



A Dripping Tap

School children at Holy Trinity School have been putting their mathematical skills to the test. They're part of a borough-wide project, promoted by the Barnet Education Business Partnership (BEBP), to help improve numeracy skills in local schools.

The project, *Primary Numbers*, is being run for a second year and involves partnerships with local businesses and community organisations working with groups of school children to demonstrate the importance of numbers in real life situations.

Children aged 10-11 will work through some real life examples in scenarios set by the RAF Museum, London Fire Brigade and Three Valleys Water.

Ted Casey, Education Studies Manager at Three Valleys Water, said, "I'm going to use an example of a dripping tap to demonstrate how to calculate the amount of water that can be lost if a tap drips all day.

"Once we've established how much water is being wasted, I'm then going to help the children work out the cost of that wasted water.

"We'll then see how much it would cost the school if every tap dripped for a whole year and get the children to come up with some alternative ideas of how the money could have been spent. Getting the children to work out the sums and follow this type of scenario through helps them to realise how numeracy skills are essential to everyday living and working."

Rubina Mengrani, Schools Projects Co-ordinator at BEBP, commented, "We are delighted that Three Valleys Water is involved in *Primary Numbers* for the second year running"

Note: Three Valleys Water has been supplying water to the local community for more than 130 years. It is part of Vivendi Water, the world leader in water and waste-water management.

If you spot a leak call the Leakspotters hotline on

0800 376 5325 or email us by logging onto our website www.3valleys.co.uk



Georgia Glick and Nathan Franklin of Year 2 in Holy Trinity School, in traditional Japanese dress.

Photo by Marion Anderson.

Orient Expressions

By Diana Cormack

Children at Holy Trinity School, Eagan's Close have been learning about Japan at first hand. A group of twelve experienced volunteers has been working with classes, providing an introduction to the rich cultural tradition of their country.

YOUNG ARCHER

Christmas Greenery

By Diana Cormack

One of my favourite childhood memories is of my grandfather carefully carrying in a Christmas rose which he'd picked from his garden. This wasn't a rose that grew on a bush covered in thorns, but a small green-leafed plant which grew close to the ground. To me it seemed like a miracle that it could produce white flowers when everything else had stopped blooming. If you take a look at your Christmas cards, you might be able to spot one.

You'll be sure to see plenty of holly, ivy and mistletoe on them, for plants play an important part in our Christmas celebrations. It would be difficult to imagine Christmas without a Christmas tree, but they were unknown in this country before Queen Victoria's reign. Her husband Prince Albert introduced them from his homeland of Germany, where there was a legend that fir tree

wood had been used in building the stable at Bethlehem.

But holly, ivy and mistletoe have been used as decorations for hundreds of years, and they have many ancient superstitions surrounding them. For instance, it was thought unlucky to have holly in the house outside of the twelve days of Christmas. A Yule log was brought into the home on Christmas Eve and was kept burn-

ing for twelve nights until the feast of Epiphany, which is when the Three Kings reached the stable in Bethlehem. This is why it is said that decorations should be taken down before 6 January.

When you are singing or listening to Christmas carols and songs, try to notice how often these particular plants are mentioned. You could begin with "The Holly and the Ivy"!

Using a wide range of authentic artefacts and equipment, they aim to give pupils access to practical skills such as art, calligraphy and origami as well as the opportunity to try out traditional costumes, food and language.

Besides writing their names Japanese style, youngsters have made objects ranging from chopstick holders and boxes for rice crackers to warrior hats. They have dressed up in Japanese clothing and even taken part in a typical tea ceremony. The purpose of this was not only to make

green tea properly, but also to compare it to English tea in look, taste and smell.

Turning Japanese

The charming visitors also tried to teach the children to sing "Heads and Shoulders, Knees and Toes" and "Underneath the Spreading Chestnut Tree" in Japanese.

Rudolf Renewed

By Diana Cormack

Rudolf the blue nosed reindeer
Felt that he was out of place.
When he looked into the mirror
Tears trickled down his face.

All of the other reindeer
Had noses that were quite all right.
They needed a proper leader
To guide them on a foggy night.

They could not believe their ears
When they heard Santa say,
"Rudolf, things will be OK
I've brought you a nose from Red Nose Day."

All of the other reindeer
Laughed and slapped him on the back.
"Hooray," they cried for Rudolf.
"We thought that you would get the sack!"

Jokes

Which trees are always warm?
Fir trees.

Where do astronauts kiss at Christmas?
Under the missile-toe.

Why is a Christmas tree no good at sewing?
Because it keeps dropping its needles.

How do you know that holly likes Christmas puddings?
Because it keeps getting stuck into them.

Christmas Excitement

By Diana Cormack

Can't believe it's on the way.
Hope it won't be long!

Rush to write my present list.
Is Santa feeling strong?

Shall we have a Christmas tree
To decorate with lights?

Might exchange my stocking for
A giant pair of tights!
Super Santa Claus!!!

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

By Diana Cormack

Holy Trinity

The pupils are bringing in shoeboxes full of Christmas gifts to send to children in Romania.

The annual Christmas Fayre is on 7 December.

A touring drama group visited the school to present a selection of dramatised Aesop's Fables.

Three year 6 boys, Joshua Bristow, Jack King and Jonathan Wiltshire, played in the London Borough of Barnet's primary schools football team.

At the time of writing the school is awaiting the results of its recent OFSTED inspection.

Martin Schools

Both junior and infant children have designed a Christmas card which is being sold to raise money for the schools.

The Christmas Bazaar is on 7 December from 12 - 3 p.m. On sale will be high quality Christmas puddings bearing the schools' name.

Year 3 spent a day looking at paintings in the National Gallery, with an emphasis on Claude Monet. Highlight of the day was evacuating the building following a fire alarm!

Year 4 went to see *Great Expectations* at the Unicorn Theatre, prior to their own production of it at the end of term.

Year 6 visited the British Museum, following up their Anglo Saxon work and concentrating on the Sutton Hoo exhibit, which they first studied on school journey in September.

The annual firework display could not take place because the new grass is still becoming established on the school field. However, the Home School association organised a fancy dress disco instead.

A new log wall in the junior playground has also provided an adventure trail and created a better border for planting.

The nursery playground has been improved. Bulbs planted by the children in the new raised garden area will be given as Christmas presents to their parents.

Reception children visited Hampstead Heath.

The Globe Theatre Players performed *Coppelia* to the infant school.