

## Sports Report w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Rugby – Under 9s – Ghyll Royd Tag Festival

Under 9s Won 4 Lost 1

Under 8s Won 3 Lost 3 (against Under 9 opposition)



What a fantastic way to open the season. We split the boys into their respective year groups to enable an easier way to interact under match pressure.

The Lower 2 team had the benefit of playing rugby last year. This allowed them to hit the ground running and show fluency and game awareness. The boys were highly impressive as they moved the ball well and tackled with speed and accuracy, a tough challenge when trying to grab tags on hips. We scored many tries as a result of direct running and fast passing after the tag was made; Henry and Rory capitalising on the sharp thinking of their teammates to cross the try line several times each.

# Prep School



GATEWAYS  
SCHOOL

The Upper 1 team were dropped in the deep end by Mr Holmes; their opening rugby fixture for school being against teams a full year group older and wiser. But, boy, did they step up! After conceding a try in the opening minute of the day, we showed a strong level of game intelligence and a willingness to work together. Defensively we improved as we held more shape and began to trust our teammate to make his tackle. With the ball we spoke about 'finding space'. This sounds simplistic but, at 7 & 8 years of age, this is a complex task, particularly in the face of bigger and faster opponents (and for some boys who began the day with their boots on the wrong feet). Yet space was exactly what we began to find as Freddie, Liam and Austin exploited gaps out wide to get the scoreboard ticking.

There were physical challenges as well as two schools seemed to have been coached to play a contact form of tag rugby. This, understandably, unsettled some of the players but a big shout here goes to Jesse who kept his focus and led the boys into contact time and again; a wonderful show of tenacity and resilience.

We have another fixture next week against GSAL & Bronte House, played at GSAL from 2pm. We can't wait!

Mr Charlie Grasby & Mr Phil Holmes