



YOUNG ARCHER

Old New Year

By Diana Cormack

Did you know that a year used to be ten months long? That was in the time of the early Romans, when the tenth month was called December because *decem* means ten in Latin.

September to November

So working backwards we have November because *novem* means nine, October because *octo* means eight and September because *septem* means seven. For some reason those were the only months named after numbers, so where did the first six months get their names from?

January

January was named after Janus, who was the god of doorways, entrances and beginnings. He had two faces, so he could look back to the past and forward to the future, which made him an ideal choice for the New Year.

February

February comes from Februa, which was the Roman festival of cleaning and purification after the winter months.

March

March was named after Mars, their god of war.

April

April's name was based on the Latin word *aperire*, which means to open, suitable for the time of year when the buds are beginning to open.

May

May was named after Maia, who was the goddess of spring and new growth.

June

June gets its name from Juno who was the goddess of women, marriage and the home and was the wife of the chief god Jupiter.

July & August

July and August were added to the Roman year in honour of two great emperors, Julius Caesar and Augustus Caesar. These twelve months of the year began on 1 January 45 BC and were known as the Julian calendar. No prizes for guessing who that was named after!

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Martin Junior School

Children in Year 6 have been working closely with the Barnet Education Business Partnership. Local business people worked with the ten and eleven year olds to show the relevance of literacy and numeracy to the working world. Following on from this the children operated their own postal scheme. They filled in application forms and wrote personal CVs, before being interviewed in groups and then given jobs. Later they attended training, when the demands of the post were explained.

The local sorting office manager came in and brought a genuine postal trolley and sacks. Every child was issued with a uniform and they visited the East Finchley sorting office to watch the professionals at work. Back in school children and staff bought stamps at 1p each from the "Post Office" which, at lunchtime, became the sorting room. Mail was collected by trolley from eight pillar-boxes, franked and sorted by the mail sorters and later delivered to both infant and junior schools.

At the end of the scheme, Year 6 will spend their stamp duty earnings on equipment they choose for the school. As well as learning how a post office works, they have also learned the value of teamwork in this tremendously successful project.

Over one hundred children from Years 3 and 4 impressed packed audiences with their singing and dancing in Charlotte Howard's magnificent production of Alice in Wonderland. The costumes and set design won compliments too.

The entire school went to the cinema for a special performance of Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets.

Children in Martin Infant School enjoyed a wonderful performance of Coppelia from the Globe Theatre Players.

For the third year running, Deborah and Martin Hoffman from Parentline Plus will be holding a free series of workshops suitable for parents and carers. Each session will run on Thursdays from 8.00-10.00 pm as follows:

16 Jan It's all too Much – Coping with the stress of parenting.

23 Jan Helping Children Learn – Supporting children at school.

30 Jan Building Children's Self-Esteem – Bringing up confident children.

6 Feb After School Stress-Busting – Managing after school stress.

Holy Trinity School

Both infant and junior departments have been to the Phoenix cinema. The infants saw Tigger the Movie and the juniors The Iron Giant. The junior school's wonderful performance of Peter Pan was much enjoyed by all who saw it.



Above: Holy Trinity School Head teacher Duncan Mills receives the Investors In People award from assessor Colin Rosen. Photo by David Smith.

Below: Head teacher Maggie Driscoll and deputy head teacher John Pickering with Martin Junior School's Investor in People Award. Photo by Diana Cormack

Heads, You Win

By Diana Cormack

Two local schools have received the Investor in People Award in recognition of meeting the national standard for good practice. They can now proudly display the plaque and certificate as well as put the Investor in People logo on school stationery.



School Trips

Children in Martin Junior School have written these reports about their educational visits

My Trip to the British Museum

By Catherine Beagent, class 6P

When the bell rang in the morning I thought the trip would cause absolute havoc because I wondered how you get 60 children and eight adults into one train carriage.

Surprisingly enough, we managed to board the train in an orderly manner. When the train finally stopped after what seemed like years (in reality only 15 minutes), everybody filed out and we made our way down the road to the British Museum.

The British Museum let us use a comfy room where we could leave our bags and coats. We were led to the Sutton Hoo Exhibition by Mr Pickering, who had told us so much about the ship burial that we barely had to read the text the museum provided - all we had to do was to look at the objects!

I was quite surprised at how damaged some of the treasure was. I knew that not all of it would be in one piece but I never expected to see an iron cauldron broken into pieces or solid silver plates with huge chunks missing.

After lunch we went to the Egyptian part of the museum where (much to the boys' satisfaction) we saw the mummies. We went back to school and marvelled at the wonderful time we had experienced.

Our Trip to the National Gallery

By Ellen Ellis, class 3K

Our trip to the National Gallery was very exciting. The coach ride was very long but it was worth it. When we arrived, our assistant met us at the entrance and told us the rules of the Gallery.

Once we had entered the Gallery, she told us the story of Theseus and the Minotaur, where Theseus leaves Ariadne on an island. After that she told us about a self portrait by someone called Elizabeth who was probably very rich. After we had lunch, we split into groups and took turns to look at pictures and turns to go the shop. We had a lovely time and learned a lot.

Our Theatre Visit

By Mulki Ibrahim, class 4H
We went to the theatre to see *Great Expectations*. First we rushed to the train station; when our train came we got on. We got off at Kings Cross; we changed with another train and then got off at Caledonian Road. Then we walked to the theatre.

At last we were there, we waited a while. Then we went up the stairs and there was the stage.

We had to wait for a while, then the show started. I liked the bit when Estella said she will adopt a baby girl and teach her to love. She was used by her step-mother to break men's hearts.

Well, about the characters, my best was Pip and Estella. Pip was little and tatty, he worked for Joe the blacksmith. Joe's wife was rude to Pip, she was really mean to him. He was invited to go to Miss Havisham's and play with Estella. Estella was teasing Pip.

When Pip and Estella were adults their whole relationship changed. It changed because they found out that they were in love. I really enjoyed the play and recommend it to other people.