

## Sports Report w/c 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

U11 Girls' Netball v Highfield



Our two, similarly talented teams, had a great learning opportunity in some closely contested matches against Highfield.

With more chances to play girls in different positions, we fared very well in both games. The first team on court took the lead thanks to some swift passing in centre court and intelligent play to move the ball into the circle, allowing Talia to score. Our centre court play continued to be sharp as Ellie C linked well with Honey and allowed the play to flow. We couldn't quite convert our chances and, despite Sophia D earning Player of the Match from the opponents, Highfield did manage to sneak a narrow win.

Our second game saw a stronger opposing seven, ideal for our girls to test themselves and begin to understand how fast and physical netball can be. Kiran led the attack with smart runs and well-chosen passes and was supported by the speed of Lily who disrupted Highfield's attack. Our chances just didn't fall in the goal, Gabi seeing one shot roll around the edge of the ring before inexplicably falling outside.

The star of the show for us was Alina M, voted as Player of the Match, thanks to her wonderful defensive play and rebounding in the circle. For someone who is relatively new to netball, she showed a great deal of potential.

Mr Phil Holmes

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

## Football – U11 v Highfield A Team



Gateways boys A team kicked off with a strong start, led by captain Lucas who dominated the midfield. An amazing Jasper assist set up Rupert for his first goal of the game. Shortly after, some impressive passing allowed Rupert to secure his second goal. Defensive changes from our opponents, coupled with the wind in their favour, levelled the score at 2-2.

The match turned into an intense battle, with end-to-end chances for both teams. The game hung in the balance, and it could have swung in either direction. William showcased his goalkeeping prowess with a crucial save, but unfortunately, we conceded just before the final whistle, ending the game with a 2-3 defeat.

While the result was disappointing, matches like this serve as motivation to regroup with different strategies and a stronger mindset.

Mr Mike Arnold

## B Team



There was a great sense of excited anticipation as the Gateways team took to the field, brimming with determination and confidence. From the first whistle, it was evident that they were a force to be reckoned with, as they swiftly seized control of the game. Seb emerged as a standout player, not only displaying exceptional skills but also providing invaluable support and encouragement to his teammates, setting a shining example of leadership on the pitch.

Throughout the match, the Gateways boys relentlessly applied pressure on the Highfield defence, launching a barrage of attacks that kept their opponents on the back foot. Despite their best efforts, Highfield struggled to contain the relentless onslaught from Gateways, who expertly capitalized on scoring opportunities with precision and finesse.

The final scoreline of 7-0 in favour of Gateways was a testament to their dominance on the field.

As the final whistle blew, the Gateways boys celebrated their well-deserved victory, knowing that their hard work and dedication had paid off. With their heads held high, they left the field with a sense of pride and accomplishment, eager to build on this impressive performance in the matches to come.

Mrs Hannah Nichol

## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

### Football – U9 Festival at Highfield

Highfield hosted the first tournament of the season for the Gateways U9 boys. Team A played the hosts first. We started strong and had some good chances. It was a fast-paced game, with both teams evenly matched. We kept a clean sheet and finished the game 0-0. This set the theme for the majority of the games, the defence were strong and the goalkeeper unbeatable for 5 matches! Gateways only lost one game in the end. We should be very proud of how far we have come in such a short time.

Team B started off strong with some great play winning the first game 3-0. We then came up against two strong sides but the boys fought hard and never gave up. Our forwards, Liam and Harry, created a formidable partnership as they caused many problems for the opposing defence. Ollie played some intelligent football whilst Bentley worked hard in midfield and showed off his fast footwork. The boys ended the day with another victory to finish the afternoon with a respectable record of winning two and losing two.

Mrs Hannah Nichol and Mr Mike Arnold