

review

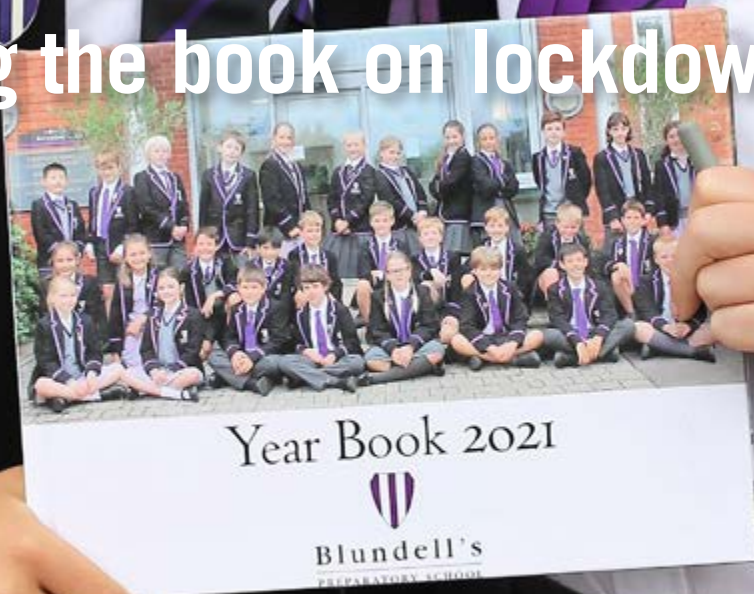
Inside:

Top Seeds: *young farmers' planting plan,*

Animal Instinct: *sheer can-do attitude,*

Day Tripper: *life's a beach*

Business as Usual closing the book on lockdown



“...the fact remains that the children have enjoyed what, for them, has been a normal term full of wonderful opportunities and experiences.”



We made it! What a Summer Term this has been and in the years to come, I am sure that we will look back in amazement at all that was achieved. The indomitable Blundellian spirit, ever present over the last year, has been fully tested since we returned after Easter, but we found a way through and in some style, as the pages that follow will showcase. I have been the Head Master here at Blundell's Prep for 10 years and

never have I felt a greater sense of pride in what we have accomplished together. Since March 2020 and the start of the restrictions, the team here at Blundell's Prep have been relentless in their efforts. The fact that we have not had to send any bubbles home over the last 15 months is quite remarkable and whilst good fortune has certainly been a factor, my feeling is that the combined efforts of everyone within our community has got us to this point and we should be very proud of that. My heartfelt thanks go to all who have played their part in that success.

The theme of this term's Review is Business As Usual and whilst we all recognise that this term has been beset with challenges too numerous to mention, the fact remains that the children have enjoyed what, for them, has been a normal term full of wonderful opportunities and experiences. They went on their local and their residential trips, they competed at Sports Days, they played matches against other schools and they even got to perform their Summer Plays live in front of their parents. For the parents of our Year 6 children, the great finale of Prep School life was not curtailed one bit and they were able to join us for the Summer Concert, Speech Day, 'Oliver' in Ondaatje, the outdoor Leavers' Service and the Balsa presentations, where we even managed to treat our guests to a typical Blundell's Tea with prawn sandwiches and scones! To be able to make this happen for our families, many of whom have been part of our Prep School community for many years, was a very big deal and meant as much to us as it did to them.

We now look ahead to September and there is much to be excited about with a new Science Lab to make use of, our Dance School to launch, new clubs to enjoy and a return to what we hope will be a very normal school life. I look forward to welcoming everyone back. Have a great Summer!

Andy Southgate Head Master



SUM THING SPECIAL

Children in Years 5 and 6 were put through their paces when they entered the prestigious UKMT Junior Maths Challenge in May. Considering that this national competition was open to children in Year 8 and below, some excellent scores proved that we were more than just there to make up the numbers. Especially well done to George Cox, who earned a Silver award, and placed Best in School. **DJM**

HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Congratulations to Max and Rosie, our Head Boy and Head Girl for the Summer Term, and to our House Captains for Raleigh, Drake and Grenville for leading us so confidently back along the road to normality. **LPM**



HAUTE QUIZZING



Having made it through the regional Quiz Club heats in the Spring Term, our Year 4 Blundell's Prep Quiz Club team was excited to compete, via Zoom, against the very best in the country at the National Finals in June. Although we tailed off to eventually finish just outside the top ten, at one point we were top of the leader board and the tension was positively palpable! Congratulations to Joseph, Arthur, Alex and Jacob for giving it their all in what was only the second time in Quiz Club history that Blundell's had reached the final round. We look forward to trying again next year! **LPM**



A group of Year 5 children were lucky enough to be invited to the Senior School to help some of the Year 12 and 13 students gain their Artsmark Gold Awards. The sixth formers organised two competitive workshops involving clay and charcoal, as well as providing refreshments. The theme for the afternoon was Gargoyles and the children were shown key characteristics of these imaginary creatures in a PowerPoint presentation. They were then invited to draw their ugliest creatures with charcoals and create 3D versions using clay. A prize was awarded for the greatest grotesque gargoyle in each category. In spite of some ugly competition, the prizes went to Lizzie and Bryony; congratulations to all our budding young artists across the school. **JMC**



Business As Usual *a touch of class*

In So Many Words

Between them, the children in Years 1 to 6 read more than 87 million words this academic year. 27 pupils each read more than 1 million words. And Benny in Year 6 read more than 4 million words! You won't need to read between the lines to see how valued reading is at Blundell's Prep – both as the easiest way of accessing the curriculum, and as one sure fire fun thing to do! Our most ravenous readers were celebrated at a special summer picnic, food for thought indeed! **SJS**



BACK TO SCHOOL

It was great to be able to restart our Academic Enrichment programme this term, and Year 6 had a fantastic time visiting the Senior School for some challenging workshops in English, Maths and Science. Many thanks to our colleagues down the road for welcoming us back, stimulating our brains and whetting our appetite for things to come in Year 7! **LPM**



BREAD AND BUTTER

Taking trips out, welcoming guest visitors, putting on plays, concerts, fixtures, exhibitions, presentations... these are all fabulous frills which make the Blundell's experience so very special. But learning in the classroom is the bread and butter of what we do, and coming back together this term has put a smile on all of our faces. The children's appetite for getting back to the meat and drink of education has been wonderful to see! **LPM**

As part of the Reception topic on All Kinds of Creatures, we listened to the story of The Little Red Hen before having a go at making our own bread and butter. The children found that kneading bread was hard work and were amazed at how the yeast made it grow. They were delighted when they discovered that by shaking milk they could make butter, and all enjoyed tasting the bread and butter they had made. **SMA**



news



Speech Day

Speech Day was a wonderful occasion, and it was fantastic to be able to have the marquee up and welcome back parents – albeit limited in number – for a live in-person celebration of all that the children had achieved during this difficult year. In a change to custom, instead of inviting a guest speaker to talk, our Head Boys and Girls from throughout the year were asked to speak, and all duly stepped up to the mark, addressing our assembled audience eloquently and with confidence to sum up the many highlights of the year. Well done to Alexander, Emma, George, Daisy, Max and Rose, and congratulations to all of our prize winners who left clutching armfuls of silverware in recognition of the hard work, perseverance and resilience they have shown to achieve so many successes across the curriculum during this challenging year. **LPM**



NATIONAL GARDENING WEEK

The children in Pre-Prep were delighted to roll up their sleeves and get their green fingers dirty for National Gardening Week. There was much weeding, sowing, planting, watering and caring for herbs and vegetables across the grounds, and Year 1 were particularly excited to be invited to join Mr. Olive for a blooming wonderful morning visiting the Senior School gardens for the Blundell's Open Garden event. **LPM**



RAINFOREST BONANZA

After so much research finding out all about the rainforest, the children in Year 1 felt like experts when they took to the grassed area of the playground to showcase all they had learnt for their parents. We were lucky enough to be the first year group in the Pre-Prep to perform live to parents after lockdown, and the children were brimming with confidence as they performed songs, acted out class poems (written by the children themselves) and recited facts about the rainforest. The parents were wowed by the extremely hard work the children had put into producing such a polished rainforest bonanza! **BSB & AXS**



INTERNET LEGENDS

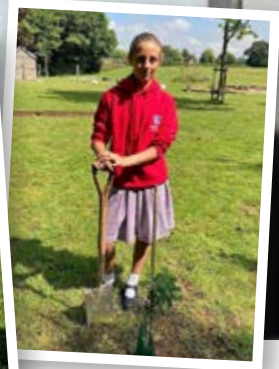
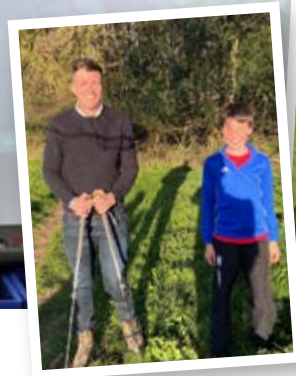
In partnership with Google and Parent Zone, we were delighted to be able to run a series of interactive workshops to deliver online safety sessions under the heading: 'Be Internet Legends'. With the ever increasing use of the internet to manage our education – and our lives – it is so important to keep on reinforcing the importance of online safety with our children, so that as their technical skills become more and more efficient, their awareness of the risks involved – and how to avoid them – grow too. **LPM**





OPERATION CARROT BUN

Our Year 6 recruits bravely followed Mr. Southgate into battle at the Food Technology Room for a cooking session in cross-curricular support of their WW2 studies in History. In the end, Operation Carrot Bun was not a hard lesson to swallow at all, but a victorious recipe for success enjoyed by all the allied forces of Year 6! **LPM**



BLUNDELL'S ADVENTURE, LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE AWARD

The Blundell's Adventure, Leadership and Service Award seeks to encourage children in Year 6 to use skills of self-reflection to develop a sense of wider social responsibility and evaluate their role in and contribution to local, national and global society. It has been wonderful to see so many different initiatives put into action, both in school and at home, with all of our children generously giving up their time or raising money or awareness to help others and our planet. Thank you to all of our families for supporting all manner of

activities including litter picking, sponsored walks and charity fundraising events too numerous to mention. It was wonderful to be able to welcome our Year 6 parents into school at the end of term for a presentation by their children on all that they had learned and achieved through the Balsa programme. Certainly they showed themselves as outward looking, capable young students fully ready to move on to embrace the next challenge of their careers at Senior School. **LPM**

BLUNDELL'S HAS TALENT



A highlight of the term was Blundell's Has Talent. This year the prestigious talent show was held in the sunshine on the playground, and acts included singing, dancing, gymnastics, circus skills, comedy (both intentional and otherwise!) and even synchronised drone flying! Our judges had a real challenge in picking a winner from such entertaining acts, but in the end it was Hugo in Year 4 who took the top prize with his captivating solo singing, closely followed by Hugo in Year 3 who impressed with his gravity-defying breakdancing, and Rosie and Daisy in Year 5 with a gallant gymnastic performance. Well done to all! Following the show, the children in Years 3, 4 and 5 had a great time visiting

a creative carousel of fine funfair activities which Year 6 had organised for Balsa. Ice-cream was served, and stalls included Splat the Rat, Netball Shooting, Welly Wanging and many more. I think it is fair to say that a truly enchanting afternoon's entertainment was enjoyed by all! **LPM**





SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHS

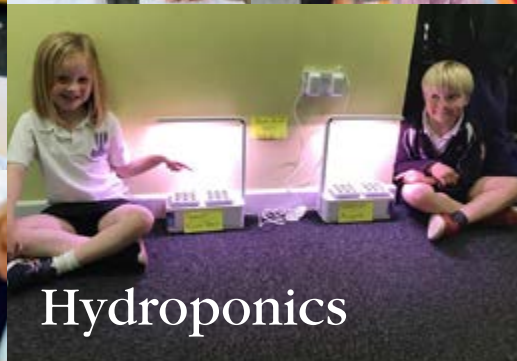


It was fantastic to see the children demonstrate keen cross-curricular thinking during STEM week, when the disciplines of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths came together in a series of challenging projects across the school. Key cognitive, social, practical and technical skills were required, including analytical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, reflection and evaluation, as well as independent research skills, ICT skills and DT skills, amongst many others.

While building bridges was the order of the day in the Pre-Prep, with all from Nursery up investigating, building and testing a range of different bridge structures, other challenges – including measuring bones, constructing dinosaur skeletons, investigating condensation and evaporation, as well as

travelling a series of experiments on hydroponic cultivation – kept everyone on their toes! Year 3 got stuck into making their own fossils in clay, as well as constructing mobile cranes – subsequently brought to life through iPad animation, while Year 4 investigated a whole series of electrical circuits and switches, before designing remote controlled moon rovers. They also built and tested their own propeller-driven cars. Year 5 used coding on Scratch to design their own pinball mazes, before relocating to the DT room to get measuring, sawing, sanding and joining to turn their designs into quality end product gadgets, while Year 6 welcomed Dr. Ratcliffe, Head of Biology at the Senior School, and his A-level students, who used cutting edge technology to lead eyeball dissection workshops. Year 6 were also excited to design and build their own rocket-fuelled cars, which they raced in a flurry of smoke across the Senior School tennis courts...

It was a busy week, with lots attempted, much achieved and even more learned, and the fuel-injected enthusiasm shown by the children was wonderful to see! **LPM**



Hydroponics

The children in Year 1 were fascinated by our work on hydroponics – stemming from our Rainforest project – and participated in a variety of experiments focusing on learning how to grow plants hydroponically. We planted some vegetables, marigolds and candy tufts in our specially designed hydroponic boxes, using only nutrient pellets and water. We enjoyed some success with the flowers, although the vegetables hit an unexpected obstacle presented by some rather hungry ants! The children loved watching the experiments unfold, and were excited to learn how plants can be grown in a different way.

BSB & AXS



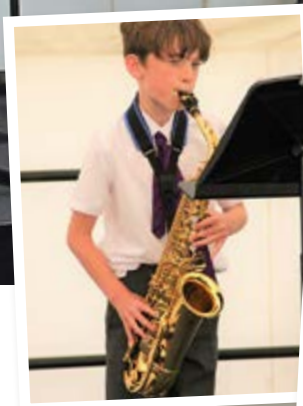
Musical Notes

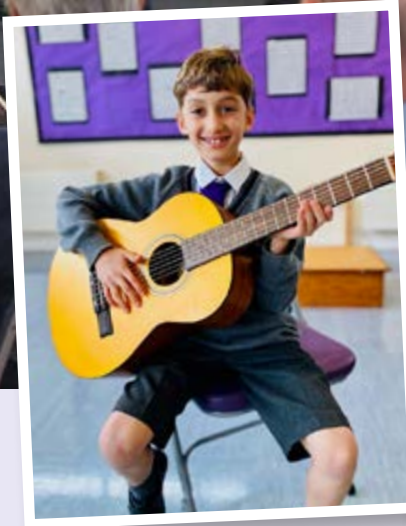


SUMMER CONCERT

The Summer Concert is always a wonderful occasion but this year it felt even more special. Although we were not able to perform to all of our parents, it was just amazing to be able to come together as a school and perform together, something that we have not been able to do for a long time. Groups performing included the string group, wind group, flute group, guitar ensemble, piano groups, brass group, cello trio, violin quartet, Year 3 violins and the Music Scholarship group. In a year where there have been strict restrictions on singing, I was determined to get the children singing together as soon as we could. Singing featured strongly throughout the concert, albeit in the children's bubbles. Songs performed included You're Welcome, You Will Be Found and a medley from Aladdin and Sing. Year 2 performed Hakuna Matata and the newly formed

Year 6 Choir performed two contrasting songs. Considering that all rehearsals had to take place in year group bubbles, the children were absolutely incredible in their commitment and perseverance and I was immensely proud of them. A huge thank you must go to all the children for providing a truly fantastic, and emotional, evening of music! **BLC**





Tea and Tunes

The Pre-Prep children were so excited to perform in their first Tea and Tunes concert of the year. After lots of practice they were filmed playing for their friends, who made a very appreciative audience. Their parents were then able to watch the resulting video with them at home later. Tea and cakes added a special finishing touch to this wonderful occasion! **SMA**

TEA TIME CONCERTS

Our Tea Time Concerts continued in a virtual format this term, with a large number of children taking part. The children have adapted incredibly well over the last year to performing to a camera, which has enabled us to continue providing concert opportunities for the children to perform. We are, however, looking forward to welcoming back live audiences and performing together again in the Autumn Term! Well done to all the children who have taken part in these concerts this year and thank you to all the visiting music teachers who have worked so hard with the children.

BLC





'Oh I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside'

Dressed as beach children and pirates, the **Reception** Summer Performance, 'Oh I Do Like To Be Beside The Seaside', saw delighted children performing live to their parents outside. Using the pirate ship as an interactive prop for a beach scene, the children sang about the seaside and talked about the favourite things they like to do when they go there. Surfing USA was a popular song, along with some pirate sea shanties. This was the first time that many of the children had been able to perform to a live audience and they did so brilliantly! **SMA**



Our Time

AT BLUNDELL'S PRE-PREP

The children in **Year 2** greeted their parents with warm smiles and a quiet confidence for their emotional Summer performance celebrating 'Our Time At Blundell's Pre-Prep'. They shared lively songs, inspirational poems and a host of special memories in a fitting farewell to the Pre-Prep – before setting off for a whole new adventure at the Prep School in September! **LPM**



PLAY time



MACBETH

In May, Arabella from Splats Entertainment visited the Prep School to help **Year 5** rehearse and perform Macbeth as a Shakespearean Play in a Day experience! Macbeth is one of Shakespeare's tragedies, which starts off with three witches prophesying that Macbeth will become king. This sets our story in motion, leading to much bloodshed and tragedy as Macbeth does everything in his power to make the prophecy come true.

We learnt the whole plotline from beginning to end, bringing the story to life by rehearsing scenes as different characters, before putting on costumes, picking up a few well chosen props, and performing the play! Thank you to Arabella, Mrs. Charlesworth and Mrs. Cracknell for making this a really fun day for Year 5!

Hetty Parker & Ruby Jones



WHEN I GROW UP

The **Nursery** Summer performance, 'When I Grow Up', offered the prospect of an exciting future ahead, with our youngest children singing, smiling and sharing their lofty aims and ambitions with a charismatic confidence beyond their years **LPM**





LIONEL BART'S **Oliver!** JR.

Oliver is a firm family favourite and if I am honest, this play, more than any other year, chose the children. The auditions demonstrated that we had a cast that was extraordinarily good.

For anyone not so familiar with the musical Oliver here is a brief Director's Note. Oliver is left destitute at the workhouse door as a baby and grows up with the notorious Mr Bumble and terrifying Widow Corney. One day, whilst eating his gruel, Oliver asks for more! Horrified by this request Oliver is sold to be a Junior Coffin carrier. There is no love at the undertakers and after a fight Oliver runs away to London. Here he meets the Artful Dodger who takes Oliver to meet the iconic Fagin, his gang and Nancy, who treat Oliver to a demonstration of how he may earn his living picking pockets. Following on from a successful pick pocket by Dodger, Oliver is caught, but the victim, Mr Brownlow, decides to take him in and, with Mrs Bedwin the housekeeper, provides him with a home. One day, when Oliver is returning some books for Mr Brownlow, he is spotted by Nancy and taken back to Fagin's lair. Bill Sykes, the notorious 'fisty cuffs', threatens to hurt Oliver and Nancy steps in to protect him. Nancy goes to Mr Brownlow's house to inform them that Oliver is in danger and promises to bring him to London Bridge. Sadly, Bill knows of Nancy's ill-fated plan, and as she arrives at London Bridge, he jumps out. Oliver makes his escape while Bill prevents Nancy from ever helping anyone again. Bill catches Oliver and tries to cross London Bridge. However, he stumbles, falling off into the river below. Oliver is taken home by Mr Brownlow. Fagin and Dodger... well, that's left to your imagination.

My thanks must go firstly to the amazing **Year 6** cast who coped so well rehearsing in the bizarre times we found ourselves; to all the wonderful staff at the Prep School who contributed in so many ways but without whom we would not have had a production; to the Senior School for allowing us access to the wonderful Ondaatje Theatre; and to the Year 6 parents for supporting the production by allowing access to your children on a Sunday! **TMC**



“Everyone was switched on in the field and supported each other so well and I was always impressed with the camaraderie and sportsmanship that they displayed.”



CRICKET

U11 CRICKET

At last the summer term arrived and the opportunity to play some fixtures. We were all so excited to get playing again and then we were hit with the May monsoon! Never have I needed a dry robe and a beanie hat so much in this month! Despite the unusually wet weather, the squad kept themselves focused and upbeat in the training sessions and used the extra time to improve and develop their bowling and batting skills. Daisy Doyle, Emma Scoble and Daisy Maitland-Walker were quick to impress with their fast and accurate bowling and Jess Tucker performed brilliantly with the bat in our first match to score the most runs in the team. Arabella Taylor was the top fielder, taking the most catches of the season and never shying away from even the toughest of challenges. Everyone was switched on in the field and supported each other so well and I was always impressed with the camaraderie and sportsmanship that they displayed. Well done to those girls who took part in the Exeter Festival, winning two of their matches and narrowly losing out to Exeter in the final game. You have all been a pleasure to teach and I hope you continue to enjoy the game in the future! **LB**

The U11 A Team started the season in promising fashion with a convincing 71 run victory against Wellington. Hugo Brock (51no) and Alexander Toghill (49no) starred with the bat, striking the ball with great power as the team amassed a score of 165 for 3 in 20 overs. In response, Wellington found it tough going against some accurate bowling, managing to reach 94-4 in their 20 overs, George Cox the pick of the bowlers with figures of two overs, one maiden, three wickets and only two runs conceded. It was a great start to the season but tougher opponents awaited us in Exeter. They batted first, scoring an impressive 144-3 in their 20 overs. George took two wickets and Daisy Doyle took one, but it was the 63 extras conceded which really did the damage. Undaunted, the team's response began but some very impressive Exeter bowling saw our top order struggle to score and wickets fell in quick succession, the team finishing on 82-6 from their 20. Game 3 saw a trip to Millfield and a match between two very well matched sides. Millfield scored 113 from their 20 with excellent bowling from Alexander Toghill and some much improved accuracy from the rest of the bowling attack. In response, Hugo scored an excellent 36 and Matt McCollum a very disciplined 13 but some very good bowling from the Millfield bowlers saw us come up just a little short, losing by 10 runs. Game 4 was another stern test, this time against King's Hall. George had early success, bowling their opener with an absolute brute of a delivery but their strength in depth really shone through, and chasing down a score of 172-5 from 20 was always going to be a tall order. However, the team rallied and a very solid performance from Connor Baily at the top of the order followed by scores from Hugo (35no) and Alexander (24no) helped us get to a respectable total of 149-4 from



our 20. Although a defeat, the overall team performance was greatly improved with tidy bowling from Oscar Borradaile (1-11) a feature. The final game of the season was against Taunton and they batted first, scoring 160-7 in their 20. Everyone had the chance to bowl and it was Emma Scoble (1-6), Toby Newnes (1-7) and Noah Turner (0-5) who stood out, but it was those extras which hurt us again, providing an additional 42 runs to the Taunton cause. The chase was on, and it started well with opener Will Harrison in an attacking mood, but the team fell just short, Daisy Doyle impressing with a last wicket stand and a couple of cracking drives for 4. The final total of 122 all out was 38 runs short, but the team had given their all. The squad showed a great desire to learn and to improve their skills throughout the season and were a pleasure to work with. **ADS**

The U11 B Team met some very tough opposition throughout the season and it would have been really easy for them to have given up at the first sign of difficulty. However, they never let this happen, instead they practised hard in the nets and in games to improve their cricket skills and were rewarded with some excellent performances in their last few matches, with numerous boys taking wickets and scoring a number of runs. Having missed competitive fixtures for over a year it was so good to see the boys really flourish and enjoy their cricket and it was to all their credit that they never once let their heads drop. **SPH**



U10 CRICKET

The U10 squad had much success in the first competitive matches played for a year. This was largely down to straight bowling and sharp fielding with excellent catches. With this side of the game sewn up, making runs became the focus. Having a score to defend or chase comes down to each person having a positive mindset when standing out in the middle of the field taking a guard to protect their stumps. While everybody walked out to the crease with confidence, not everybody was able to select the best shot to face each ball, and the total amount of runs was not always as high as it could or should have been. Nevertheless, our bowling attack was typically good enough to see the team prevail. With another season behind them and pre-season training in the nets, this squad of players will build and I am sure the runs and victories will flow in their favour. Well done to all those who played their part in a most enjoyable and competitive return to school matches. **SGS**



For everyone, the thought of playing matches again brought lots of excitement to Wednesdays during the Summer Term. Although the weather did not always bring sunshine and warmth, the U10 A Team enjoyed the matches they played and were so pleased to get back to competitive sport. During training, everyone worked hard to hone their bowling and batting and although nerves took over at times, the whole team displayed ever-improving skills during the matches. There were wickets taken with clean bowls, sweeping strikes achieving fours and sixes and well taken catches throughout the games played. The matches played were close encounters with the team winning a couple of games and narrowly losing a couple too. Everyone in the team played their part and always showed determination and great sportsmanship. Well done to all! **JER**

Our short season of games were all played 'away', but we were able to welcome supporters to our fixture at Queens College which was lovely. The U10 B Team won their first half of matches convincingly, with their bowling being a strength and wickets being taken. We then headed to Millfield and sadly lost by one run! Our final game at Exeter Prep was entertaining with seagulls attempting to steal our snacks and Mrs Carter having to umpire with crisps on her feet. Unfortunately we didn't come away with a win, but we certainly had an amusing tale to tell! **JMC**

UNDER 8 CRICKET

It was fantastic to finish the year with some competitive cricket fixtures against local schools and all of our Year 3 children did a great job of learning and playing the pairs cricket format. Taunton hosted us for our first game and it was a beautiful sunny start where we got to play a mini festival and enjoyed lots and lots of time batting, bowling and fielding against all of the pupils from Taunton. Unfortunately, in true Summer term style, the rain set us back for a few weeks, but once the skies cleared we were able to play two more fixtures to finish off the season. I was very impressed with the standard of cricket played at such a young age and I have no doubt that many of these children will go on to become excellent cricketers in the future! **LB**



UNDER 9 CRICKET

The U9 boys enjoyed the format of pairs cricket. With an allotted time to bat, bowl, wicket keep and field, everybody got to practise the full range of cricket skills. Everyone worked hard to cover all the bases and raise their game to compete against other schools in the first competitive fixtures this year. The squad fared well in their matches, enjoying their batting in particular. They worked hard to increase concentration levels when fielding, actively supporting the bowlers with such cricketing sayings as 'send the bails to Wales', 'send the stumps to the dumps', or 'more blocks than Legoland!'. Once the boys had mastered some of these sayings (and created some of their own not yet known to the English and Welsh Cricketing Board!) they were engaged and keen to field. Overall, the boys enjoyed the cricket played, their bowling improved throughout the season, their batting proved that they could score runs and their fielding frequently stopped the opposition from scoring. **SGS**

The U9 girls approached lessons with a hunger to learn and a wonderful attitude. Considering that they missed out on fixtures last Summer, their cricket was phenomenal. They focused on fielding skills, including a short pick up and long barrier retrieval, and they worked hard to perfect the accuracy of the underarm and overarm throw. With bat in hand they practised the straight drive and the pull shot and I was most impressed with their bowling, with all in the squad able to deliver an accurate overarm bowl. Although rain stopped play (as it often does in cricket!), meaning that some matches were cancelled, we were delighted to get out in the field whenever we could, and our season opened with a friendly against Taunton school, where we were quickly able to put our skills to the test. Visiting West Buckland saw some lovely catches in the field, a maiden over and wickets a plenty. The girls were praised by the opposition's teacher for their communication in the field. The match against Exeter was incredibly close with Blundell's winning in the end by only 8 runs. Although our batting was a little more conservative compared with some of the big hitting from Exeter, our bowling and fielding won us the game. Overall, this has been a wonderful season of cricket! **FLE**





SUMMER SPORTS

Sports Days

We were blessed with perfect weather for the return of Sports Day at the Prep School – not too hot and not too wet or cold! There was lots of excitement for the children to be back competing for their Houses again, spurred on by the supportive cheers of their families. We began with the sprints on the track which always prove to be a fantastic spectacle and this year was no exception, with very closely contested races where a mere head dive over the line was all that separated the first from second positions in several races. After the sprints, the middle and the long distance races followed, with equally as much tension and success for all of those competing. In the field events, much was happening all around the track, with pupils flying into the long jump pit, and throwing discus, foam javelins, cricket balls and shot puts all trying to bring home the trophy for their House. After every child had competed in three events, the scores were totalled up to reveal the overall winners of the 2021 sports day to be... Drake! Well done to

everyone who competed, and especially to all who broke school records this year!

Pre-Prep Sports Day was also blessed with dry weather, and saw all the children have great fun taking part in House races, sprints and a whole variety of fun challenges. As tradition dictates, the final two races of the afternoon were the Fathers' 'walking' race and the Mothers' egg-and-spoon race... needless to say, the most competitive races of the day! A great time was had by all – many thanks to the children for giving their very best, and to the parents for supporting so wholeheartedly.

Nursery Sports Day proved another huge success, full of racing, jumping, throwing and lots of fun for our very youngest Blundellians! It was a joy to welcome back parents safely, and to hear their enthusiastic support trackside! Thank you to Mr. Evans of *scrumkidsrugby*, and to all of the Nursery team for putting together such a special afternoon in the blazing sunshine! **LB & SJS**

SWIMMING

Pre-Prep were delighted to be able to get back in the pool this term. The children were positively buoyant, demonstrating excellent attitudes and effort, and showing super listening skills to take on board advice for practising, developing and improving their swimming strokes. After such a long time out of the water, it was great to see such happy, splashy children again! **LPM**

BLUNDELL'S BIATHLON

Iron men and ladies only please! The biathlon is a tough event and certainly those taking part found it hard. With a swim and then a run straight afterwards, nobody could afford to coast. The Year 5 and 6 children who entered this year's Blundell's Biathlon pushed themselves to the limit to make the racing incredibly close and exciting to watch. All the competitors can consider themselves champions for successfully completing the course, but in the end it was Barney Cronkshaw and Tilly Hill who won the Year 5 races, while Purdy Knight and Matthew McCollum claimed victory in Year 6. Well done to all! **SGS**



GONE FISHING

Year 2 had a whale of a time when they visited Plymouth Aquarium for a quick look-sea. They enjoyed a guided tour and workshop, as well as exploring all of the wonderful aquatic and marine life on show. Thank you to all at the aquarium for welcoming us and keeping us so well entertained! LPM



Out and about



ZOO LOOK

Year 1 had a wonderful adventure hunting for information on rainforest animals at Exmoor Zoo. First we met Steve, our animal guide, who led us on a lovely tour around the grounds. We were treated to three fabulous talks on lemurs (never call them monkeys!), capybaras and tapirs. We managed to see most of the animals and learnt a huge amount of interesting information about them. Many thanks to all at Exmoor Zoo, we look forward to returning for another adventure soon!

BSB & AXS



RAMBLING ON

Nursery very much enjoyed exploring the grounds at Haldon Forest Park, where the children walked a mighty 3.5 miles watching for wildlife in this beautiful nature setting. There were miles of smiles, as well as some very tired legs, before the children successfully made it out of the woods! LPM



COAST TOWN

The children in Reception enjoyed a fantastic day out at Exmouth Beach. The weather was perfect and the children learnt about beach safety, seeing the lifeboat and the lifeguards. They also enjoyed searching for shells and sorting them before exploring the rock pools and finding shrimp, fish and crabs. After lunch there was time for some sandcastle building and a few games before having an ice cream and heading back to school. The staff were so proud of how well the children conducted themselves, and were delighted to receive several lovely comments from members of the public. Well done Reception! SMA



Overnight Sensations



FOLLY HOLIDAY

Year 4 went to Folly Farm for our residential, and when we got there we went straight into our activities. Our first one was minibeast hunting. We got into groups and had to catch some minibeasts in our pots. I got a woodlouse, a worm and a slug, and then Hugo started to chase us around with the slug! Our next activity was pond dipping – we caught lots of freshwater snails, a water beetle, some tiny nymphs, dragonfly larva and a newt. Then Carlotta fell in the pond! We also went badger watching, made ‘waterproof’ dens in the woods, dissected owl pellets and played ‘sense’ games to help us understand how animals hear, see, feel, taste and smell the world. The best thing though was being away with my friends – and the delicious deserts! **Austin Keir**



Day Trippers

A stone's throw from the natural beauty of the rugged Devon coast, and surrounded by so many sites of historic significance, with an amazing abundance of adventure opportunities so close to home, what better place to book for a school residential than Blundell's School itself? Year 3 had a fantastic time sleeping on gym mats, eating breakfast in the lunch hall, and using the school as the perfect base from which to head out for a series of action packed day trips! The children had great fun fossil hunting on the Jurassic Coast, hanging out on the High Ropes at Haldon Forest Park and exploring the glorious National Trust grounds of Killerton Estate, before surfing up a great grand finale to Trips Week at Westward Ho! **LPM**



BACHELORS COOP

Blundell's Prep *OUTDOORS*



SIMPLY THE BEST

Year 5 enjoyed an action packed week of adventure when they visited Simply Outdoors for their outward bound residential on Dartmoor. They were thrown in at the deep end gorge walking on the River Plym, before reaching heady heights rock climbing, and coming back down to earth with a bump abseiling. Traversing the high ropes course was a real highlight, canoeing was plain sailing and a session practising archery skills certainly hit the mark. All were game for team sports, and enjoyed a perfect pebble dash rock scrambling, before branching out to try tree climbing, finding their feet with orienteering and fanning the flames of success toasting marshmallows around the campfire. Moor over, all reflected on a fine week spent bonding together at the end of a challenging year. Friends, reunited. **LPM**



After a year of going nowhere because of Covid, I was really excited to go on the Year 6 residential to Bachelor's Hall, a beautiful former farm house near Princetown on Dartmoor. After weeks of rain, even the sun came out! We managed to fit in so many activities, some of my favourites were gorge scrambling, geocaching, paddle boarding, raft building, canoeing, kayaking, nightwalking, climbing and abseiling. I was a bit nervous about doing the gorge scrambling because I had never done it before and it looked quite scary, but I listened hard to the instructor and afterwards I felt a good sense of achievement for having done it. We were fortunate to have one of the chefs from the Senior School come with us to prepare our absolutely amazing food, and I really enjoyed sharing a room with my friends! **George Cox**



review *extra*



Stamp of Approval

We were delighted to see so many bright and beautiful designs for the Royal Mail Heroes Stamp Design Competition this term. Naturally the NHS and other carers featured highly in the designs, as we remembered that not all heroes need capes. **LPM**

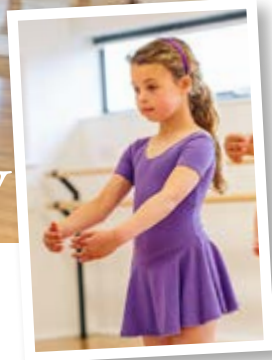
CLUB CLASS

It has been great to be able to get back to offering a wide range of in-person afterschool clubs and activities this term. There are so many to choose from, including sporting clubs, musical groups, drama sessions, yoga, chess, art, construction and quiz clubs, to name but a few! Next term we are looking to resume our Lunchtime Club provision too – so look out for an even wider variety of extra-curricular opportunities to choose from! Brushing up on colour mixing skills, Canvas Painting Club has been a particularly popular choice with Year 5 this term... **LPM**



Dance Away

The opening of our brand new state-of-the-art Dance Studio in the Pre-Prep has given a real boost to the teaching of music and movement and all types of dance within curricular lessons and extracurricular activities across the school, and the children have been thrilled to have something so special to sing and dance about. We are now delighted to be able to offer our facilities for use by the local community too, and are very excited that the Michaela Poulton School of Dance has stepped in to offer classes for all from 18 months to 12 years plus at our Pre-Prep Dance Studio. Classes in Funky Jazz and Ballet at all levels currently run on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and all are welcome! For more information visit www.michaelapoultonschoolofdance.co.uk, or contact Michaela at kaylapoulton@me.com. Why not put on your dancing shoes and let your feet do the talking? **LPM**



Moving On Up



Our Year 6 Leavers took to the open air to share some of their favourite Prep School memories at the end of term Leavers' Service. It was an emotional moment for some, especially those who had spent their entire educational career at the Prep and Pre-Prep, but our young Blundellians have been well prepared and are ready and champing at the bit to move on to the next chapter in their education, and we wish them luck as they head towards Senior School. Each was given a packet of wildflower seeds to take with them, and we look forward to seeing the solid roots nurtured at the Prep and Pre-Prep blossom into full bloom as our Class of 21 move forward to make their mark in the wider world. Each will be missed, but like young birds taking flight for the first time, we know that every single member of our Blundell's family will fly, filled with the confidence, ambition and desire to play their part in shaping the future for the better for all. **LPM**

Butterfly Effects

The Reception children were so excited when ten tiny caterpillars arrived in the classroom. They watched avidly each day as they grew until the children returned from a weekend to see them starting to turn into crystalloids. Then the wait truly began and two weeks later ten beautiful painted lady butterflies emerged. The children were so excited watching it happen! After a few days of waiting for some good weather, the children released them into their outdoor area. The butterflies were reluctant to go and, much to the children's delight, they landed on their hands and stayed around for a long time. The children then loved looking for them, seeing them fluttering around the area and sitting on the bushes. **SMA**



STAFF ON THE SPOT



This term: *Miss Barber*

How long have you worked at Blundell's?
One fantastic year!

What did you do before you came to Blundell's?

I was completing my PGCE at the University of Exeter.

What do you do at Blundell's?

I teach Year 1 (form 1B) and I absolutely love it!

What is your favourite part of the job?

Having thought about this question a lot, I just can't choose. I love everything about my job! I love how much I laugh each day. I love watching the children in my class grow in confidence and understanding. I love how different each day is and I love the fantastic team I work with. The list really does go on...

What was your favourite subject when you were at school?

Music! I have always been passionate about Music and graduated from Leeds Conservatoire with a degree in Classical Music.

What are your hobbies outside of school?

I love taking care of the animals on my parents' farm. I find caring for animals very therapeutic and it is incredibly rewarding.

What is your favourite...

TV programme? Friends

Film? The Green Mile

Song/ band? Mr. Brightside by The Killers

Book? The Harry Potter series

Food? Chinese curry. Yum!

Holiday destination? Anywhere hot!

Which three words best sum you up?

Happy, honest and caring.

Which three things would you take with you if you were stranded on a desert island?

Tea bags, matches and my Oodie (wearable blanket).

What has been your most embarrassing moment?

As I was walking out of a department store one time, I saw a familiar face so waved and said hello. As I got closer, I realised it was a cardboard cut-out of a celebrity...



Now and Then

As our Year 13 leavers say goodbye to the Senior School and move on to embrace their futures in the adult world, whether at university, in industry, travelling the world or embarking on other exotic life adventures, we remember the cohort as they were in Year 6, and wish them well! **LPM**



LUNCHEON MEET

It was perfect weather for our Summer House BBQ on the field, and everyone had a great time coming together for some al fresco dining at the end of the year. Many thanks to our wonderful catering team for looking after us all so well, not just on this sunny day, but on every single day in school!

LPM



Summery Summary

Summer sports in June
Under lockdown restrictions finally lifted,
Matches begin again,
More doughnuts for everyone;
Every Friday Assemblies outside,
Running around in the playground.

Sports Day is lots of fun;
Every FT lesson lots of yummy things!
Never Walk Alone, sung by Year 4,
Speech Day, lots of cups;
At our Residential having lots of fun,
The lovely sunshine breaking through;
In the marquee singing lots of songs,
On the field mixing bubbles,
No more staring at a screen...
Sensational summer!

Morgan Tambllyn



Joke of the Term #43

Q: How did the insect feel when he quit his job as a taxi driver?

A: Ex-Uber-Ant!

Tell your favourite funny to Mr. Moore to see your joke published here next time.

Bob the Blob and Friends in: Muse Rm

Can you help Bob unscramble these summer anagrams?



Original characters created by Frances Auger and Kristiane Wheeler.



PET SOUNDS

Counting Sheep

CHEEP THRILLS

The children in Pre-Prep were delighted to welcome the most gorgeous fluffy chicks into the world, as they watched them hatch and hop into life with an irresistible cuteness! There is something fundamentally positive and almost therapeutic about watching the wonders of nature close up, and it was fitting that this element of our All Kinds of Creatures topic took place in Mental Health Awareness Week. **LPM**



Farming Out

Thank you to Mrs. Spencer for hosting the Nursery children for a visit to her smallholding, where they were able to take a moment to stop and breathe in the fresh air of the countryside while enjoying some spectacularly scenic views. After a picnic lunch, Mrs. Spencer led the children on a tour of the livestock... The cows appeared to be very large animals indeed next to our Nursery children, but it was the snuffling pigs which proved the most entertaining kind of creature to behold (even without muddy puddles to jump up and down in!) **LPM**



The children in Reception were delighted to welcome some lambs to school as part of their topic on All Kinds of Creatures. Mrs. Marsh very kindly brought in two which were extremely friendly and loved being cuddled and stroked. It was the first time some children had been so close to a lamb, but they all enjoyed the experience and were keen to get involved in building them an obstacle course in their outdoor area! **SMA**



Blundell's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Blundell's Road, Tiverton
Devon EX16 4NA
Telephone: 01884 252393
Email: prep@blundells.org

www.blundells.org/prep