

## Sports Report w/c 29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January

U11 Girls' Netball – Ashville Festival

A Team – Played 5 Won 5

B Team – Played 5 Won 4



The U11 A team had a fantastic afternoon at the netball festival, remaining unbeaten and only conceding 1 goal. The girls worked hard each game to continue to improve and listened well to advice.

In attack, the girls moved the ball at pace and tried to always pass ahead to ensure the opposition were unable to intercept the ball. On a couple of occasions, we played too quickly for ourselves and ended up committing footwork fouls or giving the ball away, so this is something we want to work on during the games lessons.

All 7 players played a part in the defensive play as every player on the court got at least one intercept across the afternoon. The girls hustled well to restrict their player and confused the space by continuously moving.

Miss Jade Preston



The B team were sublime. In a festival where the teams were not seeded, we played many of the same schools as our A team and fared almost as well. We had set three targets: move fast off the ball, pass fast with the ball and be aggressive on defence.

The girls loved the chance to show off the progress they have made and didn't give their opponents any space or time. There was a purposeful rotation plan to shift players to different positions and this was met with enthusiasm and the chance to overcome any doubts of 'where am I now allowed to move?' It is all about stretching and challenging and the girls were all fantastic.

The four wins came as a result of passing quickly, only made possible when teammates hit space quickly. Shooting was made tougher by the cold winds which swirled around the court, yet this didn't prevent Sophia C making 5 in a row in the final game!

There is so much more to work on, as always with all athletes, but this was a wonderful way to start the term and should encourage the girls to maintain their high work rate in lessons and practices.

Finally, thank you to all our supporters who attended and encouraged the girls. It was great to see the parents enjoying the style of play, which also drew compliments from opposing staff members. Hopefully we can have some warmer weather for you all in weeks to come.

Mr Phil Holmes

**Friday 26th January**  
**Football – U11 v Moorlands**  
**Won 1**  
**Lost 1**



In a spirited contest, the U11A team demonstrated impressive skills against Moorlands, adeptly navigating the challenges posed by the smaller pitch. Despite resilient defending, the team ultimately succumbed to defeat. Rupert, earning the Man of the Match accolade, showcased remarkable prowess, netting two goals in quick succession. The team maintained a buoyant and positive spirit throughout the match and should be proud of their togetherness. We are looking forward to the next match.





The B team brimmed with excitement as they eagerly anticipated the first game of the season. They burst onto the field with high energy, showcasing great attacking play and robust defending by the formidable trio of Max, Vitor, and Ashwin. Will displayed unwavering confidence in goal, executing a series of remarkable saves and thwarting Moorlands' attempts to score.

Max pulled off a show-stopping stint in midfield where he received the ball in space and decided to throw caution to the wind and go for goal! And guess what...he didn't just hit the back of the net, he sent the ball on a magical journey into the top corner, catapulting us into a euphoric 1-0 advantage! It was a goal that could make even the toughest critics break into a victory dance. Go, Max, go!

Oliver demonstrated exquisite control as he managed the long outlet balls from goalkeeper Will, allowing for swift and effective counter-attacks. The trio of Jayden, Mekaeel and Rory proved to be invaluable assets on the pitch, seamlessly connecting passes even on the compact playing field.

Although Moorlands fought back and scored two goals, Gateways managed to score two more goals, earning themselves a well-deserved 3-2 victory. A special mention goes to William, whose heroic goalkeeping efforts earned him the title of Player of the Match. Well done.

Mrs Hannah Nichol & Mr Mike Arnold

**Tuesday January 30th**  
**Football - U9 v Moorlands**  
**A Team - Won**  
**B Team - Won**

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In a spirited display, the U9 Boys A team made an impactful start, swiftly penetrating Moorlands' territory and applying high-pressure. Positioned upfront, Henry's pressing was endless, pressuring the opposing defenders and coming close to an early goal. As the match progressed, George, Freddie, and Rory advanced up the field, engaging in swift and coordinated plays. A well-timed break in the opposition's defence allowed Freddie to secure his first goal, marking the beginning of an impressive scoring spree.

In quick succession, the goals started pouring in, with Freddie notching up not just one, but two more, completing a magnificent hat-trick. The team was riding high on the momentum, displaying skilful and dynamic gameplay. Despite the home team managing to score a goal, the U9 Boys A team showcased resilience and a commendable performance on the field, holding on to secure the victory against strong opponents.



The boys burst onto the field with unwavering determination right from the start. Their passing was accurate and they had some great link play. Confidence radiated as they dominated the ball, orchestrating a thrilling spectacle early in the game. Gateways took control, unleashing an unstoppable scoring spree. To spice things up, we decided to shake up the teams, bringing in mixed Moorlands and Gateways teams for an electrifying, equal contest. The boys were an absolute delight, rallying behind every player on the pitch with infectious enthusiasm!

Mrs Hannah Nichol & Mr Mike Arnold

**Tuesday January 30<sup>th</sup>**

**U9 Netball**

**St Peters Festival**



The St Peters festival was a good opportunity to play matches on a glorious afternoon. The slight confusion came from reverting back to 5-a-side netball after we played so well in the full, 7 player format the week before.

The short matches and fast rotation ensured we managed a good amount of playing time for all our players. It was pleasing to see the girls begin to grasp the need to stay close to their attacking opponent, how to release a pass faster and to allow them to switch position so they can learn more regarding the tactics required in different parts of the court. Sometimes we

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can forget just how young these girls are, but the rate of development is beginning to pick up and we look forward to more lesson time in order to further enhance their knowledge.

Miss Jade Preston & Mr Phil Holmes