Exeter School (Joseph Provis 23no, Nathan White 3-26) before a much needed victory at Exeter Cathedral (Harry Huggett 36, Kit Barnes 3-13), the boys winning by 40 runs. The final match saw the team face Millfield and in a game that went right down to the last over, they could not manage to get over the line, losing by 3 wickets (William Venner 18, Henry Crease 2-6, Freddie Labdon 2-7, Harry Huggett 2-8). A mixed set of results when one looks back at the eight matches, but the team played in the right spirit and always gave their very best. A.D.S.



Blundell's Prep SPORTS



All of the boys in the U11 B Team have had a wonderfully enjoyable season this year and have improved enormously in terms of their core skills and techniques. They were introduced to the hard cricket ball as soon as their confidence allowed and, from then on, there was no looking back as they displayed bravery and determination when faced with a speeding missile being hurled or whacked towards them. All of the boys strengthened their existing skills enormously throughout the term and this was typified by the courageous batting of George Worcester who went for three matches without being dismissed. Further batting highlights were achieved by Tom Swain, Ben Hutton and Christian Tiernan, all of whom scored freely and regularly. On the bowling front the excellent left-arm actions of William Cave and Oscar Prior-Palmer were genuine delights, while the wonderful rhythm of Oliver Butler's increasingly rapid action thrilled his coach considerably more than the visiting batsmen. Alongside this, the wicket-keeping of Alex Lawler was increasingly reliable as the term progressed. Many congratulations must go to all of the boys who represented the team with such excellent sportsmanship and friendship towards all. It has been a wonderfully enjoyable season and a genuine delight to spend some sunny, and some not-so-sunny, afternoons coaching and umpiring this charming group of young cricketers.

J.C.K.

Speech Day

Chairman of the Governors Mr. Peter Johnson, Head Master Mr. Andy Southgate and Guest Speaker and Poet Matt Harvey all addressed pupils, staff and parents at Speech Day. Mr. Southgate highlighted the many successes and achievements of the School during the past year, before Matt entertained the assembled guests with some of his poetry – his poem entitled 'My Doggy don't go to the Toilet' proving a particular hit – and urged the pupils to make the most of the many opportunities open to them. Matt also gave out the prizes, many to Year 6 leavers, in recognition of the huge number of personal triumphs achieved across the curriculum, and all in Year 6 were presented with their fabulous Leavers' Books. The weather was not kind on the day, but while refreshments were served after the ceremony, Year 6 enjoyed gathering autographs for their Leavers' Books – as a fine reminder of their times at Blundell's Preparatory School. L.P.M.



Non  Sibi

Blundell's
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