



Little Danny and the Monster Digger

By Jonathan Blackstaffe

Little Danny was watching the telly a few weeks before Christmas when an advert for the Monster Digger came on. "Mummy, mummy," little Danny yelled, "that's it. That's what I want for Christmas."

"Well, Danny," replied his mummy, "have you written to Father Christmas and asked him nicely?"

"No," said little Danny, scrambling to his feet.

"Perhaps if you do, Danny, and if you are a good boy, Father Christmas will bring you one."

So Danny went running off to find a pen and some paper. Then he sat down to write a very neat letter to Father Christmas, politely asking for a Monster Digger.

Christmas morning

On Christmas Day, little Danny awoke early. He was sure Father Christmas climbing across the roof had awoken him. After lying in bed shaking with excitement for what seemed like forever, little Danny could wait no more. He jumped out of bed and rushed downstairs.

At the bottom of the stairs stood the sparkling Christmas tree, lights twinkling in the early morning gloom. Under it was a pile of presents. In the middle of them was a big parcel wrapped in shiny paper. Little Danny tore the paper off excitedly. It was the Monster Digger! He was so happy and spent the rest of the day playing with it.

Boxing Day

On Boxing Day, little Danny's friend Louie came round. Louie

hadn't been given a Monster Digger. For some reason, Louie hadn't been given very much for Christmas. Still, they had a great day playing with little Danny's Monster Digger.

When it came time to leave, Louie didn't want to let go of little Danny's Monster Digger.

"That's a cool present Danny," said Louie.

"I know," said Danny. Then his eyes popped open and he asked his mummy, "Mummy, do you think Father Christmas would mind if I gave my Monster Digger to Louie?"

"I'm sure he wouldn't, Danny," replied his mother. "But are you sure you wouldn't miss it?"

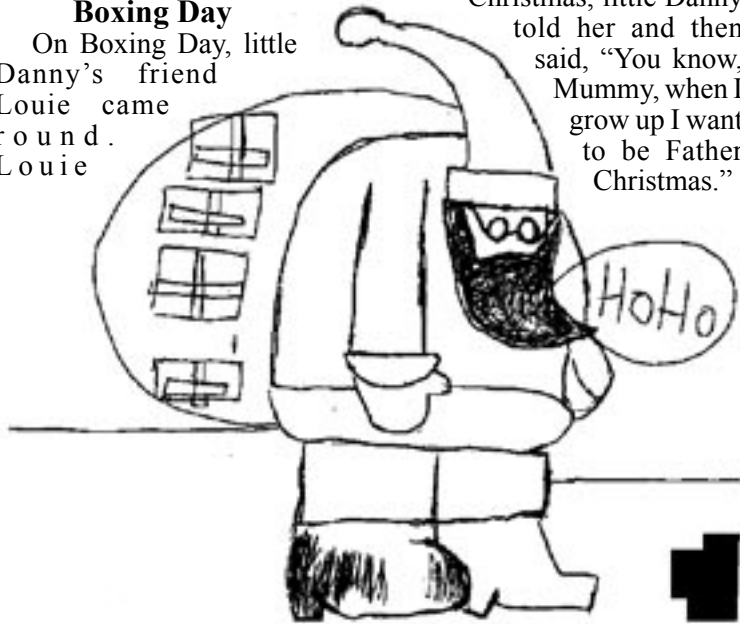
"Oh, I've got lots of other toys to play with."

"Well, if you're sure," said his mummy uncertainly.

So, Louie walked home with the Monster Digger feeling just as happy as could be. It was the best present he'd ever been given and he played with it until it fell apart. He often played with it with little Danny.

Little Danny never regretted giving the Monster Digger to Louie. In fact, the next December when his mummy asked what he wanted for Christmas, little Danny

told her and then said, "You know, Mummy, when I grow up I want to be Father Christmas."



"Father Christmas" by Michael Wiltshire, aged 10, of Elmfield Road.

A bit of Razzledazzle!

By Helen Drake



BBC camera crew filming at Martin Infant School. Photo by Helen Drake

Kevin Anscomb, headteacher at Martin Infant School, has discovered that not only are his pupils talented at reading and maths, they are also great at reciting poetry! During 11 and 12 November a camera crew took up residence in the Infant hall to film some of the Year 2 pupils for *Razzledazzle*, a Foundations of Literacy programme for pre-school children which will be broadcast by the BBC early in the New Year.

Rhyme and reason

One of the principal aims of the programme is to help young children focus on sounds and words through rhythm and rhyme. The pupils taking part were asked to recite simple poetry either on their own or in small groups. Gilly Clifford,

a Year 2 teacher commented, "The children have amazed me with their confidence. They don't seem at all fazed by the camera and have behaved really well."

For the children, it was an opportunity to learn about how a television programme is made,

and to see that behind the glitz, a lot of hard work is involved. Kevin Anscomb was clear that taking part in the filming was both an "educational and fun event for the pupils", and, he added, "Who knows, we might have inspired a future Oscar or BAFTA winner!"

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