

SPRING 2023

review



Inside:
Mental Health Week: dancing for joy
Planting the seed: and watching them grow
Singing for success: springtime concerts



The Jersey Tour 2023

Four days of fun in the sun

“Seeing our very youngest Blundellians working alongside their older peers is always a joy, not least because that relationship is always characterised by smiles, purpose and a shared goal...”



As you read through the pages of our Spring 2023 Review, you will see a great many examples of a very distinct theme – collaboration. The children here love learning together, be that within their forms, their year groups and especially across Pre-Prep and Prep. Seeing our very youngest Blundellians working alongside their older peers is always a joy, not least because that relationship is

always characterised by smiles, purpose and a shared goal. In the words of Helen Keller, ‘Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much’ and it is this idea, that many heads are better than one, which drives our determination to make collaboration a key part of the children’s learning here at Blundell’s Prep.

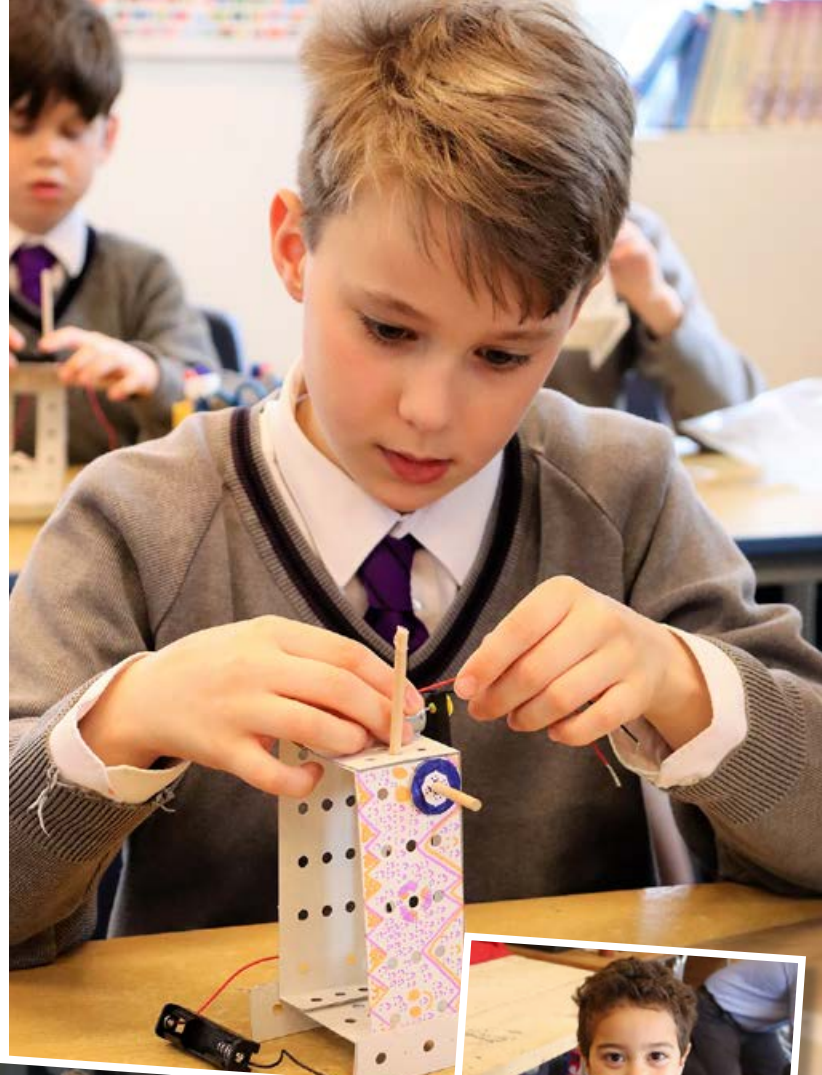
I think that we all recognise that making connections with others, learning to share ideas, to listen and to compromise, are all vital life lessons. During the two years of Covid, these real-world moments were simply not possible, as we relied on the power of Teams and Zoom to keep us together. Since then, we have made collaborative opportunities a priority within all subject areas and you can see examples of these moments during STEM Week, Arts Week and much more besides.

Our Spring Term concluded with one of the most enjoyable collaborative moments of the school year – House Music. Irrespective of the outcome of the competition, all of the children enjoyed the opportunity to make music alongside their friends, working together for a common goal.

My thanks to all who have contributed to this Spring Edition – happy reading!

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

Andy Southgate
Head Master





STEM

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHS

PREP

STEM week in the Prep school was also hive of activity. Throughout the school, each year group had a different engineering project, from cranes and judder robots, to making their own 3D rooms with working lighting and alarm circuits. Year 6 constructed their fuelled Rockets, having designed and thoroughly tested their prototypes in their Engineering lessons. With the help of Mr Morrison in the Senior School they were fitted with rocket fuel and raced across the tennis courts. The top speed reached by the winner was 35mph! The children also had an opportunity to work with Senior School Biologists to dissect a cow's eye and learn first-hand about the different parts of the eye and how it works.

A fun, informative and collaborative week was had by all!

PRE-PREP

During the Spring Term, children from across the Pre-Prep took part in our whole school STEM week. Every year group had the opportunity to get involved in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths activities in and outside of their classrooms with lots of opportunities for the children to work with pupils from other year groups.

Not put off by the wet weather, Nursery and Reception put on their waterproofs and headed off to the School Garden at the Senior School to join Mr Olive with some gardening activities before enjoying hot chocolate and a story in the Cabin. Projects continued outdoors when the children welcomed our head gardener, Mr Flower, to the school and with the

help from Eco club, the children all took part in rewilding areas of the school site with wildflower seed.

A collaborative spirit saw pupils from across the school all take part in an engineering challenge. Activities included making marble runs and natural mazes. All of the children showed great determination and demonstrated just how well they could all work together.

There was also a Chemistry experiment when Mr Mead (Head of Chemistry) and some year 12 students visited year 1 and they were able to make glue from milk which they then used to make paperchains, year 6 helped the pre-prep children with some fun

maths activities including playing board games and filling out graphs as well as the loose parts play zone in the playground where their imaginations ran wild, making things such as vehicles, shops and cafes from old pipes and plant pots! **CAM & HGM**





House Music

At the end of a very busy Spring Term, the Prep School and Pre-Prep joined together to hold our House Music Competition. This year the theme was songs that make us feel happy. Songs performed were 'Don't Stop Me Now', 'Happy' and 'I'm Still Standing'. Small groups also performed including guitar groups, piano groups, brass groups, string groups and wind groups. The Pre-Prep performances, as always, were a highlight and they performed Abba songs with tremendous enthusiasm, fantastic dance moves and props galore! Dr and Mrs Smith had the very difficult task of judging the competition. They were hugely impressed with all of the music but in the end, Drake were announced the overall winners. **BLC**



HOUSE PANCAKE RACES

The whole Prep School took part in year group pancake races this year. The excitement was high, and the pancake tossing was low. This was needed as the judges wanted to see the pancake leave the frying pan before each runner could carry onto the next station. But to enable the runner's house to win, a low pancake toss was optimum. Everybody had great fun running the course representing their house in this yearly event. **SS**

The results for this year's pancake races - **YEAR 3:** 1st Grenville, 2nd Raleigh & 3rd Drake, **YEAR 4:** 1st Raleigh, 2nd Grenville & 3rd Drake, **YEAR 5:** 1st Grenville, 2nd Raleigh & 3rd Drake, **YEAR 6:** 1st Drake, 2nd Raleigh & 3rd Drake

Overall - 1st = Grenville & Raleigh and 3rd Drake



HOUSE spirit

HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

House cross country is a personal challenge yet a house team challenge for the Mildren Cross Country Cup. Year 3 to 6 race in the year groups around the cross-country course, which is located on the senior school site. There are different lengths depending on the age group. Everybody had the opportunity to walk the course during their PE lesson and have a practise run in their Games Lesson. Many of the 'runners' tactics were imparted during those sessions; pacing, breathing every other foot fall, keeping the leaders in check, sitting just behind another runner to draft them and knit with their arms to prevent energy use. The children were encouraged all the way round by their house watching, the course marshals and the many parent supporters. Not everybody can win a medal, but everybody should be given recognition for their effort. As the rain started to fall the final race finished and the school walked back to The Prep School Hall for presentations.

Winners of The Mildren House Cross Country Cup were Drake, 2nd Grenville and 3rd Raleigh. **SS**



GRENVILLE HOUSE CAKE SALE

In March, the Pre-Prep Children in Grenville, hosted their yearly cake sale.

They provided a spectacular selection of yummy home-made cakes and biscuits which they sold to hungry customers with all proceeds going to their chosen charity which was The Brain Tumour Charity.

The rain managed to stay away (thankfully) and all goodies were sold with a total raised of £237.70! Great work, Grenville! **LL**

HOCKEY HOUSE MATCHES

BOYS YEAR 5 & 6

A cool breeze whistled through the Astro as the Year 5 & 6 House matches got under way for Spring 2023. But the temperature on the pitch was more than warm! Every player wanted their house to win and gave their all in both attack and defence. Red faces were soon seen by those watching, despite the cold wind. End to end games through passing out to the right-hand side as coached in the children's Games lessons was the way to unlock defences. However, some last ditched tackling stopped many attacks resulting in a goal.

YEAR 6 - 1ST DRAKE, 2ND GRENVILLE AND 3RD RALEIGH.

YEAR 5 - 1ST GRENVILLE, 2ND DRAKE AND 3RD RALEIGH

Many thanks to the supports who braved to cold but were entertained with some great hockey. Also, the umpires; Mr Allen, Mr Fawkes, Mr Evans and Mr Howkins. **SS**

BOYS YEAR 3 & 4

House matches are keenly fought over each term. Everybody wants to compete for their house and for their house to come out on top. This year the year 3 and 4 matches were end to end hockey with many excellent individual performances. Other players acted as the 'glue' so each house team could give a good display of their skills and commitment for their house. A fast-passing game was adopted by



all the houses and a small error would lead to a goal. Those watching were delighted to see all the boys get stuck in playing their role for their house.

Overall, Drake came first in year 4 and 3 with two riveting games against Grenville (2nd in year 4 and 3rd in year) and Raleigh (3rd in year 4 and 2nd in year 3).

Many thanks to all the sectators for their praise of all the houses, Mr Allen, Mr Fawkes, and Mr Genders for umpiring. **SS**

BOYS YEARS 1 & 2

The Pre-Prep House Matches provide a fantastic opportunity for some of our youngest sport enthusiasts to put their skills to the test and give them a taste of what it is like to take part in competitions, which is something they

will experience as they move up through the school. With most of the children only having picked up hockey sticks for the first time at the start of Spring term, the amount of progress on show was fabulous. A brilliant turnout from parents created a festival atmosphere for children to display their new-found skill sets. In Year 1, the standout performance came from an unbeaten Grenville House, who showed the determination and drive you need to succeed in the game! Year 2's champion was Raleigh, who edged an incredibly tight affair against rivals Drake, to take this year's honours. Our hockey house matches were a real event this year; with outstanding engagement from all our pupils, playing with tremendous 'house' pride and a fabulous competitive spirit! Well done boys! **JE**



NETBALL HOUSE MATCHES

GIRLS YEARS 5 & 6

Excitement was in the air in anticipation of the Years 5 & 6 House netball matches, and the afternoon did not disappoint. The wind was biting but that didn't dampen the spirits of the children. The Year 5's and 6's combined to put their skills to the test to see which house would come out on top. The house 'resting' were lucky enough to be coached by our in-house Netball coach, Johanah Tatterton, which certainly kept the blood flowing!

Drake got off to a strong start, moving the ball quickly up the court, scoring 5 goals to secure a 5-1 win over Grenville. The Raleigh and Grenville match was a much closer contest with both houses scoring one goal. The final match, Drake v Raleigh,

was always going to be a tough one. The marking was tight, the dodging was quick, and the shots were accurate. It was end-to-end with both teams scoring 2 goals each, however, Drake crept ahead in the second half, eventually sealing the win 5 goals to 2. With Raleigh and Grenville both on equal points, we looked to the results of the mini match played by the reserves to determine 2nd and 3rd place.

It was wonderful to see the Year 5 and 6 girls working so well together. Well done and thank you for such a truly impressive display of your netball skills.

Results: Year 5&6 combined - 1st Drake, 2nd Raleigh, 3rd Grenville

Many thanks to the parents for their continued support of the children. Thanks also to the coaching staff and umpires; Mrs Baily, Mrs FitzHerbert, Miss Roberts and Mrs Tatterton. **FE**

GIRLS YEAR 4

During Netball House Matches, the Year 4 girls showcased some brilliant performances and went from strength to strength as the games progressed. There was some particularly impressive goal scoring from Posy Griffiths who helped secure Raleigh's victories against both Grenville and Drake, whilst Rosie Hill made some impressive runs in to space which helped

to enable her teammates to make quick movement up the court. The final results concluded with Raleigh in 1st, Grenville in 2nd and Drake in 3rd place. All the girls demonstrated fantastic commitment during match play and should be incredibly proud of their efforts. **FLE**

GIRLS YEAR 3

The girls played with great determination and enthusiasm in their house netball matches and it was very noticeable how much they had all improved since the start of term. Lots of goals were scored by all 3 houses but the standout competitor of the afternoon was Drake who won both of their matches displaying excellent passing, defending and shooting skills and most importantly fabulous teamwork. Well done to Raleigh in second and Grenville in third. It was a lovely positive afternoon of netball. **LB & FLE**

GIRLS YEARS 1 & 2

The Year 1 and 2 netball house matches were a chance for the girls to show off their netball skills and they did so with enthusiasm, determination and great sportsmanship. The girls displayed some fantastic passing and dodging skills on the courts and there was also some impressive shooting, particularly from Drake. It was a close contest, but with their super shooting skills, Drake managed to secure the victory with Grenville and Raleigh coming a close joint second. Well done everyone! **LB**



MUSICAL *Notes*

PRO-CORDA

In January we were invited to take part in the National Pro Corda Chamber Music competition. Pro Corda provides inspirational ensemble training in Chamber music and our Trio of Pippa (violin), Joseph (cello) and Noah (clarinet) performed for them. Following the first round of the competition, which included a performance of Brahms' Hungarian Dance and participation in a workshop, our Trio was invited to take part in the semi-finals at Millfield School. They enjoyed performing to an adjudicator who then worked with them on how to develop and improve their piece. It was a very tough process which really challenged their musical understanding and performance skills. This performance resulted in an invitation to perform in the National Final at Brighton College. I was incredibly proud of the children, especially as they were competing against children who were at least a year older than them. Huge congratulations to Pippa, Joseph and Noah who performed very impressively, competing against some truly exceptional Chamber groups. **BLC**



TEA AND TUNES

What a delight it was to see so many of the Pre-Prep children performing in the Tea and Tunes Concert. Forty-three children had been busy practising and eagerly awaiting the day. The young musicians played a range of instruments from the piano and guitar to the saxophone and trumpet and a variety of pieces. The Singing Club sang some Easter songs to the delight of the audience. Many were performing for the first time, but all impressed with their confidence and composure. Congratulations to them all. We look forward to the next Tea and Tunes. **SMA**



CHOIR WORKSHOP

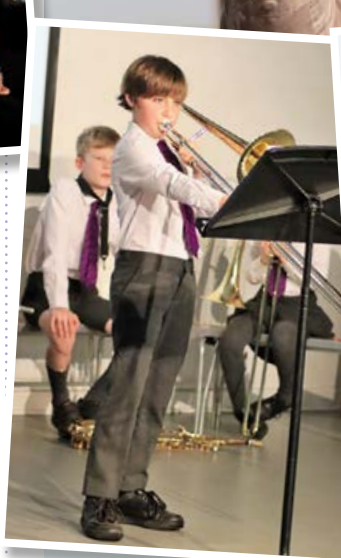
In preparation for the Spring Concert, our Choir took part in a workshop with the composer Alexander L'Estrange. The Choir joined five Tiverton Primary Schools and St Peter's Prep School to spend the afternoon singing Ahoy! – a set of choral arrangements from the time of King Henry VIII. **BLC**



SPRING CONCERT BLUNDELL'S ON THE SEA

Our Spring Concert took place in Big School this year. Our Choristers and our instrumentalists joined the Senior School to take part in a concert that had a sea theme. The first half of the concert featured orchestral film music such as Jaws, Titanic and Pirates of The Caribbean as well as known TV themes such as In the Night Garden, Swashbuckle and The Octonauts. The second half saw a performance of Ahoy! which was composed by Alexander L'Estrange. Our Choristers were joined by children from six other primary schools from Tiverton and the sound created by all these children was just amazing.

The children performed in the afternoon to the Pre-Prep, Prep School and local Primary Schools and then again in the evening to a very appreciative audience of family and friends. It was a truly wonderful celebration of music which provided a tremendous amount of inspiration and enjoyment for all of our children. **BLC**



YOUNG VOICES

Our trip to the Resorts World Arena took place on Friday 27th January. The children joined 6500 other children to sing and dance together. They performed a variety of music including a Pop Medley from Trolls, a Folk Song Medley and a fantastic finale of disco songs by Nile Rodgers. The children were joined by Heather Small and sang the very famous Proud with her. Other guests included The Beatbox Collective, Urban Strides and the amazing violinist Anna Phoebe. It was a fantastic experience for the children who thoroughly enjoyed performing in such an impressive arena and with a live band. Thank you to everyone involved with Young Voices. We are looking forward to learning the songs and dances for next year's concert! **BLC**

Teatime Concerts

Our Spring Term teatime concerts began at the end of January with our singing concert. All of Mr Jeffrey's singing pupils took part in the concert, singing a number of solos and duets. Songs performed included How Far I'll Go from Moana, I'd Do Anything from Oliver and the traditional Cockles and Mussels. The concert ended with Mr Jeffrey and all his pupils singing Do-Re-Mi. Well done to all of the children who performed so confidently.

The teatime concerts continued with our Percussion Concert at the beginning of March. We have never had so many children having drum lessons and we were treated to a fantastic variety of music by thirty of our budding drummers. The drum kit took centre stage and there were even lights that flashed in time to the drumming! Songs included Mustang Sally, Another One Bites the Dust, Seven Nation Army, Billie Jean, Uptown Funk and Dancing in the Moonlight. Some children even premiered their own compositions. It was a brilliant concert which was thoroughly enjoyed by our audience. Well done to everyone who took part.

We also have around 50 children learning the piano in the Prep School and, as a result, we had to split our Piano Concert into two performances. Years 3&4 performed on one day and the next saw Years 5&6 on stage. Both concerts were fantastic and highlighted the confidence and courage that the children must have to be able to sit at a piano and play for an audience. There were solo performances, duets, trios and even a quintet! It was lovely for all the pianists in the school to be able to sit and listen to each other play. Well done to all those children who performed.

Our concerts continued with our Brass & Woodwind Concert. As always, there was a variety of music being played on the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet and trombone. Some of the children have only been playing for just over a term whilst some of our other players have already reached the level of Grade 4 or 5. Music included traditional pieces such as Scarborough Fair and popular music such as The Bare Necessities, Batman and the theme from James Bond. It was another wonderful concert which was thoroughly enjoyed by our audience. Well done to everyone who took part.

The concerts concluded with our String Concert at the end of March. Our violinists, cellists and guitarists all joined together to perform in a concert which was wonderfully varied and really showcased the huge amount of talent that we have in the Prep School. There were solo performances, duets and large groups of performers playing together. It was another fantastic concert and a wonderful way to finish our series of concerts. Well done to everyone who took part. **BLC**



MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Music plays a large part in the education of the children at the Prep School and we are very lucky to have so many children at the Prep School who are fully committed to musical life within the school. This term some of our Year 6 musicians auditioned for Music Scholarships at the Senior School. They spent the morning at the Senior School performing and talking to Mr Johnson and taking part in a Choir rehearsal. I am delighted that three children were awarded awards. Well done to Joseph, Noah and Pippa. **BLC**



We were really lucky this year to be visited by four inspirational artists.

Year 6 worked with animator Ed Jobling to create their own fabulous plasticine animations.

Year 5 spent a day working with artist Tony Minnion, initially screen printing and then combining their prints with photos in Photoshop to produce some amazing images.

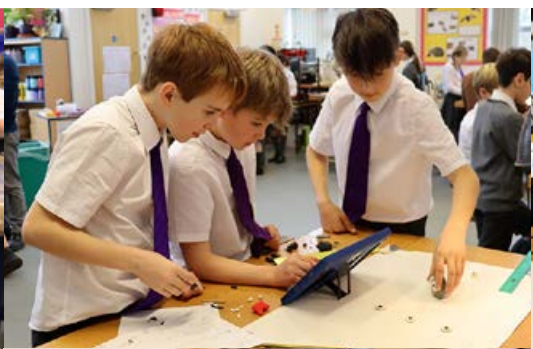
Simon Ripley from Double Elephant printed with Year 4. They made printing blocks using a variety of textured materials: fabric, card and leaves. Their prints were stunning.

Year 3 worked outside with willow artist Stefan Jennings to weave Salty the crocodile, who is now standing proudly on the grass at the front of the Prep School.

JAA



Creative Arts Week





YEAR 3 TRIP TO THE ROYAL ALBERT MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Year 3's were inspired after reading the book 'Alfie's Night Out' which follows the story of Alfie the sparrow who goes on an adventure around the RAMM, Exeter Museum, when the clocks strike 5 and all the visitors leave. For their Arts Week trip, they followed Alfie's trail around the museum while searching for different types of art and stopping to sketch. They particularly enjoyed looking at the birds, butterflies, totem poles and Sladens Study and spent the week creating artwork based around these aspects. **JZR**



VISITING ARTIST: Ed Jobling

The pupils in Year 6 had a wonderful time learning about stop-motion animation during Arts Week! They were joined for two days by artist Ed Jobling, who entertained them with examples of animations and helped them to realise the huge attention to detail that is required to make even the simplest of films. The children loved using plasticine and iPads to create their very own animations, and then recorded sounds to go along with them. Finally, Ed took the clips away and made a compilation with the videos and sounds all matched up... the result is brilliant, and everyone loved watching their hard work come to life back in the classroom. Watch out Aardman Animations, we have some serious talent here at Blundell's Prep! **DJM**



YEAR 4 TRIP TO COLDHARBOUR MILL

During Arts Week, Year 4 were looking at art activities related to textiles. This included a trip to Coldharbour Mill, a local English Heritage site, to learn about how different fabrics were made. The mill is one of the oldest woollen textile mills in the world, having been in continuous production since 1797. The children enjoyed weaving their own bookmarks and had a tour of the factory looking at all the different equipment that was used. Sadly, we didn't see any of the resident ghosts that live there but the children had a super morning nonetheless. **SJS & JJA**

SJS & JJA



Creative Arts Week at the Pre-Prep

For Creative Arts Week the Pre-Prep started their week with a story called 'The Dot' by Peter Reynolds. The child in this story dislikes art class because she is convinced she can't draw. Her teacher gently encourages her to begin with a single dot and her creativity takes off. The story celebrates the creative spirit in everyone.

Each year group explored this theme in their own way. We looked at the art of pointillism, which is a technique of painting in which small, distinct dots of colour are applied in patterns to form an image. Each child had a circle shaped piece of paper to decorate any way they liked using the pointillism technique. Some of the year groups explored the Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama, who is known as 'the Princess of dots' and makes beautiful dot inspired installations, paintings and sculptures. Some year groups looked at Aboriginal art as well as Mandala art from India.

At the end of the week, we brought all the beautiful artwork together to make our very own dot inspired art exhibition. **ELT**





A visit from Clare Helen Welsh in her authormobile



To celebrate the infamous World Book Day, children across the school were busy talking about books. A brilliant local author, Claire Helen Welsh, kicked off the week with art and writing workshops. A huge thank you to all the visiting readers who came in, including children in Year 2 who read to the Pre-Prep. It was lovely to see the colourful costumes as we dressed up in our favourite book characters too. Our Eco Clubs also ran a Book Traders stall, where children swapped their old books with others, thinking about reusing books we already have and sharing our love for reading. We ended our week with our book at bedtime session where all children in the Pre-Prep could stay on after school, get into their pyjamas and listen to all the teachers each reading them a story whilst they enjoyed a hot chocolate and a cookie. What a lovely end to a fun filled week! **BH**

Book Week





“ENJOYING
A BOOK AT
BEDTIME WITH A
SPECIAL FRIEND”

WORLD BOOK DAY *Fame*

Our own Year 2 teacher, Miss Steel dressed up for World Book day to such a high level that a close friend decided it worthy of sending the picture to the BBC for their coverage on world book day. You can imagine our surprise when, watching the early evening news, there popped up Miss Steel – our very own celebrity! Well done, Miss Steel on such a brilliant costume! LL

YEAR 1 TRIP TO DINOSAUR WORLD

Year 1 had a 'roar some' time visiting Dinosaur World in Torquay. After researching so much about dinosaurs in the classroom, it was a super opportunity for the children to be 'hands on' meeting some of their favourite pre-historic friends! Highlights included digging for a velociraptor skeleton, seeing a real triceratops leg bone and bravely putting our heads inside the mouth of a T-Rex skull! Since returning, both classes have been busy writing letters to the dinosaurs they met and are very excited to see if they receive a reply! LM & JWH



YEAR 6 TRIP TO TIVOLI CINEMA

To kickstart their rehearsals for Matilda Jr, year 6 visited the Tivoli Cinema in Tiverton to watch the new film which includes many songs from the stage show. Fuelled with popcorn to complete the cinema experience, the children enjoyed having a glimpse of what they will be performing on stage in June. JZR

OUTINGS *and Visits*

YEAR 2 TRIP TO BICKLEIGH CASTLE

Year 2 had a wonderful time visiting Bickleigh Castle this week. They explored the grounds and went on an adventurous artefact hunt. Some of them even tried on some armour and a variety of helmets. A final treat for some was to have a go at playing the organ in the beautiful chapel. It was a cold, bright and exciting day which fuelled the children's interest in our new Castles topic. AXS & BH



YEAR 3 TRIP TO RHS ROSEMOOR

Year 3 had a brilliant day at RHS on a trip to support their learning about Plants in Science and Wild Explorers. During the morning workshop, they learnt about what seeds need to grow. They also planted their own peas and repotted pansies. Following this they learnt about seed dispersal and looked at examples in and out of the garden. The afternoon was spent sketching flowers and leaves to use in their new art topic of printing and exploring the vegetable garden to gain inspiration for our developing garden area back at school. JZR

YEAR 3 TRIP TO TIVERTON MUSEUM

Year 3 dressed up as Victorians and visited Tiverton Museum to experience all parts of an era gone by. They explored the ways of local rural life, the duties within the home, played Victorian games and became school children where they managed to avoid the cane and other frightening punishments! A wonderful day was had by all, and the children were grateful to return to modern school life at the end of the day. HGM



NURSERY TRIP TO KNIGHTSHAYES

Nursery 1 & 2 enjoyed their annual Spring Trip to Knightshayes this term. We had a lovely walk looking for signs of Spring as well as the Easter Bunny! We were lucky enough to find that the Easter bunny had left Easter eggs for us to find as well as a little chocolate for all our hard work! We also met a farmer who very kindly showed us one of his lambs that needed a little extra care. We did lots of climbing and exploring before enjoying a lovely and well-deserved picnic!

AMS & ELT





RECEPTION ARCTIC TALK

In January, Reception were joined by Dr Franklin-Smith as she brought their Ice World topic to life by sharing the incredible adventure that she undertook when exploring the North Pole. Dr Franklin-Smith showed us her equipment, shared tips for keeping warm, handed out 'nose bags' filled with treats like those that were needed to keep energy levels up in temperatures that reached minus 50 and amazed us with stories of polar bears standing as tall as the ceiling! Her amazing experience and career as a scientist inspired us - she has shown us that there are no limits to what we can do when we put our minds to it! CAM

SCIENCE DEMONSTRATION



In March it was British Science Week and to celebrate, Years 3 & 4 were invited to the Senior School for a science show spectacular! Many thanks to Head of Chemistry, Andy Mead for leading an amazing practical demonstration lecture. LL

YEARS 3 & 4 TRIP TO THE PANTOMIME

Children in years 3 and 4 visited the Northcott Theatre to watch Robin Hood! The pantomime experience was filled with jokes, laughter and lots of audience participation! JZR



JERSEY TOUR 2023

Even though it has been two years of not touring to the island of Jersey, the welcome Blundell's received was excellent. The children responded in kind to everybody we met with a smile and heartfelt thanks for hosting them.

The adventure begins with an early start school, a quick goodbye to parents and off to Exeter airport. With a beautiful day the view from 14000 feet was wonderful! As soon as we landed, we were off to The Jersey Zoo originally founded by Gerald Durrell where the children were guided around before a stop in the zoo shop, which is always popular. Following that, the pace of the tour took off with visits to The German War Bunkers, Maritime Museum, Jersey Bowl, the cinema, Gorey Castle, Aqua Splash and the beach. The children ate very well with superb food in the hotel's restaurant, Pizza Express and the highlight was Collen's Café which serves the best fish and chips on the island and in the best setting next to a wonderful beach.

The sporting side of the tour was competitive with the best on the island put up against us. The touring teams battled well with some outstanding results. With many supporters coming to watch there was quite a crowd to play to in each game. With great sportsmanship everybody played their part and enjoyed representing the school against Jersey.

All too soon the tour was done, with tired but very happy tourists we landed in Exeter to a lovely welcome. Many of the children have reflected fondly on this trip and I hope the Jersey Tour 2023 will be the springboard to many more. SS



news

ICE WORLD



Reception have had an incredible few weeks exploring the polar regions as part of their 'Ice World' topic. What began with a mysterious delivery of a large egg with a cryptic note soon turned into an adventure to learn and discover everything there is to know about penguins! When Eddie the Emperor Penguin returned for his egg, he left a note asking the children to visit soon. How could they refuse? The classroom was transformed into an airport and the children jetted off to see what they could discover about their penguin friend and his home. **CAM**



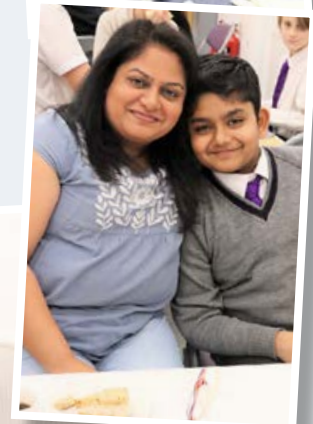
FOBP - PREP DISCO

A big thank you to the FOBP for organising another wonderful Prep Disco attended by over 95% of the pupils in the Prep. The children devoured their hot dogs and drinks before hitting the dance floor and enjoying the music for the rest of the evening. A few Conga lines and Gangnam style dances were achieved amongst a myriad of self-styled individual dance moves techniques that I'm sure the dance group Diversity would have been proud of and even several staff were spotted tapping their feet to the disco beat! A big thank you to the mums who helped organise and look after the children during the night, the children had a great time! **SPH**



Tea & Tours

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





MOTHER'S DAY

On March 16th the Mothers of children in Nursery 1 and 2 were invited into the classrooms for a special Mother's Day Event. The children had been thinking of all the ways that their Mothers help them, take care of them and love them. They shared songs, paintings and activities, the most popular of which was decorating a cake together! Thank you so much to all the Mummy's and Grandmothers who came to show their support. The children were so proud and happy to spend that special time with them. **ELT & AMS**



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

This year we marked International Women's Day with a focus on gender stereotypes and careers. We welcomed in six inspirational women (all mothers of pupils) to share their career stories with our pupils. Security guards, a vet/farmer, solicitor, investment manager and a physiotherapist all spent time with our pupils and were certainly impressed with the high level of questioning. This year's theme of embracing equity was explored, eyes and minds were opened, and we were very grateful for the time and energy our visitors gave to us. **LLC**



LUNAR NEW YEAR

In January, the Reception class children were very excited to be able to celebrate the Lunar New Year. They learnt about how and why it is celebrated and discovered that the colours red and gold are thought to bring good luck. They made paper lanterns, concertina dragons and tried writing their names in Chinese. A highlight was eating some Chinese food and doing a dragon dance. They wished everyone a happy year of the rabbit. **SMA**

Devon Performing Arts Festival

Congratulations to our seven Speech and Drama students who recently attended the Devon Performing Arts Festival. They all performed brilliantly gaining commendations and distinctions but a special mention must go to Jay for winning the U10 set poem.



As we all took a keen interest in International Women's Day this term, our very own head of the Pre-Prep, Laura Clifford, was recognised by Devon Life Magazine in their leading ladies feature as they celebrate the achievements of women from across Devon who are making a mark in their industry. Congratulations, Mrs Clifford! **LL**



Under 5s community links

This term our Under 5s community links have continued with Sensory Storytime at Tiverton Library, our weekly baby and toddler group and our termly Messy Play event. All these events continue to be hugely popular. We embraced the Spring themes for our sell out Messy Play and Easter filled final baby and toddler group. It was lovely to invite Beth from Happy Glaze Pottery, a Tiverton based local independent pottery lady to come and share her products with our weekly group. Lots of masterpieces were decorated and many memories made. Mrs Clifford looks forward to welcoming our local community next term, especially in the newly refurbished Tiverton Library. **LLC**





BALLET & FUNKY JAZZ SHOWCASE

PRE-PREP

There was such a lovely buzz in the air with lots of excitement on show day. The children had worked so hard leading up to the show, and they really did themselves proud, remembering their routines and performing brilliantly to their parents and classmates. It was such a joy to see their beaming faces and the way they worked as a team to create such a fantastic performance! **LD**

PREP

Our funky Jazz and Ballet girls really did a fantastic job in their showcase. They worked so hard to perfect their dances, showing what they have been learning with confidence and poise. It's also lovely to see the older students take the younger ones under their wings and lead the way, offering support and kindness to each other and being positive role models. The main thing that we could all see was the joy they had for dance, which was absolutely fantastic. **LD**



FOBP PRE-PREP PARTY

Our Pre-Prep children were treated to a wonderful afternoon of a hotdog tea and party games in February. To their delight, they were also visited by the one and only Professor Bumble. A brightly dressed, comical entertainer whose act included balloons, spinning plates and a magic wand. The Pre-Prep Hall has never heard such loud laughter! A big thank you to the Friends for arranging such a wonderful treat! **LL**



RED NOSE DAY

On Friday 17th March it was Red Nose Day. The theme this year was about coming together, spreading joy and having the best day ever in school. So, all of the children (and staff) came into school in their most joyful outfits – the more colourful the better!

Many were wearing their red noses and with generous donations flying in, we managed to raise a whopping £592.93 across both the Prep and Pre-Prep schools.

What an amazing amount raised for a great cause! **LL**



THE LARKMAN CUP

Friday 24th March saw the annual Larkman Cup take place at Blundell's. We welcomed 12 local schools who brought teams of U9, U11 and U13 runners to compete. The recent heavy rainfall made conditions tricky for competitors and spectators alike, however, everyone seemed to be in good spirits. The competition was fierce with talented runners on display. Both Taunton and King's Hall dominated the individual races with runners from both schools coming in 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the U11 Boys (Taunton) and U13 Boys (King's Hall) races. Well done to all of the runners who took part in the event, which culminated with a gruelling uphill finish, and congratulations to King's Hall for taking the Larkman Cup home.

We look forward to welcoming you back next year! **FLE**



THE RUSSELL

MARCH SAW ITS INFAMOUS RUSSELL TAKE PLACE WITH ITS NORMAL DELUGE OF MUD!



EASTER SERVICE

It was lovely to be able to celebrate Easter with our annual service in the school chapel. With inclement weather, the children, teachers and parents were relieved to step inside the welcoming warm space and out of the rain.

We were joined by Reverend Claire Curtis this year who spoke about the importance of trusting God, come what may, even when life catches you out (just like the women who arrived at Jesus' tomb to find Him gone). As you can see from the photo, Claire came with a life size stone (transported in her horse box) to represent the one that covered the tomb where Jesus lay. Her message to us was 'Do Not Fear' and the children were all given bracelets made of wooded beads with the letters 'DNF', to remind them of that.

The school's Christian Club 'J Team' were in charge of the prayers in the service and our Head Boy, Head Girl and another Year 6 read the Easter story to us beautifully.

A fitting end to a jam packed term with time to reflect and be thankful. **CFH**

U10 HOCKEY

The U10's had a wonderful season and have become a real force to be reckoned with. Through hard work and dedication, the skill level of all players has improved and it has been lovely to see their confidence grow. All teams have developed an attractive brand of hockey, where they have improved their positional sense to create space and time on the ball. The level of competition has been fierce and all teams have enjoyed good results throughout the season. A real highlight came at the Millfield Tournament, where the boys finished second overall. This was thanks to the fact that they had scored eight goals, one more than their closest rivals. The team showed much resilience and determination during the day, particularly when facing a barrage of short corners from Dean Close School.

To summarise, the season has been a real mixture of solid goalkeeping, resolute defending and outstanding goalscoring. I very much look forward to seeing the children continue to develop their hockey next year.

Huge thanks to all the boys for their hard work, the parents for their support, and the catering team for delicious match teas! **JWF**



U11 HOCKEY

The boys' U11 hockey squad have played a huge number of games. Often there have been triangular fixtures which have enabled the boys to rotate between different roles in the team they have played for.

The speed of hockey dictates that instinct takes over one's actions and not active thoughts. This instinct has been built up over the season with numerous drills and practises which have honed a hockey understanding. The main theme of the term was to carry or push the ball right against the oppositions weak side and either crossed early or pulled back to a 'guardian angel'. This attack comes from dispossessing the other team of the ball and working in triangles to find the attack opening. The whole team need to buy into the tactic and their stick work has to be strong and accurate.

With so many games the U11's have enjoyed success and some challenges. Overall, the boys have worked hard to play a mature brand of hockey which will set them up for next season in year 7.

Many thanks to Miss Harris and Mr Allen for their input. **SS**



U9 HOCKEY

The under 9 boys had a scintillating season and they certainly progressed to become Mr Allen's dream team. Right from the get-go, the game plan for the boys to hold their shape was instilled. They listened to this approach which led to the boys moving the ball and running into space well. An extremely attractive style of hockey was played. An abundance of stunning goals was scored, and few were conceded. Most importantly the boys had plenty of fun and developed an excellent sense of comradery and team spirit. **JJA**

FOOTBALL

Our under 7 Boys all took part in a football tournament at St Peters and very much enjoyed their afternoon.





NETBALL



IAPS U11A GIRLS' NETBALL

The U11A netball team had an early start to get to Port Regis for the regional netball tournament but they were in good spirits on the bus and ready for the challenge! They had a great start winning their first match 3-2 and then continued their winning streak for the next 3 matches, displaying excellent grit and determination and a fighting spirit throughout the morning. They finished 2nd in the pool only losing to Millfield, so made it through to the cup semi-final. Here they met a very strong Kings Hall team who defeated them which left them to play Cheam in the 3rd/4th play off. After a shaky start, they began to play some excellent netball but sadly couldn't quite convert their chances so finished 4th overall in the competition. They should be very proud of their efforts and were a credit to the school with their wonderful sportsmanship, lovely manners and fantastic team spirit. Well done, girls! **LB**

U11 NETBALL

What a delight the **U11A** team have been to coach every week with all of them displaying excellent attitudes, sportsmanship, determination and also the ability to keep a watchful eye out for my water bottle every week. Not an easy task, as it seems to have a mind of its own!

They have impressed me with their versatility when playing different positions within a match and have had excellent results, winning almost every one of their weekly games. They did exceptionally well at the IAPS, winning their pool in style and only narrowly losing out in the subsequent rounds to eventual winners and runners-up Millfield and Kings Hall.

The highlight of the season was the Exeter School tournament win where they won every single match to bring home the trophy.

I am pretty sure that this very organised and mature group of children only really require me to drive the minibus, as I would be 100% certain if I ever had to leave them to it, they could easily organise themselves for each and every game!

I am very much looking forward to the final term of cricket and athletics and hopefully some well-deserved sunshine!!! **LB**

We have had a really strong netball season with the **U11B** teams. The five a side Bee Netball rules with position rotations gave the girls the chance to play in every position over the course of a match. This meant that each girl had to be a versatile player and able to shoot, defend and play centre.

The girls were fortunate to have eleven matches organised for them over the season, coming away with six wins against Taunton School, Exeter Cathedral School, Stover, Wellington, West Buckland and Queen's Taunton, one draw against Exeter School and two losses to King's Hall and St. Peter's. Unfortunately, snow, rain and gale force winds put paid to our matches against Perrott Hill and Millfield.

The girls have been great to work with: positive throughout, showing perseverance, a great sense of humour, lovely teamwork and beautiful singing in the bus!

I look forward to seeing their cricket skills next term. **CFH**



U11 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

The U11A team had a fantastic day at Exeter School displaying their strongest netball skills so far this season. They played 5 back-to-back matches over the course of the afternoon, winning each game in turn to become the overall winners of the tournament. They scored over 30 goals in total and conceded only 10. Well done for a fantastic effort and for great teamwork!

U10 NETBALL

Where to start... What a season the **U10** girls have had! They are unbeaten in all Wednesday fixtures, scoring 136 goals and only conceding 13. They have had comprehensive wins against Wellington, Taunton, West Buckland, Kings Hall, Exeter, Queen's, St Peter's and Exeter Cathedral School. Stover really put us to the test in the last game of the season, proving to be tough opposition. The girls had to work hard, mark incredibly well and raise their game in order to fight for a 5-3 victory. Not only have the U10A team seen success during mid-week fixtures, but they have also attended two tournaments (Exeter & Queen's) and won every match at both, bringing two trophies back with them. Every player has been versatile and shown the ability to defend during one period of the game and shoot accurately during the next. A huge congratulations to each and every one of you who played their part in an incredibly successful netball season. Well done!

SQUAD: S Barber-Swaly, M Best-Shaw, D Beszant, G Whewell-Webber, E Baily, C Duarte-Jones, B Keysell. **FLE**

The **U10B** Netball team have had a successful season enjoying all their matches and working well together to produce some great results. They very nearly went the whole season undefeated, but unfortunately were thwarted by a competitive Stover side during their final match, which resulted in a 5-4 loss. It was a closely fought match which could have swung either way. Although there was huge disappointment, the team were thrilled that they had won all their other matches, and everyone had played their part by scoring goals. During the season, Darcey Beszant and Jessica Loveridge worked well together when shooting; Miele Maund displayed strong and accurate throwing skills and Molly Harper showed her versatility when playing in different positions. In addition, Saskia Barber-Swaly deserved 'player of the match' on numerous occasions due to her fantastic interceptions when defending and her ability to move into space to receive the ball when attacking. **JER**

U8 NETBALL

The Year 3 girls had their first taste of 'Bee netball' this year, where they learnt about the important skills of passing, footwork, defence and shooting and were able to develop all of these skills each week within lessons and then Thursday afternoon matches. They made massive improvements with the strength and accuracy of their passing over the term and some children really started to show a flair for shooting. This will be excellent next year when they play full court matches and will be shooting in the posts in every game.

The use of space on the court definitely got better by the final few games and they played some very competitive matches throughout the season.

Well done and I look forward to the cricket and athletics next term. **LB**



U10 NETBALL TOURNAMENTS

On Saturday 4th March the U10 girls travelled to Queens College, Taunton to take part in their annual netball tournament. Having played a fair amount of netball the day before there were some tired children who faced four back-to-back matches. With temperatures reaching little over 5 degrees, I think they were fairly pleased to keep moving! The opening match against Kings Hall saw some strong competition, however, the movement off the ball and speed of play saw Blundell's win the game 6-2. The girls managed to keep a clean sheet for the remainder of their matches, beating Perrott Hill, Wellington and Queens. They displayed some impressive marking and intercepting skills, only conceding 2 goals in the tournament and scoring 33. They were deserving winners of gold medals and the shield.

Well done to Georgie for being 'top scorer' of the day and to Saskia for receiving 'most improved' player.

TEAM: E Baily, D Beszant, B Keysell, G Whewell-Webber, C Duarte-Jones, T Best-Shaw, S Barber-Swaly. **FLE**

The **U10** girls travelled to Exeter on Friday 3rd March to take part in their annual Netball Tournament. It was a freezing cold afternoon, but the girls soon warmed up, winning their opening match against Stover 7-1. The next game, against Maynard was end-to-end at times with some superb skill on display from both teams. Blundell's worked hard to find space on the court and mark their opponents tightly, coming away with a 5-2 victory. The final game saw Blundell's face Exeter School. The movement of the ball across the court was impressive and the shooting was accurate, culminating in an 11-0 win. The girls thoroughly deserved to return home with gold medals and the Shield.

Thank you, Exeter, for another superb afternoon of Netball!

TEAM: E Baily, D Beszant, G Whewell-Webber, T Best-Shaw, C Duarte-Jones, B Keysell. **FLE**



U9 NETBALL

The U9 girls have had a terrific season of netball. They have become confident with positional play on court and have enjoyed experiencing both attack and defence. Their shooting has become more accurate and their ability to pass the ball quickly and effectively into space has been evident during our weekly fixtures. It was wonderful to see all of them taking part in the Exeter Netball Festival and it was clear that as a group, they are a force to be reckoned with. The U9s have had some comprehensive victories over a number of schools this term, including Mount Kelly, Kings Hall, Exeter Cathedral, Stover, and Exeter School. The season has not been without the odd challenge, as witnessed when playing a very feisty and talented group at St Peter's. It is these experiences that help develop resilience and flag areas for development. The girls have also travelled to Millfield for a morning of netball and taken part in inter-school coaching sessions. It really has been a full schedule and they have definitely welcomed every opportunity thrown their way, and with a smile! A special mention must go to the 'Blundell's Pythons' (C Massey, T Lane, M Bourne, B Georgeou, N White & P Griffiths) who won the U9 Exeter Festival. Well done to all of the U9 netball players for a most successful season! **FLE**

U9 NETBALL TOURNAMENT

A massive well done to the U9 Blundell's netball team who were certainly put through their paces at the Exeter Netball Tournament. What a wonderful afternoon of netball, thank you for your hospitality, Exeter! The Cobras and Pythons both played 8 matches each against teams from Stover, Exeter, Plymouth College, and Maynard. There was even a local derby (Blundell's Pythons v Blundell's Cobras) which was end-to-end and a closely fought contest. The children played in good spirits, battling the elements and demonstrating some great movement, passing, defending and accurate shooting. A special mention must go to the Pythons who returned with gold medals, winning 7 matches and only losing 1. Well done to all of you for taking part and working hard!

BLUNDELL'S COBRAS: E Grabham, B Wallis, E Fredriksson, P Mather, R Hill, D Franklin-Smith. BLUNDELL'S PYTHONS: C Massey, M Bourne, B Georgeou, N White, T Pugh, P Griffiths. Most improved Blundell's Cobras - E Fredriksson Most Improved Blundell's Pythons - T Pugh **FLE**





MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

In February, we were delighted to take part in Place2Be's Mental Health Week. The theme for this year's Mental Health Week was 'Let's Connect' and the week began with assemblies delivered to the Prep and Pre-Prep children. It was a joy to welcome some lovely Senior School pupils to speak during our assembly and during this, they openly shared their thoughts on simple ways to maintain a healthy outlook on life. Some of our Year 6 pupils also provided an insight into what mental health is and this was then followed up in class PSHE lessons which focused more specifically on art, mindfulness and well-being. Talking openly and honestly, in an environment that is safe and non-judgmental, was modelled by our senior pupils as many of them joined our pupils for informal conversations over lunch. Prep children also played their part in supporting our youngest Pre-Prep pupils, with child-led 'Wake and Shake' sessions, paired reading buddy's and shared break times. Throughout the week, the children also enjoyed 'disco break times', yoga and Pilates sessions, and lunchtime walks with Scrabble and Alfie, providing opportunities to connect in a different environment and to have conversations with people with whom they may not normally converse. **IRS & LLC**



Blundell's

PREPARATORY SCHOOL

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

www.blundells.org/prep