



Class act: Former Martin School teacher Julie Taylor, left, with pupils at the Tryamboli school, who demonstrate their good grasp of English. Photos Jane Conway

## Twinned schools share stories and lessons

Earlier this year **Jane Conway** returned to Kolhapur in India for her annual visit to Tryamboli School, which has been twinned with Martin Primary School in East Finchley for 14 years. Here she recalls her latest trip.

**On my visit to Kolhapur this time, I was able to hand-deliver postcards made by Year 6 pupils at Martin Primary, with thoughtful illustrations and messages celebrating the link between the two schools.**

It was lovely to witness the excited response from the Tryamboli children as they pored over the cards together. Capturing this moment on camera, the pictures were in time to be included in the Martin School newsletter, a copy of which was immediately printed out and pinned up on the Tryamboli School noticeboard. Children at both Tryamboli and Martin Primary Schools have enjoyed sessions using the Runaway Chapati, listening to, and per-

forming the story using puppets and props. Photos of the sessions have been exchanged between the schools, helping to nurture the sense of connection and shared learning.

Ten years ago, teachers Shona Glacklin and Julie Taylor from Martin School visited Tryamboli to run Jolly Phonics workshops. These were greatly enjoyed by children and staff alike and introduced a method of learning to read that has become firmly embedded in the

school curriculum.

Julie, who now works for The Children's Literacy Charity, returned to Tryamboli in February this year to run another Jolly Phonics programme with the Year 2 class, bringing with her 50 mini whiteboards with pens and rubbers for each child. This resource was new to the school and the children were delighted to be initiated into the use of this highly interactive learning tool.

Every child was instantly engaged in writing sentences and collaborating to proofread each other's work and correct mistakes. Another advantage of this visual method is that with classes of up to 50 pupils at Tryamboli, whiteboards allow

the teachers an instant method for checking work and monitoring learning.

The addition of a permanent library at Tryamboli School, with its colourful murals depicting the wonder of books, has created a special place where children can develop a love of reading and storytelling. In addition, two newly constructed individual washrooms and a water filtration system have significantly enhanced the school environment.

It is a joyful experience to see how the school has grown and blossomed over the last decade, stimulating an enthusiasm for learning in a happy and dynamic setting.



Twin schools: Tryamboli pupils with postcards sent from their friends at Martin Primary in East Finchley

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Practice Partner

