

Whole School News

Welcome Back

The weather may be a little chilly but I hope that the warmth of welcome that the children received as they returned to school on Tuesday more than made up for it. It was super to see so many smiling and well-rested faces as the Spring Term began with the children looking very pleased to be back in school. They have good reason to feel that way, as there is a huge amount to look forward to. The iLetter provides a wealth of useful information but if you are uncertain about any details then please do not hesitate to contact Bev and Gloria in the school office.

Please can I remind everyone to proceed with caution when driving and walking in the car-park. Do encourage children to use crossings and please ensure that your driving speeds are kept very low. A polite reminder that dropping zones should be kept clear for school minibuses. Thank you for your help.

Sarah and I wish you all a Happy New Year and all the very best for 2017.

Head Boy and Girl

We would like to thank Honor Tobin and Jasper Winsley for all their hard work last term. Our Head Boy for the Spring term is Archie Joyner and our Head Girl is Georgia Withey. We wish them well for the term ahead.

Parent Portal

Could we ask all parents to check that their contact details and their child's medical details are correct on the Portal. We will still be loading all letters onto the Portal as well as EAG's and School Reports. On occasion we will also email letters or information home as well. You will however be informed either in the iLetter or via an email if information goes directly onto the Portal.

Money Raised for Charity

We are very pleased to announce that with the money raised from the School Stalls at the Christmas Market, Tea Towel sales and the Carol Services, we are able to send sizeable donations to Blood Bikes. The total amount raised was £2,176.06. Thank you so much to everybody for supporting these events. A wonderful effort!

Grandparents' Morning Invitation

Please find attached our invitation to Grandparents' Morning. We would be grateful if you could pass on. We are looking forward to greeting many of our pupils' grandparents on Monday, 30th January.

Friends of Blundell's Prep Summer Ball

We will be sending a Save the Date invitation to the Summer Ball via email and we would be grateful if parents could indicate whether they may be interested in attending. The committee are hoping to ascertain the level of interest to assess if the event can go ahead. A 'yes' or 'maybe' doesn't commit you to buying a ticket!

Second Hand Uniform

Our Nearly New Shop would be grateful for any uniform that your child has out grown, particularly sports kit, jumpers and blazers. They would be delighted to sell these on your behalf.

Spring Term Tennis Coaching

Level 1 Tennis Coaching Nursery - Year 2

11.15 - 12.00

9 weeks @ £45 per child

Level 2 Tennis Coaching Year 2 - 4

10.15 - 11.00

9 weeks @ £54 per child (Max 8 in the group)

The dates will be as follows:

Jan 14th/21st/28th

Feb 4th/25th

March 4th/11th/18th/25th

Adult Tennis Lessons

If you have a spare 40 minutes or even an hour in the week then why not book a tennis lesson. If you have never had a lesson with me before your first lesson will have 50% off. Please contact Aaron Flamson, Blundell's Tennis Coach on a.flamson@blundells.org if any of these are of interest to you.

Prep News

New pupils

We are delighted to welcome nine new children into the Prep Department this term. Children have joined in each of Years 3 to 6. They all have settled in well and we are very much enjoying having some new faces mingling in with our super children.

Year 5 and 6 Blogging

In Computing lessons this term, pupils in Years 5 and 6 will be learning how to 'blog'. This is an exciting new area of the curriculum, which we hope will soon extend to other subjects to promote collaborative learning. The children will be using the 'kidblog.org' website which allows teachers excellent levels of moderation. Staff will be able to monitor posts and comments, whilst members of the public will not be able to see the children's blogs. Talking to your children about their blogs over the coming weeks is highly recommended, and we would always advise that their access to the Internet at home should be in a supervised area. Mr Morris would be more than happy to talk to you about this if you have any questions or concerns.

Speech and Drama Lessons week commencing 16th January

Unfortunately, Mrs Rochfort is unable to teach during this week.

Sunday Morning Cricket

As per the leaflet attached, the first cricket training sessions will take place on Sunday 15th January in the Senior School sports hall. Mr Swain welcomes anyone who would like to come along. There is no need to book and attendance every week is not essential.

Creative Arts Week

This is taking place during the week commencing 6th February and promises to be an exciting event for all of the children in Years 3 to 6. We are always grateful for parental help and no artistic experience or expertise is necessary. We are looking for help on Monday, 6th February, Tuesday, 7th February and Wednesday, 8th February, if you are able to help then please email prep@blundells.org stating which days/times you will be available. We would also be very grateful for any donations of 1 pint plastic milk cartons.

Year 3 Outdoor Learning, Tuesday, 17th January

Please can the children come to School **wearing** old and warm home clothes suitable for going into the woods. They will require Wellington Boots and a warm waterproof jacket, hat and gloves. Could they please ensure that they have their games kit ready to change into.

Year 4 Outdoor Learning Afternoon, Tuesday, 24th January

Please can the children **bring** to School old and warm home clothes suitable to going into the woods. They will require Wellington Boots and a warm waterproof jacket, gloves and a hat. They should arrive at school in their school uniform.

Year 3 Egyptian Day Friday, 27th January

Year 3 will be having an Egyptian day on Friday, 27th January. The children do not dress up for this event and will therefore need to come in school uniform with their book bag.

Pre-Prep News

New pupils

We are delighted to welcome five new children into the Pre-Prep this term. Harry has joined N1S, Jemima N2T, Rory and Daisy have joined 1J and Toby has joined 2H. They have all greatly enjoyed their first week with us and settled very happily into their respective classes.

Curriculum Letters

Please note that there are new curriculum letters available on the Parent Portal for those with children in Kindergarten and Nursery 2.

School Council

Places on our School Council were hotly contested this week. Giving each child their democratic vote, elections took place and we ended up with a tie in both 2K and 2H. We are delighted to announce therefore that Viola Duckworth-Chad and Leo Jenkins will represent the Pre-Prep for the first half of the Spring term and Emma Scoble and Toby Newnes will take over for the second half of the term. Congratulations to all four children on being successfully elected.

Warm clothes

We have several children who have returned to school this term without coats, hats, scarves and gloves. As we are now in the depths of winter and the weather has turned decidedly chilly could we ask that all children bring in the items mentioned above to ensure that they are all warm enough when they go outside to enjoy their playtimes.