



YOUNG ARCHER

New beginnings

At the start of the year, people often make New Year resolutions. They are usually about changes that will hopefully make their life better. But after a few weeks most of them have been forgotten.

One new start, which brings a huge change to everyone's life, is their first day at school. Nine-year-old Jessica Devey of Huntingdon Road, a Year 5 pupil at Holy Trinity, remembers hers quite clearly.

My first day at school.

When I walked through the gates, my brother encouraging me, my mother holding my hand anxiously and my father looking through my bag checking I had my PE kit, I walked silently hoping it wasn't as scary as I thought. When I got to the playground, we ploughed through parents as anxious as mine until we got to my teacher.

She wasn't as strict and scary as I thought. I had imagined a tall, strong, bulky person but instead she was a kind, tall, fun lady with long silky black hair and green eyes. I kissed my family goodbye and ran off.

While we were walking down the corridor, with the other children skipping along, I trailed behind, my shoes squeaking on the newly polished floor. When we got to

the classroom I saw a clean playroom with books, toys, cushions, beads and a beanbag. I stopped shuffling and started to have fun!

The other children there were strange to me and they had already made friends. Then another girl that looked a bit like me came up to me and said, "Would you like to come and play with me and Katie? What's your name? My name's Samantha!" So I went to play with them.

Playtime was fun too. I played with a skipping rope, but at first I screamed because I thought it was a snake. At lunchtime I had a packet of crisps, a ham and cucumber sandwich, a Ribena drink and an apple. Samantha and me used the beads and string to make necklaces and we played ladies. After that my mother came to pick me up. She said that it had been four hours but it had felt like four minutes. She gave me a kiss and as we walked home I said, "Can I go back tomorrow?"

Christmas light delight

By Helen Drake

Local children have been overjoyed to see the juggling clown Christmas light that has appeared outside Martin Schools this year, a welcome return after an absence of two years.

My own children spotted it when we were returning home from ballet classes one evening. As we approached the top of Leopold Road, there were immediate noises of delight as they saw the brightly-coloured, flashing light against the dark evening sky.

I decided to ask some experts for their opinions. Alice, aged seven, said she liked the light because "it's nice and bright" and "it makes

me feel happy", and her sister, Isobel, aged five said she liked the colours. Sarah aged five and Ester, aged three, both said that seeing the light made them "feel excited for Christmas", which was the overwhelming response from a straw poll of children outside the school one evening. The East Finchley Traders Association has made a large number of children very happy this Christmas. Thank you.



Children receiving their presents from Father Christmas, with (from the left), Ruth, Tracy and Claire Photo by Helen Drake

Christmas fun at toddler group

By Helen Drake

St Mary's Parent and Toddler group was buzzing with excitement on Tuesday 14 December at the annual, Christmas Party. After a magic show from Mr Marvel and some singing, the children waited patiently to see if Father Christmas had a present for them in his sack and they were not disappointed!

Claire Mitchell and Ruth Nator have run the toddler group in St Mary's Church Hall for just over a year, taking over from a long line of volunteers. With the support of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, Claire and Ruth gained funding from The London Network Fund, a charity that supports activities and projects for children and young people in London, and were given £1,070 to buy new equipment. Children now enjoy many more craft activities and the group has also been able to buy a nappy changing table, bikes, toys, and musical instruments.

Drop in for craft and chat
"We aim to offer a friendly, happy environment where parents and

carers can relax and have a cup of tea and a chat," commented Claire. "Since we introduced the craft tables we have attracted many more children over three years old who now come to us in the morning and then go to nursery in the afternoon." Parents and carers who come to the group are asked to contribute £1.50 for the first child and 50p for any other children. The price includes unlimited tea and coffee, and fruit or

biscuits mid-morning for the children, all provided by the fantastic Tracy Harrow.

The group runs on a drop-in basis at St Mary's Church Hall on the High Road, Tuesday and Friday mornings, 9.30-11.30am during school term times. The spring term starts on 11 January. "New volunteers are always needed," stressed Claire, and all parents, carers and their children are welcome. Contact Claire Mitchell on 8442 1881.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

The junior pantomime *Robin Hood and Maid Marian*, written by the staff, was enjoyed by all, as was the nativity play created by teachers for the infants.

Neil Bell took choir members to perform at Barnet Choral Society Concert. He also conducted all the children singing Christmas carols for a CD to be sold for school funds.

The choir visited Wilmot Close, Tarling Road to sing carols to the elderly residents.

The annual Christmas Fair organised by the Holy Trinity School Association raised an amazing £2,750.

Year 5, who are learning tag rugby, were taken to Twicken-

ham to watch the rugby match between Oxford and Cambridge universities.

Martin Schools

The Christmas Bazaar organised by the PTA made a staggering profit of £3,800.

Year 4's Christmas Show *Moving On* was brilliant. Headteacher Maggie Driscoll paid tribute to the wonderful grounding given at the school, which adds to the talent in the community. Former pupils have been visiting from Fortismere to perform for younger children. Another, now at Compton, was the son in December's ITV play about a man who falsely claimed to have won the lottery.

Continuing their tradition of seeing a different Shakespeare play every Christmas, the juniors enjoyed a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The steel pan orchestra and the violin group performed concerts and children dressed up to raise money for Barnet Hospital's Life Saver appeal.

The infants learned an important lesson about democracy in an election to decide the theme according to which all classes would be named next term. Sea creatures proved to be the winner, ahead of flowers, animals and birds.

All enjoyed the Christmas production of *Humph the Camel*.

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>