

SPRING 2016

review

Jockeying for Position:

First Past the Post at Exeter Racecourse



Create, Explore, Imagine:
Opportunities to Shine

Inside:
Nurturing individual
talents in Creative Arts
Week, across the
Curriculum and beyond!



"This is a great strength of our school as children are given every opportunity to become the best that they can be..."



One of the best things about working in schools is that no two days are ever the same. There is always something new to be part of and a constant drive within the school to broaden and enhance the opportunities available to all of the children here at Blundell's Prep. You only have to look through the pages that follow to see this in all its glory, with everything from outdoor adventures to quiz competitions and scholarship success to fund-raising enterprises. We pack a great deal into each term and this allows every child the opportunity to develop their interests,

to find what they are good at and what they are passionate about. I am of the firm belief that success should be celebrated and we make this a weekly feature with our Awards Assemblies taking place every Friday within the Pre-Prep and the Prep School. To say that there are a wide variety of achievements recognised would be somewhat of an understatement as any parent who has joined us for one of these much loved assemblies will testify. The Yogi of the week, badges for individual success in obtaining Merits or House Point wrist bands, swimming awards, gymnastics or chess to name but a few of the areas of school life which are regularly celebrated. There is also regular recognition of individual success in the more academic elements of school life, and Head Master's Awards are presented for exceptional work as well as outstanding individual effort in a particular field of school life. Often teams are applauded for their accomplishments and we always finish our assemblies with House totals and the traditional drum roll, allowing every child to feel that they have made a contribution to their House or to inspire them on to greater success during the next week. As I remind them every week "It's all to play for!" and they never fail to respond in the most positive of ways.

The focus for this edition of Review is 'Recognising Individual Success' and throughout the pages that follow you will see the ways in which children are recognised for their achievements. This is a great strength of our school as children are given every opportunity to become the best that they can be, whatever aspect of school life they show an interest in. This is achieved in all manner of ways but at the heart of its success is a focus on every individual's aptitudes or interests and then providing for those, whether they be in the academic, sporting or artistic arenas. Small class sizes, access to specialist facilities and exceptional staff provide a potent combination from which to support all of the children to become their best selves. It is important that children are able to see that their efforts and their achievements are recognised and valued by those around them so this is part of our daily practice here at Blundell's Prep, whether it be recognition of a debut performance in a Teatime Concert or an academic award to the Senior School. Every child has the chance to experience success and to feel valued for their achievements, many of which are included in this Spring edition of the Review.

Andy Southgate Head Master



SPEAKING OUT

Speech and Drama students impressed and entertained this term in their poetry and prose recital for parents. The students, under the expert guidance of Mrs. Rochfort, continue to enjoy huge success in achieving higher and higher grades from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts.



CELEBRATING Success



ACADEMIC HONOURS

Congratulations to Sophia Fields, Louis Hinchliffe, Kezia Holman, Elizabeth Honey, Lucie Spencer and Joshua Withey for gaining Academic Awards to the Senior School, and to Mimi Griffiths, Patrick Taylor-Ross and Nathan Winchester who have all been awarded a Junior Scholarship. Well done to all!



RADIO 2 500 WORDS SHORT STORY COMPETITION:

Stop Press! As we go to print, we have just learned that Louis Hinchliffe, Year 6, has been selected to progress through to the second round of judging in Radio 2's national story writing competition, with his entry, Book Worm.

I thought I was amazing, my name is Tony, I'm an Oxford dictionary with half as many pages as before my adventure. It all started one Saturday morning... I boasted a lot, I mean A LOT, I will admit it! I thought I was so great because I had so many pages, over 800, and so many people read me. All of the other books absolutely despised me, I tried to tell them I was just blatantly better. It was a sunny Saturday morning, in other words book rush, and at 8:00 when the library opens at least 100 kids swarmed through the front, back and emergency doors. Half of them ran towards my shelf; all the other books started to get extremely excited so I started to say, "They're not coming for you, they're coming for me..."

Well done to all who entered this high profile competition, and congratulations Louis for standing out from the 123,400 stories submitted nationwide!



Cake A-Doodle Doo

Following the hugely successful Blundell's Bake-Off cake baking competition open to Year 6 in Creative Arts Week, the worthy winners were invited to attend a masterclass workshop with Kate from Cake A-Doodle Doo, in which they learnt about the art of cake decoration, producing some spectacular - and most delicious - results!



CELEBRATING Success



Above: James Clarkson, Freddie Cox, Valerie Wilson and Ben FitzHerbert in action for victorious Raleigh at the House Quiz Competition.

QUIZ MASTERS

Congratulations to Oscar Winsley, Charlie Cracknell, Amelia Churcher, Flo Cave, Harry Southgate, Freddie Cox, Joshua Withey and Nicky Hutton for winning a place in the Blundell's Quiz Club team. The team travelled to Exeter Cathedral School to take part in the prestigious general knowledge Quiz Club competition this term, where they performed extremely well against some top quiz teams from around the South West, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Back in School, congratulations go to Raleigh for winning our own tightly contested House Quiz Competition!



CHANGING SEASONS

Flowers shooting out of the brown, grubby soil.
Buds reaching for the sweet scorching sun.
Swallows sitting and singing on a low branch.
Swans swimming on a silver surfaced slow flowing stream.

Tall strands of swishy grass swaying in the wind.
Butterflies fluttering around the lovely, luscious, lilac flowers.

Mice scampering suddenly from the spying, screeching sparrow hawk.
Crows cawing when they see mean, menacing men approach.

The rustling of the crispy, crunchy leaves meets my ears.
The swallows gorging on the gorgeous bugs before they fly to Africa.
Everywhere is orange like a sea of colour dripping on the ground.
The weather is turning bad but the sun still breaks through.

Glistening, glittering snow twinkles in the sun.
Robins bunch together in their nests like Emperor Penguins.
Lakes freeze so the mighty heron can no longer fish for fish.

James Clarkson

Stanzas Deliver

Poetry Day was celebrated with a range of different challenges and competitions. There were poetry decorating and poetry reciting competitions in the Pre-Prep, and it was wonderful to hear the children recite their poems and to see them dressed up as such interesting poetry characters. It was especially nice to be joined by the Year 8 children from the Senior School who recited a poem of their own and helped to judge the final of the Poetry Recital Competition. In the Prep School the challenge was to write a poem based on the theme of the outdoors. Many terrific entries were submitted, but in the end James Clarkson, Year 5, was selected as overall winner for his poem, 'Changing Seasons'. Well done to all the children who took part and enjoyed sharing poems together! **LPM & TN**

Humanity Challenged!

Earlier this term a group of children from Years 3 to 6 were tasked with saving the human race! Having been invited to attend a secret meeting, the group of 16 were told that the earth was coming to an end and that they would be in charge of 'Earth 2' a mission to build a new colony to save the human race. So in groups of four the children set about deciding who they would take and what resources they would need to support the colonists as they established themselves on the new planet. There were some remarkable ideas, all of which were shared during an afternoon which saw our top Humanities students challenged to use their knowledge and understanding of History, Geography and RS in order to formulate a plan for the future of mankind. After resources were established, and the merits of every profession (thankfully, there were lots of



teachers on board), gender and age were debated fully, a suitable settlement was selected from the map of Earth 2, studiously avoiding volcanoes but utilising the natural environment to good effect. The issue of leadership and government was discussed and debated, with the merits of democracy seeming to make way for the need for strong and decisive leadership from the top! The afternoon was a great example of the importance of challenging children to solve problems and think creatively when faced with new situations - let's just hope that they never find themselves having to save the human race for real! **ADS**



KORMA CHAMELEONS

With the delicious smell of spices wafting through the school, a number of intrepid fathers set out to curry favour by preparing a feast to take home and share with their families at this term's Curry Cooking Workshop for Dads. Through much laughter and under the expert guidance of our wonderful chef Craig, and Food Technology Teacher Sarah, our Dads produced some very tasty meals indeed!



LONDON'S BURNING

Year 1 spent a day learning about the Great Fire of London. A wool merchant called Master Hugh Scrivenor visited the School to tell the children all about the fire and about life at that time. The children dressed up in the types of clothes that were worn in those days. They found out about the food of that time for both rich and poor people. They learned about the buildings and how they were different from the homes we live in today. They used quills and looked at the types of letters that were used. The day ended with a great drama session in which the children acted out the events of the Great Fire. It was a wonderfully informative day. **TN**

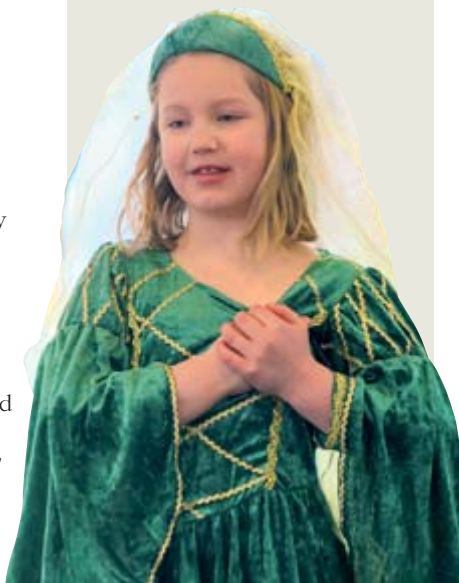


news



THE MAGIC MIRROR OF HEALTH

Year 2 performed a super spring play called "The Magic Mirror of Health." It was a delightful story of a king who wanted to marry a beautiful princess. He was unable to find a suitable wife to marry him because he was so unfit and unhealthy. With the help of the doctors and the villagers, he starts to improve his health and fitness. Finally, he is such a picture of health that he manages to find a lovely princess to marry him. The children thoroughly enjoyed performing in front of their friends and families. They sang some lovely songs and even inspired the audience to join in with the fitness exercises! **TN**



Once again we were thrilled to welcome over 100 grandparents to our school. It is fascinating to watch the interaction between the children and their grandparents. The children were very proud to show their grandparents what they are learning and the enthusiasm was high as the grandparents tried to emulate the high standards we expect! Teaching methods may have changed over the years but the willingness to 'give it a try' certainly hasn't!



Wild Life

Squeals of delight and excitement were heard from the Pre-Prep hall when Neil Vaughan visited the School. Neil came to give the children in Nursery and Kindergarten a 'Really Wild Encounter'. With a jungle backdrop and rainforest sounds the children were enthralled as Neil produced three different creatures for them to learn about and handle. The first were Giant Hissing Cockroaches called Cedric, Shirley and Charlie. The children found out that they come from Madagascar and eat rotting fruit and vegetation. Next we met Ginny the Bird Eating Spider. As well as eating hummingbirds in the wild they also eat grasshoppers, frogs and small lizards. The final creature was Norris, a Blue-tongued Skink from Australia. It was wonderful to see how the children's confidence developed during the hour that Neil was with us. Several children, who were initially reluctant to touch any of the creatures, plucked up the courage to stroke Norris by the end of the morning!

JKP





HORRID HENRY

The children in Year 5 were very lucky to take a trip back through time when they were visited at school by King Henry VIII. During the morning King Henry explained about his life, his family's life and the story of his six wives. He also told stories of life in Tudor England including tales of torture, execution, punishment and various illnesses and their cures. Needless to say, the children loved this part of the day! In the afternoon, the children raced against each other in a jousting tournament. It was fiercely contested between teams of boys and girls but in the end the boys came out as victors. The children had a fantastic day and 'Good King Hal' really brought the topic of the Tudors to life for them. **GJR**



SCHOOL DISCO

Many thanks to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising such well appreciated Spring entertainments for the children this term. While the Pre-Prep children enjoyed clowning around at their party, the older children quickly proved that they had far more energy than the staff and looked far better on the dance floor at their disco!



PARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?

On Tuesday 15th March, Years 5, 6, 7 et 8 went to see a funny and energetic French theatre production at the Senior School called 'Parlez-vous Francais?' performed by Onatti, a company who specialise in writing and performing plays for schools. We were given a sample of the script beforehand to work on in French lessons and were given the chance to get involved on stage.

The play was set in a French hospital in a ski resort, where Ben, an English boy on a school trip ended up, following an accident on the slopes. The play tracks his progress trying to communicate with the French nurse, the French doctor and a French patient at the hospital. With lots of visual, slapstick humour as well as regular recaps of vocabulary, the children followed the story and laughed along in the process. A great way to bring the language to life! **CFH**



Luncheon Meet

Year 3 children were delighted to welcome their parents to join them for lunch this term. We eat well at the Prep School and our parents were delighted to see the balanced diet on offer to all of our children. School dinners have come a long way since the days of liver and lumpy custard!



ANCIENT EGYPT: MUMMIES AND BADDIES

Year 3 had a great day exploring and recalling many aspects of the Ancient Egyptian culture. They enthusiastically mummified Sydney, watched over carefully by Anubis (better known as Theo). They then made a pyramid from a net and an Anubis headdress. After that they made a small model of a shaduf to help them understand how water was taken from the Nile to irrigate crops. They also made a clay amulet and learnt how to make 'paper' using the papyrus plant which is grown along the Nile. They wrote their name on this papyrus in hieroglyphic writing. This was a really great day, enjoyed by all! **SAS**





CREATIVE ARTS WEEK 2016



*Create, Explore,
Imagine*

*...acting, batik, collage,
computer animation,
cooking, clay, creating,
dancing, drumming, felt
work, film making,
modelling, painting,
pastels, performing, petri
dishes, photography,
playing, researching,
screen printing, singing,
sketching, sticking,
tie dye...*





The theme for Creative Arts Week was the 2016 Olympics in Rio and we enjoyed an action-packed week with a carnival feel, full of salsa dancing, drumming and feathery headdresses! Amongst many other things Year 3 painted rainforest trees and made clay rainforest creatures, Year 4 created beautiful animal batiks, Year 5 worked with visiting artist, Tony Minnion, to create some beautiful screen prints and Year 6 painted rainforest inspired canvasses with artist Rory Nugent.

CREATIVE ARTS WEEK

Create, Explore, Imagine



CELEBRATING

Success



CHALKS AWAY

Featured Artist Maddie Biss, 11, always puts so much time and care into her work. Maddie draws and paints with incredible detail, always looking at every fine line. Also, she has a fantastic imagination which helps her to create her own drawings! SU



PLAY IN A DAY: RESPECT IN RIO

We were joined by the Big Foot Theatre company and an actress named Charlie who directed our production - although all the ideas came from Year 4. Charlie had asked us to think of a character, fictional or non-fictional, who may be performing in Rio. Mrs. Charlesworth encouraged us to be very creative and in our drama lessons beforehand we had talked about the Olympics and what it might mean to anyone taking part in such a prestigious event.

At the start of the day we met Charlie, who was just great, and we played some games to help relax us, as some of us were a little worried about how the day would work. The games were great fun and soon everyone was joining in including Mrs. Cracknell! We quickly moved on to dancing the Samba which was really good fun and Jacob was a complete natural Samba dancer.

We finally put together our ideas and Play in a Day was performed to a very supportive audience. "I was very worried and excited - but it was really good fun!" said Harry Clarkson. "I would definitely do it again!" said Lara Baxter, and Jemima Mitchell added: "The parents really enjoyed our Play in a Day!"

**Mrs. Charlesworth
and Year 4**



"The drumming workshop was really fun and it was exciting learning how to do samba dancing... we learned a lot about mixing paint colours with Rory and the Brazilian designs were absolutely amazing, they looked beautiful!"

Harry Bouchier-Hayes and Lucie Spencer, Year 6



www.bigfoottheatre.co.uk

10 February 2016

Dear Mrs Charlesworth,

I am writing to thank you for all the wonderful, creative work from the year four students during play in a day. The children really impressed me, they were confident, brave, imaginative and beautifully behaved.

Creating a play in a day can be incredibly hard work for such young children; there is such a lot to get done and I can be super tough on the children when in my director role! I thought your year four's approached the day with a superb 'can do' attitude. When receiving feedback and while tidying up scenes, they showed great resilience and maturity, getting on with their work and always striving to improve.

If year four can achieve such a fabulous devised performance in just one day, I am quite certain that they will achieve truly great things in their lives. Thank you so much for such a fantastic day, kindest regards,

Charlie Sanderson
Bigfoot Arts Education





MUSICAL *Notes*

It has been another extremely busy musical term. We have been lucky enough to have been treated to a couple of performances by visiting Bands and Orchestras. Year 6 watched the RAF Big Band perform. Pieces included The Flintstones, Let It Go, Hey Jude and some more traditional Big Band pieces such as American Patrol by Glenn Miller. It was a wonderful morning of music with lots of audience participation! Following this, Year 5 and 6 went to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform. The theme of the concert was Fairytale and Fantasy and featured pieces such as Stravinsky's The Firebird and Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. The children took part in a body percussion piece and the concert ended with the orchestra accompanying the children as they sang a song which had been composed especially for the concert.

On Wednesday 13th January 55 of our Year 5 and 6 children travelled to Birmingham to take part in the National Young Voices Concert at the Genting Arena. The children joined 6500 other children to sing together in what is the largest series of school choir concerts in the world. They performed a variety of music including a Pop Medley, World in Union, a Madness Medley and a Gospel Medley. The children were joined by musicians and artists including Laura Wright (who sang at the closing ceremony of the Rugby World Cup) and dance company Urban Strides. The



children sang and danced to a packed arena. It was an amazing experience for all involved, giving us a real taste of what it is like to perform in an arena concert!

Our Spring Concert saw pupils from the Prep School performing with pupils from the Senior School. The Prep School performed Get Loud whilst some of our instrumentalists performed Overture to La Gazza Ladra by Rossini in a combined Orchestra. The first half of the concert ended with the Prep School singing Abba's Money, Money, Money accompanied by the Senior School Orchestra. Our Year 6 choristers headed to the Chapel for the second half of the concert and performed Only in Sleep with the Senior School Choir. It was a fantastic concert and a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to perform with older and more experienced musicians.

Our small singing groups and some

instrumentalists performed at a lunch to raise money for Christian Aid. The children performed at St. George's Church as part of a series of lunches which take part over the Lent period. The audience were entertained with songs from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, violin pieces and something 'Spooky'.

In addition to our House Music event, our Tea Time Concerts have also continued this term, providing an opportunity for many of our children to perform. We have a huge number of children having music lessons and it is wonderful to see them performing in these concerts with confidence and enthusiasm. Many have achieved considerable success at Associated Board and Trinity Music Exams this term.

A big thank you to all the children and staff who have made this term's music so successful. **BLC**



House Music

Our House Music Competition took place at the end of Creative Arts Week. Songs performed this year were Bills, A Hard Day's Night, Money, Money, Money and Skyfall. Small groups also performed including wind groups, guitar ensembles, string groups, piano trios and small singing groups. The Pre-Prep also took part with children from Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 singing I've Got No Strings from Pinocchio. The judging was, as ever, extremely close with Drake being the overall winners. Thank you very much to Mr. Gordon for judging the competition and to all the staff for their endless amounts of enthusiasm! **BLC**



CELEBRATING *Success*



ON THE FIDDLE

Featured Musician Elizabeth Honey, 6AL, was awarded a Music Scholarship for the Senior School. Well done Elizabeth, I am sure you will go on to enjoy great musical success! **BLC**





Outdoor Learning

The move to take Learning Outside the Classroom continues to gather pace at Blundell's, and this term everyone from Nursery to Year 6 has had the opportunity to take their learning out into the wider world. Whether exploring the school grounds, the local woods or further afield, in weathers balmy or more challenging, all have enjoyed a diverse range of outdoor activities, from art, music and poetry writing to building dens and campfires. The older children have particularly enjoyed working together to create the kind of wattle and daub roundhouse shelter that the first settlers to the area would have constructed and lived in... a muddy work in progress!



Kindergarten, Year 1 and 2 had enormous fun on Wednesday 13th January. They spent the afternoon building dens with the help of some of Years 5 and 6. All the children worked tremendously well together and the older children looked after the younger ones incredibly well. After building some very impressive dens, we stopped for hot chocolate and flapjacks around the camp fire before going back to the dens for some stories read by the Year 5 and 6s. The afternoon was rounded off by having great fun playing in each other's dens and seeing what all the other groups had been up to. The children went home fairly muddy and extremely happy! **CB**





Year 4 had an amazing day in the woods in January. They didn't let the weather dampen their spirits as they met the challenge of the day with typical enthusiasm. The children were split into groups to make a den using natural materials. With very little guidance, the children demonstrated fantastic organisational skills to construct their woodland homes. The teachers in charge of each of the groups noted some fantastic examples of the children working as a team to achieve their goals. The children were then treated to a campfire lunch of sausages, potato wedges and beans to refuel them for their next challenge. After smartening up their dens, the children had to make their own fire in order to toast marshmallows. This was no mean feat considering the damp weather! Once the camp was packed away the children went back to school to complete an Easter egg hunt. All in all, the children (and staff!) had a fantastic day in the woods and we are all looking forward to our next Outdoor Learning Challenge! **GJR**



LET'S GET READY TO RAMBLE!

The children in Year 5 explored the beautiful Barle valley on their Outdoor Learning day. They started on the top of Exmoor, basking in glorious sunshine before yomping across the moor and descending into the northern end of the valley. Their trek took them along the valley floor where they learned about the history and geology of the land around them and the people who used to populate the area, before they finished at the stunning Tarr Steps. It proved the most wonderfully educational and adventure-filled day out and just the sort of event to really inspire the children and fuel their already highly-charged curiosity! **JCK**



Year 6 had their outdoor learning day in February. We all came to school in waterproof clothing and headed off to the woods. When we got there we split into three groups. There were three activities: Hedge Laying, Wattle and Daub and making a stone patio. When we did hedge laying we were taught how to use lots of different axes and knives! Making a patio involved tiling with big stone slabs and filling the gaps with mud! We got much muddier when wattle and daubing though – we mixed hay and mud and water together, then we trampled on it to get just the right consistency before using the mixture to clad the shelter. After we had done all of the activities we went back to school for a much needed shower and change of clothes!

Clem Bantock, Year 6

Out and about

Horseplay at Exeter Racecourse

Usually when the words 'Maths' and 'racecourse' are mentioned in the same sentence some kind of betting is involved...but you will be pleased to hear that when our Year 6 pupils went to Exeter Racecourse in January not a single bookmaker was visited! As part of our initiative to make Maths education more 'real', the pupils had a wonderful day visiting workshops organised by the British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust. Ollie McPhail, a former jump jockey, entertained the children through interactive sessions during which time they discovered how important numbers really are. Visits to the weighing room, parade ring and stables all added to a fun-packed day, during which time the pupils were constantly challenged to apply the strong mathematical skills that they have developed over the years. What a wonderful experience! **DJM**

"We visited the Weighing Room, where the jockeys prepare themselves before each race. We found out about the important relationship between weight and performance in racing and how the handicapping system works. We had the opportunity to look at various pieces of equipment, to consider how light they are and to try some on. We discussed distances, the condition of the going and other factors that may affect a horse's performance. We also learnt about the technology of the photo finish and got to judge some close finishes for ourselves!"

Lucie Spencer & Harry Bouchier-Hayes



EXETER CATHEDRAL AND EXETER MOSQUE

This term Year 2 have been learning about places of worship as part of their Religious Education Curriculum and on Thursday 17th March they were fortunate to be able to visit Exeter Cathedral and then Exeter Mosque. The children were taken on a guided tour of the Cathedral and they saw many interesting features including the font, stained glass windows and the pulpit. They asked lots of good questions and then the children participated in a treasure hunt to find brass plaques. Later on the children were delighted to be able to do their own brass rubbings to bring back to School. As part of the day the School staff surprised the children as they had organised for them to lay a piece of Lego on the model being made in the Cathedral to raise vital funds. This caused a lot of excitement and some good photo opportunities!

After a much anticipated packed lunch we got back on the coach and travelled the short distance to Exeter Mosque where we were met by the Imam and he showed us the men's washing area as well as talking us through some of the customs and traditions. All the children listened very carefully and they had the opportunity to ask questions too. We were also invited to watch some Muslims pray and the children sat really quietly and behaved respectfully as they watched the rituals that they had heard about at school. The Imam then offered the children and adults refreshments and happily answered the questions that children had about what they had seen and heard.

We all had a fantastic day and the children were very keen to share all the things that they had enjoyed on our return to school. **DMJ**





FULL SERVICE HISTORY AT POWDERHAM CASTLE

Year 6 had a wonderful day at Powderham Castle, immersing themselves in life as a Victorian servant. They scrubbed the floors, polished shoes and did all of the ironing, a somewhat different experience from their normal lives – or so they told me! The children also got the chance to learn about the Victorian kitchen and they made some delicious lemonade to accompany the tasty griddle cakes. The whole day was a lot of fun, made all the better by everyone dressing up and bringing packed lunches that would have been fitting for the time - not a bar of chocolate or a packet of crisps in sight! Thanks to Mrs. Watson for organising such a super trip. **ADS**



JERSEY SPORTS TOUR

Jersey is renowned as being the sunniest place in the British Isles and the island certainly lived up to its reputation. There was wall to wall sun and a very warm welcome wherever we went, whether it was to the Jersey Rugby club, WWII German bunkers, Jersey Hockey Club, the Maritime Museum, Jersey Bowling Alley, Jersey Netball Club, Gerald Durrell Zoo or Aqua Splash. With so much to do, the children had to be active, thoughtful, sociable and competitive. They were all of these and, above all, everybody had fun!

All the teams found success on the games field, with many highlights coming in scoring goals or tries against the best on the island of Jersey. With a disco on the last night to round things off, this was a very energetic, friendly, fun tour for all. The thing that stood out for me was how the children conducted themselves: with respect for others, friendliness towards each other and with a constant smile. The staff couldn't ask for more!

Many thanks to Mrs. Watson, Miss Roberts and Mr. Morris for their support and help on the tour.

SGS

Year 6 met at the airport at ten to five in the morning! We checked our cases in, then we went through security. We then had to wait a long time to fly, since the plane was delayed. Finally we boarded the plane and took off. On the way we landed in Guernsey, then carried on to Jersey. After we retrieved our luggage we made our way to the bus which took us to the hotel. The hotel provided excellent accommodation and had very nice food!

During our stay, the boys played rugby and they won three out of their five matches! The girls played netball and hockey, they did better in hockey than in netball, losing both of their netball matches but winning both of their hockey matches!

On Saturday we visited the war bunkers before going to the cinema to watch Goosebumps! - a scary movie with lots of monsters and creeps and ghouls! We had popcorn in the cinema but all of the food in Jersey was delicious, we had a large variety of excellent dishes and drinks at our hotel!

The girls enjoyed their visit to Jersey Pearl, where they had



lunch and looked around the shop - where there were lots of different types of pearls. They also enjoyed looking around the Maritime Museum, and after supper we all went bowling! This was really fun, but VERY competitive (I think the teachers were more competitive than anyone else!)

Another highlight was visiting Aqua Splash, where there were waterslides, a wave machine and a little circular pool, it was great fun! After eating at Pizza Hut, we had an amazing disco back at the hotel with everyone, especially Mrs Roberts, partying hard! The best song was Bills, when we all knew the words. We made up our own dance moves, with the boys copying the girls... it was great fun!

On our last day we visited the Gerald Durrell Wildlife Park before heading back to the airport to fly back to Exeter. It had been an amazing trip. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it and we would like to thank Mr. Swain for organising it all!

Written by Newspaper Club and edited by Kezia Holman, Year 6





NETBALL

U8 NETBALL

Throughout the Netball season, the U8 teams have developed their skills and improved their tactical understanding during matches. They have had opportunities to try a variety of positions when playing games (although they all have their favourite positions which they prefer to play!) Ruby Lane has scored some magnificent goals as Goal Shooter and Jemima Sides and Sophia Rushton have shown excellent defensive skills at vital moments during matches. The U8A team played five matches, winning four and only losing one. They scored nineteen goals and conceded only seven, which was tremendous for their first season of Netball. The U8B team also worked hard throughout their matches, winning two, drawing one and losing two. Well done to all the girls! **JR**

U9 NETBALL

The U9A team has come on in leaps and bounds since the start of the term and this was most apparent in their final Millfield festival where they won four out of the five games and drew the final match against Millfield. They have shown their versatility as a team by being able to adapt well to any position they are put in and this has created a strong awareness of the different types of skills needed for each position. They have won all bar one of their weekly matches and placed at 3rd, Runners Up and Joint Winners at the three tournaments they have competed in. Very well done to all of the girls! **LB**

The U9B team had a tough first match of the season against Exeter where we drew 3-3. The following week saw another draw, 2-2, with our first away match at Mount Kelly. This was a long journey with a broken down bus but the girls saw it as a real adventure and maintained a sense of humour! Our first win of the season came the following week, 3-1, away against St. Peter's in hurricane like conditions which didn't manage to stop Poppy or Mele from scoring. The girls were thrilled and rightly so. A narrow loss against King's Hall, 3-4, came next where all the girls worked their socks off against a strong side. We then went on to play The Maynard with two teams, one winning, one losing. A great win against Wellington, 9-3, followed and our final match of the season also saw a win, 7-5, against Plymouth. This was a great way to end the season, with every girl contributing to our success and each player having made massive improvements in their ball skills, footwork and tactical awareness. Well done! **CFH**

U10 NETBALL

The U10A team has had a mixture of results during this Netball season, winning three matches and losing two. All the matches have been high scoring and the two losses were very close indeed and could easily have swung in our favour. During these matches, Flossy Ames and Honor Tobin have scored a total of 51 goals averaging ten a match! On a cold and windy Saturday morning, the team finished third at the Queen's tournament knowing they had not been at their best. However, they left their best till last, performing extremely well at their final two tournaments. They finished Runners Up at Millfield and then a couple of days later they gave all the spectators much to talk about at the Exeter Junior School tournament. Winning all their group matches, they encountered

Millfield in the semi-final, whom they soundly beat. With Exeter School looming in the final, the U10s knew they had to be at their best. The score kept swinging one way and then the other, at full time it was 9-9. Five minutes extra time was played but unfortunately the U10s narrowly lost this 3-2. Although they finished the tournament as Runners Up and had yet another silver medal to add to their collection, it could not have been any closer and was a superb way to end the Netball season. **JR**

The U10B team season began with meeting our toughest opponents in the first fortnight of term! Despite losing at home to Exeter Prep and then away to Millfield, the girls played with a fighting spirit and showed skill at intercepting the ball. With a few position

changes and a focus on moving into spaces in training sessions, the team became transformed and the girls went on to win all of their five remaining matches of the season. At the end of January, the girls played Taunton in glorious winter sunshine and won convincingly 14-4. Our Goal Shooter was on fire, scoring a very impressive 12 goals, a superb achievement. Sadly the weather wasn't so kind to us later in the season! A big thank you to the girls for battling on to win 9-4 in the freezing conditions at our home match against King's Hall. Despite driving rain or sleet for the whole match, the girls never once moaned and continued to play with a keen hunger to win. You've had a great season girls and all of you should be very proud of your victories!

JMC

U11 NETBALL

The U11A team kicked off the season with a competitive Bryanston tournament as the first outing of the term. They played exceptionally well in order to win their group and went through to the main trophy semi-final. This was their toughest game yet, and despite putting up a good fight they narrowly lost 7-5 to a well drilled side who eventually won the tournament. Not a bad effort so early on! As the term progressed, the quality of the passing grew much stronger and they began to gel together as a team, increasing the speed and accuracy of their play. They have had an unbeaten season in their weekly matches and have only lost to Millfield in the IAPS tournament, which was a very unlucky draw and unfortunately knocked them out of qualifying for the Nationals. They finished their final netball match of the season with real flair, winning the Exeter tournament with relative ease 13-1 in the final. A great season with a great bunch of girls. Well done! **LB**

The U11B team faced some tough opposition this season. Our first match against Exeter was lost narrowly 3-1. Excellent work in defence was shown throughout. We then lost to a very strong Millfield side who managed to keep possession throughout and never seemed to miss any chances of scoring. We worked hard on attack in our training sessions and had two very convincing wins against Taunton 12-5 and The Maynard 12-4. We were all thrilled with our improved skills and tactical awareness. Our next match was against King's Hall who had a strong side and they beat us 10-5. Hurricane like winds meant that St. Peter's had to cancel our next match and we lost our final match against Wellington, although we had been winning in two quarters. The girls have been great to work with: positive throughout, showing perseverance, a great sense of humour and lovely team work. I look forward to seeing their Rounders skills next term. **CFH**



HOUSE NETBALL

The Senior Netball House Matches were closely contested this year with some super team work from all of the Houses, but in the end Grenville emerged as winners. The Junior competition was so even that all teams were on the same points after playing each other and the matches needed to be replayed, before Raleigh claimed 1st place. **LB**



Above: The U7 Netball team had a fabulous time playing their first competitive matches against other schools at the St. Peter's tournament this term.



CROSS COUNTRY

The first Cross Country team event of the season was held at Stover School. Although the course was fairly short, it was typically muddy and tricky in places. The Blundell's team finished third overall which they were fairly satisfied with. Much was learnt at this meet by all of the Blundell's runners and they were ready to use their new insights and tactics at the Larkman Cup and House Cross Country. With a much longer course to contend with compared to Stover, there was much excitement throughout the team on the day of the Larkman Cup. There were many great individual performances with a few top ten finishes. In the end, the Blundell's team finished second overall, losing out to a strong Queen's team. Everyone ran with great spirit at the House Cross Country, and with points counted and recounted, news of the result finally arrived. It had been an extremely close competition with Drake and Raleigh both receiving the winning accolade and holding up the Mildren Cup victoriously. Well done to the individual race winners: Ruby Lane (U8 Girls), Monty Charteris (U8 Boys), Floss Crease (U9 Girls), Will Edwards (U9 Boys), Jess Barnes (U10 Girls), James Clarkson (U10 Boys), Rachel Brown (U11 Girls) and Ben FitzHerbert (U11 Boys). **JR**





FOOTBALL



Above: The U7 Football team enjoyed travelling to St. Peter's for a first shot at competitive football away from home.



U8 FOOTBALL

It has been a very successful term for the Under 8 teams. The players have progressed really well since Christmas and their attitude during Games lessons has been great. During our matches the children have tried to put their skills into practice, and after a few early losses the boys managed victories against Mount Kelly B's, Trinity A's and B's, Stover A's and B's and Exeter Prep A's. The real highlight of the season most definitely came in the final games against Exeter Cathedral School, where our A's managed a 5-1 win and our B's an amazing 13-0 victory! The boys should be very proud of all that they have achieved, and we are all looking forward to what will hopefully be an equally successful Cricket season! **GJR & DJM**

U10 FOOTBALL

At the start of term the U10 A team enjoyed a transitional football season before switching to Hockey at half term. A close loss to Milfield was followed by excellent victories against St. Peter's and QEH Bristol. It was fantastic to see the progress made by the team in their tactical awareness and level of performance. All the boys were excellent, but special mentions must go to Toby Butler who excelled in goal, to Will Maunder who constantly drove the ball forward and to Ollie Hedley-Lewis, leading the attack up front. Well done boys!

ARC

The Spring Term saw the U10 B team make huge strides forwards, due in no small part to their hard work and enthusiasm. We were on the wrong side of a few defeats but the boys never flagged in their efforts and were always keen to learn more and practise their skills in training sessions.

During the first half of the season there were great wins against QEH with Tom Prior-Palmer scoring some stunning goals and Hector Marr working his socks off for the team. Archie Hull provided strength at the back and Joshua Sellar-Elliott had a keen eye for goal when chances arose. Well done to all! **ADS**



U9 FOOTBALL

The U9A team enjoyed an excellent season, making wonderful improvements as the term progressed. Built on a solid foundation in defence with Kit Cameron and Harry Cracknell conceding no space at all, the team managed to go the first five games unbeaten. Excellent victories were enjoyed against Exeter, St. Peter's, Truro and draws achieved against Plymouth and West Buckland. A narrow loss away at Stover didn't dent the team's confidence and the boys finished with a wonderful victory against St. John's. Well done to all the boys, who were ably led by the excellent Raffy Crowe, leading by example to score a number of vital and important goals across the season. **ARC**

The U9B team gave everything they had for every minute of every match this term! At times it looked as if every player tried to cover every blade of grass on the pitch at the same time, and this is where other teams could take advantage, catching the team out of position and moving in on goal. With some more positional awareness and discipline the squad could have a great success rate, but in simply enjoying a match and working flat out the team could not be beaten! **SGS**

CELEBRATING

Success



PASSING OUT

Featured Sportsman Ben FitzHerbert, 6AL, won the rugby prize at Tony Yapp's Rugby Excellence coaching course, showing his outstanding rugby ability against children much older than himself. Keep on trying Ben! ses



U10 HOCKEY

The U10A team enjoyed the most excellent of starts to their hockey careers this term. All the boys thoroughly enjoyed the expert coaching of Mr. Jones from the Senior School and made significant progress in their performance. Following a 6-0 loss to Exeter in their first ever match, the team continued to develop and bounced back well to beat Mount Kelly and Wellington at a quadrangular tournament at King's Hall. The team went on to achieve an excellent draw against Taunton, and only lost narrowly to Hazelgrove. The boys should be extremely proud of their efforts and of the huge improvements they have made to their Hockey skills this term! **ARC**

The move from Football to Hockey this term saw the U10B team hit a steep learning curve but they responded very well, battling hard against tough opposition at King's Hall and managing to draw with Mount Kelly. William Luxton and Ollie Hedley-Lewis were the stand out performers in attack with Romulus Hill offering support out wide and Tom Beynon and John Wrighton providing a robust approach to their defensive duties at the back. Reuben Kerr and Alexander Fewtrell took on the goal-keeping duties and showed fearless dedication to their roles and infinite patience when putting on the kit! It has been a super term and the boys have been a delight to coach. Well done to all! **ADS**



HOCKEY

U11 HOCKEY

This has been a wonderfully enjoyable season for the U11A team. The enthusiasm and energy given by all of the boys throughout the season and the boys' sheer willingness to learn this new sport and give of their best have been real delights. The season started with Hockey being a relatively new sport, so all of the boys were able to learn a huge amount about the skills and teamwork required, while also playing in many different positions. An initial thanks must go to Mr. Harry Jones, the Senior School's first team coach, for his regular tuition of our boys and for the extra sessions that he provided during Friday lunchtimes. All of the boys learnt a huge amount of useful skills from him and their Hockey improved visibly throughout the term. The boys were encouraged to try a wide variety of positions in

matches, but one position that did remain consistent was that of central midfield and for the whole season Ben FitzHerbert controlled the game and led the team superbly. Elsewhere, Dominic Wielenga developed into a superb goalkeeper, producing a huge amount of outstanding saves and fearless defending. All of the boys improved enormously and this was typified by Zebedee Winzer, Oscar Wetherall and Joshua Withey, who were worthy recipients of their Colours, along with Dominic and Ben. All of the boys ensured that this season was immensely enjoyable for all of us and finished having won more matches than not; however, it was the enormous learning curve and sheer enjoyment that the boys gained from their sport that will live with me as the true highlights of this season. **JCK**

The U11B team has worked extremely hard on passing skills throughout the season in order to unlock opposition defences. Stopping the ball on the run and passing is a difficult skill but the boys improved immensely and found success in getting the ball forward into shooting positions. However, being faced with a goalie in full goal keeping kit is a daunting sight and goals didn't always follow. In defence the team tried hard to keep their sticks down, but this didn't always happen and too often attacks got behind the defence to shoot at goal. The team's goalie was excellent throughout the season, saving numerous goals and pushing the ball out to the right hand side to set up ready for another attack. Well done boys! **SGS**

RUGBY 7S

The game of 7s is not rugby as many know it. This take on the sport is a different mind-set from the crash, bash, tackle, charge and run of the full game and fine-tuned skills are called for. When a team 'clicks' in 7s it is a wonderful sight and no opposition can counter it. This takes time, understanding and a touch of flair, but the Blundell's team got close in the Millfield 7's tournament: in one game a glut of tries came, all of which were finished in style, and in the other game a single try came, but the ball was moved about with speed and purpose. Runners up in the plate tournament was a great result and a fine platform upon which to build for the years ahead. **SGS**



TAG RUGBY

Years 1 and 2 played against a number of local schools in a very exciting Tag Rugby festival hosted by Blundell's this term. The children showed incredible running, dodging and tagging skills! They all thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and made lots of new friends too! A big thanks also to our Year 5 children who helped to marshal and encourage the teams so well! **SLJ**



Rocket Science

The theme of Science Week this year was 'Space' to tie in with Tim Peake's time on the International Space Station. Jo Richardson from Space Detectives gave a fascinating presentation on 'The Solar System' to all the children. Everyone was absorbed and learned a huge amount. In workshops later in the day she told the children some more information about astronauts and rockets and a few children had the chance to dress up as astronauts. The children then made their own rockets which were blasted into the air in the playground. There were excited screams of delight as each rocket went up!

The Science competition this year was to design and make a space vehicle to bring Tim Peake back from space. The Nursery Foyer was packed with rockets and space craft of every shape and size. Some were so big that Tim Peake would almost be able to fit inside! To add to the excitement, one of our parents, who knows Tim, emailed photographs of the space models to him on the International Space Station. His reply was:

'Brilliant rockets...some of them not small either! I feel safe now knowing I have a ride home...thank you! Tim'

JKP



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Blundell's Road, Tiverton

Devon EX16 4NA

Telephone: 01884 252393

Email: prep@blundells.org

www.blundells.org/prep