



## **SPORTS REPORT**

26 April 2024

### **S1/S2/S3 Girls – Rugby Festival– Cowes Enterprise College - Wednesday 24 April**

**Team:** (S1) Lauren, Alicia, Poppy, Florence  
(S2) Elsa, Bella, Melaina, Eliza  
(S3) Jess, Caris, Daisy, Millie

#### **Report:**

On Wednesday, a group of twelve girls from our rugby teams travelled to Cowes Enterprise College for their final rugby fixture of the year. This is a very new rugby festival for Island schools, meaning the uptake to participate isn't as high as would be hoped with only Priory, Cowes Enterprise College, the Island Free School, and Medina College competing.

It was agreed at the beginning of the festival that the rugby today would be a conditioned touch game with the team in possession of the ball having to score a try before the opposition completed six 'touches'. If the attacking team didn't manage to score a try, the ball would be turned over to restart the game with a 'chicken scratch'. These rules meant that tactics, such as an aggressive tagging game, to push the opposition back, and a quick passing game were imperative to be successful.

#### **S1 Game vs The Island Free School**

Result: 1-1

For our game against TIFS, we combined with a small group of Cowes Enterprise players to create our team of 7. The pitch was relatively small which meant the game got off to a rather chaotic start with crowded play, plenty of knock ons and offside play. As the girls began to warm up and communicate more with each other, our defensive line became increasingly more effective stopping TIFS from advancing up the pitch. The Cowes players didn't have much experience of rugby, however, were very good at tagging the opposition players. When play would stop, Florence would wait to receive the ball from the 'chicken scratch' and offload it to Poppy, Lauren and Alicia. When our girls had possession of the ball, they would continually look to exploit any space in front of them to move the ball forward. Space was hard to come by, however some beautiful passes and quick pop passes meant the game would quicken up when we combined well. Our perseverance was repaid in the third quarter with our girls managing to break through their defensive line and score a try. We were now in the lead and tried to focus on making sure we stayed defensively stable. As the game was drawing to a close the space off the wings was opening and TIFs were starting to exploit it, with them managing to score a try in the last few seconds of the game.

On the balance of the game a draw was a fair result and meant both teams could be proud of their efforts and continual rugby development throughout the game.

#### **S2/3 Games vs The Island Free School**

Result: 0-1

#### **Vs Medina**

Result 1-4



Due to the time constraints the two games against TIFS and Medina were shorter than the S1 game, however they were equally competitive. For these games, Cowes again joined up with our team as they only had two players. We decided to play 8v8 with rolling substitutions for both games and as the pitch was wider than the pitch that the S1 game was held on, there was more space available to exploit. On the contrary, as more space was available it meant the defensive game by both teams had to be extremely disciplined to ensure gaps did not appear in the defensive line. The tactical structures in both teams were apparent with strong defensive lines and attacking structures formed. Eliza, Bella and Melaina worked tirelessly to pressure the opposition through aggressive tagging to restrict their advancement up the pitch. Caris and Jess produced a strong running display to utilise the gaps that appeared in the defensive lines. Finally, Elsa, Millie and Daisy produced fine passes to get the ball moving across the pitch, working the opposition well. Two of Medina's tries came in the last minute with the scoreline being wider than the play showcased, due to their quick thinking on breakdowns to get the ball back in play before we were defensively set.

All the girls should be extremely proud of the display and the skills they showcased. The way in which the girls welcomed the players from Cowes into the group was commendable and a testament to their personalities. Well done girls.

Miss Mulligan



## Inter-Schools' Show-Jumping Competition – Little Kennerley Farm, Godshill - Friday 26 April



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**Team:** (Y5) Pandora & Archie  
(S2) Elsa & Fillie  
(S3) Bella M & Gizmo, Lola & Bertie, Bella W & Bertie  
(S5) Eve & Benfield's First Dream

**Report:**

On Friday, a team of six riders attended the annual Inter Schools' Show-Jumping Competition at Little Kennerley Farm. The event was as popular as ever, with over 70 competitors from schools all over the Island.

Pandora and Archie were first up in the Junior Section 18"-2'. After a quick track walk to familiarise herself with the course she was up for her first round. She made a steady start with a clean round to provide a good foundation for the next round. After a few tactical pointers Panda and Archie began round two with gusto and again cleared every jump to take first place. Congratulations Pandora and Archie.

In the afternoon it was Bella W, Bella M, Elsa, Lola and Eve's turn to compete in the Senior Schools' Section. As the day progressed, it became clear that many of the horses didn't like fence 7, which provided a challenge to many of the riders. Each of our girls, with a smile on their face, put in a brilliant effort in trying to complete the course, showed brilliant determination and patience, even if their respective horses weren't cooperating as well as they could have. Unfortunately, we did not have any placement this time, however their performances were amazing.

On a personal note, this was the first time I had ever attended a show-jumping competition, so it was very much a learning experience for me. Thankfully, the girls were experts and knew exactly what they needed to do in the arena. It was lovely to see the smiles on their faces and the relationships they had with their horses, and I hope that they continue to compete for many more years and beyond.

Miss Mulligan



Priory School of Our Lady of Walsingham  
Beatrice Avenue, Whippingham  
Isle of Wight, PO32 6LP  
Tel: 01983 861222

[mail@prioryschool.org.uk](mailto:mail@prioryschool.org.uk)  
[www.prioryschool.org.uk](http://www.prioryschool.org.uk)





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## **Sports Report**

With athletics season in full swing, training for the upcoming athletics meets is the main focus of everything in PE and Games. We are also now scoring field events that will count towards sports day and we try to finish most lessons off with a cricket game of some kind. We have cricket fixtures soon, and as athletics is largely an individual event, we like to bring the groups together for some team work as often as we can.

The weather finally calmed down this week to allow the cricket nets to be put up. Never an easy task as we have pop up nets that no matter how well you pack them away, still manage to become ridiculously tangled in the bag. The “cables behind the tv” effect. Thank you to Harry T (S4) for using his camping knowledge to secure the support ropes while I was trying to sort the frame.

A week full of throwing and jumping training began on Monday with S2 and S3 PE. This is the first time many of this group have attempted shot and discus, but they were all keen and some are working very hard at the skill in order to perform in these events at the athletics event. Three events were set up for small groups to rotate, javelin, shot and discus. After running the mile for fitness, we worked on basic skills then began recording the thrown distances for sports day points. As most parents will know, we only run track events on sports day, so the field events are worked on during the term time, with the top boys and girls scoring points for their houses at the end of term.

Tuesday began with running the bleep test, then moved on to the jumping field events. We set up the high jump on the field and the S2 boys (thank you boys) uncovered the sand pit and prepared the sand for jumping. We worked on jumping technique for both, before we again measured distances for sports day points. Some really good work from the S1 group here as some of them had never attempted a high jump and it is a very intimidating event. We brought the classes together for a quick cricket game to finish the session, with Laurie (S1) demonstrating some very excellent batting skills.

Wednesday was a very busy afternoon. The S4 group only get this one afternoon for sport, so this meant trying to get them to do all field events in one session. We split the fitness into two groups, S3 running the bleep test and S4 running the mile. The field was then split into jumping and throwing zones with strict safety rules for each. Some of the group left for the rugby fixture, and we continued to record heights and distances. No time for a team game, with so much to do in preparation for the athletics, this group will have to wait a few sessions before they can play cricket again.

On Thursday KS1 continued their enthusiasm for fitness by running their own fitness test. The seniors get a mile, the juniors half a mile and this group 300m or two laps of our track. They worked on cricket skills during Wednesday’s lesson, so after the run we moved over to the long jump pit. They were obviously very keen to play in the sand! There were some good jumps from these little legs, and they had a lot of fun doing it. We were joined by the rest of the juniors, so the KS1 group played a game of cricket to finish their session while everyone else ran the half mile round the outside. The juniors then moved onto long-jump and finished the day with a diamond cricket game.

Friday began with 6 of our girls attending the all-day show-jumping event and the rest of the PE filled day all practicing cricket skills with various games and drills. During lessons Sports Captain Joshua Byrne observed ‘some great bowling from the girls in the morning, Betsy (S1) was firing some absolute belters at Miss Mildenhall’. Then in the afternoon Joshua ‘could see Mr Byrne at the wicket catching some incredibly accurate bowls from Jack (Year 3)’. Both Jack and Betsy are the Priory Sports Captain’s Player(s) of the Week.



Also, during Friday's PE lesson some of the S4 GCSE pupils assisted us in running stations for the juniors. Amy, Francesca and Hannah all did a really good job in running the stations and helping the younger pupils with skills and used teaching points to help them improve. Thank you girls, and very well done on a great lesson.

**Sports Stars of the week go to Archie (Year 5) and Nikita (S4).**

Archie has had a great start to the term, taking the top spot in both the half mile run and the bleep test. He currently has the highest level in the bleep test and the fastest half mile in the entire junior school. Archie has also worked hard in cricket lessons and then on Thursday jumped the furthest out of all the junior school in long jump by a clear half a meter. Great work Archie.

Nikita has always demonstrated natural talent across various sports, but this week stepped up and jumped his way to the top of the senior school. With very little work on technique, he is only 2.5cm off taking the school record in high jump. As the weeks progress, I feel we are going to have that record taken! Nikita also threw some great distances in all throwing events and with just 1 attempt at long jump sits in the top 5 of senior school. And all that in just one afternoon! Fantastic session this week Nikita.

A good athletics and cricket week from all groups. Well done Team Priory!

To finish, just another reminder to please respect any equipment used at lunchtime. I am not always around to remind you so please think and keep the shed tidy. Thank you.

Mr Byrne





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