



The future's not orange

By Diana Cormack

Parents and pupils at Martin Infant School were able to take a look into the future at a special demonstration arranged by head teacher Kevin Ancomb. Kevin believes strongly in preparing children for life in the 21st century and feels that the younger they begin learning, the better. With this in mind he has plans for an Information and Communication Technology (ICT) suite for the infants and will start things off this year with an interactive whiteboard.

More than 60% of primary schools in Britain now have these electronic whiteboards and, as they are gradually being installed in classrooms, teachers have to become even more computer literate. Instead of what used

to be called 'chalk and talk', this latest method of teaching uses large-scale computer technology, with the electronic whiteboard replacing the traditional 'blackboard'. Basically, it is using a computer and its facilities projected

onto a large wall screen. As well as the commercially produced software and hardware available, teachers can prepare their own lessons for classes and use them when they are needed.

The numbers game

Research has shown that, if used effectively, they can benefit pupils of all abilities. Those at Martin Infants took to the interactive voting system they were introduced to at once.

Using handsets similar to those on *Who wants to be a millionaire*, children are able to answer questions about a lesson by pressing their chosen numbers. A graph is produced for the teacher showing individual results. One of the benefits of this method is that timid children, shy to speak up in class, or those with English as a second language, can become immediately involved.

Demonstration

Steve Marshall, Barnet schools' ICT advisor, spent an afternoon with the youngsters before giving an after-school demonstration to parents. They can be confident that their children are being given a great start towards becoming proficient and confident in ICT, equipping them for the rapidly changing technology they will face as adults.

Schools support the tsunami appeal

By Diana Cormack

Staff and pupils at our local schools took part in the three-minute silence held for the victims of the terrible disaster, which has devastated so many lives. The children all responded magnificently and they have continued to do so. Both Holy Trinity School and Martin Schools held non-uniform days in order to raise money for the relief fund. Holy Trinity collected over £702 and Martin Schools over £825, a wonderful effort by all concerned.

At a special Tsunami Sponsorship Meeting, a working party of parents and staff from Martin Junior and Martin Infant Schools was established to explore options for raising money to provide more long-term help. Children have already been coming up with their own ideas – some pupils brought in £13 of pennies which they had made by selling their own toys; Year 5 children will be selling nearly new toys, books and videos at a cake and deli

sale organised by the PTA; selling hot-dogs and holding sponsored goal shoots are just two of the fund raising activities suggested by the juniors. The infant and nursery children are to take part in a sponsored non-stop fifteen-minute exercise routine.

With such commitment to the victims of this tragic event, Martin Schools will be adding to their established reputation for charitable works in the community.

SHORT STORY

The time machine

By Len Willcocks

Simon would buy any curiosities – however strange. He resold them all, and was doing very well, thank you.

One afternoon a man walked into his shop, carrying a long metallic cylinder. "Would you buy this from me?" he looked at Simon with piercing eyes, which seemed to see into his very soul. "Believe me, you will have fun with this. Where I come from it is used a lot, but be careful how you handle it."

"A nut case," Simon thought. But he was coming under the spell of those eyes. Just to get the fellow to go, he gave him £30.

Winter darkness having arrived, he shut up shop and sat down with a whisky. The cylinder was heavy. What a strange thing..... He ran his hand along its casing, heard a click, and a panel flew open.

It was larger inside than out, containing a bucket seat

with straps, with dials and gauges in front of it. Throwing caution to the wind, he climbed in and sat down. Another click, and the panel shut. He was trapped inside.

Then he saw a window, a control stick, and numbers on a screen – 2004. When, panic-stricken, he touched the control, the numbers changed to 1780.

He had the nightmare feeling of falling – like a lift out of control. When it stopped, he was on a common. A man on horseback galloped by, chased by military men with muskets. East Finchley in the 18th century!

He changed the control to 2030. This time there were two roads outside, raised on pillars. Streamlined vehicles flew over traffic hold-ups,

while above them people flew small machines with wings strapped to their backs.

He was carried along a moving sidewalk – past a television shop where characters seemed to come out of the screens as if in real life, past people talking on phones showing faces. Past a rack of *ARCHER* newspapers, headlined "East Finchley welcomes Mars explorers".

He had had enough. He went back to 2004. Next morning there was no cylinder in the shop – but burn marks on the floor where it had rested.

His first customer was the man with piercing eyes. "I want to have a look round," he said.

Simon fainted. He was out of this world.

YOUNG ARCHER

Storms

Last month many parts of the country were battered by terrible storms. Ten-year-old Alice Donnachie, of Hertford Road, East Finchley, has written this poem about a storm.

Stormy Night

Clap of thunder
Like a gunshot,
Fills the air
And my ears.

The howling wind
Whips up the
Dead leaves
And litter,
That is scattered across
The cracked paving stones,
Are suddenly illuminated by
A flash of lightning
Before being plunged
Back into the darkness.

The very few people
That are still out there
Turn up their collars,
Pull their hats
Snugly over their ears,
And hurry on
Still battling against
The ferocious whistling wind.

I draw the curtains
And clamber back into bed
As the pounding of the rain
On the roof
Lulls me into a deep, dreamless sleep.

Clever Clogs Corner

Do you know why people say, "It's raining cats and dogs"? Apparently, in northern mythology there was a belief that the cat had a great influence on the weather. The dog was a signal of the wind and, like the wolf, was an attendant of the storm god Odin. So the cat can be taken as a symbol of the pouring rain and the dog of the strong wind which can come with a rainstorm.

Ha ha!

Pat (coming in from school): It's raining cats and dogs out there.

Mum: *Why do you say that?*

Pat: I've just stepped in a poodle.

East Finchley Baptist Church

Just off the High Road in Creighton Avenue N2

Sundays at 11.00 am and 6.30 pm

For more information
please contact the Church Office
Tel: 8883 1544 (Minister: Simon Dyke)

Visitors always welcome

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

Sunday masses at 8.00 a.m. and 10.00 a.m.
Weekday masses at 10.00 a.m.
Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

The Parish has a flourishing social life.
Contact the Vicar, Fr Christopher Hardy,
on 020 8883 9315.

All Saints' also has a strong musical tradition and an enthusiastic choir of both adults and children.
Experienced singers are always welcome.
Contact Geoffrey Hanson on 020 8444 9214.

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>