

AUTUMN 2016

review

TURNING OVER *a New Page*

New Term, New Year at Blundell's Preparatory School



INSIDE:
NATIVITY SEASON:
A GALAXY OF STARS
HELPFUL POINTERS:
FAITH JOURNEYS
PRESSING ISSUES:
CORE SKILLS OUTDOORS

“As Bertie in Year 3 wrote in his Christmas card to me, “I love school” and that is what any Head Master wants to hear.”



When I think back to the start of term it does seem an age ago that we were meeting together as an entire Blundell's staff. The sun was shining and the teachers' summer tans were still very much in evidence as Mrs. Huggett and I introduced the key elements of our move towards closer alignment between the Prep and the Senior Schools. As I have mentioned in my weekly blogs throughout the term, there has been a very strong appetite for this move from staff across the school but this year we have made the conscious decision to pursue it as a central theme within our strategic planning. In the three months since that meeting there has been a surge in departments working together to come up with innovative ways to develop

curriculum links and continuity, and we will see this in practice as the year progresses. Blundell's first completely 'whole school' appointment, our Marketing and Communications Director, Jo Jeffrey, has been hard at work getting under the skin of every part of our school which starts in our Nursery with children aged just over two and finishes with our university bound sixth formers, heading off in to the big wide world. I think that Jo would be the first to admit that it has been a big task but one that has been fascinating and rewarding in equal measure. In the new year we welcome Charles List to the Senior School as the Academic Deputy Head and he will be working alongside our senior team here at the Prep School to explore ways to bring continuity to our assessments system and timetable. It is a task that will provide some challenges but it is one that we are all excited to be taking on.

The central theme of this edition of Review is 'new beginnings' and this is most relevant to the 31 new children who joined us in September, the 7 who have joined us during this term alone, and the 15 who are all set to join in January. Our numbers are as buoyant as they have been in many years and that speaks volumes for the staff here at the Prep School who are tireless in their efforts. Of course, there have been a few nerves as the children meet their new classmates, their new form teachers and start to get to know their way around Mayfield or Milestones, but for the vast majority, it has been a very smooth transition. As Bertie in Year 3 wrote in his Christmas card to me, "I love school" and that is what any Head Master wants to hear.

In our final Awards Assembly on the last day of term, I thanked the children for the warmth of welcome that they had given to all those who were new to the school. I also made special mention of Ben, a Year 6 pupil who joined the school less than 10 days before the Christmas holiday began, and congratulated him on the remarkable way in which he had thrown himself wholeheartedly in to all that came his way, whether it was dressing up for the Christmas play or singing his heart out with the rest of the school. He embraced his new beginning and he reaped the rewards. My hope is that those joining in January will do much the same, safe in the knowledge that they will be made to feel very welcome indeed.

In the pages that follow you will see how much has been packed in to the Autumn Term and my thanks go to all of the team here for providing such a rich tapestry of opportunities. Our illustrious editor, Mr. Lee Moore, has surpassed himself once again, both in the quality of articles and the variety of his much loved puns, and I am most grateful to him for all of his hard work.

My best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2017.

Andy Southgate Head Master



The Friends of Blundell's Prep held its Christmas Market on Saturday 12th November. There were lots of stalls including a raffle, toy shop and book shop. There were also Flip the Coin and Pistol Power challenges, as well as face painting and craft activities; mince pies and cookies were available and a highlight was meeting Father Christmas. £750 was raised and went to support the Blood Bikes charity. The next week Mr. Nash from Blood Bikes came in to school with his motor bike and told us about the charity and how it ensures that blood, breast milk and other medical supplies are transported quickly to wherever they might be needed in an emergency.

Jasper Winsley, Hector Marr and Alexander Fewtrell,
Year 6





New Beginnings

NEW RECRUITS



WELCOME OPPORTUNITIES

We are always delighted to welcome new families to the school, and there are so many ways to get involved in school life, meet other parents and feel a real part of the school community! The school hosts Parent Welcome Meetings for each year group at the beginning of the academic year, and regularly invites all parents to have a cup of coffee and join in with Friday Award Assemblies; the i-letter, emailed to all parents fortnightly, provides full information on many more events open to parents on a week to week basis, from watching sports fixtures, or supporting at music concerts or speech and drama recitals, to joining in with Parent Cookery Workshops, or this term, attending carol services and nativity plays! In addition Parent Liaison Reps co-ordinate and communicate social events for parents in each year group (just pop into the office and ask for contact details) and the Friends of Blundell's Prep (FoBP), currently chaired by Lisa Moran, organises a whole variety of activities that bring parents, staff and children together throughout the school year – this term including the hugely successful Bonfire Party and Christmas Market. It really is easy to get involved, and we hope that all of our parents feel warmly welcomed to play their part in our school community! **LPM**

As well as the new intake into Nursery, we are fortunate to have had many new recruits join different year groups throughout the school this term, and we are delighted that everyone in the Blundell's community has gone out of their way to make each and every one feel welcomed and accepted. Perhaps it is most telling that at the end of

the term our new recruits do not seem like new recruits at all! With many more due to join us as we go through the rest of the academic year, Newspaper Club took it upon itself to interview just four of our new recruits to find out how they have been settling in...



Mae Millington

What school did you used to go to before joining Blundell's? *St. Peter's School, Lympstone*
What class are you in and who is your Form Teacher? *3WH with Mrs. Whitten*
What are your favourite lessons and why? *Games, especially Hockey, because it is fun!*
Do you do any clubs? If so which ones are your favourite? *Ballet is my favourite, but I also like Bushcraft.*
What is your favourite school meal and pudding? *Meatballs and Rocky Road!*



Kit Stone

What school did you used to go to before joining Blundell's? *Harrowbarrow School, Cornwall*
What class are you in and who is your Form Teacher? *4CR with Mrs. Cracknell*
What are your favourite lessons and why? *FT because you get to cook things and eat them when you get home!*
Do you do any clubs? If so which ones are your favourite? *I like Sports Club!*
What is your favourite school meal and pudding? *Meatballs and Sticky Toffee Pudding!*



Jenny Donald

What school did you used to go to before joining Blundell's? *Ripley Court School, Surrey*
What class are you in and who is your Form Teacher? *5RI with Mr. Richards*
What are your favourite lessons and why? *English, because you get to do Creative Writing.*
Do you do any clubs? If so which ones are your favourite? *I like going to Art Club.*
What is your favourite school meal and pudding? *Meatballs and Rocky Road!*



Guy Brown

What school did you used to go to before joining Blundell's? *Doha English Speaking School, Qatar*
What class are you in and who is your Form Teacher? *6MR with Mr. Morris*
What are your favourite lessons and why? *FT because you get to learn how to make food.*
Do you do any clubs? If so which ones are your favourite? *I do Football, Sports Club and Prep, but Football is my favourite.*
What is your favourite school meal and pudding? *Meatballs and ice-cream!*

Interviews devised and conducted by **Sophia Rochfort** and **Constance Paterson**, Year 6.

Parent Participation

New parents are welcome to join in a whole variety of school events.
Right: *Cooking on gas at the Parent Cookery Workshop.* Far right: *Arts and Crafts at the Nursery Café*



news



MARY'S MEALS

This term 5CO embarked on a charity fundraising project. Mary's Meals is a charity that provides hot lunches for over 1.1 million children daily worldwide in developing countries if they attend school. It is a fantastic charity and the children immersed themselves in the project. The children completed a class marathon around the school fields as well as taking part in World Porridge Day. The children then delivered a fantastic assembly to the rest of the Prep School and were proudly able to tell them that they had raised an incredible total of £654! Mr Coomer was unbelievably proud of the children and their achievements. **ARC**



SHIPWRECKED

Years 5 and 6 joined Years 7 and 8 at Big School to watch a play called Shipwrecked en France by the theatre company Onatti. It was performed by just two actors and was about a boy who had lost his family at the beach. On his way to look for them he met a variety of characters, and learned a lot of French. Some of the children from the audience went up on to the stage to help him out. It was *tres amusant*!

Sophia Rochfort and **Constance Paterson, Year 6**

Fully Booked

The Pre Prep was full of amazing book characters on Book Day. We had the BFG, pirates, princesses, rabbits, Harry Potters and even a warship from a non-fiction book. The children all looked amazing. Talented local author Amy Sparkes joined us for the morning and read her stories to the children and talked about being an author. In the afternoon, the teachers all put on special story sessions in their classrooms but the highlight was surely Book at Bedtime. The children returned to school in their pyjamas clutching their teddies and sleeping bags. They snuggled down to stories by candlelight and enjoyed a hot chocolate and cookie half way through the evening. It was the perfect end to what had been a wonderful day. **TN**



COUNCIL MATTERS



The School Council voted in for the start of this year consisted of: Otilie Davy, Honor Tobin and Toby Low (Y6); Maya Corbin, Leo Brookman and James Saunders (Y5); Alicia Perry and Jasper Newnes (Y4); Jesse Aldridge and Alexander Morrison (Y3); Connor Bailey and Hugo Brock (Y2). All the School Council Reps were elected by their class mates, and will serve for one term before new elections elect new reps. All reps have a responsibility to listen to the ideas of others in their Form and then to share these ideas at School Council Meetings, held on a Monday lunch time and chaired by Mr. Howkins, the Deputy Head Master. This term one topic up for discussion has been the provision of water fountains on the AstroTurf; last year's School Council requested a Zip Wire for pupils to play on at break times – a request that was able to be met by FoBP funding this year! This goes to show that pupils' voices really are

listened to and the School Council matters!

As well as serving on the School Council, everybody in Year 6 will also get the privilege of being a Prefect at some point during the year. In return for wearing the Prefects' Tie, each Prefect will be expected to undertake a range of duties to help the school run smoothly on a day to day basis – including ringing the lunch bell, delivering the registers, setting up the hall for assemblies and collecting the fruit bowl at break times.

In addition, one boy and one girl from Year 6 also serve as Head Boy and Head Girl for a term, and this term Jasper Winsley and Honor Tobin have fulfilled this role, acting as excellent role models to all with their quiet authority in assisting the Head Master in various duties throughout the term. Congratulations to all who have served the school community so well!

Amsi Sims and **Otilie Davy, Year 6**



CELTS, ROMANS, COUNTRYMEN

Year 4 had a fantastic day in November as they were transported back in time to 49CE. They arrived at school dressed as members of the Dumnonii Tribe. The children had put a lot of effort into their costumes and all were very excited. The day began with a tribal gathering to discuss the possibility of a Roman invasion. The children had the opportunity to handle artefacts from Iron Age Britain and learn more about the Celtic way of life. They were then greeted by a Roman soldier who offered the tribe a simple choice: join the Romans or die in battle! After some healthy debate, the children were able to find out what life would be like as part of the Roman Empire by looking at objects and handling weapons and armour. After lunch the children made the decision to join the Romans and were subsequently put through their paces as soldiers in the Roman army. They were taught how to carry out the famous 'tortoise' defensive strategy. The newly trained Roman warriors were then able to put their training to the test when a gang of unruly Year 3 Britons attacked! The children had a fantastic experience and learned a lot about Iron Age life in the South-West. GJR



Christmas Sports Afternoon

The Pre-Prep thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas Sports afternoon. Dressed with a Christmas item, the children worked in mixed-aged teams to complete a number of different Christmas-themed sporting challenges. These included relay racing, building a Christmas tree with a variety of sports equipment, musical balances to Christmas-themed songs and many more fun-filled activities. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience! SJJ



HINDU WORSHIP

Year 5 were treated to a visit by Trupti from the Exeter Hindu Temple, who came to talk about Hinduism earlier this term. They were able to learn a lot about this religion to supplement their R.E. studies, and were delighted to be able to see some artefacts used in worship as well.



CHRISTINGLE

The Pre-Prep had a special Christingle assembly led by Rev Sue Blade and Steph Packham. They learned all about the meaning of a Christingle and had fun dressing children up to make a giant human one. When they returned to their classrooms they made their own Christingles to take home. SMA

SKY HIGH

We were lucky enough to be treated to our very own fly over by two World War II Spitfires this term, culminating in a barrel roll over the school grounds. There was much cheering and waving from the appreciative audience.



Tourists

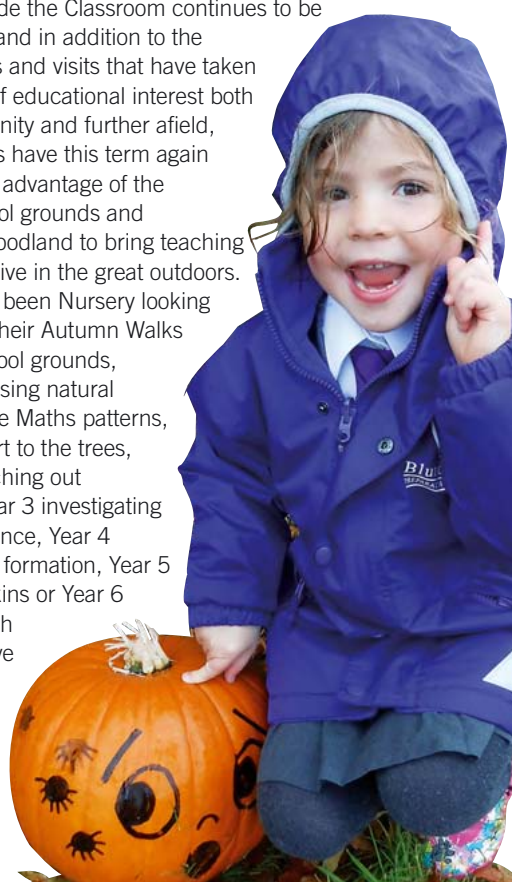
When the Tour of Britain belted down Blundell's Road early in the term, we needed no encouragement to go and cheer the riders on, and much flag waving ensued as the cyclists – accompanied by the dramatic sight of many siren-blaring police motorcycle outriders – flashed by!



Outdoor Learning



Learning Outside the Classroom continues to be a high priority and in addition to the numerous trips and visits that have taken place to sites of educational interest both in the local vicinity and further afield, staff and pupils have this term again enjoyed taking advantage of the extensive school grounds and surrounding woodland to bring teaching and learning alive in the great outdoors. Whether it has been Nursery looking for rabbits on their Autumn Walks across the school grounds, Kindergarten using natural objects to make Maths patterns, Otters taking art to the trees, Pre-Prep searching out minibeasts, Year 3 investigating geology in Science, Year 4 looking at river formation, Year 5 carving pumpkins or Year 6 exploring trench warfare, all have enjoyed the challenge of thinking outside the box...





FRUITS OF OUR LABOURS

Year 6 went to Killerton on a Food Technology trip this term. The trip was based on our Food Technology topic, Victorian Cooking. The Victorians loved their apples and made lots of Cider and Apple Cakes. In groups we had a competition to see who could pick the most apples from the Killerton orchards, before we looked at how apple juice and cider was made in a giant press; we all had a go using a mini apple press, which was a lot of fun! We also got to try some of the apple juice produced at Killerton and at the end of the visit we were able to take some apples back to school to use in our FT lessons. **Flo Cave** and **Constance Paterson, Year 6**

“We have been out and about on listening walks, number hunts, we acted out the Three Billy Goats Gruff story on the bridge by the pond, played parachute games and collected leaves...”



Not Afraid To Get Our Hands Dirty: Creative opportunities abounded in the outdoors this term, and whether it was reflecting on nature (opposite top), becoming entrenched in history (opposite bottom) or making a splash in geography (below) all were happy to get stuck in outside!



SOUPE TROOPERS

The weather was kind to Year 5 on our Outdoor Learning day. We began by collecting firewood and cutting down willow which was used to make charcoal. Once the fire had been started the children got to work on their tasks. They took it in turns in their classes to prepare the soup and to carve pumpkins. The 'soup group' excelled at chopping vegetables and helped Mr. Coomer to prepare a delicious vegetable soup. The other children worked in small groups to carve their own designs into pumpkins to enter into the carving competition. After a short break the children got to work creating vibrant colour palettes using various ingredients that they had found in the grounds. The children then thought of some very creative names for their new colours. At the end of the session the children enjoyed their soup while Mr. Howkins deliberated over the creativity on display in the pumpkin carving competition. The children had a fantastic day and are already looking forward to their next outdoor adventure! **GJR**



Leave it Out: While Otters got artistic with nature (left), Kindergarten enjoyed identifying and creating natural sequences when they took their Maths outdoors (below left).

Round the Bend: Year 4 looked at geography in action when they surveyed the impact of local river courses on the environment (right), and Year 3 kept an eye on soil structures in science (below right).





BUDLEIGH SALTERTON & EXMOUTH

The sun was shining when Year 2 set off to Budleigh Salterton. On arrival we walked along the River Otter and saw many birds including lots of geese and gulls. We walked along to the pebbled beach and stopped for a quick snack. We talked about many things that we saw including the plant life, cliffs, fishing boats, lobster pots, the war memorial and a red telephone box! The children enjoyed looking at the art work made of pebbles along the shore line as well as watching the choppy sea. We walked through the town back to the coach and then had a short ride to Exmouth where we were very keen to enjoy our packed lunch. Afterwards the children had the opportunity to buy their own tasty ice-cream or lolly and the ladies at the kiosk were very impressed with their manners. We were all keen to go for a refreshing paddle and the water seemed very cold at first but that did not stop us! A play on the beach, where many interesting things were made in the sand, was a lovely end to the trip. The children noticed lots of interesting things in both seaside towns and they were able to remember lots of things for our Geography, History and Science lessons this term. The children really enjoyed their day! **DMK**



Out and about



Out and about

EXETER RACECOURSE

Pupils in Year 6 had a superb time at Exeter Racecourse in October, learning all about how the industry relies on an excellent working knowledge of mathematics. Seeing numbers in action outside the classroom is something that can really help in a child's education, and event organiser, Ollie McPhail, put a smile on everyone's face through funny tales and interesting facts on our way around the parade ring, stables, weighing room and changing rooms! The children also got to watch some races later in the afternoon, meeting jockeys and trainers along the way. Many thanks to Ollie for welcoming us once again, what a brilliant day out! **DJM**



PLYMOUTH SYNAGOGUE

The children in Year 4 went to experience a Jewish place of worship when they visited the Synagogue in Plymouth. On arrival we were greeted by the curator of the Synagogue, Jerry Sibley, who gave us some delicious kosher cakes and biscuits for snack. He then introduced us to Dexter the Synagogue cat! Mr. Sibley gave us a fantastic talk at the Synagogue and he really managed to engage the children and teach us all about the Jewish faith. A particular highlight of the trip was when Mr. Sibley opened up 'The Ark' at the back of the Synagogue to reveal the Torah scrolls. The children then had a go at trying to read Hebrew, blow the ram's horns and explore the artefacts inside the Synagogue. The children behaved fantastically well and everyone enjoyed the trip and learned a lot. **TN**



GRAND WESTERN CANAL

Year 6 enjoyed a sketching trip to the Grand Western Canal at Halberton. As part of their work on landscapes, they sketched the view from the towpath as well as making some detailed sketches of the canal flora and fauna. **JAA**





PENNYWELL FARM

CHILDREN FROM NURSERY ENJOYED A FESTIVE TRIP TO MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS ON THEIR END OF TERM VISIT TO PENNYWELL FARM. THEY ALL WRAPPED UP WARM FOR A WINTER RIDE ON THE PENNYWELL TRAIN, AND HAD A LOT OF FUN PETTING THE FARM ANIMALS!



HALBERTON CHURCH

Kindergarten spent an afternoon at Halberton Church with Rev Sue Blade and Steph Packham. They were allowed to explore the church and loved finding all the crosses. They watched the organ being played and discovered the secret room at the back which was full of special treasures. They all had a turn at speaking from the lectern and met lots of people who help to look after the church. A special moment was when they lit a candle. **SMA**



KILLERTON

Year 1 spent a very festive morning at Killerton House. They dressed up as Victorian children and learnt all about the Fairy Tales written by the Grimm brothers. They thoroughly enjoyed going from room to room and guessing which tale the room was based upon. Two great favourites were the Gingerbread House and Rapunzel's hair which was so long it wound all the way down the staircase. The house looked beautiful with all the wonderful Christmas trees and decorations. It certainly made us all feel very Christmassy. **TN**

SCHOOL HOUSE

In preparation for the transition process, Year 6 pupils enjoyed a visit to the Senior School this term, where they were greeted by Mr. Marshman, Head of School House, and some Year 7 tour guides who were on hand to answer questions and give their perspective on the move. It was an informative afternoon topped off with doughnuts!

BROOMHILL SCULPTURE PARK



Year 3 went to the Broomhill Sculpture Park and saw some very big sculptures; they were made from all different materials, including glass, metal and rock, and some were even in the trees. Bertie's favourite sculpture was a giant foot and Daisy's favourite was a teacup. After looking around the sculpture park they went to Saunton Sands beach for lunch, then they got into groups and made their own sculptures out of sand; Bertie made an octopus and Daisy made a boat. Afterwards Mrs. Whitten bought everyone ice-creams! Everyone had a great day out!

Florence Chapman and **Bronte Dash**, Year 6, with help from **Bertie** and **Daisy Faulkner**, Year 3

Tiverton & Knightshayes



The Sun shone on Year 3 as they travelled around Tiverton learning why it is such a good example of an early settlement and why it grew into the town it is today. The children saw the confluence of the Rivers Exe and Lowman, followed by Heathcoat's factory and the housing and school he built for his employees and their children. The children then spent a delightful hour in the kitchen garden at Knightshayes before looking around the house and garden. They discovered that John Heathcoat could see his factory from his bedroom window so he would know that all was well! This was a lovely outdoor learning experience which reinforced the Geography curriculum and included elements of Science, History and Art, and a good time was had by all!



THE RAGGEDY KING

Parents and friends thoroughly enjoyed the performance of the Year 1 Nativity Play, "The Raggedy King". It told the story of the shepherds finding out about the birth of Jesus and running down from the hills to the stable in search of the raggedy king. The children had a lot of fun singing and dancing in front of a packed audience and there was not a dry eye in the house! **TN**



Shine Star Shine

The Kindergarten performed a story called "Shine, Star, Shine" for its Christmas Nativity Play this year. It was a story about a star that couldn't shine. The other stars tried to help it to shine by telling jokes, singing songs and doing silly dances but to no avail. It was not until it saw Baby Jesus in the stable that it began to shine out brightly. The children looked extremely proud to be wearing their costumes; they sang their songs and spoke their words cheerfully and loudly. The mums, dads, grandparents and friends all thoroughly enjoyed the production! **TN**



STARRING *Roles*



CHRISTMAS WITH THE ALIENS

The festive season began with Year 2 performing their Christmas Nativity Play, "Christmas with the Aliens". The story concerned a group of aliens who landed on earth when their space ship broke down. They were invited by a group of school children to find out what Christmas was all about by coming to their school Nativity Play. The cast of the play had battled with colds, coughs and all sorts of bugs and had missed lots of their practices. However, it all came together in the end and they gave a super performance. They sang and acted superbly and put on a great show! **TN**





Super STAR

Year 3 produced a wonderful Christmas play using all the familiar characters associated with a Nativity, but it was the Star who stole the show, perfectly played by Isabella Joyner. Without the Star no one would have found the stable where Baby Jesus was born and upon its appearance the Shepherds, Kings and Animals were given light to sing in celebration of the New King's arrival. Year 4 supported the production by providing a fantastically tuneful backdrop, and the superb Nativity was loved by all! **TMC**

Nursery Nativity

It was delightful to see the very youngest children in the Pre Prep performing on the stage with such pleasure and confidence this year. They were all smiling and waving at their friends and families whilst retelling the traditional Christmas story. They looked very proud of their costumes and took their individual roles very seriously. It was a joy to behold. **TN**

The 12 Days of Christmas

Four fun filled cheeky Reindeer (Fraser Willatt, Valerie Wilson, Gabriel MacDonald and Charlie Cracknell) tell the wonderful story of how good people like the Christmases (Kit Cameron, Issy Swain and Poppy Borradaile) can help the Grumpy Grimgrumps of this world (Rosa Flay, Floss Crease and Harry Cracknell) to celebrate Christmas with a song!

Mr. Partridge (Raffy Crowe) leads his Troupe to the North Pole with the help of two efficient Air Hostesses (Lucy FitzHerbert and Bella Boyde), but following some unexpected communication issues Grimgrump meets the Troupe and offers to take them home with him. However, Grimgrump soon discovers that there isn't enough room for all of them and amongst the many grumbles comes the obvious complaint that there is no grass for Daisy the Cow at The North Pole! Eventually good triumphs over grumpy and everyone ends up having a very Happy Christmas when Mr. Partridge asks his Troupe to sing to a very appreciative audience.

Year 6 were in good voice to help by supporting the Year 5 cast superbly in the many musical numbers, and together the children created a superb play thoroughly enjoyed by all involved! **TMC**





MUSICAL *Notes*

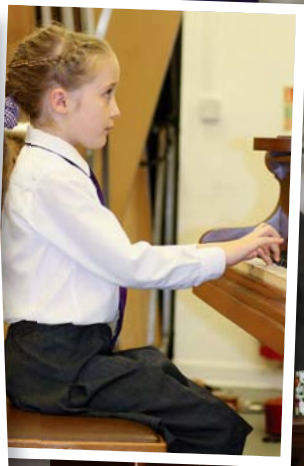
Our musical performances started in September when some of the Choir sang in Tiverton as part of the Devon Air Ambulance Fun Day. The Choir opened the Fun Day and sang a number of songs to entertain as people looked around the stalls.

Tea Time Concerts have continued to provide the children with the opportunity to perform to an audience. This term we had a large number of children performing for the very first time and they did so with tremendous confidence.

I strongly believe that part of our children's musical education is being able to watch and listen to musicians perform and this term the children have had a number of opportunities to do this. We have had a harp demonstration and the flute group from the Senior School performed in assembly. In November the children were treated to a Flash Mob performance by the London Chamber Orchestra as they ate their lunch. Following this the children spent the rest of lunchtime having a go on all of the instruments – flutes, clarinets, violins, cellos, trumpets, trombones, percussion and a double bass!

The last couple of weeks of term have been very busy musically with the Christmas plays and Carol Services. We hosted our Festival of Carols in the Chapel with three other schools joining us – St John's, Tidcombe and Two Moors. The Chapel was full and it was lovely to hear so many children singing together. Our own Carol Service provided a wonderful Christmassy feel to the end of term. Music, readings and candlelight filled the Chapel and created a joyous atmosphere for everyone to enjoy. **BLC**





Tea-Time Concerts

In the first half of term, the junior and senior musicians combined to put on a tea-time concert to entertain the parents. The instruments ranged from saxophones and trumpets to violins and voice; there were solo performers and group performances by ensembles including the string group and wind band. Lots of parents enjoyed this concert, and in the second half of term there was even more music to be enjoyed as the senior and junior musicians split and formed two different concerts for the parents: the junior tea-time concert and the senior tea-time concert. It was great to see the performers increasing in confidence as they got more used to playing before an audience, and everybody very much enjoyed listening to these concerts.

Amelia Mitchell, Year 6





U11 HOCKEY

The U11 A Team have been super keen to develop their hockey this term and started the season with 7 consecutive wins over local schools. Their first tournament at Queen's provided some tough competition but they managed to make it through to the semi-finals, finishing second in their group and therefore facing Queen's. It was a very even match with neither team able to score even after extra time so it had to come down to the dreaded penalty shuffles! Constance Paterson and Isobel Morrison scored 2 excellent goals and Honor Tobin also made an excellent save but unfortunately it was not to be, as the Queen's goalie made an important save in the second round putting Queen's through to the final. The IAPS Regional rounds at Millfield were highly competitive and the girls were a little taken aback in the group stages and therefore missed out on qualifying for the Nationals. However, they still had the Devon

Tournament at the end of the season and after a couple of losses, in the last 2 matches the girls were keen to put some wins behind them. They won all 3 games in the pool stages and faced Plymouth in the Semis where they scraped a 1-0 victory in the last minutes of the game. In the final they faced Exeter, whom we knew were strong from our recent match with them. We got off to a good start but their attack was just a little too strong for us and we finished as Runners-up, qualifying for the West of England Tournament next term. Well done for a fantastic end to the season girls! **LB**

I have really enjoyed taking the U11 B Team for hockey this year. Many of the girls showed their enthusiasm for the game on a very sunny Wednesday afternoon in August at Pre-Season training and the rest of the season has not disappointed. Our first match of the season got us off to a great start winning 7-0 against

Exeter Cathedral with Florence Chapman scoring all 7 goals. Our second match was tough against St. Peter's who were very strong in defence and we lost 1-0. Next up was a match against Plymouth College which we won 6-0 with goals from Bronte Dash, Georgia Baxter, Lucy Squibb and Amelia Mitchell: a real team effort with excellent defence from Hattie Barnes, Amsi Sims, Alex Heathman and Isabella Wren, and Lucy Vaux in goal. Next we travelled to Millfield where we were winning 1-0 until the 39th minute when Millfield scored to equalise 1-1. A nail biting match which kept us all on our toes! The following week we played a local primary school, which included some talented boy hockey players! The final score was 6-2 to us. We then went on to beat both Exeter schools: The Maynard 4-0 and Exeter Junior School 1-0. Our last two games of the season were the toughest, losing 5-1 to a very strong King's Hall team and 1-0 to Queen's. Overall though this was a brilliant season of hockey, with each player contributing positively and each player improving in their stick skills, spatial awareness and match play. Well done to all! **CFH**

HOUSE HOCKEY

Year Group	1st	2nd	3rd
6	Grenville	Drake	Raleigh
5	Grenville	Drake and Raleigh drew	
4	Raleigh	Drake	Grenville
3	Raleigh	Drake	Grenville

By **Isabella Wren-Payne** and **Alex Heathman**



U10 HOCKEY

The U10 A Team has had a spectacular season. The girls' skills and tactical awareness during game situations have improved, they have played well as a team and as individuals have had the opportunity to try different positions. Throughout the season, the team have played 10 games on Wednesday match days, winning 8 of them, drawing 1 and losing only 1! They have scored a magnificent 27 goals and have only conceded 5, which were all during the final match of the season against an extremely strong Queen's team. Furthermore, they were semi-finalists in one of the tournaments they entered. Eight of the squad have scored goals during the season with Jemima Mitchell, Lucy FitzHerbert and Floss Crease being the top goal scorers. Amber Tucker played fantastically in goal, making some crucial saves in many of the matches. Olivia Imregi, Amara Lilley and Maya Corbin all grew in their roles as defenders and were organised and consistently strong when marking the opposition. Ruby Wetherall, Floss Crease and Gracie Horan all worked tirelessly in midfield by turning defence into attack with fluidity. They also began to distribute the ball with maturity and worked together to become a force to be reckoned with! Molly Duckworth-Chad had a great first season and showed that she is capable of playing in different positions whether it be attack or defence. Lucy Fitzherbert also grew in strength and determination. Well done to the whole squad for a marvellous season of hockey! **JER**

The U10 B Team had a brilliant season of hockey this year. They all played in a range of different positions showing great flexibility and understanding of each role on the pitch. Their confidence in their abilities to use different skills, in particular in attack, grew across the term and victories were achieved over Exeter Cathedral, Wellington, St. Peter's, Duchy and Queen's, with a wonderful 31 goals being scored in total this season! The season culminated in a tournament at Taunton. This was a brilliant experience for the girls and it bought out their competitive spirit, with some outstanding defensive play being seen; they came away with 3 draws from 5 games. This was a superb result to end the season on against some strong competitors. Well done for a fantastic effort all term! **HGM**



U9 HOCKEY



The U9 A Team has had a superb term of hockey and has developed into a highly competitive and determined squad. All the girls have played in numerous positions throughout the term and have learnt the important skills needed to succeed in each of these roles. They had their first taste of a festival the second week back, and although their skills were still a little raw, they fought hard in all of their matches, winning 4 games and narrowly losing 1 by only 1 goal. Throughout the season, they secured victories over Exeter, Wellington, Mount Kelly, Stover, King's Hall, Bramdean, Exeter Cathedral and Maynard but the highlight came at the end of the season when they played some fantastic hockey in order to win the Blundell's hockey tournament. The final was very gripping and went into extra time but fortunately an early goal in the first minute of extra time secured the win over Exeter and the girls were able to lift the trophy. Well done girls! **LVB**

The U9 B Team has had a great season of hockey! Our first match of the season was a tough one against Exeter where we lost 2-1. However, our second match secured us a 7-0 win against Stover which really boosted the girls' confidence. Our third match was against Mount Kelly which saw another win (3-2) with great goals from both Nia Marshman and Amelia Churcher. We then had the chance to compete in our own tournament on Saturday 19th November. Playing in freezing conditions, the girls again showed grit and determination against strong opposition including Queen's, Exeter Cathedral, Exeter and Redmaids. In the last four matches of the season we faced tough opposition against St. Peter's and The Duchy, losing 2-1 and 4-0 but went on to win against Exeter Cathedral 3-0 and The Maynard 4-0. I have been really impressed with the girls' improvement in hockey this season, in their stick skills, knowledge of the game and their understanding of the rules. I look forward to seeing your netball skills next term. Very well done! **CFH**



U8 HOCKEY

The U8 Team has had a superb season. All the girls have worked hard to develop their skills on and off the pitch - it isn't easy putting those shin pads on! All have made great progress and have developed their stick skills and ball control. It is very tempting on such a vast pitch for each pupil to want to chase the ball but they have begun to work as a team and use the space available to make some good passes. I have recently been impressed with their willingness to dribble with the ball and must commend Mae Millington and Sofia Zurita Crowe for the darting runs they have made during matches. They have had impressive wins over Maynard, Mount Kelly, Exeter Cathedral School, Bramdean and Trinity, in fact only losing one game this season to an Exeter side a year their senior. However, perhaps more importantly than any of the results, I must praise the girls for their willingness to switch positions and substitute on and off regularly to allow each member of our large squad to have their turn. Our results this term really have been a team effort. Very well done girls and I look forward to the netball season and no shin pads! **FLE**



Rugby

U11 RUGBY

There were high hopes within the U11 A Team as the season began, not least because the boys had enjoyed an unbeaten season as Under 10's and they were keen for this to continue, boosted by the arrival of some new players who were out to impress. Having trained well during pre-season the boys were raring to go as they met Stover in the first game, beginning with a convincing win. The standard of opposition jumped up a level or two as the team then travelled to Port Regis for their annual tournament, and having battled through a bruising encounter with The Dragon to draw 5-5, they then faced a much improved Millfield side who beat them 10-5. In many respects, this was the making of the team as it ensured that they were even more determined to perform well for the rest of the season, and they did not disappoint. Another tough festival, this time at Queen's, gave the boys the chance to play top opposition from across the South West and they rose to the challenge, playing strong rugby against hosts Queen's, Hazlegrove, Port Regis and St. Peter's. The squad then travelled to Plymouth where they played very expansive rugby to come away with a resounding win before welcoming long standing touring side, Swanbourne House, who were no match for the pace and the power that our boys were able to bring to the game. QEJ were our next opponents and they competed well but by this point in the season, the Blundell's side was brimming with confidence. The raw power

was provided by Archie Hull and Toby Butler who struck terror into opponents with their direct running, with the guile coming from Archie Joyner who won countless scrum feeds against the head. Scrum half come open-side, Harry Southgate, stole opposition ball at will, allowing the quite exceptional William Maunder to control a back line that was brimming with pace and the desire to take their opponents on. William racked up a number of tries during the season and his ability to distribute so effectively allowed James Clarkson to show his attacking prowess; whether from set-piece or in broken field play, the result was often the same. Hector Banton grew in confidence as the season progressed and made some wonderful opportunistic scores, and Toby Low appeared to defy the laws of physics as he jinked and side-stepped his way to countless tries. Barnaby Hull was as dependable as ever, showing versatility to play out wide or mix it with the big boys up front, and Guy Brown, playing his first season of rugby, showed what a tremendous prospect he is, powering over for a number of tries. The real reason for the boys' success was their sense of 'team' and whilst I was fortunate this year to coach some exceptional individuals, it was their ability to work together that really set them apart, and this became ever more obvious as the season progressed. Wins against Exeter Cathedral School set the boys up well for what for them, and their coach, was the game of the season,

the match against touring side Moultsford, a school that had beaten us on the previous four meetings. On this occasion it was Blundell's turn to come out on top but not before a simply herculean effort from the boys who did not give an inch – not one for the faint of heart, I can tell you! A good result against King's Hall was followed by a very hard fought victory against Exeter School and then convincing displays against Wellington and Taunton Prep ended the season on a high and showcased the best rugby that I have seen from an Under 11 side during my time coaching Prep School rugby. The boys were a delight, infinitely enthusiastic and willing to work hard, able to apply techniques so that they could turn them into skills to be performed when under pressure, and showing a desire to get up time and time again to make yet another tackle... not to mention faultlessly patient in putting up with having the Head Master as their coach! My thanks go to all of the squad, their parents and grandparents, who offered such tremendous support throughout the last two seasons. **ADS**

What a thrilling and very exciting term for the boys representing the U11 B Team! They met some very strong opposition along the way but never gave up and played with heart and enthusiasm in every game. We had just nine boys representing the team and so all boys played in every game which enabled us to develop a fantastic team spirit. Our training

U9 RUGBY

The U9 A Team had an exceptional rugby season, only losing one match all term. In their first season of contact rugby, the whole year group thrived under the new rules and made wonderful progress. The team displayed ferocious tackling and line speed in defence and a superb level of skill when running, passing and creating tries. Unbeaten festivals at Blundell's, Milfield, St.Peter's, Mount Kelly and King's Hall represent the efforts of the boys and success they have enjoyed. The attitude of the players has been unrivalled and their teamwork brilliant. I hope they are all looking forward to hockey next term. **ARC**

The boys in the U9 B Team have made an exceptional transition from tag rugby to contact in a very short space of time. By remembering the basics from Year 3 ("Run forwards!", "Defensive line!" and "Line speed!") they have impressed on a weekly basis, remaining unbeaten in most of their matches against other schools. Many of the boys in the B team stepped up to play for the first team during the Autumn Term, whilst others are seriously knocking on the door! The strength of Oliver Verdon-Smith, pace of Timothy Donald, trickery of Joshua Read and tackling of Tom Yandle must all be mentioned - whilst Francesco Taxis deserves special praise for his great spirit during his first term at Blundell's. Well done everyone! **DJM**

U10 RUGBY

The U10 A Team enjoyed a fantastic term making excellent progress with the new U10 laws. The team enjoyed great victories over Exeter Cathedral School, Wellington, Queen's Taunton, Mount Kelly and Taunton School. The side experienced a difficult tournament at Queen's but played some superb rugby finishing with wins against Stover and Taunton. It was great to welcome new boys into the year group who enjoyed playing rugby for the first time and representing the school. I have been extremely impressed by the skill development of the boys and their willingness to play a high level of rugby. The attitude and teamwork displayed by all the players was fantastic, and all the players should be proud of their efforts and look forward to returning as U11's next year. **ARC**

The U10 B Team has progressed this season and had some hard fought battles with a few victories. The determination of each member of the squad has shone through, and during the tackle the team has developed the skill of 'acquiring' the ball thus giving them the advantage of a greater amount of possession. With often simple defensive mistakes making the difference between victory or defeat, the team learnt lessons in every game. **SGS**

afternoons in games sessions were sometimes hampered by injury and absence, however, the boys never let this affect their performances in matches and gave their all in every game. They were a real joy to coach and deserved all their many terrific results, winning more than 75% of their games. As the term went on the boys developed a really strong defence, their tackling improved immensely as too did their ball handling skills. By their final game against Taunton Prep the boys delivered one of the best all round performances I have seen from an U11 team. Their defence was impregnable, their attack was clinical and their spirit and enjoyment in playing rugby a real delight to watch. I have truly enjoyed coaching and watching every single boy develop and mature as a player. Their enthusiasm was infectious and their desire to improve contagious. I would like to thank them all for a wonderful season in my first term at Blundell's, they have made it a truly superb rugby season. **SPH**

HOUSE RUGBY

Year Group	1st	2nd	3rd
6	Raleigh	Grenville	Drake
5	Drake	Raleigh and Grenville drew	
4	Raleigh	Grenville	Drake
3	Drake	Raleigh	Grenville

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U8 RUGBY

The U8 Tag Team have had a marvellous season with progression seen in every game. The support play has been fantastic. Runners followed the ball carrier, taking up running lines and angles that took them through the defences of their opposition. This heads up rugby style will see the whole squad become a team to watch in the future. All of the boys also had a go at contact rugby so they have a flavour of full rugby for next season. I am sure they will progress well with this development and flourish into an outstanding team. **SGS**





Super Saturday

LOOKING TO A CHIEF

Exeter Chiefs hosted the Year 6 boys for two hours of training at their academy with non-playing first team squad players acting as coaches. This was followed by a 'behind the scenes' tour around the Sandy Park stadium, looking at the amazing sports science the Chiefs use to get the best out of their players. After this there was the opportunity to watch the first team warming up in preparation for their match against Gloucester. Before this match all of the children made a tunnel for the players to run through and at half

time we were back to run around the pitch for a lap of honour. Jack Maunder, a Blundell's Prep old boy and Chiefs reserve, showed our pupils that all dreams are possible! Everybody had a great day out, which finished with Exeter holding Gloucester to a draw! **SGS**



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