

# HEADLINES

December 2010

“Maybe Christmas”, he thought “doesn’t come from a store  
Maybe Christmas .... perhaps ... means a little bit more!”

*(Dr. Seuss: the Grinch who stole Christmas)*

It is easy at this time of year to get so overwhelmed by the packaging of Christmas that the reason for it all can very easily be overlooked.

Year 1 and 2s glorious production ‘**Little Angel Gets Her Wings**’ reminded us of all our childhood Christmases and the simple happiness of it all. The quite outstanding singing and the clarity of the readings in the **Carol Service** then epitomised the awe and magnificence of the nativity.



The magical **Nursery and Reception Christmas nativity** was however perhaps the most poignant reminder of the centrality of the Christmas story. All these wonderful events have presented us with the real meaning of Christmas over and over again and as we head towards the end of term there is a real sense of anticipation and joy in the air.

As well as our Christmas celebrations, we have enjoyed music-making in so many guises throughout the term. I loved ‘**Tattybogle**’ which was done simply for fun by the pre-prep choir! The **Year 3 String Orchestra** gave a delightful concert last week in which they played a selection of carols all of which they



had learnt in less than a term. This week both the **String Orchestra** and the **Wind Band** will be performing in assemblies.



The girls **netball** teams in Years 3, 4 and 5 have all made good progress with some particularly strong performances from B team members. Our Year 6 netball team have really excelled and are the well-deserved winners of the Cornflower League this season with a string of victories against Alleyn’s, St. Dunstons, JAPS, Sydenham High and Streatham and Clapham. The Year 6 girls football team have also been very successful.



The Boys have enjoyed their **football** this term and we have had some fantastic results. Both Year 5 and Year 6 boys have lost only one match each in the league and both finished in a very creditable 4<sup>th</sup> place in the SEL cup. Year 4 boys have had a fantastic season and remain undefeated this far in the League.

Christmas is also a time of great fun and we have enjoyed lots of entertainment from both visitors to our school and trips outside school.



Year 1 and 2 children visited London Zoo to see the “**Living Nativity**”. They met two of the travelling wise men who explained their journey and introduced them to their camels. The shepherds gave a comical recount of the angels’ visit to their flock. Very quietly the children also visited the manger where Mary told them of her journey to Bethlehem. It was a very special day for the children and adults alike.

Both Reception classes went to the Peacock Theatre and enjoyed a magical performance of **The Snowman**. The children were mesmerised by the music, storytelling at it best and wonderful sets and costumes.



Earlier in the term, Year 5 had a fantastic trip to the **Ragged School Museum**. The children had been learning all about Victorian schools so they were eager to experience a ragged school for themselves. They looked very authentic in their costumes and this helped them to get into the characters of poor East-End children. The children actually enjoyed working so silently in the Victorian classroom, but they were glad we no longer use the dunce’s cap or finger stocks! We will sadly be saying goodbye this week to Miss Bowman and our two **GAP students**, Nicole Dixon and Frances Lutjen. They have all been an asset to the school in so many ways

and we will miss them. We also say goodbye to Mrs Layfield who has been teaching the Preps this term and wish her well as she looks forward to the arrival of her first baby in the New Year.



We look forward to welcoming Miss Reeves, our new Head of Girls Games and Mrs Devon who returns from maternity leave in January. We also look forward to the arrival of our new GAP students, Zoe Gough from Australia and Ashley Smith from South Africa.

Thank you for your generosity once again for our Christmas charity appeal this year ‘Sportswear to Malawi’. St. Michael’s also raised an unprecedented £894.01 in the collection at the end of the Carol Service last week. This will go towards funding education for communities in Western Tanzania.

Another visit this term has been from two members of the Education Strategy Division at the Department of Education. Following an excellent Inspection report last term we were thrilled and flattered to be one of the few schools in the country to be recommended by IAPS to the Department of Education as an example of outstanding practice in independent education. After this visit they wrote, *“We were very impressed by the passion for teaching from every single member of staff and the high expectations of your pupils who are clearly very happy and very successful”*.

This has been a wonderful way to end the term.



I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas.

*Mrs P J Thompson*