

MARCHAM SCHOOL NEWS

We've been having an exciting Carnival Christmas, using the rhythm of Calypso to celebrate the children's learning about St Lucia. As Sophie Dyer explains:

St. Lucia Day



On Friday 26 of November we had our sizzling St. Lucia Day. It was an event that everyone enjoyed including the teachers ! We had lots of fun and we even were able to have our own calypso musician, Alexander D' Great. Alex worked with Denman and Morland class to create our own calypso music.

Not to forget, Duffield and Anson class who made St. Lucia pictures, sang songs with percussion, and even made their own tropical fruit salad. Then in the afternoon all the classes performed and Alex told an Anansi story about a magic pot. So we all had a crackling calypso day and everyone had excellent fun.

By Sophie Dyer (This is an extract from the first edition of the children's newspaper)

We're using the theme of Christmas around the world at our end of term service. This is what we found out about Caribbean Christmas celebrations;

**"Have A Hot Sunny Christmas"
Christmas in the Caribbean**

The people who live in the Caribbean are just as keen on sending Christmas cards as we are. And, in years gone by, these cards would have pictures of snowmen and robins, just like ours. Today, however, times have changed, and these cards now show Christmas as it really is in the Caribbean – hot and sunny!

Christmas in the Caribbean is the time for 'spring cleaning'. Old furniture is polished or painted, and then covered over with a sheet to be unveiled on Christmas morning. Outside, the masquerade dancers pass through the village with dancers disguised as cows or horses by large masks. These 'animals' rush off into the crowd, and everyone pretends to be scared and run away shrieking and crying at the top of their voices.

THANKS FOR A CRACKING CHRISTMAS BAZAAR!!!

This year's Caribbean Christmas Bazaar was spectacular and well attended. It is wonderful that this was reflected in a record total of £1,550 which is truly MAGNIFICENT, so thank you to everyone involved.

LESLEY CLARK

We hope you all had a relaxing and happy Christmas break and wish you a prosperous New Year from all the children and staff at Marcham School.

TODDLER GROUP

After an exciting few weeks the Marcham baby and toddler group held our annual Christmas party in style with singing, balloons and all kinds of goodies to munch. Thanks to all parents who contributed: the prize for the prettiest ever Christmas biscuits has to go to Theresa - they were almost too good to eat (but we managed in the end!). We will be open over Christmas with the exception of Tuesday 28th December. Older children are, of course, welcome during the holidays, as are any new parents or carers. We are currently planning all sorts of activities for next term and will keep you posted via MADNews. If you'd like to get involved with the group, contact Clare Eveson-Roberts on 391731.

Marcham Baby and Toddler Group meets each Tuesday at All Saints' Church, from 0930 to 1130. Come along and have a chat, a cup of tea, and meet other parents and children. All welcome.

PLAYGROUP

It's fair to say that Playgroup has had a pretty unsettled time over the last term, with the move from our old building over to the playing field but we have now settled in and the children are very happy in their new environment. The period up to Christmas was full of activity with lots of excitement preparing decorations to take home and, of course, rehearsing for our Nativity Play, which was performed to an enthusiastic audience of parents, grandparents and children from the school.

The committee would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who have coped brilliantly in less than ideal circumstances at times, and a welcome back to Marion who is now back with us after having had major back surgery. Thanks also to Manda who stepped in at very short notice to help us out and really helped make the run up to Christmas special for the children. This term we are hoping to have news on establishing a proper outdoor play area. Remember that any parents who would like to be involved in the Playgroup committee are always welcome. We would also love to hear from any local people who have interesting skills or hobbies that they would like to come and share with the children.

CLARE HOLT

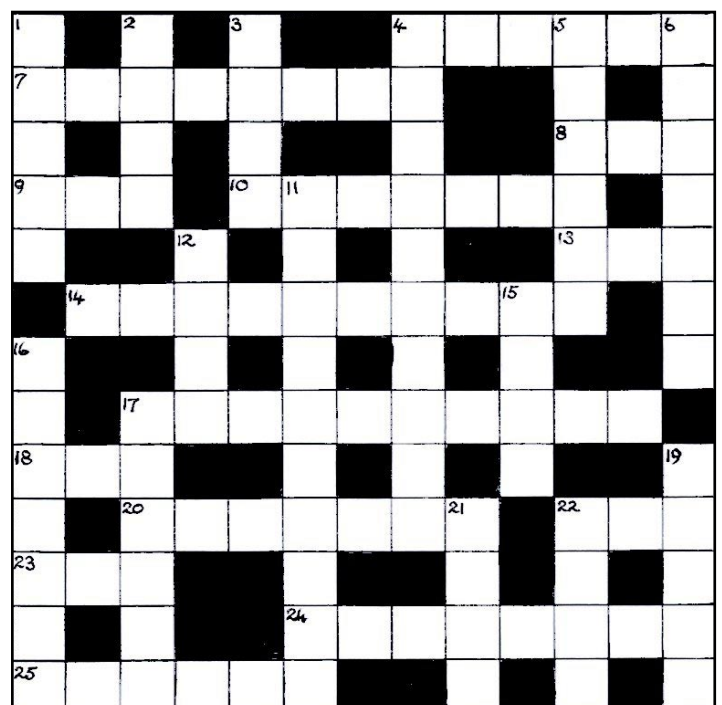
January Crossword by Alisa

ACROSS

- 4 Fruit (6)
- 7 Pasta ()
- 3 Limb (3)
- 9 Part of foot (3)
- 10 Bird (7)
- 13 Sheep (3)
- 14 Hairdresser (4.6)
- 17 New Year intention (10)
- 18 Fish eggs (3)
- 20 Least warm (7)
- 22 Oxford tutor (3)
- 23 Also (3)
- 24 Pistol (8)
- 25 School with pool (6)

DOWN

- 1 Void (5)
- 2 Piece of Land (4)
- 3 Cupid (4)
- 4 Biscuits (10)
- 5 Yellow powder (6)
- 6 Bit of orange (7)
- 11 Fancy sewing (10)
- 12 On one occasion (4)
- 15 Leave out (4)
- 16 Head of museum (7)
- 17 Previous conviction (6)
- 19 Cross (5)
- 21 Horse's gait (4)
- 22 Bird (4)



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