



PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

The school is constructing a Jubilee Walk to commemorate the Golden Jubilee. Wooden seats and sculptures made by children and staff will be interspersed along a pathway through the trees at the rear of the school field. Red, white and blue flowers will be planted.

The nursery children have been celebrating in right royal style by turning the home corner into a golden palace and playing kings and queens. They had tea parties, made golden crowns and red, white and blue decorations.

Year 2 visited Holy Trinity Church, where they were given an educational tour by Father Hill.

Year 3 had an interesting visit to the Science Museum.

Year 5 are working with artists making samba costumes and learning different samba dances to perform in the parade for the East Finchley Festival.

Year 6 managed to keep smiling through National Smile Week, despite it being the same week as their national tests (SATs).

The school took part in National Walk to School Week, which aims to reduce pollution and congestion and encourage parents and children to change their daily routine.

After school athletics training for the annual meeting at Cophall Stadium is under way.

Holy Trinity hopes to retain the championship on 4 July. Head teacher Duncan Mills is again organising this event for Barnet primary schools.

An international player from the Middlesex Cricket Club is giving weekly lessons in the game to Year 6.

The school is applying to Sport England for its Activemark Gold award, having already gained an Activemark award. This accreditation scheme recognises schools for their commitment to promoting the benefits of physical activity.

Martin Schools

The Queen's Jubilee was celebrated with a special assembly. Martin Junior School was chosen to take part in Barnet's annual Arts project "Streets Ahead" and an internationally known group, the Paraiso School of Samba which has performed in the Notting Hill Carnival, is working with Year 3. They have been teaching the children to play Brazilian instruments, dance the samba and create colourful costumes to take part in the parade that heralds the start of the East Finchley Festival.

Year 6 has produced a superb display of colourful paintings and imaginative written work inspired by their art appreciation sessions about Pablo Picasso.

Year 5 visited the Tate Modern, where they learned about famous contemporary artists and created their own modern artwork, as well as discussing sophisticated ideas about art.

For the second year, junior school staff prepared a simple breakfast for each day of the SATs week. All Year 6 children were invited to come to school early to sit and eat together in a relaxed atmosphere with music before starting their tests. Staff and children really enjoy this event, which is reminiscent of their highly successful school journey last September.

A horizontal climbing wall is to be installed in the playground, giving a new slant on activities. The "den" has been refurbished, and parents are now working on the garden area surrounding it.

Martin Infant School celebrated the Queen's Golden Jubilee with a party in the playground. The children were dressed in their best and wearing crowns, which they made themselves. The activities were accompanied by music from the 1950s.

The theme for this term is South America and the infants have been learning mask making with theatre professionals as well as salsa dancing with Nelsie Earl of Leslie Road.

The school's new Breakfast Club, which starts at 8 am, is proving popular.

Visits this term include classes going to the zoo, the science museum and a trip on the "Jenny Wren" along the Regents Canal.

Monica Herring

Monica Herring, who was Martin Schools' "Lollipop Lady" for so long and who worked for a number of years as a meal supervisor in the infant school, died at the end of April after being ill for many months. She cared deeply for all the children and was very much part of the school community, serving on the Governing Body as well as seeing children safely across the High Road and looking out for their welfare.

She will be very sadly missed by the entire school community. Children from Year 6 have gathered together comments and memories about Monica, whose love of gardening continues to be reflected in the infant playground, where she helped to plant numerous bedding and climbing plants for the children to enjoy. The schools will be planting a rose bush in memory of Monica.

Money raised by a collection from parents, children and staff of both schools has been donated to the North London Hospice, in line with Monica's wishes.

YOUNG ARCHER



Holy Trinity School guitar group. Photo by Erini Rodis

No Strings

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity School has received a grant of £1,500 from the trustees of Friern Barnet Church. The money is to be used to support bursaries for music. So now eighteen lucky pupils, who were chosen on a first-come-first-served basis, are able to have free weekly lessons on their 'own' guitars.

The school actually owns the guitars, each of which came with a free case and free tuition book. The instrument is taught by Tim Collinson in half-hourly group sessions.

Father's Day

By Diana Cormack

On 16 June many dads will be getting cards and presents to celebrate their special day. But we send a lot fewer cards on this day than we do on Mothering Sunday. This could be because some people think that it is just another way manufacturers have used to get us to buy their products. Others dismiss it as an American custom that has found its way over here.

In fact, it has been going on in Britain for at least 30 years, because I can remember sending my dad a card all those years ago. He too thought it was an American import that wouldn't catch on. He felt that dads didn't need their own day, though he fully agreed with our traditional day for mothers. But in these days of equality it doesn't seem right to have one and not the other.

Apparently Father's Day was started in the USA by a woman in Washington. She asked her local priest to give a sermon about the value of fathers. This was in honour of her own father, who had brought up six children after her mother had died. Not long afterwards the American President Thomas Woodrow Wilson made the third Sunday in June the official Father's Day.

This was in 1910, so the celebration is not exactly new and it looks as if it's here to stay!

Clever Clogs Corner

Do you know who these fathers are?

1. He shot an arrow through an apple on his son's head.
2. He made wings of feathers and wax for his son Icarus.
3. His four children don't stay with him in the House of Commons.
4. His son is the heir to the British throne.
5. Bart is the name of his eldest child.
6. He gave his son an amazing technicolor dreamcoat.
7. He lives on Craggy Island.
8. He carries a scythe at the end of the year.
9. His boy is called Brooklyn.
10. He brings presents once a year.

ANSWERS
1. William Tell. 2. Daedalus 3. Tony Blair
4. The Duke of Edinburgh 5. Homer Simpson
6. Jacob 7. Father Ted 8. Old Father Time
9. David Beckham 10. Father Christmas

Achievement Award for Martin Infant School

In recognition of its SATs results for the year 2000 - 2001, Martin Infant School has been given a special award by the Department for Education. The high results indicated a huge improvement, with the seven-year-olds doing really well in these national tests.

All those involved in this achievement were acknowledged and thanked for their hard work. Head teacher Pana McGee, who is justifiably proud of the award, echoed this appreciation.