



Blundell's Preparatory School Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

Friday, 12th September 2008

We would like to welcome everyone back to the new academic year. The children have had a busy week and seem to be getting back into a routine. The staff and the Prep School children are enjoying their new building and getting used to finding their way around! There is no doubt that the building has completely changed and improved noise levels and space issues around the School. It feels like a very different environment and we are thrilled with it. Most of our new storage furniture has now arrived and in time displays and children's work on walls will really add the finishing touches to a superb building.

Prep School Parent Information Evenings

During these evenings parents will be taken on a tour of the new facilities. Refreshments will be served and if a child is not in a club, or unable to be taken home they may join 'prep' where they will be allowed to read or draw if they do not have any homework.

Year 3 Monday 15th September at 5.00 pm

Parents will have the opportunity to discover more about the Year 3 curriculum. Mr Folland will give a short address and the Form Teachers will also be available. This is a good opportunity to put names to faces and learn more about how the Prep end of the School operates.

Year 4 Thursday 18th September at 5.00 pm

This will be an informal get together during which Mr Folland will give a short address and teachers will be on hand to answer questions.

Year 5 Monday 22nd September at 5.00 pm

This will be an informal get together during which Mr Folland will give a short address and teachers will be on hand to answer questions.

Year 6 Thursday 25th September at 5.00 pm

Mr Ian Davenport, The Head Master of Blundell's Senior School will come to the School to address parents about Blundell's Senior School and what it has to offer. This will also be a good opportunity to understand the exam and entry process that the Year 6 children will undergo this term.

Uniform and Games Kit

Could we please ask that all kit is named clearly. Lost items have always been a concern and despite our very best efforts young children are often very poor at looking after their kit. This is part of the learning process. In the Prep School, the children's kit will be checked on a regular basis during form time and a note will be sent home if any items are unnamed. We hope that this will limit the amount of time and anxiety that occurs over lost items.

Commendations

There will now be a new system in place for Commendations. As a School it was felt that too many were being awarded and they were becoming rather meaningless. It also doubled up the reward system as children already get achievement and reward through the merit mark badge system. Merit Points will still be awarded and therefore children are still working to achieve these badges. In the place of the Commendations, a Head Master's Certificate which will be awarded for exceptional pieces of work and five further merits will be added. It is likely that only a few exceptional pieces will be awarded this certificate each term.

Parent Liaison

We would like to invite parents to apply to become a Parent Liaison Representative, we have a few spaces. This has become an extremely good source of communication between parents and the School and between new parents and our existing parents. Please contact Beverley Stone if you are interested in this role.

Speech Day Cups

Please could any cups or shields given out at either Speech Day or End of Term be returned to the School Office as soon as possible.

Clubs

These have now started and if any child would like to stop a club please inform the School Office in writing by Friday 26th September.

Harvest Festival

Children are welcome to bring in food as per the letter sent home on Friday 5th September. A Pre-Pre Assembly led by the Head Master, with parents invited, will be held on Tuesday in the Pre-Prep hall. Children are also welcome to bring in food to the Prep School.

Coffee Morning

We are holding our first Coffee Morning of this year on Friday 26th September from 9.00 am in the Pre-Prep Nursery 2 classroom. We would like to invite all parents to join us for an informal get together.

Associated Board Results

Congratulations go to the following children who took music exams at the end of last term:-

Maxwell Berry	Grade 2	Trombone	Pass
Ben Charles	Grade 3	Trombone	Pass
Elvie Crowe	Grade 1	Piano	Merit
Harriet Boxall	Grade 3	Clarinet	Pass
Christopher Hamilton	Grade 2	Violin	Merit
Jennifer Mettam	Grade 2	Piano	Merit
Edward Nash	Grade 4	Violin	Pass

Pre-Prep News

Awards from the end of last term

Certificates of achievement

Kiera White for improving her reading skills during the year. Oliver Tribe for working with concentration and determination in all subjects. James Lewis-Paroussi for taking a great interest in science, helping the class out with his ideas and his knowledge. Indyanna Grant for working keenly and with care in all subjects. Ben Thomas for creating some wonderful stories and displaying an excellent use of language. Alex Curtis for trying really hard with his reading. Thomas Russell for making a tremendous effort to learn his sounds. Freddie Frankpitt for making a tremendous effort to talk clearly and to practice his sounds. He also made a great effort to listen to instructions. Grace Trebble for a great effort with her number work and for helping the class with 'Fred talk'. William Honey for making a tremendous effort to learn his sounds. He has started to write in sentences and as one of the youngest members of the class should be very proud of himself. Ellie Salisbury for making a great effort to learn her sounds and becoming more confident with her reading. Tristan Cox for answering every maths fact question correctly for the whole of the summer term. William Hall-Tomkin for answering every maths fact question correctly, including the challenge questions, for the whole of the summer term. Lily Mackay for working extremely hard all year in every subject in the curriculum. Jack Swain for working hard all year on his 'at home' activities and trying hard with his reading, spelling and maths activities. William Usherwood for working hard on all the work that he has had to do at home during the year including learning his play words, his reading, spelling and maths activities. Harry Charlesworth for being a very energetic, enthusiastic and industrious member of the class. Harry has completed his work to a high standard this term. Freddie Johnston for making a big effort to adapt to the routines of his new school with cheerfulness and a positive attitude.

Ballet Awards

Congratulations to Tyler Read, Hannah Al-Hussaini, Milo Godwin-Coombs, Frances Hunt and Emily Mettam on receiving their ballet medals from Mrs Wightmore for excellent work last term.

Golden Book

Congratulations to the following children who had their names entered into the Golden Book:

Thomas Labdon for being extremely helpful, Edward Olsen for showing great thoughtfulness to a younger pupil, Miles Lawler for composing an excellent prayer after lunch, Elizabeth Curgenvin and George Humphries for offering help and support to others at a time when they were experiencing challenges in their own lives, Tom Greenfield for being extremely helpful around the classroom, Frances Hunt for thinking of others and Victoria Davies for showing great kindness to another child. Staff also thanked all of last year's Year 2 children for all their help with playground duties, recycling duties and general tidying of the Department throughout the year.

Judo Cup

Congratulations to Archie Murray who received the Judo award for his achievements in judo throughout the year.

Book Track

Congratulations to Indyanna Grant for reaching the 25 book mark on the scheme and to Sam Willder, Grace Labdon and Jack Swain for gaining their badger award on the scheme.

Football awards

Congratulations to Archie Murray and Jack Klinkenberg on achieving medals for coming second with their team, Twyford Spartans, in the football league. Their team, were also runners up in the Exeter City 6 Aside 2008 and in the under 7's 2008 tournament as well as receiving 'Football in the Community' awards from Exeter City FC.

Swimming Awards

Congratulations to the following children on their swimming success: -

Sophie Elstone – Rainbow award for 25metres and National swim award level 2

Milo Godwin-Coombs – National swim award level 1

Sam Willder – Rainbow award for 5 metres

Equestrian success

Congratulations to Ella Albutt for winning a rosette in the lead rein event.

Awards this term

Gymkhana Games

Congratulations to Grace Labdon on receiving two rosettes for this event one for coming first and one for fourth place.

Swimming

Congratulations to Alice Williams for achieving her stage one National Plan Award for Swimming and to Finlay Williams for achieving his Grade 5 Duckling Award.