The third week of the season saw 4 games played

**FIVE FROM FIVE**

**Preston under 10 vrs Pirton**

The under 10 soft ball team took to the field on a fiercely cold Monday with five young players making their debut for Preston. Despite their inexperience they put in an accomplished display to run out easy winners against Pirton.

Having been put into bat, the opening pair of Daniel (11) and Aarav (2) started steadily, picking up singles and regular wides from the Pirton bowlers. Daniel accelerated in the fourth over with a towering six over mid wicket coupled with good running between the wickets. The pair closed the fourth over on 225-0.

Yash (11)and Rahul (2) kept up the tempo with Yash hitting two fours, although in between, a couple of run outs were conceded. Rishabh (1) and Ishaan (5) batted sensibly and protected their wicket while picking up wides which allowed Freddie (17) and Nathan (1) to push the score along to 289-3 from the 16 overs.

Pirton started well in reply with captain Harry hitting a couple of big fours until he was bowled by Daniel. Pirton struggled to keep up with the run rate and when Rahul took two wickets in one over and Freddie bowled a wicket maiden the game was Preston's as Pirton closed on 261-4.

Learning points: running and calling - avoid those run outs!

Impressed by: everybody's spirit and smiles on faces despite the cold!

Champagne moment: the huge six from Daniel.

Thanks: to the lads and parents who helped to clear up afterwards. That's a great help.

**Preston under 13 vrs Hoddesdon**

A earlier departure virtually straight from school saw us head off to Essex and the village of Nazing to play Hoddesdon. Turning up we were welcomed to a lovely ground , nice people and a excellent wicket. Winning the toss Olly had no hesitation to bat. The batting order was similar to last the previous game, Luke and Jack opened up and despite a early maiden, Jack carried on from last week in smashing 16 off one over with some powerful leg side shots. With the score on 30 Toby got a wicket with his first ball, he would have had Olly out first ball if he appealed, but failed to do so, next ball 6 over square leg from Olly. The score then started to increase rapidly as Jack retired on 30 with six boundaries, Olly C was particular harsh on anything legside as he smashed another two sixes including one to take him to 35\* Gabriel and Adam looked like to carry the onslaught on as we were 104 off 13, but first Gabriel 7 and Adam 17 were bowled. Jude and Joe then batted sensibly to put on 23 as Joe hit 3 boundaries in finishing 16\* and Jude went in the last over for 7. The innings closed with a delightful straight drive by debutant Harry Bartram. 150/4

The boys knew Hoddeson would have to go at it from ball one, and they were up with the run rate after four overs as a number of extras saw them on 30 inside 5 overs. The introduction of Ben saw the rate slow as he took a wicket courtesy of a catch from Adam Tom finished with 4 overs for 13 runs. At the half way stage Hoddesdon were 46/1 . Joe came on and took a wicket first ball, a catch from Olly. Jude came down the hill and got a wicket with a nice juicy full toss that went straight to Jack. As the run rate crept up Gabriel and Luke finished the game off with Luke claiming a wicket as Hoddesdon finished on 88/4.

A very enjoyable game, still some work to do in the field, all players need to concentrate and stay in the positions they are allocated. Hertford next Friday

**Preston U11 vs Hitchin Under 11**

Preston U11's took on Hitchin U11's tonight at Preston looking to add to the 8 wins out of 8 games for the Preston colts this season.

Hitchin won the toss and confidently decided to bat first. The first ball of the match was a sign of things to come as Jacob cleaned bowled their opener. A smart run out by Toby removed their danger man for 2 runs and two wickets for Arham, both clean bowled, reduced the visitors to 15-4. Robert replaced Jacob and was straight away on the spot picking up a wicket in his first over well caught by Toby. Toby and Sam bowled straight and kept the Hitchin batsmen in check despite them finally beginning to build a partnership and get the scoreboard moving. Harry then took 2 wickets in 2 balls and Asad claimed a very good caught and bowled before Arham and Jacob returned to pick up a wicket each to bowl out Hitchin for 78 from 18.5 overs.

An excellent bowling and fielding display by all eleven players, a special mention to Xander who was excellent behind the stumps despite hurting his thumb early in the innings.

Needing 79 to win Nid and Harry opened the batting and with a mixture of determination and skill survived the opening bowlers with relative ease. Some excellent running between the wickets and 3 lovely boundaries from Nid took the score past 50 as they looked to accelerate. Nid finally departed lbw for a fine 16. James joined Harry  at the crease and some hard running took the target down to 11 from 4 overs. James was bowled for 2 and Harry for 9 as they looked for the big shots. This meant Jacob and Arham arrived at the crease. Jacob picked up a single and Arham hit 2 consecutive boundaries from the only two balls he faced leaving just 2 to win. Jacob promptly hit the winning boundary to complete an excellent all round team performance.

The boys did really well tonight, it was a comprehensive win against a good team so they should rightly be very proud of themselves. Thanks to those that helped tonight especially with the refreshments for the kids.

Next week will be an even tougher test but i am already looking forward to seeing the boys continuing to raise their game to rise to the challenge.