



SPORTS REPORT

26 January 2024

S1 and S2 Boys – Rugby Match – The Island Free School (home) – Tuesday 23 January

Team: (S1) Aubrey, Cameron, Leo, Sam, Ollie (S2) Will, Isaac, Stan, Toby, Joshua,

Report:

A truly good day for a super bunch of lads who have worked very hard at their disciplines and embraced playing for each other to create an excellent team spirit. A big thank you goes to TIFS for coming to our ground and for proving to be an excellent opponent, providing a wonderful afternoon of rugby.

Tom and Joshua were dynamic in carrying the ball and dominated the middle of the field. They both scored tries in all 5 games with direct running and excellent ball carrying, and from a spectator view they were our standout players. That said, Ollie played a magnificent game as a genuine 9. His footwork in the mud was super and he was able to change direction effortlessly, making it very difficult for the opposition to put a hand on him. He reads the game very well indeed and will hopefully go on to fulfil his considerable potential. Credit goes to every member of the team as their commitment, work rate and bravery were exemplary. All the boys who played should be incredibly proud of themselves. Mention also goes to Will, who showed true heart and dedication to the team and the sport, and surpassed all expectations in his contribution to the results. It was a pleasure so see him beaming with happiness and confidence after the fixture. Similarly, Sam is a fantastic sportsman and has the heart of a lion, and to watch him run with a rugby ball in hand is just great, but most impressive is seeing him commit to the physicality of the contact point, particularly when he is much slighter than the majority of the opposition. This demonstrates the ethos of this group and is clear across all the boys.

Leo, Isaac, Cameron, Stan and Toby showed similarly impressive dedication to the team and truly left it all out there, which is all we can ask. Aubrey, a newcomer to the school, has the makings of an excellent player to strengthen this group.

The 5 games bar 1 were all won by Priory. We lost one (game 4) which I suspect was due to a little complacency as they had won the previous 3 on the bounce. In game 5, however, they went back to ruthless rugby. We scored 32 tries to their 15. We played for 52 minutes continuously with 1 replacement - they had 6!

The pitch was muddy and they were covered from head to toe, but all were bright eyed and smiling at the end. A fantastic day for the whole team and the school. They have definitely earned the opposition's respect. That said, next Tuesday is the rematch at their place and I suspect not much respect will be shown.

Mr Woodward



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S3, S4 and S5 Boys – Rugby Match – The Island Free School – Wednesday 24 January

Team: (S3) Raymond, Brogan, Victor (S4) Noah, Finlay, Joe, Kirby, Ethan, Tom, Harry, Nikita

Report:

A tough day at the office for these boys. The lack of S5 boys available and the boys left being strong runners meant that our game plan was to try and get the ball wide and score in the corners. In game 1 we did this in response to their first score. A lovely ball won by Kirby in the middle of the field, great hands by Joe and then super pace from Finlay led to a quality try in the left corner. Unfortunately, the opposition played intelligently and used their big boys (and they had a few) to keep the ball away from us, draw us in defensively, and then either punch down the middle or utilise the space created by our required 3-1 tackle ratio. They went on to win 3 tries to 1.

Sadly in the second game, and from then on, they strengthened and our boys were in all sorts of trouble but never lost their fight. A big commendation must go to Joe, Kirby and Noah for their positive attitude and determination. Joe was a great example to all. Towards the end, they brought on their smaller players and we certainly held our own. Unfortunately, our boys were drained by then and couldn't find much more in the tank.

The boys were valiant in both games and my best moment of the day was in our second game; they brought on the biggest boy I have seen at this age group for a long time. Not surprisingly they gave him the ball and he bulldozed through our lines brushing off our tacklers until he met Harry, who grabbed on and felled him like a great oak. It was a sight to see and made Harry our player of the day.

A learning and honesty day I feel. We played some good rugby but we were exposed in defence and this was, hopefully, a learning curve for all. Plenty to work on but I'm confident with a few S5s in the mix and with the many skills of this group, we can be a difficult side to play against

Mr Woodward

S3 and S4 Girls – Rugby Match – The Island Free School – Wednesday 24 January

Team: (S3) Jess, Bluebell, Caris, Daisy, Millie (S4) Lydia, Amy, Mai, Francesca

Score: 3-0 TIFS

Report:

On Wednesday our S3 and S4 girls' rugby team travelled to The Island Free School for a game of touch rugby. This is the girls' first rugby fixture of the year, so nerves were high for this one.

Francesca showed her rugby knowledge straight away by organising her team into positions and coaching



them as they moved up the pitch. Amy, Mai and Lydia all drove through the defence and were not afraid to 'take a touch', allowing the team to progress up the pitch. Caris and Millie held strong on the wing, offering space for wide passing options in the game. Stepping up last minute for the game, Bluebell, Daisy and Jess worked hard defensively and in attack to get us closer to the opposition try line.

Despite the team's hard work, The Free School managed to push through our defensive line and score three times. Although the team had not had much rugby practice prior to this fixture, the girls went out and fought hard, showing true determination throughout the game.

Player of the match: Francesca Peck

Miss Mildenhall

Y5 and Y6 Girls – Football Match – Godshill – Friday 26 January

Team: (Y5) – Libby (GK), Seren, Ruby, Panda (Y6) – Evie, Felicity, Georgia

Report:

An absolute swamp of a pitch meant the size was slightly reduced to keep the game out of the worst of the mud. One goal mouth was particularly bad, so each half meant some very muddy goalkeepers. Captain Libby lost the coin toss, so Godshill chose to have us at the worse end first and they took kick off. Team Priory pushed forwards but were quickly driven back by the strong attackers of Godshill, but we were ready for this and had spent the whole of Thursday's Games session working on our defensive set up.

Ruby and Panda are a pair of defenders you do not want to mess with! They charge at every ball that comes their way and throw some big boots at the feet of the opposition. Godshill took the ball down the wing, but Ruby was ready and regained possession passing back to the midfield. The Godshill forwards took the ball again and tried to run it past our keeper, but a very brave Libby dived at the feet of the ball carrier and grabbed the ball in her hands. Libby is superb under pressure and fearless in diving at attackers' feet and getting her body over the ball, and this is something she did repeatedly during this match. One goal did manage to just sneak through but take nothing away from Libby, she has the makings of great keeper.

At 1-0 down, Team Priory took the ball and pushed forwards. Some excellent passing from Felicity to Georgia and finally setting up Evie – GOAL! A great section of play and an even score line.

Godshill restarted and the game was being played mostly in our half; the Godshill team clearly had more match practice – the one thing missing for our team. Our defenders were working hard, and Libby was on every ball that came near her goal area. However, another goal meant the half finished 2-1 to Godshill, but there was much to celebrate from our team.

The second half was much of the same. All our girls worked hard and did not back down at all. Seren made some great clearances as the ball was played up and down the pitch. Godshill did manage 2 more goals, finishing the game at 4-1, but our team performed very well here, gaining match practice and learning some



good lessons along the way. A little more match practice and being able to see how the shape and position of a team works in football is all these girls need. I was very impressed today.

Player of the match was Libby in goal.

Mr Byrne

Sports Stars of the Week

It has been a busy week for the Sports Department with both home and away fixtures, and some good training in preparation for next week.

On Monday we began the week in PE with some rugby preparation for the S2 boys, while the girls tested the field with some good old fashioned field hockey. This group forms a large proportion of the hockey team, and they worked as hard as they do on the artificial surface. They had to learn to move the ball with more force, but after they settled into the session it was like they were back on the fake stuff! We will continue to train in this way for future fixtures – I feel sorry for any opposition who will now be on the receiving end of the Bella C power pass after she has been training on grass – that ball will really fly on artificial turf! The S3 Seniors had a good session later in the afternoon; the stronger rugby players led drills for the rest of the class. They really thought about what they wanted to achieve with the drills, and we had some really positive outcomes.

On Tuesday our home rugby fixture took place on the field, see the report for the very muddy details! Those Seniors that were not part of the fixture walked up to Queensgate artificial turf for some touch rugby games and skills work.

Wednesday saw our next away fixtures with boys' and girls' rugby teams both on duty. Please see the report. Those not at the fixture again went up to Queensgate for some handball training. They were later joined by S5 so they could prepare for their upcoming fixture. The stronger players formed opposition for the S5 group and they had a really good fast paced practice match. We are really looking forward to that fixture!

The Key Stage 1 group used their Wednesday PE lesson to climb, balance and jump on the apparatus in the Hall, and on Thursday they worked on their ball handling skills. They have been learning how to control various sized balls with their hands and this week worked on controlling the force applied to the ball when passing over various distances. Special mention goes to Amelia Rhodes for her impressive comments and observations. Outside, the rest of the Juniors worked hard on football skills and rugby passing skills. The girls' football team readied themselves for Friday's fixture and worked very well together. Watching on, our Priory Sports Captain, Joshua Byrne, commented on the impressive nature of their training: "The girls were working on their defensive set up, with goalkeeper Libby and defender Ruby particularly impressive. I would like to name **Ruby Hart** as the **Priory Sports Captain Player of the Week.**"

Friday morning PE was fitness for the Seniors and indoor athletics practice for Year 6. The afternoon session for Years 3 and 4 had them playing a defensive tag game where they had to break lines of defenders to score points. A good game that translates to defensive lines and strategy across most team sports. The



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girls' football team had their away fixture (see report) and the remaining Year 5 continued their preparation for indoor athletics. A busy week for Team Priory!

The girls' football team worked hard in PE and even more impressive at the fixture was our **Junior Sports Star** of the week, goalkeeper and team captain **Libby Cottrell**. Absolutely fearless in goal and leading by example, Libby had a brilliant couple of days in football training and in the match. She focused on everything she was told and put it all into action on the pitch. The most impressive goalkeeper I have ever seen in Junior School. Well done, Libby!

Our **Senior Sports Star** was mentioned in the main newsletter this week. **Hannah Charnley** ran a great cross-country event for the school before Christmas and qualified for the team representing the Island. Hannah represented the Island, Priory School and herself with pride and determination. We are very proud of Hannah's achievement. Well done, Hannah.

Another busy week next week, with fixtures and training to be had!

Have a good week.

Mr Byrne