

Coton Netballers Secure County Representation for the Third Year Running!

The ever-changing weather conditions on Wednesday 25th April didn't interfere with the spirits of Holly (captain), Madeline, Olivia, Ellen, Jessica, Joel or Oscar who were representing Coton in the South Cambs High Five Netball Shield event at Impington Village College.

The event was the culmination of a series of tournaments in which over 60 teams had entered. The shield competition saw the top 16 teams compete to take the coveted title of South Cambridge High Five Netball Champions.

The first round saw the teams distributed between 4 divisions. Coton were placed in Division C along with Steeple Morden, Cottenham and Meadow. At the end of their first round of matches, Coton, undefeated, came out top of their group and went on to join the other three group winners in the second round of matches. This meant that whatever happened, Coton were guaranteed a top 4 finishing position! Not bad for one of the smallest primary schools in South Cambridge.

In the second stage of the competition, the team were placed against Bar Hill, Linton Heights and Jeavons Wood, three much bigger schools, with much taller players! At the end of the first match, and notably some of the best netball seen so far for the now slightly soggy spectators to applaud, Coton left the court with a win in the bag!. Linton Heights have a committed and talented group of children who always represent their school with passion, as do their supporters who were very noisy on the side-lines! Despite their best efforts, Coton couldn't quite claw back a narrow lead going into the second half and suffered their first, and only defeat, of the tournament. Coming out with renewed energy and a real desire to end the tournament on a high, the players saved their best team performance for their final match playing some technically excellent, strategically inspiring netball to secure a 4 - 0 victory over Jeavons Wood.

A special mention must go to Ellen who arrived at school at 0800 that morning to sneak in a few extra practice shots under the watchful eye of coach Harvey! Ellen's shooting performance in the final match of the first round secured the team's position at the top of the group and created the opportunity for the team to compete for the champion's shield.

Finishing as runners up in South Cambridgeshire is an incredible achievement for such a small school, particularly so given the team's year 4/5/6 composition, as compared to the other three finalists who were all fielding year 6 children. It is something that each and every member of the netball squad should be incredibly proud of.

On behalf of the school, Mrs Osborne and Mrs Harvey would like to thank the parents (and siblings) of the players who have not only got the children out of bed early on a Friday morning and got them to training sessions, but who have also transported them to and from tournaments, provided refreshments and stayed alongside the courts in all weathers to cheer, encourage and support the children during their matches. Your support really is very much appreciated.