

# Blundell's Preparatory School Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 12

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009

## **Welcome Back from the Head Master**

A warm welcome back to all our pupils and parents to the summer term. I hope everybody enjoyed the fine weather over Easter and enjoyed the holidays. It has been lovely to start the term in warm sunshine and with healthy, energetic children, after the illness that struck many down at the end of last term. The Year 5 London trip at the end of last term was a roaring success. The pupils were splendidly behaved and enjoyed many wonderful experiences. This will now be followed by trips for all other year groups at the Prep School. Year 3 have, this week, ventured out to the Beaford Arts Centre near Torrington for a two day creative visit and I am sure they will have plenty of fun and in June Year 4 visit Beam House in North Devon for a three day adventure experience. Year 6 will visit Kelly College adventure centre before half term for a week's outdoor team building and personal challenges. The auditions for the Year 6 play took place at the end of last term. We look forward to seeing the two Shakespeare plays, Twelfth Night and the Tempest at the end of this term. They are already very excited about this. The Pre-Prep are also looking forward to numerous trips, both local and further afield, over the coming term. I am also pleased to say our home grown salmon have now been released into the Lowman River and the gardening club are doing great things with the allotment which sits very near my house! I really do believe for the vast majority of the time the children have great fun at School and they skip around very happily, but I would say we ask a lot of them and they work very hard. It is no wonder they get a little tired at the end of a term. Personally, I have started cycling training in preparation for the John O Groats to Lands End challenge in July, including the odd 5.30am trip with the Senior Head Master! Mr Cross is keeping us on our toes!

As parents you will have received an official invitation to the Opening of our Prep School Extension next Friday afternoon at 3.00 pm. This will be a short ceremony with the Lord Lieutenant of Devon unveiling a plaque with some words of thanks, after our choir and orchestra have performed. We hope that we are able to do this outside with the sun shining! I want to urge all the children in Years 2 to 6 to ensure that they are looking extremely smart on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> May. Please could all the children be in Summer Uniform with their blazers. Parents are then warmly welcomed to enjoy tea, whilst the Prep School children (Years 3 to 6) will be entertained in the Pre-Prep Hall by a children's entertainer. Prep School children may be collected from the Prep-Prep Hall when you are ready, which is likely to be before 4.30 pm. It is normal collection time for the Pre-Prep children. If parents wish their children to stay in their usual clubs, Prep or Owls, these will continue as normal. Please note, however, that Fencing Club will not take place.

As always, I urge parents to communicate openly with us over any worries or concerns and we all look forward to a very happy and enjoyable term.

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## **Books for Schools Vouchers**

Thanks to everyone who brought in Books For Schools tokens printed in The Times and The Sunday Times last term. We received a total of 460 tokens, which we have redeemed for a selection of new books for both the Prep and Pre Prep libraries. The offer continues throughout the Summer Term, and we would like to ask all Times readers to continue to collect these tokens for us – the more tokens we receive, the more books we can claim! A collection box will be situated in the School Office until the end of term, when we will place our next order with The Times. Thank you for your continued support!

## **Tesco and Sainsbury Vouchers**

We are still collecting vouchers from both these stores and the School Council are eagerly discussing the items that they wish to 'purchase' for the School.

## **Diary Dates**

### **May Bank Holiday: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May**

Just a reminder that the first May Bank Holiday Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> May is a normal school day.

### **Ballet Performance: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2.00 pm**

Parents and friends of the children who take ballet lessons in the Pre-Prep and Prep schools are welcome to join us for the annual ballet production.

### **Parents Coffee Morning: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May**

We do hope that you will join us for a cup of coffee and a chat on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 8.30am in the Prep School atrium. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to this event.

### **Café Event: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 10.00 am**

We are inviting all parents to attend this informal meeting about internet safety for children. There will be a short presentation for parents followed by an open discussion. Parents can feel free to ask questions and perhaps discuss strategies they may find useful with their children when using the internet. Further information will be sent home closer to the date.

### **Grandparents' Day for the Prep School: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June**

Invitations will be sent a little closer to this date.

### **Summer Concert: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 7.00 pm**

Please note that the Summer Concert is a compulsory event for the children in the Prep School and we welcome those families in the Pre-Prep who would like to join us.

## **Clubs Academic Year 2009/10**

We are currently looking into the club options for the children for the next academic year. The Request Form for Clubs for the next academic year will be issued in the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June.

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- A child at this stage may change which clubs they attend without incurring the term's notice clause.
- If a child wishes to continue in a club then their place will be guaranteed, provided the form is returned by the due date.
- It is at this time that you may request for your child to start a different or new club.
- You will be informed of which clubs your child will be able to join during the summer holidays.
- Please note that this form will be the only way to request clubs. Could we ask parents to help their child to carefully consider which clubs they would like to join as the commitment is for a year this applies to both chargeable and free clubs.
- There will be a trial period when a child joins a club of three weeks and a parent can write in for their child to leave immediately during this time. After this a child may give up a club, but a term's notice, which will only apply from a start of a term, will be expected. A charge will be made for a club if a full term's notice is not given in advance. This will apply even if your child does not attend and will be added to your school account at the end of the term.

## **FOBP**

Friends of Blundell's Prep still have some tickets left for the Summer Ball. Please purchase them through the Second Hand Uniform or contact a member of the committee.

## **E-mail addresses**

We are now e-mailing the fortnightly newsletter to parents. We have a number of parents who have not requested this and they are welcome to pick up a hard copy from the school office or refer to either the website or the notice board. If however they would prefer to have the Newsletter sent by e-mail please do contact the school office with your e-mail details and they will be added to the mailing list.

## **Minibus Questionnaire**

During the Easter Holidays a number of minibus questionnaires were sent out. If you would like to complete and return this we would be pleased to receive these in the school office as soon as possible.

## **A Refreshing Change**

Sited in the foyers of the Pre Prep and Prep School you will find a new and rare opportunity! It has been brought to the attention of the parent and staff prayer group, who pray for Blundell's as a whole, that a prayer box may be helpful for everyone. Prayer requests for staff/parents can be for anything, ranging from those experiencing ill health or loss, to those asking for encouragement for their children. This box is locked and the information given can be anonymous. Requests are collected by Claire Curtis and shared (if permitted) with the group. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on 30<sup>th</sup> April in the Drama room and everyone is welcome. It will last for about one hour and individuals do not have to feel they must contribute. It is such a privilege to pray for our School and all that it represents, thank you. (Claire)

If anyone would like to talk freely and in confidence please contact either Rev. Tim Hunt Chaplain tel : 01884 232357 or Claire Curtis (BSc Hons OT Cert. Counselling) tel: 07768 424223.

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## Music and Speech and Drama Results

The following children have received the results of their music and speech and drama exams which they took last term. All the children worked really hard and we are very pleased with their results.

Charlie Brown	Grade One	Clarinet	Merit
Alice Smith	Grade Three	Clarinet	Pass
Emily Curtis	Grade One	Piano	Pass
Kieran Smith	Grade One	Piano	Pass
Annabelle Hibberd	Grade Three	Singing	Distinction

## Drama

### PRELIMINARY GRADE

Rory Bateman	Distinction
William Hall-Tomkin	Distinction
Anna-Rose Gabbitass	Distinction
Archie Morris	Distinction
Sam West	Merit
Jack Klinkenberg	Distinction
William Spencer	Distinction

### THE SPEAKING OF VERSE AND PROSE – ENTRY GRADE

William Curtis	Merit
Felicity Charlesworth	Distinction
Luke Beach	Pass
Sam Maunder	Merit
Georgina Pitts	Merit
Alexander Thomas	Merit
Ben Stevens	Distinction

### THE SPEAKING OF VERSE AND PROSE – GRADE ONE

Nicole Charles	Merit
Georgia White	Merit
Jack Lockwood	Merit
Summer Law	Distinction
Annabel Cox	Merit
Ellie McPherson	Merit
Edward Blackmore	Merit
Ella Davenport	Distinction
Alice Pringle	Distinction
Edward O'Brien	Distinction
Hannah Allison	Distinction
William Klinkenberg	Distinction
Jenny Prevett	Merit
Arianna Folland	Merit
Courtney Nation	Distinction
Lucinda Canterbury	Distinction

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## THE SPEAKING OF VERSE AND PROSE – GRADE TWO

Sophie Bateman	Distinction
Elizabeth Morris	Merit
Katy Stevens	Merit
Matthew Baughan	Merit
Jack West	Merit
Ben Steer	Distinction
Cameron Seymour	Distinction

## ACTING – ENTRY GRADE

Felicity Charlesworth	Distinction
Ben Stevens	Distinction
Jack Watt	Distinction

## ACTING – GRADE ONE

Sophie Bateman	Distinction
Katy Stevens	Distinction
Ellie McPherson	Distinction
Ella Davenport	Merit
Alice Pringle	Merit
Annabel Cox	Merit
Arianna Folland	Merit
Rory Clark	Merit
Pierce Lawler	Merit
Courtney Nation	Merit
Lucinda Canterbury	Merit

## ACTING – GRADE TWO

Elizabeth Morris	Distinction
Cameron Seymour	Distinction
Ben Steer	Distinction

### **Ballet Uniform**

The Royal Academy of Dance has changed its Syllabus and therefore its ballet uniform. To ensure that children who take lessons in and out of school do not have to purchase two ballet uniforms it has been decided that we will change the uniform here to the new style. We do not expect pupils to change to this immediately but we would wish them to purchase the new style once they have grown out of the old uniform. The new ballet uniform will be displayed in the Nursery Foyer.

### **Pre-Prep News**

#### **Certificate of Achievement**

Sam Olive for settling well into his new school and working hard. He has made good progress with his reading, writing and number work.

Imogen Davy for a great improvement in all aspects of her language work

Freddie Frankpitt for working hard every day at home on his sounds

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## **National Swim awards**

Congratulations to the following children:

Bethany Keedwell – level 1  
Eliza Lloyd – level 1  
Ben FitzHerbert – level 3  
Freddie Johnston – level 3  
Frances Hunt – level 5  
Grace Labdon – level 7

## Rainbow swimming award scheme:

Bethany Keedwell and William Honey- 5 metre certificate

## Duckling award:

Kit Barnes- Grade 3

Ben and John Robinson – completed a course with the Eels  
Freddie Labdon – completed a course with The Catfish  
Rebecca Hamilton – completed a 10 week synchronised swimming course

## **British Gymnastics Proficiency award**

Congratulations to Freddie Labdon on achieving levels 6 and 7 on the scheme and for his certificate of achievement for working hard in his gymnastics classes at the Culm Valley Sports Centre.

## **Football award**

Congratulations to Alex Venner on his trophy for being a team player for the Culm Leopards in the Mid Devon League Tournament.

## **Equestrian awards**

The following children enjoyed success at a riding event at the Rose and Crown Riding School, Calverleigh: -

Hannah Al-Hussaini – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and Clear Round rosettes  
Serena Hay – 1<sup>st</sup>, Clear Round and two Special rosettes  
Imogen Davy – Clear Round, 5<sup>th</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> rosettes.  
Grace Trebble – 2<sup>nd</sup>, Clear Round and 5<sup>th</sup> rosettes.  
Mia Butterfield – 3 Clear rounds, two 2nds and a 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **Blundell's Prep Easter Fair Pet competition**

The winner was Lily MacKay with her pet Herbie.

## **Bravery award**

Grace Chapman for being brave in the Accident and Emergency department.

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## **Ballet awards**

Congratulations to the following children on their ballet awards for effort last term: - Millie Westcott, Jessica Payne, Grace Trebble and Luli Mountbatten.

## **Table Tennis award**

Congratulations to Charlie Hutchinson for successfully competing in table tennis competition whilst on holiday abroad during the holidays.

## **Skiing awards**

Congratulations to William Honey on his three skiing medals which he won whilst on holiday in Switzerland and to Tom Greenfield who came fourth in his skiing race on holiday too.

## **Golden Book**

Thomas Russell for showing kindness and consideration to a child who was upset.

Elizabeth Curgenvan and William Honey for helping out on the Nursery playground, tidying up and playing nicely with the younger children.

Charlie Hutchinson for being brave and co-operative when he had his recent accident.

Ben Robinson for being helpful in the classroom and thoughtful towards others.

William Farmer for being particularly thoughtful towards another child who was recovering from an accident. William went out of his way to include the other child and showed great kindness towards him.

Eliza Lloyd for volunteering to pick up litter on the playground in order to keep the school grounds tidy.

Elizabeth Curgenvan and Grace Trebble for looking after a younger child on the playground and offering to play with him.

## **Sport's News**

The children have enjoyed playing cricket and rounders this week in the lovely weather.

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

U11A	Rounders	v	Kelly College	L
U11B	Rounders	v	Kelly College	W
U11A	Cricket	v	Kelly College	W
U11B	Cricket	v	Kelly College	W

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April

U9A	Rounders	v	Kelly College	L
U9B	Rounders	v	Kelly College	W
U9A	Cricket	v	Kelly College	W
U9B	Cricket	v	Kelly College	W