



YOUNG ARCHER

Puddings and Pies

By Diana Cormack

By now many of you will have eaten at least one mince pie. After all, they have been on sale in the shops for a couple of months. But did you remember to make a silent wish as you took the first bite of your first mince pie this year?



Xmas pudding by Hannah Kimani, aged 10, of Norfolk Close, N2.

This is because people used to believe that they should eat their first one as quietly as possible while they thought about the baby Jesus. As a reminder of Him, mince pies used to be oval or cradle shaped, giving the idea of the manger in which Mary put her new born son. The pastry lid represents a hayrack.

Mince pies were called mutton pies because a lot of their filling was made of minced or finely chopped up mutton (sheep meat). It was mixed with the sort of things we put in them today, like apples, currants, raisins, sultanas, citrus peel, sugar, salt and spices to make mincemeat. Nowadays we use shredded suet instead of meat.

Suet you Sir?

Christmas Pudding contains suet as well, along with cur-

rants, raisins and sultanas, breadcrumbs, eggs and spices plus a few other tasty ingredients. Sometimes it is known as "Plum Pudding" because, in the olden days, the only fruit they put in it were prunes, which are really dried plums. They also used to put in small silver coins for luck, though some people probably got bad luck with a broken tooth or a sixpence in their stomach!

Plum lines

This nursery rhyme has always puzzled me though: -

Little Jack Horner
Sat in a corner
Eating his Christmas pie.
He put in his thumb
And pulled out a plum
And said,
"What a good boy am I."

Can anyone tell me what that's all about?



Barah Louise Burzio
11 years old
11 elms Hurst Crescent

Clever Clogs Corner

Who wrote these messages in their Christmas cards?

1. Halo everybody!
2. With best vicious.
3. A happy Christmas to ewe.
4. Don't forget to ring.
5. Pizza on Earth.
6. A Very Merry Christmouse!
7. A Happy Mew Year.
8. Christmas bleatings to you all.
9. Happy Christmas, Eve.
10. Hope you pull lots of quackers!

Answers:
1. An angel, 2. A Dracula, 3. A sheep, 4. Christmas bells, 5. Domino delivery-ery boys, 6. Mickey Mouse, 7. A cat, 8. A lamb, 9. Adam, 10. Donald Duck.

Martin School's School Journey

After their school journey, Year 6 children at Martin Junior School wrote to thank the lady with whom they stayed. You can find out where they went, what they did and how they enjoyed themselves by reading these letters: -

Dear Mrs Morris,

I thank you very much for making my week so special. I had a great time at Gaveston Hall. My two favourite activities in the grounds were when we collected wood to make a shelter and when we played netball, cricket, volleyball and football.

We went to Battle Abbey and Pevensey Castle. I learned a lot about English Heritage and the battle between the Saxons and the Normans. We also saw an abbey to mark William's victory.

We went to Drusilla's Park. We saw lots and lots of animals. My two favourite animals were the mice (which had little houses with a sofa and a bed!) and the penguins.

(I liked the way they paddled in their pool!) There were lots more other animals. We also went to an adventure playground with lots of different activities and it was really fun!

My favourite meal was cheese and tomato pizza and waffles and my favourite pudding was chocolate gateau.

Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,

Faizah Ahmad

Dear Mrs Morris,

Thank you very much for letting us stay. It was very nice. We really liked the wildlife and the ponies too.

The food was delicious, especially the fish 'n chips, the puddings were great as well. Breakfast was yum! Most of the things you provided for us to eat were the kinds of food I eat at home normally, so you really made me feel welcome and very much at home. Shelter building was fantastic - you should have been there. My team (Miss Oldnall's group) came third. Even though we didn't win it was really fun and energetic. The Scavenger Hunt was totally WOW! We didn't win in this either because we couldn't find a helicopter seed. It was still wicked though!

Our trips to Battle Abbey and Pevensey Castle were superb, but if you ask me, Drusilla's Park Zoo was the best out of them all because there were lots of cute animals plus there was a really big and so cool gift shop and there was an out of this world adventure playground, it had things like: death glides, sack ropes, swings, seesaws and lots more. Pevensey Castle was all right but Battle Abbey was even better because we acted out the Battle of Hastings 1066.

Hope you enjoy the letter,

Shahara (6 O)

Dear Mrs Morris,

Thanks for letting us stay. The beds were looking good but the pillows were a bit lumpy, but I managed. When I first got there I thought it looked splendid. It was really big. There were lots of trees and land. I also enjoyed all the meals there too. But my favourite meal was waffles and veg and my favourite pudding was chocolate gateau. I was very nervous about being away from home but all the staff made us all feel very welcome and I thought they were really nice people. My mum wished she had come too, as I have told her all about our visit.

My favourite activities were football and netball. Then my trip to Battle Abbey was interesting and enjoyable. We went to see the murder holes first then we went to see the well and we all had our photo taken on top of the canon. We went to see the dungeons and it was really scary. We all went to the gift shop and bought souvenirs.

My favourite day was at Drusilla's Park. At first we saw the animals at the farm section. Then we looked at the bats in a tunnel. Then we had lunch, which was very nice. Then we went on the playground and we all had great fun. I am glad I came.

From Mark Bennett

DEEPA PATEL
AGE: 10
PULHAM AVE



SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Martin Infant

A real Festival of Light took place with Bonfire Night and Diwali being celebrated at the same time. Martin School held its usual firework display, with some neighbouring schools participating in the spectacular event. Divas were lit all around the hall for a special Diwali assembly, where children showed their work, including the Diwali cards they had made. Year 2 had a novel way of following the science curriculum - they made electric divas! Children read out the story of Rama trying to rescue his captured wife Sita and there was also a puppet show.

A collection of vintage bikes, including a Penny-Farthing (first known as "the high bike"), a hobbyhorse and an original boneshaker, were shown to the children by Mr Paine. There was also a Safety Bike, but the top infants were allowed to ride on any of them.

Martin Junior

Although "A New Beginning", the school's millennium song, will not be performed in the Dome, it has been chosen to be sung in a regional concert. This is one of only twelve entries selected from all of Greater London! The whole school community is delighted. Details of the date and venue are yet to be announced. Many congratulations to all the teachers, children and composers concerned. East Finchley is proud of you!

David Tobin, Barnet's Maths Inspector, has been invited to talk to parents about changes for the Numeracy Hour.

School Christmas Bazaar - Saturday 4 December

Holy Trinity

The new School Council is working well, with pupils chosen by their classmates representing them sensibly and well. They have recently introduced an identified "caring squad" to help in the playground with games, friendship and guidance.

The cricket team has bravely entered a Middlesex competition at the indoor facilities of the Academy in East End Road. So far they have won four out of four matches and the football team is unbeaten in four matches too!

School Christmas Fayre - Saturday 4 December.



Cartoon by John Boyd



THE SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME

CAROL SERVICE
Sunday 12 December 6 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY:
11 AM Christmas Service
1 PM CHRISTMAS DINNER for those who are alone on Christmas Day.
(Please ring 020 8444 0207 to reserve your place.)

Friday 31 January 11.30 PM
INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM
Candlelight service