

SPRING 2020

review



2020 Vision

INSIDE:

Spring into Action:
Exercising Body and Mind

Going for a Song:
Young Voices

Boxing Clever:
Creative Arts Week

looking to the future
at Blundell's Prep School

“As you look through the pages that follow, take great joy in all that has come before us and look forward to what lies ahead.”



My introduction to this Spring Edition of the Review is written at a time of profound change to our normal routines, where what we are experiencing is in such stark contrast to the wonderful term which has come before. As we gaze back to a time when school was very much in full swing, we are reminded of the many wonderful events which have enriched the lives of all of our children and we reflect on how much those moments meant to all of us.

This term saw the launch of our Blundell's Prep 2025 Strategic Vision in which our school's aims were shared through five key pillars. My sense is that the development of 'Roots and Wings' has never been more pertinent, and it is comforting that over the term we have seen our children demonstrate their understanding of these aims in a variety of different ways.

Not one, not two, but three themed weeks occupied the Spring Term, with Book Week, Creative Arts and STEM all featuring. Children and staff immersed themselves in every moment, whether dressing up for World Book Day in the Pre-Prep or making slime in the Prep. These experiences provided opportunities for discovery, for individual expression and for the pure enjoyment of something out of the ordinary – pillar one, Dynamic Learning, in its purest form. At the same time, each of our children has better understood their own interests and capabilities, and has developed their Self Knowledge, the second of the core pillars within our five year plan. This term has also seen us recognise and celebrate International Women's Day, as we welcomed five inspirational speakers to the Prep School, all sharing their stories and helping our children to better understand the roles that they can play in the world. The third of our pillars, Social Responsibility, has always been a key component of the Blundell's Prep experience and that has continued to be the case this term as children have looked for ways to use their time and their skills for the benefit of others. One small but meaningful example was the way in which our children in Years 4 and 5 hosted their parents with such warmth and consideration during their afternoon tea parties. In amongst the busy days, it is important to stop and focus in on the often overlooked simplicity of putting someone else first and the children needed very little prompting to do a wonderful job of looking after their guests. The Joy of Discovery is pillar four and perhaps one of the easiest to see in action. The excitement with which our Year 6 children have embraced the Blundell's Adventure, Leadership and Service Award has been palpable with examples of altruism too numerous to mention. The fifth pillar is the development of Strong Foundations and this is perhaps the most relevant to our current situation. As you look through the pages that follow, take great joy in all that has come before us and look forward to what lies ahead. It will make returning to school all the sweeter.

I send my very best wishes to all of our Blundell's Prep community.

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

Andy Southgate Head Master



“There are two gifts we should give to our children; one is roots and the other is wings.”



DYNAMIC
LEARNERS



Anything is possible

SELF-KNOWLEDGE



*Understanding
who I am*

SOCIAL
RESPONSIBILITY



*Engaging with
our communities*

DISCOVERY



The joy of adventure

STRONG
FOUNDATIONS



*Established and
enterprising*

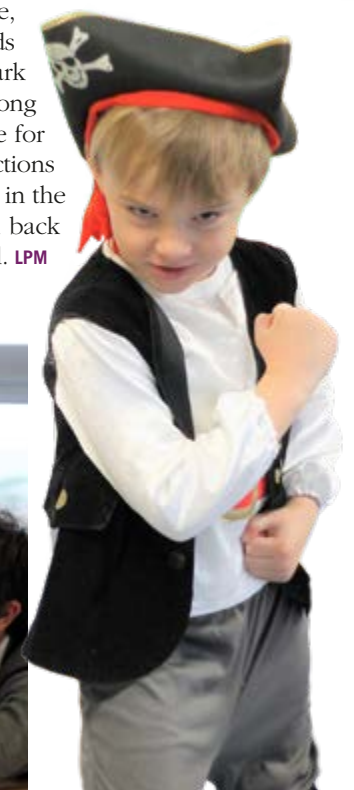


Blundell's

a school community thoughtful in understanding its pupils and innovative in developing their potential



Whether working inside the classroom, or exploring the world beyond Blundell's... whether designing, creating and making, or evaluating, reviewing and improving... whether working independently or collaboratively, on the sports field, on the stage or in the music studio... whether looking after each other, our neighbours or our planet... whether developing initiative and ambition, or resilience and adaptability... whether growing knowledge, learning skills or building friendships... a Blundell's education embraces a broad range of dynamic learning opportunities to foster emotional intelligence, to deepen self-knowledge and to build understanding of the needs of our local and global communities. It seeks to ignite the spark of discovery, to stimulate and nurture the beginnings of a life-long love of learning, and to provide the very best foundations in life for each and every Blundellian. In whatever varied and diverse directions their interests may lay, as our pupils branch out and learn to fly in the wider world, we hope that every single one of them will look back fondly at the roots of their success right here at the Prep School. **LPM**



Sisters Are Doin' It For Themselves

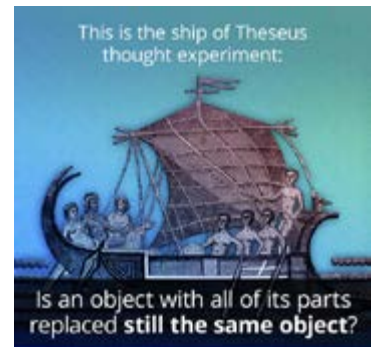


INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In March we were delighted to welcome five incredibly inspiring women into school in order to help us celebrate International Women's Day. Mrs. Nash and Form 2N started the morning by delivering a fascinating assembly on equal rights, they talked about the amazing achievements of incredible young women such as Malala Yousafzai, Emma Watson and Greta Thunberg, and they came up with some very easy ways in which we can all help to make our school community as fair and equal as possible for everyone. The children then split into five groups - moving around the school and hearing in turns from TV Producer Summer Bradshaw, surgeon Jenny Banks, research scientist Dr. Leanne Cockayne, Master of Ceremonies Verity Panter and Ellie Carter, the youngest female ever to gain her Private Pilot's Licence. Our five guests captivated the children from Years 2 to 6 with their stories about what had inspired them when they were younger and why they had decided to go down the routes that they did, telling tales of the many challenges that they have faced along

the way. Our pupils listened incredibly well and asked lots of intelligent questions. We are so grateful to our guests for joining us and helping to provide what was a truly marvellous morning with a highly motivating message for all.

TN & DJM



PHILOSOPHICALLY SPEAKING

It was lovely to see so many pupils signing up to our three Philosophy Enrichment sessions throughout the Spring Term. Mrs. Weaver from the Senior School lead some really thought-provoking sessions with a theme of 'Adventures in Thinking' which challenged the children to explore some really deep concepts, such as whether or not there is such a thing as 'nothing' and 'silence'... they even delved into the 'Ship of Theseus' paradox with great enthusiasm! The children listened incredibly well and really enjoyed sharing their views with one another. They were also exhausted after the high level of critical thinking demanded by each session! We are hugely grateful to Mrs. Weaver for giving up her time in order to provide these wonderful opportunities! DJM





More than Just a Read Through

THE MANY STRENGTHS OF BOOK WEEK



As well as hosting author Tracey Corderoy, Book Week at Blundell's saw the children immersed in a marvellous mix of book based activities designed to promote the joy of reading – not just as something that teachers nag children to do, but as something fundamentally fun in its own right! Year 2 started the week with a lovely assembly based upon a book by Anthony Browne called "I like Books." There was great excitement amongst the children when given the opportunity to look at the huge range of books displayed by the Roving Bookfair. Many enjoyed making their own purchases, and the sale of so many books meant that we were able to buy a lovely range of new books for the school library too. Coming to school dressed in favourite Book Character Costume created much excitement, our Table Top Book Quiz was a great success, and during the week everyone enjoyed making their own books, sharing book reviews, and even creating a Classroom Door Book Cover for Mrs. Clifford's Best Door Book Cover Competition. (Miss Steel and her class were the proud winners!) Children from the Prep and Pre-Prep enjoyed spending time reading together and, as always, Book at Bedtime was delightful – the children thoroughly enjoyed slipping into their pyjamas and snuggling up with their teddies and friends for hot chocolate and some much-loved bedtime stories shared by staff from across the school. The whole week was a lot of fun for children and teachers alike, and Book Week 2021 is already booked in the calendar! **TN & LPM**



The Tiger Who Came To Tea, Zog, Alice in Wonderland, Paddington Bear, Tintin, Horrid Henry... a catalogue of colourful characters marched out of the page and into the Pre-Prep in Book Week, populating the school with potential and showing that there is no limit to what can be achieved or who you can become when imagination and creativity are unleashed in stories...



PAPERBACK WRITER

As part of our Book Week celebrations, we were delighted to welcome children's author Tracey Corderoy, who has published many books including the Shifty McGiffy and Seaview Stables series. She was brilliant in speaking with children from across the school, and as well as talking to them and answering questions about life as a writer, she had also organised some lovely story activities for them to do. It was great to see Tracey's enthusiasm inspiring the children to go out and write their own destinies! **LPM**



news



Meet and Eat

Children from across the school were delighted to welcome their parents to join them for a sociable get together this term. Some parents joined their children for School Lunch, and others came in to share Afternoon Tea. As well as eating together, the children had fun showing their parents their classrooms, giving them a mini tour of the facilities, and even sharing some activities together on the interactive whiteboards. It was lovely to see so many members of the Blundell's community able to come together on these relaxed and informal occasions!

LPM



ART OF GLASS

As part of their Science topic on Materials, Year 2 were delighted to visit a glass studio where Master Glass Maker Bob Crooks talked to the children about the art of glass. They learned about how glass is made and shaped, they saw some amazing finished pieces and even had a go at glass blowing! It was clear to see that the children had a smashing time! LPM



QUIZARD PRANG

With representation from Years 3 to 6, the erudite Blundell's Quiz Club Team encapsulated an eclectic range of general knowledge as they set forth to take part in the National Quiz Club Regional Heats at Millfield this term. Unfortunately this was not to be our year, but all had a great time, tried their best, and can be proud to have put in a very creditable performance against a large number of teams from across the South West. Well done to all! LPM



CARRY ON HENRY

Year 5 were taken back in time to the Tudor era when they were visited by King Henry VIII this term. Dressed in all the paraphernalia of the period, the children learned lots about life in Tudor times, as well as trying their hands at jousting, and finding out that being sentenced to a punishment in the stocks was no laughing matter! LPM



PRO-TRACTORS

Our Nursery children were thrilled to receive three new tractors to enjoy in their playground. A big thank you to parent Johnny Clapp for his very generous donation. ER-S



CHINA WHIRL

The children in Reception had fun celebrating the Chinese New Year. They learnt about Chinese food, made money envelopes, dressed up in Chinese clothes and even had a go at writing in Chinese! A high-light was making and decorating Chinese lanterns. SMA



ZEN DIAGRAM

Year 3 visited the Buddhist Centre in Exeter to gain a better picture of Buddhism as part of their RPS studies. They had previously thought of lots of questions to ask and they found out lots of information about Buddhism and the Buddhist way of life. They also took part in a short meditation. The children, and staff, always love the meditation and all left feeling very relaxed! SAS



"We learned about how maths is used in the stables, the parade ring, and on the racing course, as well as looking at maths in action for weighing the jockeys, measuring the horses and timing the races. It was a fascinating day in a number of different ways!"

Charlie Dawe, Year 6

Horses for Courses



Our Year 6 pupils had a wonderful day at Exeter Racecourse learning all about how maths is used outside the classroom - and you will be pleased to hear that no betting was involved! The charity 'Racing to School' put on another superb day of workshops and activities that really helped the children to see how what they learn in the classroom can be applied to situations in real life. Measuring the parade ring, closely examining the dimensions of the jumps and exploring the weighing room all made for a brilliant day out - and watching a couple of races at the end was the icing on the cake! **DJM**



KINGS OF THE CASTLE



Year 2 had great fun visiting Tiverton Castle where owner, Mrs. Gordon, was pleased to conduct a tour of the impressive building while regaling the children with tales of historic battles and rumours of haunting ghosts! A particular highlight was visiting the armoury, where the children were able to try on the costumes of battle and try picking up some rather heavy cannon balls. **LPM**

WALK THE DINOSAUR

To enrich our Topic this term Year 1 had a fantastic trip visiting the dinosaurs at Combe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Park. We got up close and personal with bones and fossils from the age of the dinosaurs, we explored the Tomb of the Pharaohs and braved walking through Dino Valley as well as taking a trip on the Dino Express Train. The children had a wonderful time and learnt lots! **AXS**



MANIC AT THE DISCO

The energy on show at the Prep Disco was electric! The Pre-Prep children had great fun being entertained by Professor Bumble before enjoying tea and games at their party, while the Prep School offered just the right combination of sugar-injected snacks and thumping beats to fuel a wild and wonderful night on the dance floor. All were duly exhausted by the end of the party! Many thanks to the Friends of Blundell's Prep for organising it all. **LPM**



OUT OF THE FRYING PAN

The Reception class enjoyed a day of pancake activities as they celebrated Shrove Tuesday. They loved listening to the story of 'Mr. Wolf's Pancakes' and acted out all the actions. They then helped to mix the batter and cook one pancake each. They enjoyed selecting their favourite toppings (sugar and lemon proved to be the most popular) but their favourite thing was eating the pancake! They also took part in pancake races which involved lots of dressing up, cheering and celebrating. The majority of pancakes made it safely to the finish line! **SMA**



SYSTEMIC SKILLS IN ACTION



RECEPTION AREA: MATHS, MONEY AND MEASURES

The children in Reception have loved having a class café where they could go to buy their fruit and drink at morning snack time this term. They enjoyed learning to recognise different coins and how to make different amounts. They also enjoyed beginning to measure height by using cubes. They began by measuring how tall toy penguins were, before moving on to compare their own heights to that of an emperor penguin. They were delighted to discover that they are nearly the same size! SMA



STEM, or **S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering and **M**aths as a cluster of complementary subjects, is critical to helping children build skills for the future that will be key to a wide variety of different career paths. We were delighted to welcome Frantz Nehammer, Head of Engineering Delivery at The Bloodhound Project, to kickstart STEM Week at the Prep School. The Bloodhound Project is aiming to break the World Land Speed Record by developing the most advanced straight-line racing car ever built. Frantz talked to Year 6 about developing the car and using data from recent trials in South Africa to enhance performance ahead of the World Record attempt. On the back of this talk, Year 6 enjoyed a fast and furious fantastic week designing and testing their own rocket cars!

Across the school many different STEM challenges took place, from Lego construction, microscope work, bird identification, designing and building 3-D mazes, electrical treasure maps, heat sensitive slime and much more. We were particularly delighted to welcome students from Year 12 who visited to help Year 6 with an eye-opening dissection masterclass. In lessons in the classroom, at the pond, in the woods and at the Senior School, there were smiles on everybody's faces as learning and fun were seen to come together organically in a skills-based programme encouraging critical thinking, collaboration and self-evaluation. Everyone was also invited to take part in a challenge to identify a problem that needs solving in the world, and then to come up with their own creative designs to address the problem. A huge thank you to Miss Mahon for masterminding this amazing week!

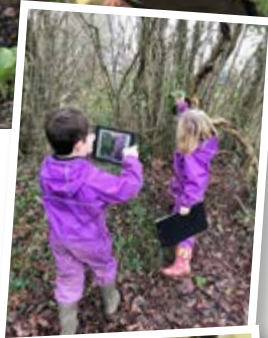
Jesse Aldridge, Patrick Taylor-Ross and Alfie Aldridge, Year 6





EARTH SCIENCE

Science in the Pre-Prep plays a huge part across and beyond the curriculum, and this term we have really enjoyed getting back to nature. Year 1 were fascinated by a visit to the Senior School gardens where Mr. Olive talked to the children about the best conditions for growing vegetables, before they took the iPads out in their Wild Wonders session to investigate the broad range of flora growing across the school grounds. Conservation and environmental awareness is very important to all of the children, and Reception played their part in undertaking a litter picking sweep of the campus. Science Sparks, our Pre-Prep Science Club, has also been busy this term, growing crystals from a range of different rock salts – they mixed various different solutions in eggshells and placed them in a range of different locations across the school; they were fascinated to monitor the different levels of crystallization that developed over time. **LPM**



SCIENCE ENRICHMENT



Children in Year 6 had a great time working with Senior School staff and students when they visited the Science Labs for three Enrichment Workshops this term. We were tasked with investigating whether leaves were photosynthesising by testing for starch in Biology. We had an explosive time in Chemistry when we saw what would happen if we burst balloons containing different chemicals. For Physics, we investigated force by using a newton metre to measure the length of a spring while adding increasing weights, and then we made a line graph of our results. Thank you to the staff and students at the Senior School for giving us a fascinating glimpse into higher Science! **Morgan Rogers, Year 6**

LEARNING IN ACTION

A huge thank you to all of the parents who attended either or both of our Learning in Action workshops that took place during the Spring Term. These were Maths based, focusing in particular on the way in which calculations are taught in school. Many of the methods that pupils currently learn in school are different to the ways in which their parents may have been taught, and so it was great to see so many people keen to learn how best to support their children at home. Notes from the workshops are available from the Parent Portal, and as always, should you have any questions about Maths at Blundell's the teachers are always very happy to help! Look out for Learning in Action workshops based on English coming soon! **DJM**



LEARNING SHOWCASE

We were delighted to welcome our Pre-Prep parents into school in January for a wonderful Learning Showcase in which the children showed great pride – and excitement – in sharing all that they had achieved across the curriculum with their parents. **LPM**



OXFORD COMPUTING CHALLENGE

Huge congratulations to Mimi Griffiths, Morgan Rogers, Jesse Aldridge, Artie Evans and Edie Munro in Year 6 – all of whom had qualified to take part in the TCS Oxford Computing Challenge in March, as a result of some excellent performances in November's Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge. This contest is open to pupils in Years 6 and 7, and it certainly got the children thinking! Although we didn't qualify for the Finals round, these five students should be incredibly proud of their efforts in getting this far - well done everyone! **DJM**



SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

Academic Scholarship Exams in English and Maths take place in January for our Year 6 students looking to gain an award at the Senior School. These are always very challenging, and outstanding results in both subjects are required to be successful. Well done to all the candidates who worked so hard to take on this challenge, and a special congratulations to Alfie, Jesse, Archie, Owain, Charlie, Mimi, Izzy, Edie and Nathan for gaining a Scholarship Award this year. We very much look forward to hearing of your future successes at the Senior School! **LPM**



LEARNING JAPANESE

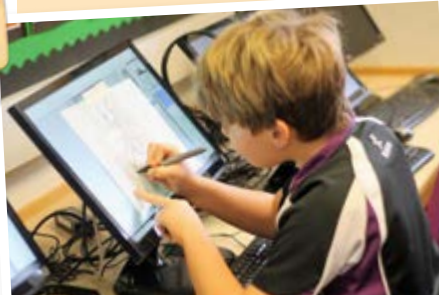
Creative Arts Week

The theme for Creative Arts Week 2020 was the Tokyo Olympics. Across the school children were busy researching, designing, making, painting, sculpting, modelling, printing, inscribing, filming, on paper, in clay, on screen and in fabric all things Japanese! We were delighted to welcome back Ed Jobling, who worked with Year 6 to put together the most amazing Olympic animation, Tony Minnion, who supported Year 5 with a sporty themed photoshop project and Graham Baily, who led Year 3 in sculpting workshops creating miniature sports figures. Other activities included making clay tiles in the style of Keith Haring, investigating the installations of Yayoi Kusama, practising calligraphy skills with a Japanese script, tie-dyeing tee-shirts, baking Olympic biscuits, designing robot silhouettes for light box projections, creating life-size Olympic figures, building clay Japanese houses and recreating Tokyo skylines, amongst many others! **JAA & LPM**



"YEAR 5 HAD GREAT FUN PHOTOSHOPPING WITH TONY MINION - THEY TOOK PICTURES AND DREW AROUND THEM ON TRANSLUCENT PAPER. IN THE BACKGROUNDS THERE WAS A CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE AND MOUNT FUJI. THEY LOOKED AMAZING!

Alexander Morrison, Year 6





YAYOI KUSAMA BLENDING THE RULES



Yayoi Kusama is a contemporary Japanese artist, a graduate of the pop art movement, and now famous for her multimedia installations, in which she likes to explore the relationships between patterns in life and nature. A common motif in her work is being photographed in harmony with her environment, and Year 6 had great fun investigating this theme for themselves... **LPM**



REACHING FOR THE SKIES

Imagination and creativity really took off in the Pre-Prep, where Flight was the theme for Creative Arts Week this year. Each child enjoyed creating their own personal feather for our giant wings, and the different year groups all created a wide variety of fantastic pieces, including hot air balloons, angels, clay birds and even futuristic Da Vinci-inspired flying machines made from recycled junk materials. The theme was taken up in Wild Wonders, where Year 2 children worked alongside Nursery and Reception to create pinecone birds, while Year 1 enjoyed using water colours to paint all manner of things that fly outdoors. The sky was the limit for our Pre-Prep highflyers, and everybody had an amazing time with a positive mental altitude! **SJS & LPM**



Child's Play

Friendship, respect, excellence, positivity, resilience – these five Olympic themes were as fundamental to our young performers as they are to any Olympic hopeful. Training hard to pursue the dream is what it is all about, and in facing the challenge of learning a new play, rehearsing and putting on a live performance to family and friends all in one day, our Play In A Day actors excelled! Year 2 put on an excellent performance of The Princess And The Giant, while Year 4 demonstrated determination and co-operation in equal measure to deliver their Olympic-themed play. Everybody enjoyed a fabulous experience, and both plays were greatly appreciated by their audiences. Well done to all! **TMC & LPM**





"WE ABSOLUTELY LOVED TAKING PART. REHEARSALS WERE FUN AND PUTTING ON A CONCERT WITH WORLD-CLASS SINGERS IN THE EVENING WAS AN AMAZING EXPERIENCE. IT WAS A REALLY BUSY AND LONG DAY AND WE DIDN'T ARRIVE BACK UNTIL MIDNIGHT, BUT IT WAS WELL WORTH IT!"

Patrick Taylor-Ross & Wilbur Parker, Year 6

Musical Notes

YOUNG VOICES

Tea Time Concerts



This term saw a change to our Tea Time Concert programme. The first half of term saw our very first Percussion Concert with all our pupils who have drum kit lessons taking part as well as our Percussion Group. We even managed to persuade our percussion teachers Mr Cartwright and Mrs Banks to perform, which was fantastic for our pupils to see what they are aspiring to. Our String and Brass/Woodwind Concerts followed. Both were fantastic concerts and provided a chance for all of our string, brass and woodwind players, whether beginner or more experienced players, to perform to very appreciative audiences. **BLC**

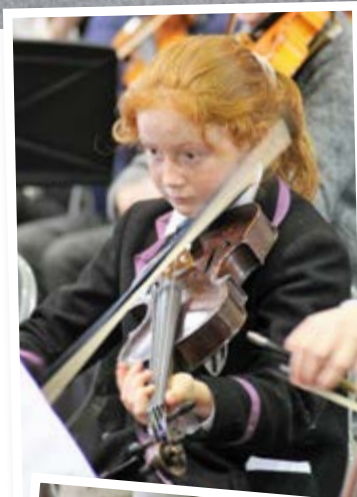


Our trip to the Resorts World Arena took place on Friday 17th January. The children joined 6000 other children to sing and dance together. They performed a variety of music including a Pop Medley, a Frightfest Medley and a fantastic finale medley of songs from Queen. The children were joined by Ruti (the winner of The Voice in 2018), dance-troupe Urban Strides, country-duo The Shires and, for the second year running, Tony Hadley. The excitement for Tony Hadley was incredible and even the children joined in this year, having seen their teachers' reactions last year! I would like to say thank you to all of our parents who made the journey up to Birmingham. It really means a lot to the children to know that they have got people supporting us in the audience. Thank you also to everyone involved with Young Voices. We are looking forward to learning the songs and dances for next year's concert! **BLC**



A Time to Dance Spring Concert and Pro Corda

Our Spring Concert took place in Exeter Cathedral this year and it had a dance theme. Some of our Year 5 and 6 singers and our instrumentalists joined the Senior School and six other schools to take part in a concert which brought together over 250 musicians. The first half was orchestral and our instrumentalists were given the opportunity to play in a large orchestra. Danzon by Marquez provided everyone with a musical challenge and there were also some more familiar pieces such as The Montagues and Capulets by Prokofiev and Tchaikovsky's Dance of the Cygnets and Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy. The second half of the concert was choral and our singers performed Alex Roth's A Time to Dance, with the composer himself in the audience! It was a truly wonderful evening of music which provided a tremendous amount of inspiration for our children.



In February we were also invited to take part in the National Pro Corda Chamber Music competition. Pro Corda provide inspirational ensemble training in Chamber music and our small Chamber group really enjoyed the experience of performing for them before working with the adjudicator on how to develop and improve their piece. Following the first round of the competition our Chamber group was invited to take part in the semi-finals. I was incredibly proud of the children, especially as they were competing against children a year older than them. Huge congratulations to the Chamber group who performed very impressively, competing against some excellent Chamber groups. **BLC**



MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

We are very lucky to have so many children at the Prep School who are fully committed to musical life within the school. We have some talented musicians and this term some of our Year 6 musicians auditioned for Music Scholarships at the Senior School. They spent the afternoon at the Senior School performing and taking part in singing and instrumental workshops. I am delighted that five children were awarded awards. Well done to Alfie, Bea, Ella, Jesse and Sophie. We also had a group of children take their Trinity Music exams just before the end of term. Exams were taken on the drum kit, piano and violin. The children did extremely well and, between them, gained two merits and five distinctions. This was a fantastic set of results, well done to all those children who took an exam this term.

BLC



Tea and Tunes

It was lovely to see so many families attend our Pre-Prep Tea and Tunes Concert this term. The children played a range of instruments including the piano, recorder and trombone and for the first time we also had a guitar performance. We welcomed the newly formed Pre-Prep Choir who made their first public performance and delighted the audience with their singing. Many congratulations to all the performers. We look forward to hosting more Tea and Tunes Concerts soon.

SMA





U11 NETBALL

What an amazing season it has been for the top-class netball players of the **U11 A Team**. With the added support of our new netball coach Mrs. Cox, the team has gone from strength to strength, winning all bar one of its weekly matches and coming away from the tournaments with some super, shiny silverware for the trophy cabinet! The girls won the Exeter Tournament by beating all the other teams in a round robin tournament, but the huge highlight of the term for me was their immense efforts at the Regional IAPS Tournament held at Millfield. They won all of their games in the pool round, but then had to play a very strong Millfield side in the semi-finals. They put up a great fight but were unable to win, resulting in one final chance to qualify for the Nationals in the third/fourth play-off round. At 3-2 down at half time it was looking like a difficult task but with grit, determination and a real desire to win, they pulled it all together in the final few minutes and managed to claw their way back to a 6-4 victory. Kitted out with hoodies and beanies we were thrilled to be heading off to Bryanston for the Nationals, but unfortunately the season was cut short by Covid-19 and these fantastic girls, along with many others, did not get the chance to compete. Well done for such a brilliant term of netball though girls. Keep up all those great skills for next year! **LB**

The **U11 B Team** has also enjoyed a super season of netball. We played eight different schools and only lost against three! Our first match of the season against Millfield was the toughest which we lost, but the girls picked themselves up and the following week beat Wellington with fantastic shooting from Annabel, Heidi, Illiana and Sophie, and excellent defending from Harriet and Antonia. Our next match was against Taunton Prep which we also won. The speed on the centre of the court from Hannah, Mimi and Heidi meant that we kept possession and had many opportunities to score. Exeter School and King's Hall were tough matches and their goal shooting was accurate and consistent. Despite excellent defending from both Harriet and Antonia, we lost both matches. However, showing a great deal of resilience, we went on to secure wins against Exeter Cathedral School, St.Peter's and Mount Kelly. Our triangular home matches against St.Peter's and Mount Kelly were a highlight of the season for me. The sun was shining, parents and supporters teemed around the courts and the atmosphere was really positive. The girls worked brilliantly as a team, footwork was tight, distances observed and goals scored. This was a real high to finish on.

Thank you, girls, for making the season so enjoyable. **CFH**



NETBALL

U10 NETBALL

What a season! The **U10 A Team** managed to go the whole season undefeated, which was a tremendous achievement. They won all of their weekly games and they also won the Exeter School Tournament. The versatility of all the players was truly amazing - everyone was able to play in every position and the consistency of shooting skills was fantastic. Out of the six matches played, the team scored 84 goals and conceded 27, which goes to show not only what a strong attacking side they were, but also that when needed their defensive skills were equally as good. Everyone had their favourite positions. Our two Daisys made a formidable shooting pair and appeared to work as one when in the D. Zacara made shooting very difficult for the opposition as her height and reach were vital. Emma always worked hard as goal defence and intercepted the ball time and time again, much to the frustration of the other team. Camarra, Tabby and Arabella used their speed, quick reactions and accuracy with passes to make sure the ball was sent to the attacking end of the court with flow and style. The team, who were joined by Viola at the Exeter School Tournament, proved that they were far too strong for the other teams there

and quite deservedly walked away with the trophy and winners' medals. A special mention and congratulations must also go to Daisy D and Emma for impressing so much that they achieved places in this year's IAPS U11 squad which secured a place at the national finals. Well done to all the girls! **JER**

The **U10 B Team** girls played their matches as a 5 a-side team this season. It took them a couple of matches to get used to the new format of play, but once they found their favoured positions they were off! Viola was phenomenal as GA and scored over 20 goals throughout the season. Jess also showed herself to be versatile player, starting in the team as Centre and later showing that she had shooting capability too. The girls lost their early season matches to Millfield and Wellington, but were then victorious against Taunton and Kings Hall. The pinnacle of the season was the final fixture - winning Millfield's B Team tournament. The girls returned with medals, smiles and the satisfaction of knowing that they could beat Millfield after all! **JMC**

U9 NETBALL



What an interesting Netball season it has been for the **U9 Teams**. 2020 has seen the introduction of 'Bee Netball' which means the girls have played in small sided games, having to learn some new rules but also enjoying the opportunity to rotate positions on the court. After a 4 v 4 friendly against Taunton School, the girls began the season with some more competitive 5 v 5 matches, coming away

with convincing victories over Exeter Cathedral, King's Hall and Exeter School. All of the girls in Year 4 kindly gave up their Saturday to take part in the Queen's College Tournament. The Blundell's 'purple' team won every group game, scoring 20 goals and conceding only 2, thereby qualifying for the semi-final. Who would they meet in the semi-final? None other than the Blundell's 'black' team who had also won every group game, scoring 11 goals and conceding only 2! What a wonderful achievement to have two very talented Blundell's teams in the semi-final of the tournament. The girls played to the best of their ability and more importantly showed great sportsmanship during the slightly bizarre play off! The Blundell's purple team were victorious and then went on to win the tournament, beating Bristol Grammar School in a ferocious final. Every one of the girls did us proud that day! The following week while one Blundell's team travelled to Stover for a friendly, the other attended the Exeter School Tournament. A huge congratulations must go to this group of girls who were clearly shattered but played their hearts out in bitter conditions to come away unbeaten and victorious once again! The girls scored 22 goals that afternoon and conceded only 1! What a superb season it has been, very well done to each and every one of the girls. **FLE**

U8 NETBALL

It was an exciting season for the Year 3 girls with the new 'Bee Netball' being brought into action meaning smaller teams and a new version of the game to learn. It proved to be no problem for the girls, who found it exciting to be able to play in all positions and had a lot more freedom of movement around the court. They all had to perfect their shooting technique and many impressed me immensely by the end of the season when – having struggled to get the ball near the ring in the first few weeks – they were scoring goal after goal with confidence! The strength of their passing and movement was very apparent when playing in matches and they showed a real flair for the game by the final match, in which they scored lots of super goals and defended admirably. Well done girls and keep up all the hard work and determination in your sport next term. **LB**



PRE-PREP FIXTURES: HOME AND AWAY

AWAY DAY: If you shake up a can of fizzy drink it explodes once it is opened. The starting whistle of each game played at the St. Peter's Festival released the human fizz of the mighty Year 2 football and netball teams. They all ran and ran, chasing the ball, shooting and scoring all afternoon without going flat for a second! Everybody thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon of sport! **SGS**

HOUSE MATCHES: The Year 1 & 2 House Matches saw the boys and girls playing with a smile on their faces which belied a competitive urge to do as well as they could for their Houses in the football and netball round robin event. With a regular rotation of positions to keep the players on their toes, this was a dynamic, positive afternoon of sport for young players with oodles of energy! Well done to all! **SGS**



SPORTING CHANGE

Besides Netball and Hockey, Athletics, Cross Country, Football, Rugby and Cricket, there is an incredible amount of sporting opportunity at Blundell's, both inside and outside of lessons. From fencing and judo to tennis and swimming, from dance and golf to fives, gymnastics and equestrianism, there is something to suit everyone in our drive to encourage physical exercise as a much-valued part of a holistic Blundell's education.





HOCKEY

U10 HOCKEY

There was no squabbling or argument about who should be in the **U10 A Team**. The team picked itself, with every boy demonstrating skill, ability and sheer bounding enthusiasm for the game. It took us a little while to find our feet and our best playing positions, but once we had got used to these the team gelled together and were unstoppable. The boys played some exquisite hockey at times and some of the teams they came up against had no answer to their speed, skill and determination to dominate. On a few occasions we were slow off the mark and allowed the opposition to score, but even then we managed to pull back equalisers, and on the odd occasion even waited until the last minute to score winning goals! Defence, midfield and attack all worked in unison to make this an extremely strong team all-round. The boys have shown endless enthusiasm for the game, I really enjoyed coaching them and thank them all for their efforts and performances. I am so proud of all that they achieved, and wish them every success in the future with their hockey. **SPH**

The **U10 B Team** was a delight to coach this term. The boys really gave their all to training sessions, and when it came to match days, they put in some sterling performances, winning more than they lost and always playing with great heart. Oliver C-W was the rock at the heart of our defence, ably assisted by his centre back partner, Harry. Rafe was a determined contributor to the team's defensive efforts as was Benny, our trusty goalkeeper. Our midfield dynamo was Max and he was ably supported by the skilful Steven and on occasion, Oscar, whose impressive performances quickly got him moved to the A Team. Oliver W showed what potential he has on the hockey pitch and Toby made enormous progress, showing grit during the tougher matches. As the season progressed, so the boys became used to my expectations, and when the season was brought to a premature close, their disappointment was clear to see. I congratulate them all on a super term of hockey. **ADS**



U11 HOCKEY

The **U11 A Team** adapted quickly to the fast-flowing style needed to unlock defences in hockey this term. The boys were soon able to develop a more passive shadowing technique designed to force the opposition into making mistakes and give up the ball. This resulted in many goals being scored, and few conceded. Some outstanding saves were made at crucial times, and, with rotating substitutions, the team was able to stay fresh throughout matches, achieving a high win ratio – including two decisive victories over Millfield and Exeter. The IAPS team did very well to finish runners-up in the plate competition; if one or two goals had gone in during the pool stages we would have been contenders to qualify for the Nationals, but success at this level is often determined by fine margins. Although this was not our day, the whole squad can be very proud of the performances they put together over the season. **SGS**

It was a decent season for the enthusiastic **U11 B Team**. Some matches proved a steep learning curve, while others allowed the boys to demonstrate some fine free-flowing hockey. The boys worked hard consistently throughout the term, both in matches and in games lessons. They learned a lot about the sport, positioning and teamwork. They enjoyed playing together and, regardless of what they encountered on the pitch, could always finish the match with their heads held high. Great work boys, I wish you all well for the future. **BTM**



U9 HOCKEY

Both the **U9 A** and **U9 B Teams** enjoyed a fantastic season of flowing hockey. Wonderful passes and teamwork saw both teams regularly push past their oppositions, and many goals were scored, with very few shots being taken against us! With different players learning from trying different positions on the field, everybody gained a wealth of experience, which helped to build up a broad strength across the squad – surely a squad of boys to look out for in the future! Thank you to all who came to show their support throughout the season. **SGS**

HOUSE MATCHES

This term's House Matches were an absolute cracker, with everyone from every year group, whether playing netball or hockey, trying their absolute best for their Houses. After much fierce competition, Raleigh were pronounced winners in the Junior Competition, and Drake in the Senior Competition. Well done to everyone for playing hard but fair in the House Matches!

Patrick Taylor-Ross and Wilbur Parker, Year 6



U8 HOCKEY

Hockey is a difficult sport to learn but this year's Year 3 boys took to it with aplomb. They listened well and worked hard in coaching sessions, and they always tried their very best to put what they had learned into action on the pitch during matches. The year group is a strong one and I wish them every success in their future hockey careers.

BTM



Jersey has the record for being the sunniest place in the British Isles, but nobody seemed to have told Storm Dennis as Year 6 set off for their Sports Tour this half-term! However, with the storm over, plain sailing followed and all the matches were played in the dry, with only a little wind to contend with. Our Blundell's tourists were on form and played some exciting matches, enjoying a measure of success on the games field against Jersey Rugby Club, Jersey Netball Club and Jersey Hockey Club, the most welcoming and gracious of hosts. Whether it was playing sport, or visiting the many cultural or leisure attractions available on the island, the children always conducted themselves with respect for others and a smile on their faces. The disco on the last night rounded things off in great style for this energetic, friendly, fun touring team. Well done to all for proving exemplary ambassadors for Blundell's. SGS

On February 14th, we set off to Exeter airport for Jersey! The flight took about 40-minutes before we landed and checked into the amazing Ommaroo Hotel for a delicious meal. In the evening we went for an epic bowling trip to the Jersey bowl, before returning to the hotel for a sound night's sleep in the most comfortable and pristine of hotel rooms!

At Jersey we all enjoyed playing a range of sport including hockey, netball and rugby, against some tough local Jersey teams. We even won a couple of our matches! During our trip we were also able to visit many amazing sites, including the Jersey Heritage Museum, the Splash Down water park, the Gerald Durrell Zoo, the Maritime Museum, and – Harriet's highlight – going to the cinema to watch Sonic the Hedgehog! We also enjoyed eating out at Pizza Hut and TGI Fridays!

On our last evening, the hotel hosted our own private disco where we could request our own songs and dance our hearts out. Beside the sparkling dancefloor, there was also a selection of tasty refreshments to enjoy. It was great fun and even the teachers could be seen boogieing!

After four action-packed, fun-filled days, we travelled back to the airport to catch the plane home to Exeter. Everyone was extremely tired, but everyone had enjoyed the whole amazing experience! A massive thank you to Mr. Swain, Miss Roberts, Mr. Martin and Miss Steele for giving up their time to make the Jersey 2020 Tour possible!

Jesse Aldridge, Alfie Aldridge, Harriet Hyde & Owain Cowle, Year 6



review *extra*



AMAZING!

Year 5 were delighted at the opportunity to put their DT skills to the test when they were invited to design and build their own 3D maze puzzles this term.



Moving On Up

As part of the transition process, Year 2 had a great time when they ventured across the carpark to the Prep School for a day of living life like Year 3. A particular highlight was Food Technology, which gave all our young students a wonderful taste of things to come! **LPM**



GOOD SPORTS

All enjoyed supporting Sports Relief by wearing sporty themed or home clothes and donating to this good cause to help people less fortunate than ourselves in the UK and around the world.

PET'S CORNER



This term: *Staccato the cat*

Belongs to: Charlie Rogers, Year 8

Known accomplices: Two other cats, Stamford and Spider, and two dogs, Tine and Kuro

Obsession: Biting!

Favourite toy: Feathers on a stick

Favourite pastime: Sleeping

Favourite meal: Fillet steak

Naughtiest deed: Biting and scratching Charlie so hard that he had to go to hospital!

Greatest achievement: Lying on a chair without moving for a whole day

Interview by **Morgan Rogers**, Year 6



Joke of the Term #40

Q. Why did the banana go to the hospital?

A. Because it wasn't peeling very well!

Joke supplied by **Bea Squires**, Year 6

Tell your favourite funny to Mr. Moore or any member of Newspaper Club to see your joke published here next time.

WORLD NEWS

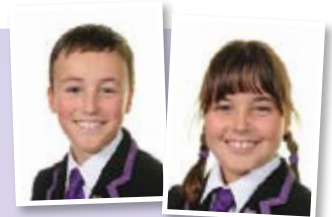


AUSTRALIA

What did you do in Australia?

We did so many different things. We did have to go to an Australian school, but we also got the chance to see the sights and explore the country. For a while we stayed on a boat, catching our own fish to eat. We also visited Sydney, which is the most famous city in Australia although it is not the capital (Canberra is), we went to Peppermint Beach, which was wonderful and sunny and we went snorkeling at the Great Barrier Reef, which was an amazing experience!

Foreign Correspondents Bertie and Daisy have been continuing to broaden their educational vision with an outdoor learning adventure on a global scale. This term: Australia.



What was the weather like?

Everywhere was incredibly hot, it was like walking into an oven.

How was the food?

The food was very different to the food we eat in the UK. It was delicious, and extremely fresh. We especially liked Shark Thai Curry, which was delicious!

Would you recommend visiting Australia?

Yes! If you ever get the chance, take it!

Daisy and Bertie were interviewed by **Illy Lane** and **Bea Squires**, Year 6

RIDDLES

collected by Alexander Morrison



1. A cowboy rode into town on Friday, he stayed two nights before riding out again on Friday. How can this be?
2. What's heavy forwards but not backwards?
3. What has a bed but never sleeps and a mouth but never eats?
4. What has hands and a face but cannot wave or smile?
5. Although Mary has four daughters and each daughter has one brother, she only has five children altogether. How can this be?
6. There were 12 fish in a pond, but half died. How many fish are in the pond now?
7. What gets wetter the more it dries?
8. What gets bigger, the more you take away?

Solutions: 1. The horse was called Friday! 2. A ton! 3. A river! 4. A clock! 5. Each daughter has the same brother! 6. Twelve – the dead fish are still in the pond! 7. A towel! 8. A hole!

Bob the Blob and Friends in: WORD UP!

Can you help Bob find Stencil the Pencil by changing one letter at a time to create a word ladder from 'Look' to 'Find'? One of the missing words has been filled in to help you...



Characters created by Frances Auger and Kristiane Wheeler.



Peace Tree Tease

Not convinced that Christmas has the monopoly on decorating trees, children in the Pre-Prep finished the term by branching out to create their own Easter Tree to remember the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and celebrate the message of hope reborn at the resurrection. We wish everyone a safe, healthy and peaceful Easter. **LPM**

J-TEAM



The 'J' in J Team stands for Jesus. It's a lunch time club that children can come along to, to learn more about the Christian faith. I am blessed to have a group of Year 6s, known as J Team Buddies, who help me each week and get to know and help the younger ones. They have been amazing role models and surely future teachers in the making!

We started off in January by planting mustard seeds and looking at the parable of the mustard seed in the Bible. We tried to sing an action song whilst keeping a tiny mustard seed safe in our hands. The children were encouraged to nurture the seeds they had planted and bring them back the next week. This was harder than it might sound! We then looked at being a 'bucket filler' around school, which involved picking a name out of a hat and trying to show that person kindness over the following week, secretly if possible. Other themes have included inner peace (for which we made calming glitter jars to take home), and the Good Samaritan, which prompted us to think about how to show undeserved mercy and grace to those around us... and also lead to a great game of play dough Pictionary! Our focus then turned to Easter: the triumphal entry to Jerusalem, the Last Supper, Jesus washing the disciples' feet and finally Jesus's sacrifice on the cross. We made egg shakers to use in our praise and worship songs, and played parachute games out in the sunshine. A big thank you to the faithful band of J Team Buddies and all the children who make J Team such fun every week. **CFH**

STAFF ON THE SPOT



This term: *Clive the Porter*

How long have you been working at Blundell's?

Two years.

Where did you work before you came to Blundell's?

Marks & Spencers in Castle Donington.

What does your job entail?

Ensuring that all the pupils and teachers have everything that they need in the right place at the right time.

What is your favourite part of the job?

Meeting people.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

I enjoy walking and football.

Who is your favourite football team?

Manchester United!

Jam then cream, or cream then jam, on a scone?

It has to be jam then cream!

What's your favourite biscuit?

Chocolate bourbon creams!

What's your dream car?

A black Aston Martin.

What music do you like listening to?

70s and 80s music, lots of Motown.

Where would you most like to go on holiday?

I would like to tour around famous battle sites and war cemeteries.

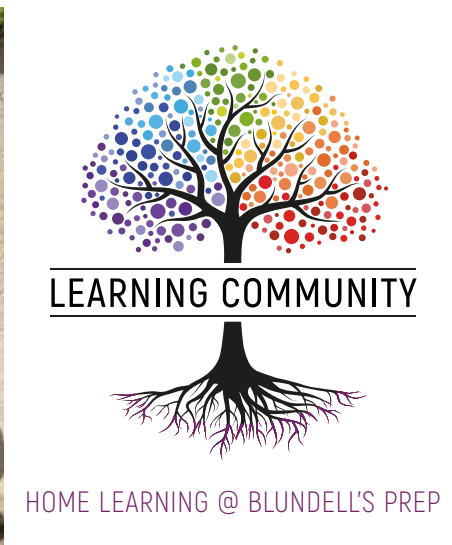
What would you buy if you won the lottery?

I would build a place where homeless people could live.

What has been your most embarrassing moment?

While catering in the army I served dinner to the Duke of Kent, it was beef wellington. Unfortunately the plate slipped and I ended up pouring most of it on the Duke's lap!

Interview by **Cyrus Tucker** and **Archie Beszant**, Year 6



REMOTE LEARNING

Something to write home about

Events over recent weeks and months have clearly put a huge strain on society as a whole, but one of the many things that we can celebrate is the way in which teachers, pupils and parents have rapidly adapted to the new ways in which teaching and learning can take place. Resilience, perseverance, adaptability, a willingness to try new and different approaches, these are all key skills which lie at the heart of teaching and learning at Blundell's, and the ability to embrace fresh challenges and confront unexpected obstacles with a positive mental attitude is valued as crucial in developing a future-ready outlook on life.

A large part of managing remote teaching has been in getting to grips with different computer technologies, and the school

closure forced upon us near the end of term proved a great catalyst for accelerating the learning of ICT skills for many! With innovative and exciting new methods and platforms for communicating, teaching, learning, sharing and celebrating work remotely, it has been brilliant to see our pupils, staff and parents supporting one another so superbly to enable our wonderful Blundell's community to remain as strong as ever. The pace at which everyone has had to learn new skills and master new online resources has been remarkable, and as we look to the future, one of the few things that we can be certain of, is that many of these new technologies will continue to play an ever more integral and organic part in the way in which our teaching and learning continues to develop at Blundell's. **DJM & LPM**

