



Fifth generation - Jake Towell with his mum. Photo by Toni Morgan

Keeping it in the family

by Diana Cormack

When little Jake Towell of Leicester Road started nursery school in March, he was following something of a tradition. For three-year-old Jake represents the fifth generation of his family to attend Holy Trinity School!

His mother Lesley takes him every afternoon and no doubt she remembers the time she spent there along with her brother Gary Cartwright in the late 1960s and early '70s. Lesley definitely remembers when a certain local politician opened the building on its present site at Eagan's Close. The lady was met by a group of protesters angry about free milk being taken from school children and carrying placards reading "Thatcher, Thatcher, milk snatcher."

A great, great tradition

Gary transferred from the old school building in East End Road (now the Bobath Centre for children with cerebral palsy). Almost 30 years earlier his mother Margaret had attended the school there

with her sister Joan and brother Derek Darby. Margaret has sweet memories of those days. She remembers that on a Friday afternoon they were given gobstoppers to suck, though who provided them she cannot recall.

Margaret's father Vivian Darby, 91 in November, went to the school with his five brothers and sisters. They followed on from their mother Jane Devonshire, who unknowingly started off the tradition when she and her sister and two brothers became pupils there. Exactly when that was we are not sure, but we do know that Jake is Jane's great, great grandson and can only wonder if his children will also attend to Holy Trinity School.

World Book Day in school

by Diana Cormack

Every year teachers in our local schools go to great lengths to mark this special day. By preparing a variety of enjoyable events they stimulate the children's awareness of all sorts of books and encourage their interest in reading.

Living Books

For instance, Year 6 in Martin Junior School performed a play for their fellow pupils in which books came to life. Each group of 11 year olds became a different genre of book, such as adventure, suspense or sci-fi, writing the text themselves and dancing to their theme.

Children and staff in the Infant School dressed up as their favourite characters and acted in a special assembly. Parents came in to tell stories and each class voted for their top-ten

favourite books. There was a sponsored Readathon in aid of two charities for sick children. A recent Book fair raised £693, of which £350 was spent on books for the infants.

Many languages

Book Week in Holy Trinity School started with a Book Fair and ended with a Book Swap. As well as visits to East Finchley Library and story telling, pupils were involved in making class magazines, designing book jackets and participating in drama work-

shops. The Openwide Theatre Company performed *The Pied Piper*. Teaching, non-teaching staff and school governors brought in their favourite books and talked to the children about them.

A "many languages" activity proved particularly popular. Parents and pupils with another language skill gave small groups of children an introduction to their own tongue, based on *The Hungry Caterpillar* story. British Sign Language was included in this innovative event.

YOUNG ARCHER

April Fool

By Diana Cormack

Did you make a fool of anyone on 1 April this year? April Fool's Day is celebrated all over Europe and in France and Italy the victim is called an April fish. In Scotland the fool is an April "gowk" or cuckoo. But, wherever you are, your trick must be played before midday or you become the fool instead.

The funny thing about all this is that nobody really knows why we do it! An old rhyme says:

The first of April some folks say
Is set apart for All Fool's Day,
But why the people call it so
Nor I nor they themselves do know.

There are many different explanations, some are to do with changes in the calendar which moved New Year's Day from the end of March and others are religious or mythical reasons. My favourite goes back to the days of the court jester. Royal and rich families used to employ someone whose job was to keep the master of the household in a good mood. Not only would he tell jokes and play silly tricks, but he would also sing, play the lute, juggle and do anything to bring a smile to his master's face. Jesters' clothes were colourful and they wore a long cap tipped with a tinkling bell and carried a stick with a doll's or cockerel's head on the end.

For all his hard work the jester was given a holiday only once a year. It was until twelve noon on 1 April, so on that morning all the other people in the household had to do his job!

McDonald's makes a difference

by Diana Cormack

Did you know that the well-known fast-food firm can help fill children's minds as well as their stomachs?

In the USA it is an established provider of books and reading skills in many states. Yet, even though the scheme was introduced here several years ago, it does not seem to have been generally adopted. In fact, the only Barnet school to have taken advantage of their offer is Holy Trinity in Eagan's Close.

Volunteers from the company regularly visit the school to provide one-to-one reading sessions with pupils. They are part of a team who share the visits on a rotating basis, for which men are specifically included as positive role models. It seems that there is no shortage of volunteers at the local McDonald's headquarters.

McLearning

Holy Trinity benefited from sponsored library furniture and money for books when McDonald's volunteers first came to the school nearly three years ago.

At present they are working with infant children from Years 1 and 2 and junior children from Year 4. There are four set sessions per week, and children have visited McDonald's too, not to have a quick bite, but to help in the training of more volunteers for this unpublicised endeavour.

My Dream

by William Burgess aged 9 of Creighton Avenue

As I was walking down the street
I met a man with seven feet.
I asked that man, I asked him so
How seven feet on him could grow.
He answered me by saying,
"I eable mieble liable maghing."
I was terrified,
I was petrified,
I was sure I would be fried!
The seven foot man

Was the Melow Pam from space!
I must have bumped my head!
I woke up in my bed

Jester Jokes

Sent in by eight-year-old Dani-Ella Larimer of Norfolk Close

What did the French snail pack before his trip?

His sluggage!

What do frogs eat with their burgers?

French flies!

Which painting do cows like best?

The Moona Lisa!

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

Year 5 children had a very successful school journey to Moat Mount and the school got a letter from the manager congratulating them on their enthusiasm and good behaviour.

The Spellathon in aid of Great Ormond Street Hospital raised £1,276. The school has also received a music grant, enabling guitar lessons to take place.

Breakfast Club is now in the school hall instead of at the Methodist Church. Please phone 020 8883 1824 for details.

The netball team beat St John's N20 by 4-0 and All Saints by 8-0. And finally, good luck to head teacher Duncan Mills for the London Marathon on 14 April. It's not too late to sponsor him!

Martin Schools

The successful junior school choir took part in Barnet Music Festival, with an impressive performance of three songs.

As part of a new safety initiative in the area, the children saw a video about the dangers on a building site, shown by Rob Hattersley from Laing Builders.

Children in Years 3, 4 and 5 have been rehearsing for an attempt to enter the Guinness Book of Records. Along with other north London schools, they will try to perform a song and dance routine simultaneously with as many children as possible.

Children, staff and parents are drawing up plans and fund-raising for a new-look playground.

More shade on the school field is to be created by the planting of around 200 saplings. Provided by Agenda 21, the trees will also improve the environment, being a better barrier between the field and the High Road.