



Pirates ahoy in new playground

Fancy dress pirates swung on board for the grand opening of the new playground at Stephens House and Gardens in East End Road, N3. Special guests Ella Kenion from CBeebies and Barnet Mayor Councillor David Longstaff declared the new facility open in front of a huge crowd of eager youngsters.

Parents sign up for free school close to home

By Neil McNaughton

Over More than 200 parents living in East Finchley, many of whom have children attending Martin Primary School, have supported the establishment of a new free secondary school in the southern part of the borough of Barnet.

The sponsoring academy is the Compton, situated in Summers Lane, North Finchley. The Compton held two information meetings at Martin School recently and found interest running high.

Demand for secondary places

It has long been acknowledged that there is a shortage of secondary places in the area surrounding East Finchley so such a new school would go some way to meet the demand. More than 500 parents across Barnet as a whole have signed up to support the Compton bid.

The prospect of a new secondary school within reach of N2 comes almost a year after public debate over the admissions criteria at the Archer Academy in Stanley Road, N2, which sought to protect feeder places for children at primary schools in neighbouring N3 and NW11, where parents are battling with equally high

demand for secondary places.

When and where

Approval by the Department for Education is imminent, with Compton deputy headteacher Malcolm McGlynn telling *THE ARCHER* he was confident that the new school would get the go ahead very soon.

Though it is unlikely that the site of the new school will be in N2 it could well be in neighbouring N3 so that many prospective East Finchley pupils will fall within the catchment. Once approval has been received, The Compton Academy will be working alongside the DfE to secure a suitable site, with one possibility on the very edge of N2.

This news comes hard on the heels of the expansion of Fortismere School in Muswell Hill (*THE ARCHER*, September 2016), again going some way to easing the chronic shortage of places.

Plant hope for a polio-free world

Richard Rosen, a member of Muswell Hill, Highgate and Islington Rotary, explains how you can get involved in his organisation's ongoing campaign to eradicate polio worldwide.

For over 30 years, Rotary has been working hard to help rid the world of polio, a terrible disease that can kill or seriously disable children. Polio has no cure but can be prevented with immunisation.

When Rotary started the campaign in 1985 there were 125 countries where the disease was endemic. Now there are just two: Pakistan and Afghanistan. Although cases are down 99.9% and over 2.5 billion children have been immunised, there are still remote and rural areas where it is hard to deliver the immunisation programme. To declare the world polio free requires at least three years with no new cases being reported, so by continuing to fund and support the immunisation programme in these areas together we will make history.

Five million flowers

The Purple 4 Polio campaign symbol is a purple crocus, its colour representing the dye used to mark the fingers of children who have been immunised. It costs just £1 to immunise five children and it protects them for life. Rotary has partnered with the Royal Horticultural Society to

plant more than five million crocus corms this November which will flower in February 2017 to brighten up communities across Great Britain and Ireland. By covering our parks, gardens and green spaces with crocuses, we are aiming to demonstrate how the humble crocus can symbolise a colourful splash of hope for children everywhere. If you want to get involved in this mass planting event or to find out more about Rotary please contact local secretary Peter Oliver on 07787

123833 or email peter@pvro-liver.com.



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