



End of term for head

By Lisa Omar

Michael Lyons, the headteacher of St Theresa's Catholic Primary School in East End Road, will be retiring at the end of this academic year after 10 years dedicated and distinguished service with the school.

Mr Lyons began his career in teaching by training at St. Mary's College in Twickenham in 1974. He went on to teach in schools in Hounslow, Kentish Town, Marylebone and Hertford before moving to St Theresa's in 2001.

He said: "I have enjoyed nearly ten very happy years at our wonderful school and had the privilege of working with some dedicated and professional members of staff and of course with the children who make the school a wonderful place to work. I will take with me many happy memories of our happy family school, which will remain with me forever. I am going to miss it all."



Retiring Head Michael Lyons.
Photo courtesy of St Theresa's RC Primary School.

A retirement Mass of thanksgiving is to be held at 2pm on Friday 15 July at St Philips Church. The whole school, including parents and governors, will be attending and the celebrant will be Bishop John Arnold.

As to Mr Lyons future, he will still be involved in education through the supervision of students for St. Mary's University College, Twickenham, and also hopes to continue working with schools in Durban, South Africa, to improve reading standards in the primary sector.

He's also looking forward to enjoying his hobbies of watercolour painting and photography, and to improving his "woeful" golf handicap. St Theresa's would like to wish Mr Lyons the very best for the future.

Go-karts go!

By Helen Drake

On 11 June, organisers of Martin Primary School's Summer Fun Day breathed a sigh of relief when the morning rain clouds gave way to glorious sunshine for the start of the annual event on the school field.

Four-year-old Charlie Hatt was particularly taken with the Mini Go-Karts and bore an uncanny resemblance to Jenson Button as he raced around the track. When asked if he wanted to be a racing driver when he grew up, it appears his ambitions lie in other directions. "No, a marine biologist: I like squids," he replied, with the cool assurance of a future Jacques Cousteau.



Charlie demonstrates his racing prowess at the Martin fun day.
Photo by Helen Drake.

With cream teas in hand, visitors enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment on the main stage starting with the fancy dress competition which brought forth an array of Kings, Queens, Princes and Princesses in outfits more splendid than many of those on display at the recent Royal Wedding.

Children cooled down panning for gold, eating candy-floss and learning about the practical side of Chinese culture, such as writing Chinese pictograms and trying to eat with chopsticks.

Jo Girling, the Chair of the PTA, said: "Once again we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the local businesses and community for making the event such a massive success and helping us raise over £5,000 to support the children at the school."

Oak Lodge School receives autism accreditation

The National Autistic Society (NAS) has awarded its accreditation to Oak Lodge Special School in Heath View. Earlier this year the school was evaluated against a set of standards during a rigorous four-day inspection. The inspectors found that Oak Lodge meets the needs of young people on the autistic spectrum across the whole school.

A special assembly was held at which Richard Pritchett, director of accreditation for the NAS, presented the award. The school choir sang, there were cheerleading demonstrations and pupils performed *A Midsummer Nightmare*, adapted cleverly from Shakespeare. Mr Pritchett congratulated all concerned in making Oak Lodge the first school in Barnet to receive the NAS accreditation.

PARENT & BABY/CHILD ACTIVITIES

- ❖ **Coffee & Kids**, Fri 9.15-11.15, Green Man Ctr. Rachel 8343 6147.
- ❖ **Dads' Club**: Get-togethers for dads looking after young children in East Finchley. Adam 07957 441435.
- ❖ **EF National Childbirth Trust** contact Ruby Yang or Patrizia Canwell at eastfinchleynct@googlemail.com
- ❖ **Parent & Toddler Group**, Green Man Centre, Julia 8444 2276
- ❖ **Stepping Stones**, interactive play session for under 3s. Karen 07957 278860.

YOUNG ARCHER



Archie swims more than 2km

Congratulations to eight-year-old Archie Price who helped to raise £725 for Marie Curie Cancer Care in the recent Swimathon charity swim at Finchley Lido Leisure Centre.

Archie, who competed as part of Team Goggleblog with his mum and dad on 10 April, swam 84 lengths (2.1km) non-stop in 44 minutes. Dad Chris Price said: "We are all very proud of him. He's a great little swimmer and he wanted to raise money for a really good cause by swimming as far and as fast as possible. Last year he swam 28

lengths, this year 84 lengths. Next year he is really hoping to do the maximum distance of 200 lengths: that's 5km" Archie, who is a Year 3 pupil at Martin Primary School, trains at Barnet Copthall swimming club. His parents run www.goggleblog.com, a website for those who enjoy swimming for pleasure and competitively.

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