



We do like to be beside the seaside

By Lois Lawrence, Year 6

On Friday 6 June, Holy Trinity School's Year 6 set off for their four-day school trip to Devon. The children had to be at school at 7.30am to leave for their five-hour journey. The class arrived at Knapp House in Bideford at 1.35pm and got shown to the dorms, then started with their activities.



Two Holy Trinity children take a ride on an inflatable while their friends explore the beach in Devon.

Being pulled along on an inflatable by a speedboat and surfing with jellyfish were some of the things they did. Some of the class were lucky enough to see a fin of a basking shark!

There were plenty of other activities, such as rock climbing, canoe capsize drill and raft building. Mr Jacobs, the Year 6 teacher, Mrs Kimani, the Deputy Head, and her husband Mr Kimani, went with Year 6 on their journey.

The children were fed breakfast, lunch and dinner during the trip by the staff at Knapp House. On the last night there was a disco and everyone had a fantastic time dancing and drinking fizzy drinks until midnight. The boys were having break dancing competitions, which were funny and overall the party was a huge success and everyone enjoyed themselves.

On the way back home the coach was quiet with people sleeping and looking out of the window. Everyone was exhausted by the time they arrived back at school at 4.15pm on a Monday afternoon.

Head teacher Mr Bowden allowed Year 6 to have Tuesday off and even Mr Jacobs and Mrs Kimani got to put their feet up on Tuesday. Well, how would you like to spend four days and three nights with a bunch of eleven year olds?

Altogether, Year 6 had a wonderful time and are extremely grateful to the Holy Trinity staff for their journey.



Y5 and Y6 children, Mrs Carr, "the hedgehog", and one of Barnet's Road Safety Officers.

Photo by Lisa Omar

Schoolchildren get in step

By Lisa Omar

Walk to School week was a great success at St Theresa's school. All parents and children made a huge effort to walk to school or to park and stride. All children were turned into "Sound Detectives" by listening to sounds they heard on the way to school and recording their observations in their daily diaries.

On the last day of the week, staff, pupils and parents walked behind "the hedgehog": one of Barnet's Road Safety Officers. Walking to school is a great way

to do your bit for the environment, and keeps you active and healthy. It's also a chance for children and adults to chat, not always easy in today's mad world.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Holy Trinity

A team made up of the fastest boy and girl in each junior class won the inaugural Barnet Primary Schools cup stacking competition. Speed stacking, which is designed to boost hand and eye combination, is rapidly growing in popularity and children can buy their own sets.

The toddler group, which meets every Thursday morning in term time, needs volunteers to help set up and run it. As members of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, volunteers can take advantage of free training with crèche facilities.

The school's Open Day on 8 July will start with the Holy Trinity School Association serving coffee and croissants at 8.30 am.

The French theme will continue at the Summer BBQ on 12 July, which coincides with the Tour de France, and will include various cycling activities.

Martin School

The school choir performed brilliantly for the Barnet Music Festival. Children raised money on a non-uniform day for Barnet Young Carers, who have been working with the older children to explain the support they provide.

Also working at the school were 25 volunteers from Freemantle Media who painted murals in the infant playground, put down a new path in the wildlife area and tidied up the undergrowth. It is the second year that Martin School has taken part in this London-wide event, aimed at encouraging employees from the business world to volunteer in the community.

After taking part in a national maths competition, Miles Johnson from Year 6 has won through to the finals in Birmingham. Another successful Year 6 boy is Kieran Nunkoo who gained a silver medal at the Karate Commonwealth Games. He is now ranked second in his age group world-wide.

St Theresa's RC School Primary School

It has been lovely to welcome our Austrian visitors. A huge thank you to all the families for looking after our young guests so well. All our visitors thoroughly enjoyed viewing the sights of London and also spending time in our school and joining in all the activities with Y5 children.

Y6 pupils attended a Good Shepherd Mass on Wednesday 4 June at Westminster Cathedral. St Theresa's pupils had an "own clothes day" which raised a great amount to be given to the Catholic Children's Society.

Y6 children were very excited about heading off to the Isle of Wight for a week.

Year 4 have been busy collecting sponsorship for their class charity which is very close to all pupils hearts: Jack's Goal. Pupils got together at Avenue House Park where they walked 8-10 times around the whole park. Well done to all the children who completed the walk.

Manorside Primary School

On 10 June, Y5 enjoyed a visit to a Sikh temple, where they were treated to refreshments.

Year 3 visited an Orthodox Synagogue at Woodside Park on 16 June. On 19 June Action Aid Trustees visited Year 4 to explain their projects. The annual Arts Week from 23 June included Beijing Opera workshops and visits to the National Theatre to see Word Alive!

The school fair takes place on 12 July. It is open to everyone, so please come along and support a local school.

A learning experience

By Julia Bramson

Manorside Primary School headteacher Steve Hilborne spent three months in the Kavango region of Namibia and the experience will change the way he looks at teaching back home.

He worked alongside the Inspector of Schools in the Bunya Circuit and with school principals to improve leadership and management. It was a natural step for Mr Hilborne as Manorside is a full International School with a focus on Global Education.

There are many challenges in Namibian schools, and some were very different from those encountered in schools here. The Kavango region itself is one of the poorest in the country, and there are high rates of TB, AIDS and HIV, and Malaria.

Now safely back in Finchley, Mr Hilborne is able to reflect on the time he spent in Namibia. He comments that his experience has reinforced his belief in child-centred education, and that he has become "more reflective and more able to focus on what is important".

Farewell to a friendly face

For the past 23 years, teaching assistant Maureen Bourdon has been at the heart of life at Holy Trinity School. In her other role as welfare assistant she has tended more cuts, sprains and grazes than anyone can possibly count. But this summer she will care for her last child as she prepares to enjoy retirement.

Head teacher Tim Bowden said: "Maureen has been a real comfort to over a thousand pupils who have attended this school. Her caring manner and genuine concern for each and every child is legendary and we shall really miss her." Mrs Bourdon arrived at Holy Trinity back in 1985, on the same day Katie Artemiou joined the Reception class. Miss Artemiou is now Year 4 teacher at Holy Trinity. Mrs Bourdon quickly established herself as a firm favourite with the whole school community. A teaching assistant in the infants, she has also helped hundreds of children learn to read and write and overcome whatever difficulties they have had. Mr Bowden said: "Maureen has a real empathy with children. Her patience, encouragement and willingness to help has made a real difference to all the pupils she supported."

Messages and memories

To celebrate Mrs Bourdon's achievements the school is preparing a book of memories which will be presented to her at the end of the summer term. The school is inviting anyone who has known her in the past 23 years and would like their personal message to be included in the book to email it to maureen.bourdon@hotmail.co.uk. Please note: Mrs Bourdon's



name is spelt with an O, except for the purposes of the email address where it is spelt with an E.