

Whole School News

Charity Tandem Skydive by Mr Southgate

As part of her Blundell's Adventure, Leadership and Service Award, Marinka in Year 6 has organised a charity tandem skydive in aid of the Cats Protection League and art equipment. As you would imagine, I was very supportive of this excellent idea right up until the point where I discovered that she wanted me to jump out of the plane! To say that this is not my thing is an understatement. I get vertigo walking up escalators so the thought of leaping out of a perfectly good plane at 15,000 feet does not fill me with enthusiasm. However, as a Head Master who regularly tells the children to get out of their comfort zone, I think I need to set an example, at least that is what the staff have told me. They are very keen for me to do it – how strange! If you would like to make a contribution then I would ask that you deposit some money in the lovely plane shaped collection receptacle in the Prep School Reception, preferably before the end of term as I am set to plummet to the earth on the 5th April. Thank you for your support.

Blundell's Unplugged

The tickets for 'Blundells Unplugged' are now available. The event will take place in Big School on Thursday 23rd March starting at 7.00 pm. Tickets cost £10.00 and proceeds are in aid of The Laos Project and Winston's Wish. If you would like tickets please contact Heather Vincent at the Senior School on 01884 232401 or email h.vincent@blundells.org. The event will be set up with tables of eight so if you are making a group booking please can you let Heather have the names of all those in your party.

Saturday Morning Tennis

We are again offering tennis lessons on a Saturday mornings during the Summer Term. These will take place on the Astro between 10.00 am and 11.00 am for children in Years 2 – 6. The cost will be £50 for ten weeks - this includes the half term weekends. The children will be split into ability groups and the lessons will be taken by two tennis coaches. Tennis rackets are provided but children can bring their own. Cheques should be made payable to Blundell's Prep School.

All bookings and questions please contact Mr Swain ss@blundells.org

Easter Service

Friday, 24th March 9.30 am

The Easter Service is taking place on Friday, 24th March, 9.30 am at Blundell's Chapel and will be attended by children from Kindergarten to Year 6. All parents are welcome to attend. It will last for about 40 minutes.

Comic Relief

Friday, 24th March

Comic Relief this year is on Friday, 24th March and the school will be supporting this wonderful event fully as always. We will mark the occasion through a non-uniform day on Friday, 24th March. We would ask for a £1 donation, which will go directly to Comic Relief.

Office Hours during the Easter Holiday

The School is closed from time to time in the holidays for annual leave. If you have a query in connection with the Fun@Blundell's holiday courses please contact Mr Swain on (01884) 232416 or fun@blundells.org

Sainsbury Vouchers

Please note that we are collecting Sainsbury vouchers and would welcome any that parents may have.

Notice for Music Lessons and Speech and Drama Lessons

Please can we remind parents that if your child wishes to cease Music or Speech and Drama lessons for the Autumn Term 2017, notice is required by the First day of the Summer Term. If you wish for your child to start a new or additional instrument, an invitation to do so will be in an iLetter during the first half of the summer term. Please note that you cannot swap from one instrument to another, a term's notice must be given

End of Term dates

Term ends on **Friday, 24th March**

Pre-Prep 3.30 pm (and siblings in the Prep School)

Prep 3.40 pm

Please note that there are no Clubs, Owls or minibuses running on this evening.

Start of Term date

The first day of the Summer Term 2017 is Wednesday, 19th April.

The School will be open on Monday, 1st May for a normal school day (Bank Holiday).

Attachments

Invitation to Blundell's Stand at the Devon County Show

Fun at Blundell's

Young writers Competition

Tennis

Activate Cricket

Prep News

Year 5 and 6 Girls cricket sessions are back!

Following on from the previous two summer terms, the very popular girls' softball cricket sessions are returning. Paul Diamond, who is an experienced county and district coach, will again be running the sessions from **5.30-6.30 pm on Thursdays**. The sessions will cover all aspects of cricket with the focus being on preparing for school matches, of which there are several during the summer term. The girls will be collected by Paul from the Prep School and taken to the Senior School. Could parents please collect the girls from the Senior School pavilion at 6.30 pm. Girls will need to wear suitable school PE kit. Paul will provide any equipment that is required. The cost for each session will be £5 and this will be added to the school bill at the end of term. Please contact the school office if your daughter is interested in attending. Paul can be contacted directly on 07980 738802 or pauldiamond124@btinternet.com with any questions.

Prep Science Week **Monday, 20th – Friday, 24th March**

In the final week of the Spring Term, the Prep School will enjoy Science week. The children will work through different days focusing on Biology, Chemistry and Physics and enjoy several different activities in their lessons. Senior School science staff are also getting involved, with several of their teachers running workshops and an assembly. The week will culminate in a visit on the Thursday from Dr Matt Pritchard who runs 'Science Magic Shows', something that will hopefully inspire and excite the children.

House Cross Country **Monday, 20th March**

This will take place on Monday, 20th March. All of the children in the Prep School will take part and parents are welcome to attend. Please note that no child may be taken from the course. **All the children must return to school** and will be released by their Form Teacher from the gate at 4.30 pm.

EAG's

Effort and Attainment Grades will be available on the Parent Portal from Friday, 24th March.

Accelerated Reader in the Prep School

You may have noticed that your children are bringing library books home that have a small orange 'accelerated reader' sticker on the spine. We are introducing the reading scheme as of September 2017 and we are all very excited about the impact that it will have on the children's reading. At the moment we are labelling books in the library so that they are ready for the launch. If you have any of the school library books at home then please bring them in as soon as possible so that they can be labelled up. Also, if you have any children's books that your child has now finished with and that you would like to donate to the school library, we would be very happy to receive them. We will be purchasing lots of new books for the library but any donations would help us to provide an even greater variety for the children to enjoy. Please drop them in to the school office.

There will be more information to follow about the accelerated reader scheme but if you would like to know more now then please look at the website <http://www.renlearn.co.uk/accelerated-reader/>, speak to Mr Richards or email gjr@blundells.org.

Readathon Charity

You may notice your children coming home with sponsorship envelopes for Readathon. Those who wish to take part will be raising money to help children in hospital have access to books. All the children need to do is read books and ask friends and relatives to sponsor them! For every £100 we raise for this amazing charity, the school will receive £20 to spend on books. If you would like to know more information then please look at the website: www.readathon.org or speak to Mr Richards or email gjr@blundells.org. The deadline for Sponsorship money is **Monday 20th March** so please return any money raised to Mr Richards by this date.

Pre-Prep News

Pre-Prep Parents' Evenings

Thank you to all of our parents who attended Parents Evenings earlier this week. If you were unable to attend on either of these evenings please speak to your child's Form Teacher who will be happy to find a mutually convenient time to meet on another day.

Year 1 and 2 House Matches Tuesday, 14th March 2.00 pm

Please come along and support the children in their House Matches next Tuesday at 2.00 pm. Tea for the parents will be served afterwards in the Nursery foyer.

Visit to Kindergarten for Nursery 2 Parents Thursday, 16th March 9.15 am

We are looking forward to welcoming current Nursery 2 parents to our Kindergarten classes next week. We will meet in the Pre-Prep Hall and talk through the changes that your child will encounter during the transition from Nursery 2 to Kindergarten. Following this there will be the opportunity to visit our two Kindergarten classes to meet the teachers and children.

Pre-Prep Coffee Morning and Celebration Assembly Friday, 17th March 8.15 am

We look forward to welcoming all Pre-Prep parents to our Celebration Assembly on Friday 17th March at 8.45 am. Coffee will be available in the Nursery foyer from 8.15 am.

Games Club Friday, 17th March

There will be no Games Club for the children in Years 1 and 2 next Friday, 17th March due to the Larkman Cup.

Pre-Prep Science Week Monday, 20th March – Friday, 24th March

On Tuesday 21st March the Pre-Prep children will be joining the Prep School for an exciting assembly led by Mr Mead who is a Chemistry teacher at our Senior School. We can expect plenty of pops and bangs!

On Thursday 23rd March Dr Matt Pritchard will be visiting the Pre-Prep to put on a show called 'Surprising Science' for the children in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. Matt is both a magician and a scientist and so we are looking forward to being surprised and amazed.

Our annual Science Week competition is being launched later than usual to avoid following on too closely after the competitions for Creative Arts Week. The theme for British Science Week this year is 'Change'. Changes in the environment as well as climate change have resulted in many animals being placed on the endangered species lists. For our Pre-Prep competition, I would like to challenge the children to find out about an endangered creature. They can then either make a model of that creature, using whatever materials they wish, or they could make a poster about it warning about the danger of it becoming extinct and the reasons why it might become extinct. The closing date for the competition will be **Monday 24th April**. The children will therefore have the Easter holidays to make their model or poster and a few days at the start of term. The competition is completely optional. There will be tables out in the Nursery foyer for the model entries and the posters will be displayed on the walls. Please ensure that the models and posters are named and also have your child's form on them. If you have any questions please do ask me. Jenny Purvis (Pre-Prep Science Co-ordinator)

Primary School Tag Rugby Festival for Years 1 and 2 Tuesday 21st March 2.00 pm

This will take place on Tuesday 21st March at 2.00 pm. Do join us if you can to cheer the children on during the afternoon.