

Head Master's Welcome

Why is it that the older I get, the quicker that time appears to be passing by? I recall summer holidays that went on for what seemed like an eternity and yet here we are at the end of the first full week. The last two months have simply flown by. It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school and to see so many smiling faces from pupils old and new. We have welcomed 34 new children to the school and my hope is that everyone is starting to feel settled and is enjoying being part of our community.

This first iLetter of the new academic year will provide you with important information for the term ahead but there are occasions when you might just want to pick up the phone to seek clarification. Bev and Gloria are always happy to help in any way that they can and Mrs Filmer-Bennett and I are often on hand to answer questions so please do not hesitate to ask.

I realise that the traffic delays that are being experienced as a result of the work on Blundells Road are incredibly frustrating. As our Assistant Bursar (Estates) highlighted in his letter to all parents before term began, the works have not gone completely to plan over the summer months and I can assure you that representations are being made by the school to get things finished as quickly as possible. When they are finished the improvements will be worth the wait but until then can I please ask for your patience and understanding.

We have a busy term ahead with much to be enjoyed. We look forward to welcoming you to the school over the coming weeks.

Whole School News

Swimming Forms

Please could we ask that all parents return the swimming form which was emailed out at the end of last week, as soon as you are able to. Sadly, we will not be able to take any child on a trip which involves water if we do not have the form.

One Day Event

Information about this event is attached to this iLETTER. Our equestrian department is very anxious to solicit the help of parents as Fence judges. If you are able to do this we would be delighted if you could contact Mrs Charlesworth by email on tc@blundells.org.

Parent and Staff Prayer Meeting

Blundell's Prep has an active group that meet at that start of each term to pray for the school. This is a very informal group and they would extend a warm welcome to any parents or staff who would like to join. This is a very informal meeting and please speak to either Amelia Jerreat (07967716010) or Lara Wielenga (07970011764) if you would like further information.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st September at Mayfield House, 2 Tidcombe Lane EX16 4DZ starting at 7.45 pm.

Invitation to a Professions Reception

Attached to this iLetter is an invitation to a Professions Reception hosted at our senior school on Saturday, 1st October.

Safeguarding children

Safeguarding children underpins everything that we do at Blundell's Prep School. It is very much a shared responsibility between home and school. Technology and social media can seem overwhelming and forever evolving but children and young people don't change. Children today are still exploring and creating their identities, keeping up with their friends and dealing with adolescent pressures. Although much of this now happens online, parental support and advice which keeps children safe "in real life" will keep them safe online too. The parents section of the Thinkuknow website

provides information to support parents in understanding and responding to the risks their children may face as they grow up. It covers a broad range of online safety issues and you can find it at www.thinkyounow.co.uk/parents. We hope you find it helpful.

Mini Tennis Coaching - Saturday Morning

The mini tennis sessions will be starting again at Blundell's School with the following times and dates:

Years 3-6 from 10.30-11.15

11-week course starting 17th September (17 Sep-15 Oct & 5 Nov-10 Dec)

Cost of £55

Pre Prep - Year 2 11.15-12

12-week course starting 10th September (10 Sept-15 Oct & 5 Nov-10 Dec)

Cost of £60

Spaces are limited but if you have any questions please email our tennis coach, Mr Aaron Flamson on a.flamson@blundells.org

Change of Date

Cooking Workshop - Please note that the date for this term's cooking workshop has changed to Friday 18th November.

Coffee Morning on Friday, 16th September 8.30 pm

Please do join us for a cup of coffee. Parents are very welcome to join the Prep School Harvest Assembly and weekly prize-giving which will conclude at 9.10 am.

Prep News

Prep Harvest Assembly Friday, 16th September 8.40 am

Our Prep Harvest Festival will take place on Friday, 16th September at 8.40 am in the Prep hall. We will once again be supporting the local charity CHAT and we are delighted that Ruth Morley will be joining us to talk about the wonderful work that is done by CHAT within our local community. Alongside many other services CHAT operates an emergency food store to help local families.

If you would like to donate any gifts to our chosen charity we have attached a list with this iLetter. Your child would be welcome to bring them in to school during the week commencing the 12th September. We will then deliver the gifts to CHAT on Friday the 16th of September.

Choir Years 5 & 6

Our Choir (Years 5 and 6 only) has been invited to perform as part of the Devon Air Ambulance Fun Day in Tiverton. This will be taking place on Saturday, 24th September and we will be performing for approximately half an hour commencing at 10.00 am. Could we ask that choir members congregate at 9.45 am in Market Walk outside the Devon Air Ambulance Shop (opposite the Post Office). Please could they wear school uniform including blazers.

Year 4 Choir

Year 4 will be invited to join the Choir from Tuesday, 27th September.

Open Afternoon Saturday, 17th September

We will be holding our Open Afternoon on Saturday 17th September and we would ask that all children in Years 4, 5 and 6 who are not in a fixture attend. A letter for all parents with children in Years 4, 5 and 6 is attached. If your child is attending the Senior School Open Morning please could we ask that your child **does not wear their school uniform**. Provision will be made for them to change in to their school uniform before the Open Afternoon.

Prep School Parent Information Evenings

We hope that you will be able to join us for these informative evenings. They take place as follows: -

Monday, 12th September 4.45 pm – 5.30 pm Year 4

Monday, 19th September 4.45 pm – 5.30 pm Year 3

Monday, 26th September 4.45 pm – 5.30 pm Year 5

Year 6 Sketching Trips

These are taking place during the School Day on the dates listed below. Please could the children bring in a camping chair, waterproof jackets and Wellington Boots in case of inclement weather. In the case of torrential rain, the trip will be re-organised. **Please note that some of these dates are a change from those published in the calendar and if a swimming form has not been received back into the Office then your child will not be able to attend.**

6MO Thursday, 12th September
6AL Thursday, 15th September
6MR Thursday, 15th September

Year 5 Outdoor Learning Tuesday, 20th September

Please could Year 5 children come to school wearing old home clothes including a waterproof coat, Wellington Boots and waterproof trousers (optional). Please ensure that School Uniform is brought to School for the children to change into.

Speech Day cups

Could we ask that all cups and shields received both on Speech Day and at the End of Term Assembly are returned to the School Office as soon as possible. We would like to send them for engraving and we thank you for your help with this.

Pre-Prep News

Welcome Meeting

Nursery 2 Parents Tuesday 20th September, 8.45 am

If you are not able to join us at this time, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be happy to meet you at a mutually convenient time to share information from the meeting.

Pre-Prep Harvest Festival

Our Pre-Prep Harvest Festival will take place on Wednesday the 14th of September at 8.45 am in the Pre-Prep hall. Parents, grandparents and friends are welcome to join our assembly which will be led by our Year 2 children. We will once again be supporting the local charity CHAT. Alongside many other services CHAT operates an emergency food store to help local families.

If you would like to donate any gifts to our chosen charity we have attached a list with this iLetter. Your child would be welcome to bring them in to school during the week commencing the 12th of September. We will then deliver the gifts to CHAT on Friday the 16th of September.

Theatre Trip

We would like to take the opportunity to inform you about an exciting trip planned for the Pre-Prep children in Kindergarten, Years One and Two. We have booked tickets for them to watch a production of Peter Pan on Tuesday, 13th December at Exeter, Northcott Theatre. We feel sure that the excursion will be a fabulous and fun way to end the Autumn term but wanted to warn you as soon as possible as we are aware that some parents may already be thinking of booking tickets to see this production.

New members of staff

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Thornton to the Pre-Prep as our new Nursery 2 teacher as well as two familiar faces in Mrs Spencer who is now our new Nursery 1 teacher and Toddler Group leader and Mrs Pym who we have managed to persuade to stay on to help with our Owls Clubs and Toddler Group. It is wonderful to have such an experienced Nursery team within the Pre-Prep and the children are greatly enjoying getting to know them as they embark on their new roles.