



Class-to-class call rekindles friendship with school in India

Earlier this year, children at Martin Primary School in East Finchley were able to talk to their counterparts at their twin school in India for the first time since the pandemic. Jane Conway, who was visiting Tryamboli School in Kolhapur at the time, reports.

Since the two schools were twinned in 2014, this was only the second occasion pupils were able to speak to each other, and the first since the pandemic, making it especially significant for rekindling the friendship.

As the children took turns to ask each other questions about their school life over Zoom, any initial shyness soon gave way to a more relaxed exchange.

The time difference meant it was 9am in London, on a cold winter's morning, in contrast to the afternoon 38-degree heat in southern India. This stretched the imagination on both sides and prompted a demonstration by the Martin School students of how many layers of clothing it takes to keep warm.

Other comparisons were the timetables, with a later start and finish in India, as well as Saturday school, and the number of children per classroom (as

many as 60 in Tryamboli). The question that received the most excited response was when a child asked whether the children at Martin School would like to visit Tryamboli School, provoking a unanimous and unequivocal YES.

For the Tryamboli children, it was an opportunity to try out their English skills and they impressed their London peers with their ability to converse in their third language after Marathi and Hindi. This extended to a musical finale from the Tryamboli children, who sang a Jolly Phonics song with actions they had learned from Martin School teachers Shona Glackin and Julie Taylor when they visited the school in 2018.

As the Martin School children filed out of the classroom, arms were raised in prolonged goodbyes with promises to speak again soon.



Close connection: Pupils at the Tryamboli School in Kolhapur, India, talk online to their friends at Martin School, East Finchley. Photo Jane Conway

Free art exhibition

East Finchley Open Artists' latest exhibition reveals how the visual arts can explore the interplay of ideas, media, techniques, colours and forms. For example, in her piece *Colours United*, Laura Fishman creates a multi-coloured flag to symbolise the diverse culture of Britain.



Laura Fishman's Flag

"The artists at this exhibition have created a varied, powerful and evocative body of work that includes 2D and 3D art plus functional craft work, too, that I'm excited to share

with everyone," said fellow artist Gail Altschuler.

The 'Interplay' show takes place at Hornsey Library in Haringey Park, Crouch End, N8 9JA, from 4-6 April and then, with a break for Easter, from 11-23 April. Open Monday to Friday from 1-7pm, Saturday from 1-5pm and Sunday from 12-4pm. Entry is free. There will be art workshops for children on Sunday 16 April from 1.30-3.30pm. Find out more at eastfinchleyopen.org.uk



Keep dancing: Strictly winner Rose Ayling-Ellis with birthday boy Leslie

Rose takes to dancefloor with Leslie

When actress and 2021 *Strictly Come Dancing* winner Rose Ayling-Ellis saw videos of people enjoying themselves at Finchley deaf charity JDA on their TikTok feed she thought it looked a fun place to be and decided to drop in for a surprise visit.

Rose, who was born deaf and has just finished appearing in Shakespeare's *As You Like It* in the West End, spent a morning at the charity's base in Woodside Park Road, N12, chatting to members, staff and volunteers.

She answered all their questions about her time on *Strictly* and *EastEnders* and also took

to the floor to dance with JDA member Leslie, who was celebrating his 90th birthday.

JDA spokesperson Jacqueline Nortman said: "The room was electric and full of laughter and happiness as Rose answered many questions and posed for lots of photos before joining members for lunch and

bidding everyone farewell." JDA is the only charity in the Jewish community to support deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people. It operates 40 services benefitting more than 2,000 people each year. Find out more at www.jdeaf.org.uk and on TikTok @jdeafcharity

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