

## **Junior 6 National Sporting Success!**

Our Junior 6 children are so pleased to be back to their competitive ways with the re-introduction of fixtures. A talented year group on the sports field, they are relishing the opportunities presented. Not happy with local competition, Crackley Hall have, despite the lack of competition practice over the last two years, put themselves at the forefront of Midlands and National competition through the ISA.

Firstly, our U11 boys football team took part in the Midlands ISA tournament, where the top two placings have the opportunity to represent the Midlands at the National Finals at the famous St George's Park, England's national training centre. As with any tournament, the schedule was tough and they faced some very good teams in the first round of group matches. Despite the challenges, the team played excellently and remained unbeaten, which resulted in qualification to the top group in the afternoon's playoffs. They played exceptionally well, losing only one game (and only conceding one goal) to the eventual tournament winners, which placed them second overall (out of 20 teams) and earned them a well-deserved place at the National Finals in March.

Team: Jack McKay, Leonardo Pavli, Henry Spicer, Dexter Robinson, Olly Moore, Sid Penn, Leo Fella, George Moreton

Next, our U11 Hockey girls headed to the prestigious Lee Valley Stadium for the ISA National Hockey Tournament.

Despite the 6am start, the girls started strong and won all of their pool matches in the morning on the outside pitches, so winning their pool and going through to the Cup Finals in the afternoon, with the top 7 teams in the tournament, to play for the top 3 medal spots. The girls started well in their first cup game and, despite some excellent attacking play, couldn't manage to score. This was reflective of the whole afternoon, where the girls couldn't find the goal (partly due to some exceptional goal-keeping from the opposition teams). An end-to-end game against Littlegarth resulted in our only loss of the tournament, with the result being 0-1. This was the only goal that our girls conceded throughout the entire tournament and the only loss of the tournament – and against the eventual National Champions (a common theme for our teams!)

Overall, the girls finished 5<sup>th</sup> Nationally (28 teams competed on the day).

Team: Olivia Burley, Elle Weir, Issey Cleary, Holly Lloyd-Evans, Isabella Downes-Black, Jasmine Staveley, Elsie Glover, Grace Johnson, Willow Rochford

Our U11 boys rugby team now had something to live up to as they headed to Cambridge for the ISA National Rugby Finals. A reduction in team numbers following schools withdrawing due to covid meant that, instead of pool games followed by finals, the boys played a round-robin tournament, meaning that their fitness was tested by an increased number of matches. The boys played superbly, taking on some very tough opposition. Despite bumps, knocks and bruises, the boys stood strong and (again) only lost one game during the whole tournament to... that's right... the eventual winners!

The boys finished 2<sup>nd</sup> Nationally. What a result!

Team: George Moreton, Harry Faulconbridge, Leo Fella, Olly Moore, Marley Hardwick, George Knott, Leonardo Pavli, Sid Penn, Harry Riley, George Wilcox, Jack Philips-Gore.

Finally, Issey Cleary qualified for the ISA National Swimming Finals at the National Aquatic Centre in London, following a fiercely contested Midlands qualification meet. Along with Elora Hughes (J4) and Jenson Stokes (J4), Issey represented the Midlands at the Olympic Pool. Following a tremendous set of races, Issey brought home a haul of 3 gold medals, becoming National Champion in the individual breaststroke and as part of both the freestyle relay and medley relay teams.

What an amazing first term of sport for our talented Junior 6 children!