

**MARCHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS**

Marcham Primary School are very proud of the extra-curricular clubs and opportunities we offer to our pupils. We are the only primary school, to our knowledge, which teaches the double bass and if you listen carefully on a Wednesday morning, you can hear the sweet sounds of bow against string as 30 children learn stringed instruments (violins, cellos and double basses) at the same time. Who could fail to be both proud and excited by that?

Our local authority offers a range of music experiences outside school hours. Some of our children have taken up these extra opportunities and have attended Music School or Rock and Pop workshops, here are their reports.

**Music School**

Music school is fun, but hard work because some of the tunes are quite hard to play. It is not all about playing my cello, we do lots of things like singing and playing the recorder. Music school is brilliant and I recommend that you give it a try. **GRACE HARDY**

Music School is really fun, because not only do you play the instrument you can play, you also sing and play the recorder as well. Firstly you play in an orchestra together with all instruments. It sounds really nice and if you get something wrong it doesn't matter. Secondly you even sing cool songs. You do breathing exercises which are really fun because you make silly noises. In the snack bar there are 1p sweets, and pick and mix. After that you go off in groups and learn your own instrument. Finally you do recorder practice which sounds really nice. **GEORGE SHARROCK**

During the half term holiday, I went to a two-day Rock & Pop Workshop at the Centre for Music in Bayards Hill School, Oxford. We were organised into bands with other children of similar ages. In my band we had two drummers – one of which was me. First, everybody went into the performance hall for an introduction, where the members of staff played Foxy Lady by Jimmy Hendrix, and told us where everything was. Then we got into our bands, and went to our rehearsal room, where we had to write our own song. The member of staff responsible for our band helped us to think about which chords we were going to use for different sections of the song. First the guitarist and keyboard player came up with a melody, and then we got some drum parts in! We rehearsed this a few times, and then we went to do our recording session, where we recorded our song. I played my drum part on the keyboard! Afterwards we went back to rehearsing, with a break for lunch, and then we rehearsed a bit more until the day was over.

On the second day of the workshop I started by setting my cymbals up again, as we had to take them down the day before. Then we rehearsed our song a few more times, and discussed where the drums should come in. Then we rehearsed a few more times. We had a break for lunch, followed by more rehearsing in order to perfect our performance. Then, in the afternoon, there was a huge gig where all the bands came together to perform the songs they had written. Our parents all came to watch. I felt rather sick and nervous while I was waiting for the gig to start. My band were second to play. Our song was instrumental, as we had no singer. It was quite Pink Floyd sounding, with a keyboard, guitarist and two drummers. I made a few mistakes towards the end, but it wasn't so bad. The other bands were all very good! One of the drummers was doing an incredibly fast pattern on the hi-hat, which was amazing! It was quite strange sitting down and clapping politely for these rock bands. After all the bands had played we loaded up our instruments, ready to go home. I can't wait until the holiday workshop – I have been practising my drumming everyday so hopefully won't make any mistakes next time!

**JACOB LANGLEY**  
April 2009

**Marcham School PTA**

Marcham PTA has used this month to arrange a couple of fun events for all to enjoy. On 17th May, we will be hosting a family fun day with a barbeque and games for both parents and children to enjoy.

The Summer Fete this year will be held on 4th July, so please pencil the date in your diary, and let us know if you are interested with helping out on the day.

The Marcham PTA has two aims. The first aim is to raise much needed funds to support the activities of Marcham Primary School. The second aim is to arrange fun events that all the community can enjoy. The funds raised so far have been allocated to various areas: providing more reading books for the children; funding a bus for the school trip; and providing a shoe bag for every child at the school in order to avoid the early morning shoe hunt which so many children partake in! There are many other projects we hope to be able to fund with your help.

If you are interested in joining the PTA, or have some ideas you would like to share with us, please email [marchamschoolpta@monkeynose.com](mailto:marchamschoolpta@monkeynose.com).

**WOOTTON & BOARS HILL JUNIORS**  
**Wootton Cricket Ground, Wootton Village**  
**Cricket coaching for boys and girls 6yrs+**

We will be starting our coaching sessions on Sat 2 May at: Wootton and Boars Hill Cricket Club, Wootton Village, Boars Hill OX1 5JL.  
 Time: 10am—12noon (parents must be on site during the sessions)

We are offering 10 sessions for £50 and a discounted rate for siblings of £25. All of our coaches are ECB qualified, CRB-checked and have attended first aid courses.  
 For more details contact David Spilsbury on 01865 735695 or email [davidspilsbury@hotmail.com](mailto:davidspilsbury@hotmail.com)

**Junior matches with other local clubs for older cricketers!!**  
**Both boys and girls are welcome**



**MARCHAM SOCIETY REPORT**  
**CHILD LABOUR IN 19TH CENTURY OXFORDSHIRE**

**Liz Woolley**

Most of us would think of child labour taking place in factories or coal mines, but even in rural areas like Oxfordshire children were part of the workforce. Many worked on farms, like the little boy sent to scare birds off crops. Left alone all day, he said he preferred to shout than to use the “clapper”, in order to hear a human voice and to stop himself from crying.

In north Oxfordshire, girls worked at making gloves and pillow lace. Sitting pressed against lace “pillows” for many hours, coupled with lack of fresh air, made them very susceptible to tuberculosis. Pauper children were seen as a burden on the parish, so overseers often paid employers to take them as “apprentices”, sometimes in faraway factories. One group of Oxfordshire boys were sent to work on Great Yarmouth fishing trawlers and several drowned. Factory and education acts during the 1870s regulated the employment of children, but well into the 20th century, school registers recorded children absent to help with seasonal farmwork, or minding younger siblings whilst their mothers worked. The long summer holiday was timed to begin when crops were ready for harvesting.

At the end of the talk, members of the audience contributed their own memories of childhood work.

**JF**