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SPORTS REPORT

8 March 2024

S1 and S2 Mixed – Hampshire Schools’ Cross Country Championships – Down Grange, Winchester Tuesday 5 March

Team: (S1) Alicia (S2) Courtney, Millie, Stan

Report:

On Tuesday, our cross country team of Stan, Courtney, Millie and Alicia travelled to Down Grange, Winchester for the Hampshire Schools Cross Country Championships.

The Hampshire Schools’ Cross Country involves teams from the 10 districts of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight competing against each other in a 2.1-2.8k race. Each race had over 100 participants with some of the best talent from the region participating.

Due to the layout of the course, it was difficult to see where each of our team was during the race, however with a bit of patience we would eagerly await the runners appearing from behind the trees.

Every member of the team ran incredibly well showing huge determination and effort during the race. The results were as follows:

Alicia - 55th
Stan - 49th
Millie - 99th
Courtney - 84th

Alicia, Courtney, Stan and Millie should be incredibly proud of themselves for not only showcasing a brilliant performance but also for the support and motivation they showed each other during the day.

This is a write up from part of the cross country team about their experience of the day.

Stan - "I really enjoyed my cross country fixture last Tuesday because I got to compete against my rivals, make friends and overall I was very proud of myself for entering the top ten".

At the start there was so many people crammed together that you would have to be incredibly careful to stay on your feet and not trip over. The deep mud and rocky uphill areas reduced my energy slightly, but I still tried my best to sprint these parts.

I am really glad that I was able to do this because I was able to overtake people who I had previously lost to. Overall, I really enjoyed the day and had fun running with my friends."

Millie- "at the cross country I came 99th, the thick mud and hills slowed me down a lot, however, I still enjoyed it and tried my best to represent the Isle of Wight."

Miss Mulligan



Y5 and Y6 Mixed – Regional Netball Tournament – Seaclose Netball Courts – Wednesday 6 March

Team: (Y5) Libby, Ruby (Y6) Joe, Rufus, Felicity (C), Georgia, Huxley

Result: 4th out of 7

Report:

On Wednesday, the Year 5 and Year 6 mixed netball team played in a tournament at Seaclose Park. The team played 6 other netball teams of varying standards across the course of the afternoon.

This was no ordinary netball tournament, the teams played 'versatility', in which players have to change position every half and full time, meaning they played all positions during the tournament.

Felicity was captain this fixture and she really did step up to the role. Not only did she work really hard to control and manage the team, she also played each role with great effort. Felicity is naturally a defender but stepped up to the shooting position with ease. Georgia helped Felicity with the team management, overseeing the positional changes in the game. She took to each position with ease, excelling in centre and also shooting really well.

This was Rufus's first netball fixture, although you would not think this from the way he played during these games. Rufus was able to shoot accurately, support up and down the court as centre and defend each player efficiently. As with Rufus, this was also Huxley's first netball fixture, and he came to play! Huxley was excellent at shooting, barely missing a shot. He really grasped the rules of netball and demonstrated them fantastically within the games. Joe has attended Netball Club since he started at Priory School, so he was very much looking forward to this fixture. Naturally, Joe is a defender and he managed to demonstrate this very well throughout, even when he was shooting! Ruby and Libby both stepped up and played in an older year group for this fixture. Both girls were nervous to start with, but progressed greatly as the afternoon went on. Their shooting skills improved, as did confidence in their own ability. Both girls should be incredibly proud of the progression they made in this fixture.

We played 6 games, and the two standout games were definitely when we beat Ryde B 6-1 and Queensgate 3-0. During both these games, we were able to score so highly because the team worked together to move the ball up the court and support each other throughout. The team should be incredibly proud of their accomplishments within this fixture, especially considering they had to change bibs every half game.

Player(s) of the match: Huxley and Ruby. Huxley was calm and controlled, able to demonstrate great Netball skills. Ruby progressed immensely during the games and was a much better player by the end of the tournament.

Well done all,

Miss Mildenhall



S1 and S2 Girls – Rugby Tournament – Trojans Rugby Club, Southampton – Thursday 7 March

Team: (S1) Lauren, Indi, Alicia, Lexie, Poppy (S2) Elsa, Bella, Melaina

Report:

A wonderful day of girls' rugby. I have sent our thanks to RFU and Trojans for really looking after everyone and overseeing a rugby experience for our girls.

Unfortunately, uptake wasn't as good as usual; I think it being on World Book Day was an issue.

The girls started with a carousel training session. It was clear they enjoyed this and approached all the drills with great energy.

Our first game was against Thornden. Their teacher said they have a 100 girls in their year group! They opted for touch which in truth our girls were really keen to play contact, so we agreed on huggy. The final score was Priory 5 tries to their 1. Melaina was fantastic in work rate and commitment at the tackle line and in her ability to hit gaps. Alicia is a gifted player in most sports and her running and passing are excellent. The best surprise was Lexi who turned into a real ruby player, her contact and passing; in fact everything she did showed real promise and talent within rugby. Bella led the side really well and her and Elsa, who are so good in our contract training, were having to play a non-contact game. Difficult but they adapted so well.

Game 2 Ringwood. They again didn't want contact. After a moan from me, the organisers agreed the last 2 games could be contact.

We lost this game, I feel, because the opposition went way passed the tackle point making it impossible to defend. However, Lexi and Alicia scored the try of the day as decided by the RFU rep. It was slick and perfect rugby in behind their defence overlap, created by Bella, Elsa and Poppy, finished by Lexi drawing in. Defenders score under the posts by Alicia. Wonderful!! We lost this 3-2.

Game three Oasis contact. The girls dominated this; Melaina and Lexi tackled everything supported by Bella/Poppy and Elsa. We finally saw Indi and Lauren get chances as the contact game allows us to move the ball and show our pace. In truth we were too strong for these girls and the score line of 5-1 showed the quality of our girls.

Game 4 v mix of Ringwood and Thornden. This was a tough game and the contact was front and centre. Melaina is great at this again. Lexi stepped up and showed a side I've not seen before. Bella made some great tackles and Poppy and Alicia showed the opposition how dangerous they are with ball in hand. We finished 2-2; a fair result but a great game, considering we were taking on the best of 2 schools.

This group represented Priory admirably and performed above their expectations. A great day and hopefully this will encourage this group to keep working as hard as they do.

Mr Woodward







S4 Boys – Basketball Match – Ryde School – Thursday 7 March

Team: (S3) Raymond (S4) Noah, Fin, Joe, Kirby, Ethan, Tom, Nikita

Report:

The boys must take all the credit for this outcome. Ethan came to me to ask if I could arrange some fixtures. This group is very talented and several are exceptional on court.

We played four 12 minute quarters. In truth, Priory dominated all of them. This is not saying Ryde are weak. Quite the opposite, they had some very strong players. However, I must mention Raymond. What a talent, it was inspiring to watch him play. At every stage of the game he dominated with his skills. He had a great battle with Ryde's best player, which Raymond won, thus giving us the game.

Ethan as he does in rugby, sees and plays space others don't. It was brilliant and the whole team worked, really hard, and after each quarter got better at roles and responsibilities. Indeed, we agreed that we left 20 points out there through untidy play and poor decision making. Defensively we didn't zone as well as we should have but we weren't pressured to do so.

The score was Priory 58-Ryde 21.

The tenacity and honesty of this group shine through when in the after game chat, although happy to win, they were not happy with aspects of their game.

It was a great game and when the Ryde coaches came over specifically to congratulate the lads, it was clear they had earned their respect.

Mr Woodward





**S1 and S2 and S3 and S4 Girls – Hockey Match (v Ryde School) – Smallbrook Stadium – Sat 9 March
(please note – this report & photos will appear in next week's sports report)**

Sports Report

We almost had that elusive dry week this week, ruined by Tuesday's rainfall during games. But we did manage to stay outside for every lesson and even used the school field a couple of times.

Monday was the first day on the field for the S2 and S3 girls during their PE lesson. We worked on ball handling skills, tackling and finished each lesson with a touch rugby game. All in preparation for the Trojans Rugby Tournaments later in the week and next week too. The boys in both groups worked on basketball and handball skills in order to be ready for their own fixtures this week and next. Lots of training to be done for fixtures in the coming weeks.

On Tuesday morning, the cross country team left the Island early for the Hampshire competition, which probably explains the bad weather - it had to rain on cross country day! The rest of the lower seniors travelled up to the Vectis rugby ground for their afternoon Games lesson, and with the rain continuing the rugby lesson was a very wet and muddy affair. We worked on match skills in the puddles, with both boys and girls getting some good game time.

For Games afternoons, seniors are required to bring full school PE kit with them. They should play in PE shirt and shorts, and change into school leggings/tracksuit trousers and hoody afterwards. If pupils want to play in a school hoody, then should bring a school coat to change into instead. There are changing facilities at Vectis, and we would like to return the pupils to school in dry and warm clothing. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Back to school for Wednesday, as the netball team were away on a fixture. The upper seniors split into two groups - rugby skills and basketball skills. Some excellent games were played during this session and all are better prepared for forthcoming fixtures!

Thursday saw the lower senior girls leaving early for the mainland Trojans fixture, while the rest of the school engaged in World Book Day. Some very interesting characters turned up for their games lesson! The lesson began with reading of the day's book and then a book themed task for the first half of the session. We finished with football for those that could get changed, and ball handling skills for those that were still in costume. An interesting games lesson this week! After school, the senior boys basketball team left for their fixture, minus the giant inflatable unicorn!

On Friday we saw a bit of sun and the field had dried nicely, so the day's PE lessons were made up of games such as football rounders and football Danish longball. 'Football' in these instances just means we were kicking a football instead of striking a ball with a bat. All other rules remained the same as the traditional game. Some really competitive games were played, particularly from the older junior pupils! Our week finished on Saturday this week, with a Senior hockey fixture. We have been rather restricted on hockey training for the senior boys so hopefully we have done enough to see them play well.

Sports Captain Joshua Byrne would like to add;

'I have been watching sports clubs at school recently and have been impressed with the improvement of our basketball players. Raymond (S3) has been doing a great job leading drills and this week captained our team to a victory.' **Raymond is the Priory Sports Captain Player of the Week.**

The Junior Sports Star this week is Felicity (Y6). Felicity led the netball team with great spirit and played very well on the court. She has good court awareness, passing skills and leads by example. Felicity is always keen to get involved in sport of all kinds and has good skills in various disciplines. Well done Felicity.

The Senior Sports Star this week goes to Aubrey (S1). Aubrey has only been with us a short time but has demonstrated a great sporting ability each and every week. In fact, I remember on his school taster day, we would have given him Sports Star of the Week just for that one lesson. Aubrey has played for the school rugby team and impressed both Priory and opposition coaches. Great work Aubrey.

Lots of rugby, basketball and netball coming up this week. Good luck everyone!

Mr Byrne