

SUMMER 2020

# review



Inside:

- Home Learning: *glass half full*
- Engagement & Enrichment: *turning over a new leaf*
- Back to School: *a country smile*

## *Life Lessons*

virus protection at Blundell's Prep School

*"...I am immensely grateful for the way in which our community responded not just to the Home Learning Programme but also to our Engagement and Enrichment offering"*



I hope that this rather unusual edition of the Review provides an opportunity for us all to reflect on what was an extraordinary time in the life of Blundell's Prep School. Rather than pages full of the typical Summer events, you will read of the school's quite extraordinary response to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and how we all worked together as a community to keep the children learning. Along the way there were countless hurdles to get over but there was also a relentless desire to find solutions and to ensure that our families remained connected to the school, even if communications were only via a computer screen.

As always, you will see many photographs of smiling children although unlike our usual editions, many of these have not been taken by Mrs. Southgate but by you, our parents, all of whom have had to assume the role of teacher for much of the Summer Term. They are a fitting reminder of a very different time and I am immensely grateful for the way in which our community responded not just to the Home Learning Programme but also to our Engagement and Enrichment offering, keeping spirits raised and having a great deal of fun along the way.

The return to school for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on the 1st June was then followed by the return of every other year group, enabling all of our children to have the opportunity to spend time in school before the Summer break. The smiles on their faces as they were greeted by their teachers will live long in the memory and show just how important a moment this was after nearly three months at home. We still managed to enjoy a number of school events, from Blundell's Got Talent to the Year 1 performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream. Reception children enjoyed their pirate themed day with costumes for every one of them, and Year 2 put together a farewell to the Pre-Prep which certainly tugged on the heart strings. For our Year 6 pupils, it was a time when they should have been enjoying their grand finale but rather than dwell on all that they missed, they chose to focus on what they could take part in and they competed in a socially distanced Sports Day, put together a Balsa presentation for the children in Year 5 and they even managed to perform their play, Guys and Dolls, which after many months of hard work for cast and crew was a remarkable achievement. A virtual Speech Day was the perfect time to showcase our fantastic senior pupils and they took the lead in a review of the year, looking resplendent in their cherished leavers' hoodies. If you asked them what the highlight of the term was, I imagine that the final day water balloon battle would have been right at the very top!

This special edition of the Review is dedicated to everyone who made it possible for the children to return to school, as without their combined efforts and determination, it simply would not have happened. I know that in the years to come, we will look back at this Summer of 2020 and feel a deep sense of pride in all that we achieved together. My sincere thanks to one and all.

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

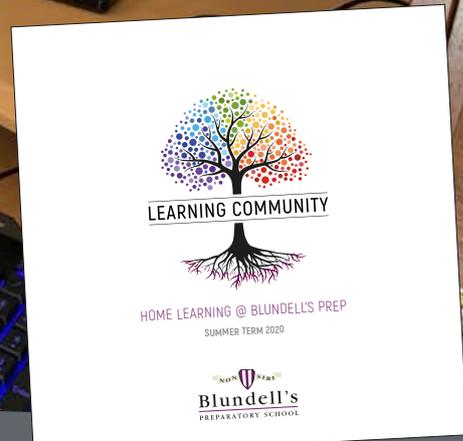
**Andy Southgate** Head Master





# The Blundell's Community

## A HOME-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP



The enforced school closure raised some significant challenges for all parties, as we sought to find ways to continue to support our families through the Blundell's Home Learning Programme. Children, parents and staff had to learn to adapt to new ways of teaching and learning, and with a diverse range of computer hardware available across the parent body, as well as the inevitable internet issues, the road was not always smooth. This situation seemed to provide the perfect rationale to justify the core skills embedded throughout the Blundell's curriculum: growth mindset values and a personal resolve to keep going when things get tough. Patience in viewing setbacks as an opportunity to self-evaluate, learn, adapt and try again is critical in developing future-ready citizens of the world, and resilience, flexibility, independent working, critical thinking, grit and determination took centre stage this term!

With so many different family circumstances amongst the Blundell's community, it at times felt like an impossible task to create a remote-learning programme that could work equally well for all. Communication was key, and through various parent surveys and truly overwhelming levels of email liaison, we were able to recognise areas in which our educational provision was more successful than others. The life lesson we were keen to model was at one level very simple: although we had tried hard to get it right at the first

attempt, we would not be afraid of recognising that Plan A was not perfect. Instead, we were keen to adapt and take on board constructive criticism, to evolve a Plan B, C, D and E... Thus it was that the Blundell's Home Learning Programme was refined through a number of different versions as the term progressed, each one, we hope, getting closer to meeting the needs of more and more of our families.

Remote teaching was never going to be easy, and key to success was the collaborative learning facilitated by the unceasingly positive support at home. We hope that, through talking to each other and working together, we were able to tailor our education this term to meet the key academic needs of the Blundell's community, whilst at the same time including sufficient flexibility to enable our families to decide the extent to which they wanted to take on the provision, according to individual and changing circumstances.

Video conferencing, recording lessons and communicating by email can never fully replace the value of classroom learning, but new skills were learned and will be put

**OVERVIEW:**  
Home Learning @ Blundell's Prep has this clear and distinct aim:  
1. To provide engaging, accessible remote learning to enable your child to make ongoing academic progress.  
2. To provide effective, structured and engaging activities within the virtual classroom for the whole Blundell's community.

**ACADEMIC CURRICULUM**  
The Academic Curriculum is broken down into a curriculum plan for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage, Years 1 & 2 and Years 3 to 6, allowing us to provide for the diverse needs within our Prep and Prep School.

**ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT**  
Supporting the academic curriculum will be a wide variety of programmes and activities, which will provide interactive and collaborative learning opportunities for pupils, and why the wider Blundell's Community. This programme is split into four different areas:  
1. **The Academic Curriculum:** the teaching of the curriculum, to link with the National Curriculum requirements for each year group.  
2. **Engagement and Enrichment:** to provide engagement and enrichment activities outside the National Curriculum, and a sense of community and belonging.

**ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT**  
Our aim is to recognise the benefits that children bring to society at a time when our world has become significantly smaller. In order to do that, we will design a programme which encompasses all aspects of the required practices to ensure which support and enhance learning:  
- develop a strong sense of personal and community engagement/enthusiasm  
- develop independent responsibility and the commitment within Blundell's Prep  
- develop the skills and transferable 'tools'  
- help us all to have some fun!

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**  
We understand that the weeks ahead will be challenging for families and we want to provide options of how we can work together. We will offer a range of activities to engage and support families in the ways in which we engage with our families and our aim is to keep their learning connected to school.

**SPORT, EXERCISE AND WELLBEING**  
Sports, exercise and wellbeing is a priority for Blundell's Prep and we have a range of activities to support this. We will offer a range of activities to engage and support families in the ways in which we engage with our families and our aim is to keep their learning connected to school.



# LET'S GET PHYSICAL

Each week that school was closed, a different sports challenge was set for an individual pupil or family group to take on. Some challenges were even set by Old Blundellian professional sportsmen – including Exeter Chiefs and England scrum-half Jack Maunder, who set a rugby passing challenge, and Somerset and England spin bowler Dom Bess, who set a batting drill in cricket. Although designed to be

After moving away from rounders and onto full cricket fixtures for girls last year, it was a real shame that this summer we were denied the opportunity to build on this. Nonetheless, in true Blundellian style, the children did not let this stop them from practising some important cricket skills at home and engaging in the online PE videos to keep their skills up to scratch. It was not only cricket that was developed over the term, but pupils also took part in numerous keep-fit circuits, tennis challenges, athletics, gymnastics, hockey, and handball activities. Many set impressive individual fitness goals and achieved them, such as playing 10 sports in one weekend, cycling or running long distances, and not forgetting the dude perfect trick shot accomplishments. Well done! LB

fun and encourage physical exercise, the challenges also had a competitive edge... Mr. Swain would set the benchmark, and wait to see how many pupils would beat him! Well done to everyone who had a go at these challenges. SGS



With the attraction of our regular Home Clothes Days somewhat undermined in a world in which every day is a home clothes day, it made a refreshing change to mix things up and hold a Uniforms At Home day this term instead...

# UNIFORMS FOR UNIFORM DAY





## THANK YOU

For all of the kind messages of support that have flooded in, for your patience and positivity when things have been tough, and for working with us to stay connected and avoid pandemic pandemonium, all of the staff at Blundell's would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the wonderful families of our community who have worked so hard to keep the Blundell's spirit strong this term! **LPM**

# Thank you!

**"I have heard nothing but positive feedback from other parents and all Blundell's Prep staff should be proud of dealing with such a complicated situation with so much professionalism, flexibility and care. It is no wonder I have heard that Blundell's Prep is the envy of many parents from other schools who have not received the same excellent support during this pandemic."**

**"We just wanted to say a big THANK YOU. All of the staff have worked extremely hard over the last few months. We have been so impressed by all that the teachers and pupils have achieved throughout this difficult time."**

**"Please could you pass on my thanks, I'm really grateful that the staff have been so willing to listen to our feedback and make appropriate changes so quickly! I know everyone has been working very hard under difficult circumstances."**

**"Thank you for the very useful and reassuring information you have been sending, it has certainly helped us as a family during these changing times. Please extend my deepest thanks to all the staff. My child continues to display resilience, which must be a reflection of the care he has had at school."**

**"I wish you had been my teachers! I could listen to your wonderful calm warm voices all day! Thank you for all you have done to make this learning so accessible, gentle, interesting and exciting. THANK YOU SO MUCH for all your hard work!"**



## WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

During lockdown, Year 2 enjoyed a daily story reading from Roald Dahl's wonderful book, Danny the Champion of the World. They all relished hearing about the adventures of Danny and his father when they went to poach the pheasants. Many of their English activities were based around the story. The children wrote descriptions of their favourite characters, they wrote instructions about how to catch a pheasant, they drew gorgeous pictures of pheasants and gypsy caravans. The highlight was when we all returned to school and celebrated the end of lockdown by watching the film of the book. We set the class up as a cinema and had popcorn whilst enjoying seeing some of our favourite characters on the big screen.

TN



## INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF THE YEAR AWARDS



I am delighted to tell you that we have been shortlisted for the 2020 Independent School of the Year Awards. Our entry focused on the work that we have done with our Home Learning Programme and the positive impact that this has had on our school community. We will let you know in due course if we have gone any further! ADS

### ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT

We understand that the academic curriculum at Blundell's Prep goes far beyond what happens within the classroom and we want this broad offering to be accessible to all of our families. Our aim is to engage pupils and parents alike in learning outside the classroom together and exploring beyond the parameters of individual subjects. No compulsion, no marking, just enjoyment.

**ACTIVITIES TO INCLUDE:**

- Bushcraft activities to get everyone outside
- Wild Wonder for our Pre-Prep children
- Weekly Lego Challenge to support our budding engineers
- Language lessons from our Club teachers
- 3 Team meetings to provide a space for children to share stories and explore their spirituality
- Quiz Club sessions, supporting our budding quiz masters
- School Council meetings, ensuring the pupils can share the issues that matter to them
- Special School led Enrichment workshops
- STEM experiments which can be repeated at home

### CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Our aim is to recognise the benefit that culture brings to society at a time when our worlds have become significantly smaller. In order to do that, we will design a programme which:

- celebrates all aspects of the creative process in ways which support and enhance learning
- delivers a strong routine programme of community engagement activities
- builds and stabilises relationships and the communities within Blundell's Prep
- develops new skills and transferable horizons
- helps us all to have some fun!

**ACTIVITIES TO INCLUDE:**

- Teacher Story Time to help our youngest Blundellites to feel connected to their teachers
- Read/Watch/Listen recommendations
- Create a short home movie to provide advice and support to our community
- Live streamed concerts by Music Teachers
- Virtual Choir sessions
- Art competitions
- Speech and Drama lessons
- Individual music lessons
- Contact with patients at Pine Lodge and other local care homes.

### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

In order to do this, we will:

- create fun and interesting activities and challenges for families to undertake together
- create a strong sense of community and togetherness at a time when social isolation may be very strong
- build engagement with the school on the part of both pupils and parents, so that they have something to bring to even when at home
- help us all to have some fun!

**ACTIVITIES WILL INCLUDE:**

- Weekly quiz challenges
- Grow your own vegetable challenge: Growing challenges, tallest sunflower, best tomatoes etc. Weekly check-ins to chart progress!
- Weekly recipe - A recipe set at the start of the week, child then cooks for the family and posts results
- Weekly 'recipe' - A recipe set at the start of the week, child then cooks for the family and posts results
- 'Tick Shot' of the week: Pupils submit videos of themselves completing outrageous 'trick shots'
- Weekly Yoga sessions: Live-streamed
- Daily Mindfulness

### SPORT, EXERCISE AND WELLBEING

Sport, Exercise and maintaining a physically active lifestyle are fundamental principles for pupils at Blundell's Prep and there is no reason for this to change, just because pupils are not physically at school. In these challenging times, the ability to stay physically fit and have fun reaching benefits for our bodies, our mental health and well-being is more important than ever. The Sport and Exercise programme is not just for pupils, but their parents too, and we will help you to remain fit, active and healthy during the period of restricted movement and lockdown.

**DAILY ROUTINES**  
Activities that pupils can try and do every day, during the next term and beyond. Videos and online resources will guide pupils and parents alike in exercises that they can do in the comfort of their own homes.

**WEEKLY CHALLENGES**  
Physical activity challenges that will be set by current members of staff and former pupils. Can you meet the targets and especially for us by Australia's former pupil of Blundell's School?

**HEALTHY LIFESTYLES**  
Using social media and a range of online videos and guides, we will raise awareness of this crucial area during a time of isolation, taking balanced diets and healthy eating to exercise and positive mental wellbeing.

**MINDFULNESS AND WELLBEING**  
Daily mindfulness meditations and weekly yoga sessions, live-streamed for the whole community by our own yoga teacher.

### TIMETABLE:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
PRE-PREP	French N-YEAR2	Wild Wonder N-YEAR2	Athletics N-YEAR2	Music Madness N-YEAR2	Book at Bedtime N-YEAR2
PREP	Outdoor Learning YEARS 3-6	Computer and Coding (Senior) YEARS 5-6	Yoga* at 4pm YEARS 3-6	Weekly Sport Challenge YEARS 3-6	Fun with Watercolours YEARS 3-6
WHOLE SCHOOL	Computer and Coding (Junior) YEARS 2-4	Tea and Talk YEARS 3-6	Quiz Club YEARS 3-6	I Team* YEARS 3-6	Music Drop In* YEARS 3-6
	The Family Challenge	The Recipe Challenge	Mindfulness	STEM/Construction Club	Film Club

\*This activity will be live-streamed at 4pm on the day shown.

**ACADEMIC ENRICHMENT**  
Providing intellectual stimulation and challenge

**CULTURAL ENRICHMENT**  
Maintaining the benefits that engagement and involvement with culture brings

**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**  
Offering fun, interesting and engaging activities and programmes for the whole family

**SPORT, EXERCISE AND WELLBEING**  
Ensuring we remain fit and healthy, in mind and body

**LIFE SKILLS AND PSHE**  
Taking the opportunity to develop and consolidate crucial skills for the next stage of life

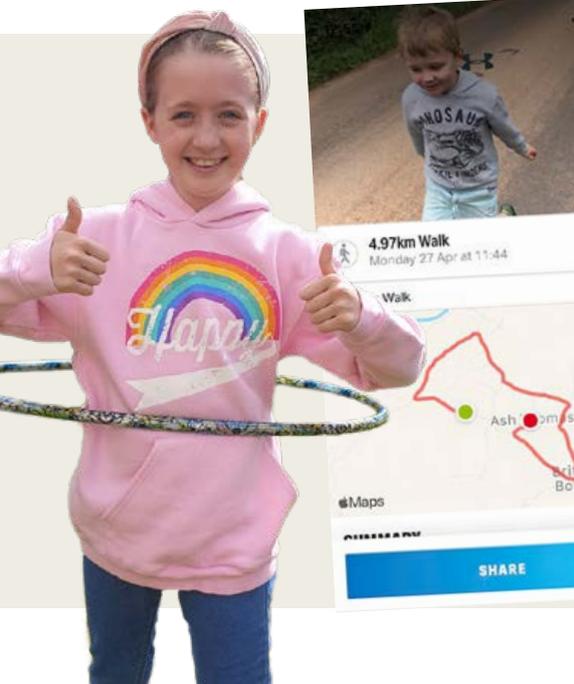
# Beyond The Curriculum: ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT

## ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

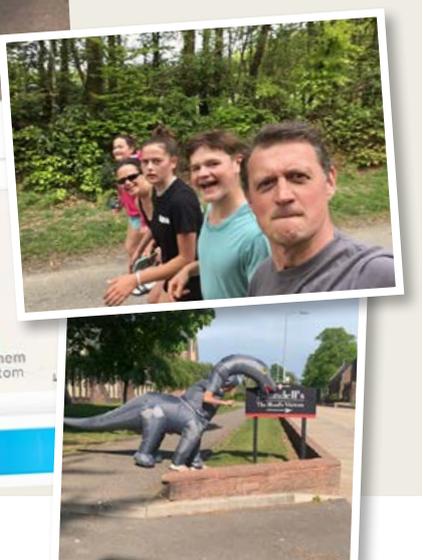
During the enforced school closure, a weekly Engagement and Enrichment Guide was sent to all families to provide a brief description of the diverse range of optional activities that were available for the children to try throughout the week. A new timetable was sent by email every Friday afternoon for parents to select activities that their child may have liked to choose in accordance with individual family commitments and the child's personal interests. There was no compulsory element to this programme, and there were a range of activities that could be completed on and offline for all year groups. Children in the Pre-Prep and those accessing Prep and Whole School activities that were not being delivered as live sessions were able to access resources for a week after the activity was timetabled. This gave the children the freedom to try different activities at a time that was most convenient to them... **CAM**



LEFT: PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE  
ABOVE: CREATIVITY CLUB  
RIGHT: BUSHCRAFT CLUB  
BELOW: MARBLE RUN



## 2.6 CHARITY CHALLENGE







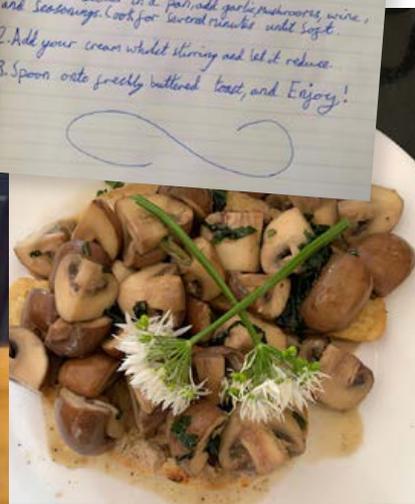
# Eating Out OF HOUSE AND HOME



Food related activities seemed to be particularly popular, and it was lovely to see pictures of so many mouth-watering home-baked creations coming in... even if it wasn't possible to share in taste-testing them! **HGM**



Wild Garlic Mushrooms Serves 2  
Ingredients  
 - 50g butter  
 - 250g cream  
 - 4 leaves of wild garlic  
 - 200g closed cup mushrooms  
 - Salt + Pepper  
 - a splash of red wine (optional)  
Method  
 1. Melt the butter in a pan, add garlic, mushrooms, wine, and seasonings. Cook for several minutes until soft.  
 2. Add your cream whilst stirring and let it reduce.  
 3. Spoon onto freshly buttered toast, and Enjoy!



# Quiz Club

Quiz Club ran live every Wednesday afternoon for anyone who cared to take part. Why not have a go at one of our Gentle Mental Warm-Ups?

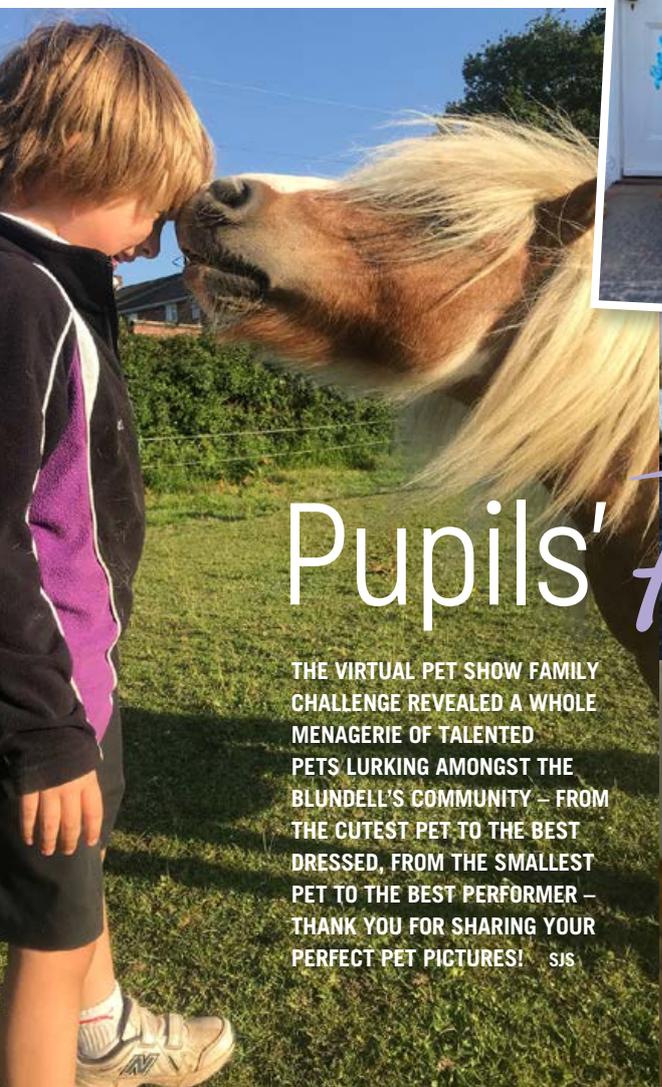
## VISUAL VISIT 1: FAMOUS FACES

How many of these famous faces can you recognize?



# HOME Computer

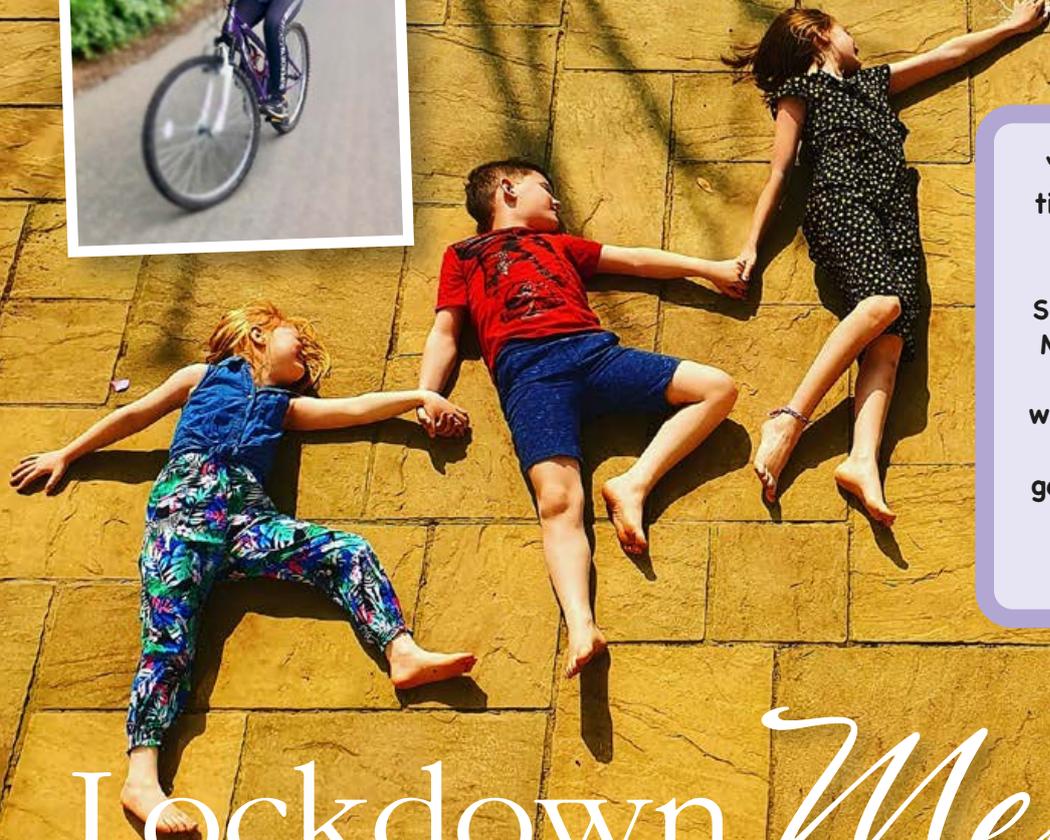
Computer Club set various building challenges from Minecraft Education Edition during the school closure. Design briefs varied from scientific challenges including designing aerodynamic vehicles or creating a new module for the International Space Station, to creative tasks including designing dream houses or crafting hybrid monsters. With such a mix of design briefs there was something for everybody to get excited about, and the Minecraft platform was ideal for allowing imagination to flow. Thank you to everyone who got involved and sent in screenshots of your curious creations! [SGS](#)



# Pupils' Pets

THE VIRTUAL PET SHOW FAMILY CHALLENGE REVEALED A WHOLE MENAGERIE OF TALENTED PETS LURKING AMONGST THE BLUNDELL'S COMMUNITY – FROM THE CUTEST PET TO THE BEST DRESSED, FROM THE SMALLEST PET TO THE BEST PERFORMER – THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR PERFECT PET PICTURES! [SJS](#)





"In Lockdown I loved spending time with my family and playing on my new trampoline. I also loved looking at the work on SeeSaw and writing messages to Mrs. Nash. My favourite pieces of work were doing the art, writing a haiku poem, and baking with my family. I also loved going on Teams calls to speak to my friends."

Jessie Gow, Year 2

# Lockdown Memories

**Summer 2020** will be remembered for a very long time to come. It will be remembered for the anxious times, for the feelings of confusion and uncertainty, for the fear and worry for vulnerable friends and family, for the frustration and anger of enforced isolation. For some, it will be remembered for the tragedy of loved ones taken by the virus. But Summer 2020 may also be remembered as a time for camaraderie, for fighting spirit and human resolve, a time when resilience and optimism in the face of adversity brought people closer together than social distancing could ever take them apart. For many, it will be remembered as a time to take stock and re-evaluate what is truly important in life. A time for expressing gratitude to the NHS, and the key worker staff who have demonstrated the non-sibi values of selflessness in the most extreme of circumstances. However the post-pandemic future may pan out, Summer 2020 will most certainly be remembered as a time unlike any other experienced before. For our children it will perhaps become a life-defining moment in time, the time that they will tell their grandchildren all about in the hopefully happier years ahead. **LPM**

"In Lockdown I remember making a Lego model of a beach for ants, and I made sushi at a Zoom party. I also remember when my Dad gave me an ice-lolly. I loved making films for Mrs. Nash."

Freddie Candler,  
Year 2

"The school's Engagement and Enrichment programme during Lockdown was a brilliant experience. There was so much on offer, from Film Club and Coding, to Bushcraft, Watercolour Club and Multisports – something for everyone! My favourite was creating a scene from the iconic movie Chicken Run with my brother Bertie. We had great fun taking part in something we hadn't tried before."

Daisy Faulkner, Year 6

"I will always remember having live lessons on Microsoft Teams with our teachers during Lockdown. These included many topics, but my favourite was finding out all about Stone Henge. Working from home was useful because it helped me to become more independent in my learning."

Jemima Cameron, Year 6

# LOCKDOWN AT HOME

## *poems*

Life seems strange, can't go out  
 Outside it's quiet, and no-one's about  
 Can't go to school to meet my best friend  
 Kind of weird, just emails to send  
 Days on the laptop and clapping at the gate  
 Oh, for some hockey, I really can't wait  
 Wonderful sun it's glorious weather  
 No more rain, is it summer forever?

All day I'm here, I'm not sat on the beach  
 Trying to remember what the teachers will teach

Hoping in August that we'll go away  
 Only apart by 2 metres we'll stay  
 Maybe to France, oh how long it has been  
 Everyone say "Goodbye COVID-19"

**Camorra Hill, Year 5**

Lockdown with clear sunny skies,  
 Once daily enjoyable exercise.  
 Clapping for carers on a Thursday,  
 Keeping in touch from March until May.  
 Dog walking and other useful chores to keep busy,  
 Obstacle courses which make me extremely dizzy.  
 Weekly catch ups with my friends is all that I crave,  
 NHS workers are amazingly brave.

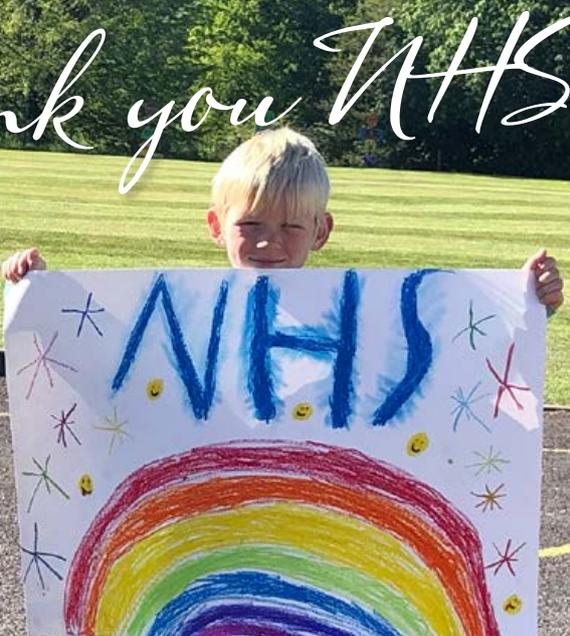
Actually, lockdown is not that bad,  
 Teachers kind help of which I am glad.

Happy fun filled days with lots of laughter,  
 Only friends' company is what we are after.  
 Maybe soon we will all meet again,  
 Even if only to dance two metres apart in the rain.

**Daisy Maitland-Walker, Year 5**



*Thank you NHS*

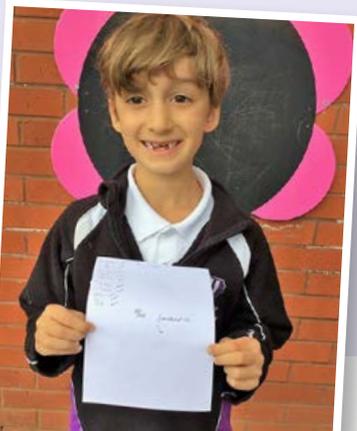


# Back To School

With Key Worker children already successfully welcomed back to school, we were delighted to be able to invite Foundation Stage and Year 6 children back to join us, and then to open up the Prep and Pre-Prep to all children for the last two weeks of term. With social distancing measures safely in place, school certainly felt a little different – but the children (and staff!) quickly adjusted to the one-way systems, hand-sanitiser stations, video assemblies, staggered breaks and segregated playground zones. This step towards normality was an extremely welcome development for all parties, and the mental health benefits of social repatriation could not be overstated – the opportunity to see friends again and to work and play together on site went a long way towards providing the final piece of the Blundell's package.

Children were educated in Form Group pods, and study was centred around cross-curricular learning for these two weeks. The topic was Blundell's 2050: Designing the School of the Future. Following on from such a long time working at screens individually at home, it was refreshing to put the computers away and engage in some lively group discussions and debate in class; imaginative blue sky thinking on how the future could unfold, led to critical evaluation and planning skills in the challenge of harnessing creative ideas and turning them into workable future strategies. Focus in subgroups on curriculum, resources, uniform, site planning, menus, rules, rewards and sanctions, among many others, put the pupils in the position of teachers as they sought to find dynamic ways to record and present their ideas to their peers, employing persuasive language to promote their campaigns. After a time when many had found it difficult to keep ploughing on through working at home, it was wonderful to finish the term on such an energising and enterprising collaborative high!

LPM



## CAN YOU HELP US TO DESIGN THE SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE?

WORKING WITH YOUR CLASSMATES, AND USING YOUR EXPERIENCES FROM THE PAST FEW MONTHS, WHAT DO YOU THINK EDUCATION WILL LOOK LIKE AT BLUNDELL'S PREPARATORY SCHOOL 30 YEARS FROM NOW?

### SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

"ENGAGING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES"

- How could we get more involved with our local community?
- How would we learn about our local area and environment?
- What will our school do to help the environment?

### STRONG FOUNDATIONS

"ESTABLISHED AND ENTERPRISING"

- What will our school and its grounds look like?
- How could we help the children and teachers at other schools?
- Who might use our school when we are not using it?



## "THE SCHOOL OF THE FUTURE" 2050

### DISCOVERY

"THE JOY OF ADVENTURE"

- What will outdoor learning look like in the future?
- Where will we go on school trips and why?
- How will we enhance our residences?

### DYNAMIC LEARNERS

"ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE"

- What will our curriculum look like?
- Which key skills will we need in the future?
- How will we provide enrichment opportunities?

### SELF-KNOWLEDGE

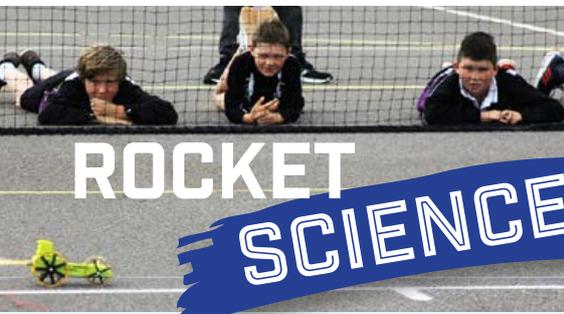
"UNDERSTANDING WHO I AM"

- How will we help children to develop a Growth Mindset?
- How could we look after the well-being of pupils and staff?
- What would we do to help our children become future leaders?

### SOME SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES...

- RPS: What will our rules be? Will we have a new rewards and sanctions system?
- PSHE: Will we still do the same subjects? What will our timetable look like?
- Art: What will the school look like? How will our uniform, sports kit and logo change?
- DT: Can you produce a map of the school? Will there be new playground equipment?
- PE / Games: How will we stay fit? Will there be any new sports? Will we have Sports Day?
- Drama: Can you prepare an advert for our new school? Why not role play a new style of lesson?
- ICT: How will technology be used to help us learn? How will we travel to school?
- FT: What will our weekly menu look like? Will there be any new dishes on it?





# ROCKET SCIENCE

Back in March, the week before Lockdown came into force, Year 6 had been visited by Frantz Nehammer, Head of Engineering Delivery at The Bloodhound Project. As part of STEM Week, Frantz had come to talk about his role in this project, which is aiming to break the World Land Speed Record by developing the most advanced straight-line racing car ever. On the back of this fascinating talk, Year 6 had designed and built their own rocket cars...

We made them using a foam block, controlled explosives, a saw, and teamwork. Considering aerodynamic factors such as friction and drag, and streamlining to reduce air resistance, we sketched out our designs before transferring them to the foam block and cutting them to shape. We then selected from a range of wheels, and painted on our team liveries. Unfortunately, the enforced school closure then meant that we were unable to test and time our designs. We were therefore delighted to be able to complete this project upon our return to school at the end of the Summer term. Resurrecting our race car models, we took them over to the Senior School where Mr. Morrison and the physics technicians helped us to test the cars safely. It felt good to be able to bring the project to its conclusion, and it was amazing to see our cars accelerating with explosive power across the tennis courts! Well done to the joint winners, Team Nathan, Alfie & Alfie, and Team Cyrus and Archie, both of whose cars were clocked at 36mph! Many thanks to Miss Mahon for igniting our interest in this project, to Frantz for steering us in the right direction, and to Mr. Morrison for helping us reach the chequered flag! LPM & Patrick Taylor-Ross,

Year 6



# SPORTS DAYS

With social distancing guidelines preventing large gatherings, it was unfortunately not possible to hold the usual Blundell's Sports Days this year. However, with the return of the children towards the end of term, we were keen to run some competitive sports events. Therefore, although behind closed doors, the Year 6 children were given the opportunity to put themselves through their paces on the track and field, with some excellent performances showing that Lockdown had done little to harm fitness levels – or competitive spirit! Pre-Prep were also able to take part in their own mini Sports Day, and the Reception children were very excited to race against each other, negotiating moving their bodies through hoops and balancing bean bags on their heads while running. It was great to see how well they all listened to the instructions, and they all tried their very best. Years 1 and 2 performed three athletics events including a short distance run, a relay race and a foam javelin throwing competition. We had spent the last few lessons learning some of the techniques for performing in these events and it was great to see them put their skills into practice. It was also lovely to see the children supporting each other, watching and cheering enthusiastically, from a socially acceptable distance of course!

LPM & FLE



## BLUNDELL'S

# got Talent



One of the highlights of the Summer term is our very own Talent Show, and in spite of the restrictions forced upon us this year, we were not going to give up because of Lockdown! This year each Form from Year 2 to Year 6 elected an act to represent them in the Live Final, which comprised of a combination of live and pre-recorded acts beamed to classrooms for Form Groups to view. Eurovision style, each Form then voted for their favourite acts, which

included all manner of talents, including juggling, singing, dancing, playing computer games, playing musical instruments – while hula-hooping – sheep shearing and even chicken racing! It was most definitely an event to bring a smile to the face! Congratulations to everyone who put themselves forward to get involved and take part, and well done to our overall winner, Jessie Gow in Year 2, for her dazzling gymnastic display! LPM





The **Blundell's Adventure, Leadership and Service Award** scheme, or **BALSA** for short, runs each year as a programme designed to encourage Year 6 to make a positive impact on their own lives and on the lives of others outside of the classroom. Aims include seeking opportunities to help out at home, to try something new using a growth mindset attitude, to give up time to help others in the wider community, or to research and support a charity of personal choice. Entrepreneurial, organisational, collaborative and evaluative skills are valued, and physical challenge embraced in order to encourage each and every one of our pupils to look beyond their comfort zones, and have belief in their own abilities to face the future beyond the Prep School. This year, more than ever before, the children have worked independently as they have moved towards spreading their wings away from school during Lockdown, and it has been wonderful to see the ambition, dedication and perseverance with which they have pursued their plans and achieved so much to help so many. It would be usual for Year 6 to share their achievements with their families at a celebration evening at the end of term, and it was a great sadness to us all that this was not possible this year. Nevertheless, the children were able to share some of their stories with Year 5, passing on some insight into what to expect next year, and they leave the Prep School well equipped to take on the challenges ahead. **LPM**

**BALSA** was a highlight of the year for me. We had the opportunity to support charities that we really care about. I chose Amigos, which is a charity that helps children in Uganda, because we sponsor a girl called Viola who lives there. **Arthur Tate**

For my physical challenge, I did a 70 mile bike ride. This was a real experience; the hardest bit was the last 5K because it was the hilliest. It felt good to have finished!  
**Kit Lund**

I helped out at home by walking the dog, feeding all the animals, doing the dishes and doing the washing. I found this to be really fun, and I think it is good to be organised from a young age. **Antonia Timperley**

When it was my sister's birthday we gave her a little car but we had to build it first. It took a long time but in the end I finished it; I was so happy with myself and it felt good to help my sister. **Joseph Pugh**

I really enjoyed making a 'How To' video for **BALSA**. My video told you how to make pancakes for your family. Cooking is a good skill to have because if you can cook, you can invite friends over for a delicious meal! **Artie Evans**

For my 'How To' video, I explained how to dress a pony's leg. I did this because my pony fell over on the road and hurt its leg. My video could help other people care for their pony if this ever happened to them. **Jemima Cameron**

I enjoyed developing an entrepreneurial spirit for **BALSA**: I bought four pigs, raised them and weighed them. I am going to sell them for pork. It has been a good experience to look after them, and selling them when they are ready will hopefully be a profitable enterprise! **Patrick Taylor-Ross**

**BALSA** has been amazing. It has really opened my eyes to the people in need, and how important it is to help them. We did lots of **BALSA** activities together at school, before carrying on by ourselves at home during Lockdown. I have loved every bit of it. **Mimi Griffiths**



The Year 6 Play has long been a highlight of the Summer Term and it is a great sadness to all of us that due to circumstances beyond our control, the children have not had the opportunity to perform in the stunning surroundings of Ondaatje Theatre this year. When it became clear that the cast would not be able to gather together in school, rather than cancel the production, Mrs. Charlesworth and Mrs. Cracknell set about finding ingenious ways to continue with rehearsals. These took place online and the cast and crew remained optimistic that a performance would be possible before the end of the term. When Year 6 were able to return to school, plans were set in motion for a series of socially distanced rehearsals and after some extensive re-working of the script, the final production was filmed and then edited by Alex, to whom we are hugely grateful. What they have produced is the combined efforts of a very dedicated and talented cast, and I am sure that you will join me in congratulating everyone involved for all that they have accomplished in the most difficult of circumstances – the show must go on, and so it has! **ADS**

*"Although it had to be adapted due to the circumstances, and we had to cut out some of the dialogue, putting on the play was still so much fun! It was great that Year 6 could participate in putting the play on as an amazing final project before leaving the Prep School!"* **Illy Lane, Year 6**



# Speech Day

## WATER WAY TO GO!

The last day of term was the last day of Prep School for our Year 6 leavers. It may not have been possible to have an event in which the children could all mix together, but that wouldn't stop Year 6 from having a party! With some creative cordoning of the fields into Form Group zones, the children were able to communicate with one another at the appropriate distance. There was party food, music, games, informal speeches and, of course, a water balloon battle! It was fun for the children to end their time at the school with a splash, but we remain hopeful that, pandemic permitting, we will all be able to come back together again in early September in order to share in some more happy memories and to give the children the chance to sign Year Books and to catch up after the Summer break. **ADS**



With social distancing restrictions in place, the format for Speech Day was inevitably different to that of previous years, and Year 6 came forward to record a wonderful video touching on many of the numerous highlights from throughout the year. Mrs. Southgate did an amazing job of putting the recordings together, including plenty of memorable photos and a soundtrack featuring some beautiful music recorded by our talented Year 6 musicians. The whole experience was a marvellous demonstration of all that Year 6 had achieved throughout their time at Blundell's, presented by capable and confident young students clearly ready to move on and embrace Senior School life. We will miss them, but wish them all the best, safe in the knowledge that the roots they have established in their time with us, will give them the foundations from which to fly in whichever direction they might choose in the future. **LPM**

“What a fabulous Speech Day, well done to the children and staff. It is clear from the children's stories that they have all welcomed and enjoyed their return to school, albeit briefly for some!”

Governor Nigel Arnold



**“Sometimes in our lives  
We all have pain  
We all have sorrow,  
But if we are wise  
We know that there's always tomorrow...  
Lean on me  
When you're not strong  
And I'll be your friend  
I'll help you carry on...”**

Bill Withers

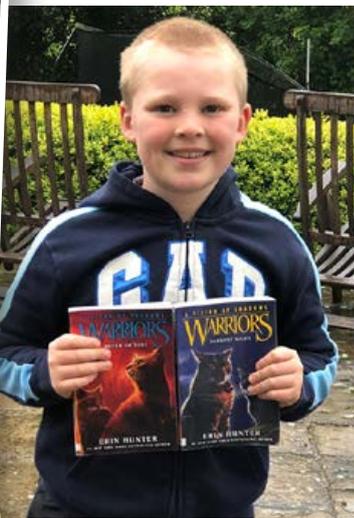
## LEAN TIMES

We may not have been able to lean on each other in the literal sense, but the message of the Bill Withers song could not have been more appropriate for the times, and Year 6 certainly hit the right note when they recorded this classic for their Leavers' Song at the end of term. **BLC**



# BY THE Book

One thing that could not be defeated by Lockdown was our drive to encourage reading – and in fact many of us found ourselves with more opportunity to read for pleasure than ever! The impact of regular reading on improving access to and understanding of the whole curriculum cannot be overstated – encouraging our children to read is quite simply the most important thing we can do to help support their learning. Quizzing on Accelerated Reader continued apace throughout the school closure, and it was remarkable to see so many children achieving the status of Word Millionaires - well done to every one of you! **LPM**



Before our Year 6 Leavers left, we asked them to tell us about some of the favourite books and authors that they had read this year. How many of these have you read? **LPM**

**The Lost and Found** (series) Cathy Cassidy

**Scarlet and Ivy** (series) Sophie Cleverly

**How To Train Your Dragon** (series) Cressida Cowell

**The Wizards of Once** (series) Cressida Cowell

**Artemis Fowl** (series) Eoin Colfer

**The Spook's Apprentice** (series) Joseph Delaney

**A Place Called Perfect** (series) Helena Duggan

**Storm Breaker** (series) Anthony Horowitz

**Warrior Cats** (series) Erin Hunter

**Journey to the River Sea** Eva Ibbotson

**The Tale of Redwall** (series) Brian Jacques

**The Chronicles of Narnia** (series) CS Lewis

**Private Peaceful** Michael Morpurgo

**Wonder** RJ Palacio

**The Lightning Thief** (series) Rick Riordan

**Harry Potter** (series) JK Rowling

**There's A Boy In The Girls' Bathroom** Louis Sachar

**The Last Leopard** (series) Lauren St. John

**Murder Most Unladylike** (series) Robin Stevens

**The Elementia Chronicles** (series) Sean Fay Wolfe

