



Primary Schools Festival November 2024



This November saw our bi-annual Primary Schools Festival prove once again to be a huge success. Delivered by Apex Squash and Racketball Programme, the festival saw participation from Hunters Bar, St Wilfids, Nether Green and Ecclesall.

Each school had a three-week training block at Hallamshire Tennis and Squash Club, with Apex coaches explaining the techniques and tactics of squash to get the pupils up to speed to compete on the finals day. Unfortunately, a few of the sessions were affected by the snow and ice, but all the pupils enjoyed the sessions and improved quickly.

The schools picked a team of eight, ideally with a split of four girls and four boys to take part in the final event. The format was three-minute matches, with the aim to score as many points in those three minutes as possible, to go towards their schools' final total. The match that was on next marked the previous one, and all the pupils did a brilliant job in keeping score and refereeing, considering it was the first time having a go for the majority.

All the matches were played in great spirit, with big smiles and lots of enjoyment on display throughout. The pupils were a credit to their school, demonstrating a fair yet determined attitude. It was incredible to see how everyone had taken to the game in such a short period of time.

After a very close countback, Hunters Bar retained the title and took the trophy back to school with them. This was the closest competition we have ran since we started the festival. Big thanks to the Apex Coaches, particularly Head Coach Adam Turner who organised and ran the event, as well as our Business Manager Jayne Bonner who did a lot of the background work. It was great to see Nick Wall, a top ranked professional squash player based at Hallamshire hand out the prizes on the day.

Lastly a big thanks to all the schools who participated, the teachers who brought the pupils to the club, the children who were magnificent and the parents and grandparents who came to the finals day.

