

HOBBIES AND AMBITIONS

MY HOBBY

Four years ago I started riding. My brother was six and I was three. I went to the Naval Stables. The lady who took us was called Sheila. She is a very good riding teacher. She always told me that my knees were not touching the saddle so she would put a penny between my legs and the saddle and see how long I could keep it there. When I was four I fell off my horse. The girl who was leading me came too close to me and her horse kicked my horse and my horse kicked back. The horse I was riding ran off and as he was running away he trampled on my tummy. The horse that I was riding was called "Merry Legs". He was my favourite horse.

Carolyn Jenkins (Class 1AS)

I am interested in Geology and have started collecting fossils. I started when I was seven years old and was helped with it at my old school in England. Most of my fossils come from Sweden and England. I have sponges, iron casts, corals and leaves in my collection.

Christopher Knight (Class 2AS)

My hobby is stamp collecting. I have a stamp album which holds 500 stamps. When I first started collecting stamps I entered a competition and won an album, a map finder, a magnifying glass, a tray, some stamp hinges, a badge, a picture of a very rare stamp and fifty stamps. Some time later my brother gave me a lot of stamps and now I have about five hundred, but about two hundred of them are 'swops'. I like saving stamps. My father bought me a big album and my brother put some of his into it. The people I send to keep sending me new stamps and I can buy them from their approval sheets. If I buy five shillings worth I can get two pages free. It is possible to buy a catalogue book with all the stamps in it for twelve shillings and sixpence.

Philip Sibbald (Class 2AS)

When I grow up I want to be a doctor. At the same time I hope to learn some foreign languages so that I shall be able to find my way about strange countries when I go on holidays. I want to be a village doctor and get to know all the people in the village. I would buy a car and visit my patients every day. My surgery would be decorated with bright cheerful colours to cheer my patients as they wait and I hope that my room will be sunny. The waiting room too will have some comfortable chairs.

John Instance (Class 2AS)

MY AMBITION

When I am eighteen I want to join the Royal Navy. I'm hoping to pass all the tests I have to do. I hope I will pass my test in the training ship too. I am hoping to become a helmsman aboard the Lion or an engineer aboard her. I will join the Navy because it is a good job. I might even be able to go to New York or Italy or other countries. I think I will get married and take my wife with me. If they don't allow this she will go by plane and meet me when my ship arrives in port.

A. Wood (Class 2B)

MY AMBITION

When I grow up I want to be in the Navy so that I can travel the world on a ship and go to other countries. I would see the world and do things on a ship, like being a diver and seeing all the wrecks of old ships. I would try to find lots of things under the sea.

Anthony Simpson (Class 2B)

MY AMBITION

When I grow up I want to be in the Navy because I can be a diver and go and see all the fish and octopus and coral and eels. Also I shall see wrecks and submarines and caves and torpedoes and then squids; big ones, small ones, all kinds of under water life because you never know what you might find. There are deep sea pilots, deep sea liners and huge lumps of sea weed, I might find a whale's ear. My dad did, and a star fish.

Mark Crane (Class 2B)

When I become a man I want to be a Vet. I have a little dog but he is in England now in quarantine because we are due to go home on 26th March. I hope to have him back in August. When I get him I am going to ask the vet if I may have a look around the kennels where the dogs stay during their quarantine period.

Paul Nethercott (Class 2AS)

MY AMBITION

My ambition is to be a Ballet dancer. I go to Ballet on Tuesday and Friday. My teacher is called Miss Attard. I have been going to Ballet since I was five, and have passed all my exams. My favourite Ballet Stars are Margot Fonteyn, Alicia Markova and Gillian Shane. There are lots of Ballet schools in England such as Sadlers Wells, Imperial and Legat School. There are many famous ballets like Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Les Sylphides, Giselle and the Nutcracker. There are other kinds of dancing; Ball-room dancing, Highland dancing and Foreign dancing.

Irene Liddle (Class 4B)

I like exploring caves. Once my friend came with me. We went into a large cave and found shells all over the ground. I found a big one but I could not get it out, so I took my penknife and stuck it underneath the shell. I prised it and it opened. We were excited then, but it was empty. We went on exploring the cave and found holes that went right up and ended outside.

Nicholas Davison (Class 2AS)

MY HOBBY

I like keeping animals and writing about them. It is always better to catch animals in the summer because more are awake then. During the winter many of them hibernate. I find snakes most interesting but care must be taken with them, especially to know the type of snake. Always keep a stick with two points on it to pin the snake's head down. My favourite animal is the guinea pig.

Kenneth Smith (Class 2AS)

STAMP COLLECTING

I enjoy collecting stamps. I have one which is worth one pound and another ten shillings. Grandad sends me most of my stamps. Now I have fifteen Tristan de Cunha stamps, a lot of Aden and I hope one day to have a "Penny Black". Strangely I have only got three Maltese stamps. That page in my album looks quite bare. I got my album for my birthday and Grandad gave me a Stamp Catalogue. I have got a lot of pairs but I cannot find anyone who will 'swop' with me. I have not stuck all my stamps into my album. I have about three hundred. I often see stamp offers in boys' papers but I have not tried any of them yet.

Robert Broadway (Class 2AS)

MY HOBBY

Stamp collecting is my hobby. It gives me a great deal of pleasure to set out the stamps under their country headings in my album. I have got one hundred and fifteen stamps altogether and will be getting some more soon. It is good fun looking out for different stamps on letters, tearing them off and then separating the stamps from the paper.

Simon Manning (Class 2AS)

MY AMBITION

When I grow up I am going to be a nurse.

I will look after sick people and make them well. I will learn to teach others. I will be kind to old people and make them happy.

M. Gage (Class 2B)

MY AMBITION

The job which I want to have when I grow up is very exciting to my point of view but some people may not like it. I want to be a Radio Operator.

I want to be a Radio Operator because you receive important messages which sometimes are in code. Also I want to follow my father's trade. I would go abroad as well, all over the world, on famous ships and war ships of all kinds.

If it came true I would have to go through a training course then I would be qualified to receive messages.

A. Budd (Class 4A)

WHAT I WISH FOR MOST OF ALL

I wish I could have my own horse, because I love horses and ponies. I would look after him so well and ride him to give him exercise every day. He would be so very happy, and so would I.

I would like him to be brown and white in colour, with a white mane, and a black star in the middle of his forehead. I would not care to have anything else or anything expensive.

It would be good fun riding in the field, jumping the hedges and the gates together. I would call him Brown-Whites because of his colour.

On weekends I would take him to the wood. I would take my airgun and we would hunt foxes. We would not kill them, just give them a fright. I would canter along on him and grab hold of branches and swing on them.

Richard Entwhistle (Class 4AX)

THE HISTORY OF A ROCK IN CEYLON

When I was young we went to Ceylon. It was great fun there. We lived at Trincomalee which is right on the coast.

I can remember climbing an enormous rock called Sigirya. It is four hundred feet high, and was once a palace. On the spiral stairway there are lions carved out of the rock.

I must explain the history of this rock. There was once a King called Dhatu Sen who was rather a mean and horrid man. He had ordered two people to be killed. The son of one of the people who was killed wanted revenge and helped by the King's own son, Kasyapa, put an end to Dhatu Sen.

The Sinhalese began to loathe King Kasyapa and the King's conscience began to haunt him. He found he could not bear to face his people and the Sinhalese began to shrink from him. That is the reason why the haunted King went to live on Sigirya, which means Lion Rock. Incidentally Sigirya was very well fortified already but the haunted king lost no time in making it stronger. That is the history of Sigirya and now you'll understand why there are lions on the spiral stairway.

Julia Binns (Class 4A)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

I rose from bed feeling very excited for today we were going to start our holidays and we were going to Sweden.

We caught a train to Dover and arrived there at about nine o'clock in the evening and after going through various barriers we finally arrived on board a cross channel ferry which was bound for Ostend in Belgium. It was quite a long journey to Ostend. When we arrived there, and after passing through the Customs, we got on a train. We travelled through Belgium and by the next morning had arrived in Germany. By sunset that day we were in the south of Sweden. We were going to stay with my aunt who lives in Stockholm.

We had a very pleasant holiday and I spent a lot of the time meeting relations. Sometimes we visited museums. The one that fascinated me most was the Vasa Museum. The Vasa was a new ship of the King's Navy in the seventeenth century. It set sail from a port where Slussun now is. It had not sailed very far when a sudden gust of wind blew it over. The captain of the ship had already noticed that the ship was a crank when a certain number of sailors crossed over to the other side. The ship then sank. In the museum they displayed coins, figures and parts of old cannons.

I stayed in Sweden for two months and had a wonderful holiday.

Christopher Knight (Class 2AS)

MY HOLIDAY IN CYPRUS

Two years ago we went to Cyprus to stay with our friends. We stayed in Famagusta. The beach was only a hundred yards away and we could walk down to the beach in our bathing costumes. The beach was five miles of golden, clean sand. I swam without my tyre on my birthday.

We went to the top of the Troodos mountains where we felt much cooler. I had to put a towel round me. On the way up we saw some purple heather. The scenery was magnificent.

One day we went to see the monks at the monastery of St. Barnabas. They painted Holy pictures and lived there on their own. Uncle Charles brought big water melons as big as footballs for sixpence each. When we went into the country dogs ran alongside the car and barked. Daddy barked back at them.

We had an interesting time at the ruins of Salamis. We were very lucky to see a camel train as there are so few in Cyprus. I had a ride on one of the camels but I soon got off because I did not like the smell of it.

We thought Cyprus was very beautiful and we all enjoyed our holiday.

Belinda Ousbey (Class 2AJ)

MOUNT ETNA

My family and I went to Sicily for the last five days of the holiday. Of all the visits we made the one to Mount Etna was the most enjoyable. We hired a car for the day and started off at about half past eight.

The road wound through the mountains in a series of hair pin bends. Above us we could see the peak in the clouds. At the top of the road there is a cable railway which goes right to the top of Etna. Going up in the cable cars there were German tourists with us. Six people are allowed in each car and they go up in pairs. Below us we could see the old craters.

When we got to the top of the cable-railway, which is 10,000 ft. up, it was much colder. The peak was no longer in the clouds which were now below us. The ground was covered with lava and this made it difficult to walk. We walked around and took some photographs, then came back to the cable-railway. We slowly came down to ground level.

Celia Finch (Class 4AX)

MY TRIP TO SICILY

We started off at five o'clock from Grand Harbour. There were three children on the M.F.V. which made it good fun because we were friends.

After ten minutes we were out on the rough Mediterranean Sea. We set a course for Sicily and at six o'clock were drinking hot soup after which we went to bed.

I think the most hair raising event was when the radio packed up and we had to turn back. Halfway back we got it working again.

At about three o'clock a huge wave came over the bows and soaked my friend who was sleeping up on deck. At dawn we were nearly at Syracuse in Sicily. A few of the students who were on board disembarked after breakfast. They were on a cycling holiday.

At nine o'clock we started off for Taormina. Before we arrived at Taormina we had to cross the great Bay of Catania which is about thirty miles from tip to tip. Just off the tip of Catania the engines packed in but after a bit of fiddling we got it going again. Thereafter it was plain sailing until Taormina where there was a great commotion trying to anchor. We just could not get in the right position. But at last we anchored safely.

Next day the students returned and another batch went off to Mt. Etna. We went off to Taormina which was only five miles away. After five days we went home to Malta.

Rodney Holyroyd (Class 4 A)

POLICEMEN

I have a library book about policemen. They have hand-cuffs and police dogs. They take the dogs out and train them to make them good.

I wish I was a policeman. What am I? I am a school boy.

Alan Fitzpatrick (Class 1 C)

BRIARS WOOD

I remember old Briars wood and the tree den we had. (By the way the other person who shared it is my best friend, John Rayner.) I lived about a hundred yards away from it. It was on very hilly ground on the edge of the main road.

The trees consisted of fir, poplar, oak and pine. They were very close and made the wood dark. Some were dark and some were light.

The summer is the best time to visit the wood and there are a lot of tracks including rabbits', hares', birds', and snakes'.

I would like to see the Red Wood forest with those 250 ft. giant trees. But I wouldn't like to try building a tree den in one.

Stephen Silcox (Class 4 AX)

A VISIT TO THE "GLOBE" THEATRE

(DURING THE REIGN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH I)

The sound of the trumpet echoed across the theatre as we all seated ourselves down to watch "The Merchant of Venice." Then the actors came on clothed in magnificent costumes. I knew at once that this performance would be a success.

Many kinds of noises came from down below where the people who were not so wealthy as myself were seated. For once I cast my eyes down from the performance to see where the noise was coming from, down below. The clamour was coming from some people who were shouting for pots of ale and tobacco. Several ladies were fussing at being pushed and having their dresses creased. Most of the apprentices were being rather rowdy because they didn't like the performance but I was enjoying myself immensely.

There were no women taking part in the performance, though there were a few ladies' parts. The acting was extremely good and the speaking was clear. When at last it was time to go I left the theatre feeling very disappointed that the end had come so quickly.

Angharad Thomas (Class 3A)

A TRUE STORY

My father once looked after Princess Anne and Prince Charles along with another man, Dick McKeown. It was 1954 when the Royal Yacht Britannia, with the children on board, set sail for Tobruk to meet the Queen who was returning from Australia. Prince Charles had an enquiring sort of mind - always asking questions. Here's a sample of the questions he asked: "Rutter, why is that ship there?" "What's it there for?" "When will it go away?" "Why are the people waving?" "Why is the band playing?" "How long will it play?" "How does it make such a noise?"

Two days out Charles discovered how to work a fire hydrant on the deck. Before anyone could intervene he had soaked himself, and Anne, from head to toe. From then on there was a game every morning. Anne switched on the hydrant which swept the deck with water while Charles walked about in the water with his trouser legs rolled up, like a seaman.

One day when a sailor was swabbing the deck, Anne went down on her hands and knees, picked up a piece of cloth and helped. McKeown said, "I never expected to see a Princess of England swabbing the decks and enjoying it." But the most comical sight of the return voyage was when Anne and Charles started walking about in size 10 seaboots which reached almost to their armpits.

Paul Rutter (Class 4A)

GENERAL WOLFE

James Wolfe was born at Westerham in Kent on the 2nd of January, 1727. Entering the army at 14, his intelligence and gallantry whilst on active service soon won him the regard of his superiors. On the 17th of February, 1759, he sailed with 9,000 men to destroy the French at Quebec in Canada.

Arriving in the St. Lawrence river in June, Wolfe laid siege to Quebec but the French Commander, General Montcalm, refused to be drawn into battle. With brilliant daring Wolfe took a force down stream to scale the 180 ft high cliffs to the plains of Abraham one and a half miles from the city.

In this strong position he waited for the French to advance. Only when they were forty paces distant did he give the order to fire but he was hit by a French musket ball and helped away so that his men would not see him fall. He died on the 13th of September, 1759 about 12 minutes after the French had been beaten.

Roger Cleave (Class 3B1)

A PARK

The park I like best out of all the parks I've been to is in Ipswich, a town in Suffolk.

Suffolk is nick-named "Sleepy Suffolk" because old folk who never hurry live there.

The park is about half a mile square. If you walk right round the park you have walked two miles. This is rather a long way to walk. In the corner of the park is a small amusement ground with a round-about, slide and swings. There are park benches and a cafe.

The things that attract me most are the wonderful lawns and in Spring the lambs.

Susan Tennant (Class 4AX)

GERMAN WOODS

When we went to Germany there were lots of forests and woods. In these forests roamed wild animals of all sorts; boars, deer, rabbits and the badger, as well as many others. The trees are very high, blotting out the sun, making the forest look dark and mysterious. Hunters, who live in small cabins, hunt the animals for their skins. Near my grandma's house there is a forest with a main road outside it, but as soon as you get inside all is quiet.

Sometimes the call of a cuckoo in a neighbouring tree or the tapping of a woodpecker, broke the silence. Most of the trees are firs which never lose their needles. In the Black Forest peasant homes are quite common. When I grow up I would like to go to the game-reserve in Africa.

Keith Morris (Class 4AX)

OUR MERCHANT NAVY

The merchant navy is made up of lots of shipping companies and sails its ships over all the seven seas, trading for Britain. They have all kinds and sizes of ships and carry cargo from matches to mallets. Two of the ships the merchant navy has are the Queen Elizabeth and the Queen Mary which go from Southampton to New York in about a week.

The merchant navy's next-to-largest ships are converted landing ships, three of these are named Empire Gull, Empire Grebe and Empire Tern.

These ships have bows which open and close for loading. Inside these ships it is like a big dark corridor. Some unusual ships are the train-carriers; these have railway tracks inside so that trains can drive on and off.

Jimmy Owen (Class 4AX)

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

When she was young Florence used to like playing nurses with her dolls. When she was older she asked her parents if she could be a nurse. Her parents were horrified and said, No.

One day while Florence was having a walk she heard a dog barking and wondered what was wrong with it. She went in the direction in which she thought she had heard the barking. When she arrived there she found a man moping and asked him what was wrong. He replied, "My dog has broken its leg." Florence asked him if she could see the dog. The man showed her to a barn nearby where a sheepdog lay. She asked the man if he would go and look for a piece of wood. Soon the old man came back with a piece of wood and Florence tore a piece of material off her skirt and put a splint on the dog's leg. She also told the man that the dog's leg would soon be better.

When she returned home she asked her parents if she could now be a nurse, but they still said no. Florence, however, was not to be beaten that easily and at last she managed to persuade her parents to agree to her wish. She selected a few nurses and went to a place where there was fighting in the Crimean War. She did many things for the people who were injured and was nicknamed "The Lady of the Lamp."

Barbara Patterson (Class 3A)

A GARDEN

My own garden is situated in the little seaside town of Scarborough. It was in the country part of Scarborough, and it was very quiet. We were about 400 yards from the sea, and it was in a street called, Hillcrest Grove, number 8.

It had three or four trees in it and they were all mountain ash. We had two lawns which were quite long and wide. We grew lovely flowers but the nicest were the roses. We had a lot of others too. We didn't actually have a fish-pond, but a big round basin with a net over it. We used to catch the fish from Scalby Beck which was about two hundred yards from us. We had a bird table in our garden and every morning we used to put food out for the birds.

The best time to visit it would be in Spring because all the flowers would be blooming then and the trees would have lots of red berries.

Paul Sibbald (Class 4AX)

TEACHER

My teacher has a raincoat that looks like the sea. The golden buttons look like ships sailing on the sea.

David Bowman (Class 3C)

GUESS WHO

Half in the forest, or maybe at home,
The rest in the butchers, with plenty of bone,
Put them together and then you will find,
The certain teacher that I have in mind.

Kevin Walsh (Class 4A)

GUESS AGAIN

A tall and musical man is he
Who takes several classes for P.E.
His name asks a question, he makes me sigh.
I never could quite understand Why.

Linda Erickson (Class 4A)

JUNIOR STORIES

WHAT I LIKE BEST

My favourite meal is Chow mein and jelly and peaches. I like roast beans on toast, and apples and pears. I like fish and chips and banana split and toffees and chocolates. I like birthday cake and sweets. I like sugar ricicles, sugar smacks and cornflakes, ice-cream, gob-stoppers, smarties and bubble gum.

Susan Fletcher (Class 1BS)

THE MEETING

Once in a wood all the animals that had horns were going to have a meeting about animals with sharp teeth. Now a fox who was nosey heard this and he wanted to go to the meeting, but he knew they would not let him in as he had no horns. He had an idea. He went into the woods and found two long sticks, and went home and stuck them onto his head so they looked like horns. Then he went to where the meeting was being held. On the way he met Mr. Bull. "Where are you going?" said Mr. Bull. "I am going to the meeting," said the fox. "What is your name?" said Mr. Bull. "Black Fox." "You are a cheat," said Mr. Bull. "You gave yourself away".

Jill Matthews (Class 1AJ)

THE BEAUTIFUL FAIRY

Once upon a time there was a beautiful fairy whose name was Tinker-bell. One day as Tinker-bell was playing she saw some pretty flowers and said, "I must pick some to make my house gay".

When Tinker-bell had enough she went home and inside she saw an elf. Tinker-bell said, "What are you doing here?" The elf replied, "I knew you were beautiful and I want to marry you".

"Well you can live with me and get married". And the elf did.

Valerie Evens (Class 1AJ)

THE GOLD CROSS

Once upon a time there lived a pedlar. This pedlar had a daughter who was very beautiful and Belinda was her name. Belinda had a beautiful gold cross with a gold chain.

One day as Belinda walked down the steps, going up to the door, she tripped. She picked herself up again. When Belinda got to the park she saw all the other children jingling their beads. It was then she remembered her gold cross and chain.

On the step White Dove had flown down and picked up Belinda's greatest treasure and took it up to Wise Woodpecker.

Wise Woodpecker told her to take it back to Belinda. White Dove lived with Belinda happily for the rest of her life.

Richenda Milton-Thompson (Class 1AJ)

THE FAIRY

One day a fairy who was a woodland godmother, was in her house brushing the floor when there was a "Tap, tap" on the door. She hurried to the door saying, "Oh dear, who can that be at this time of the morning?"

It was Mrs. Rabbit. "My darling little Susan has got caught in the brambles and she is bleeding all over". "Well bring her to me," said the woodland godmother, "and I will see to her". She put a little MAGIC cream on and in a minute it was better. Mrs. Rabbit gave her a woodland pound and off she went. There was no more trouble after that.

Julia Parsley (Class 1AS)

ANGELA'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Once upon a time there lived a little girl called Angela. She was four years old. Her birthday was on Christmas Day. Angela was so excited she kept skipping up and down because it was Christmas Eve and she was having a Christmas party. She would have extra presents. At last it was bed-time and Angela was asleep in a second. At midnight Santa Claus came and left lots of lovely presents for her. Angela woke up early next morning and had opened her presents in a flash. Then she asked mummy, "Where is my birthday present?" "Go and look in the stable," laughed mummy. At once Angela rushed to the stable and found a big brown horse there. Angela often rode it.

Margaret Young (Class 1AS)

THE TWO RABBITS

In the middle of Acorn wood, there was an oak tree, and inside was a mother rabbit and two small baby rabbits. Their names were Spot and Speckie. When they were old enough to go out without getting lost their mother sent them to seek their fortune. They were not going very fast because they were tired. Suddenly they heard a noise. It was an owl. They were very frightened but the owl didn't harm them so they went on their way. They heard a growl. It was a bear. The bear clicked his teeth. Spot and Speckie were very frightened. Then the bear jumped right on top of them and ate them up.

Christianne Morris (Class 1AS)

THE MOLE AND THE BEAR

One day Ben the Mole was digging his hole when Sam the Bear came along. Sam often tried to catch Ben to eat. So Sam was Ben's enemy. Sam tried to grab Ben that day so Ben asked Mr. Brown the bee to help him. Mr. Brown said he would sting Sam. Sam did howl and he never went near Ben again.

Andrew Corcoran (Class 1AS)

BLACK VELVET

Not long ago there lived a horse called Black Velvet. Her master was very cruel to her. So one day Black Velvet decided to run away. That night, when all was dark, she quietly pushed with her side against her gate and suddenly it opened.

Black Velvet whinnied for joy, but very softly, in case her master should wake up. Then she trotted quickly away into the darkness. By morning she was at a circus. She neighed and out of a caravan came a ballerina whose name was Anna. She came up to Black Velvet and patted her. Then Anna led her away to the Ringmaster of the circus. His name was Mr. Ranch. When he saw Anna with a horse he did look surprised. "Where did you get that horse from?" "I just saw her when I came out of my caravan. First of all I heard a neigh. Thinking it was one of the circus horses I came out to have a look". "I see," said Mr. Ranch. "Oh, just a minute, Anna. Do you think she could perform in the circus ring?" "I think so Mr. Ranch. Anyway we could give it a try," said Anna.

So that very evening Black Velvet was there in the circus ring. She gave a very successful performance. The audience clapped and cheered.

So Black Velvet was allowed to stay with the circus. The next morning Anna tried to think of a name for Black Velvet. "I know as her fur is black and soft I shall call her Black Velvet".

Catherine Gardner (Class 1AS)

JOHN

One day John was picking flowers in his own garden. His Daddy had given him a patch and he was very pleased with himself for he had watered it every day. Now he was picking flowers for his mummy.

Jennifer New (Class 1AS)

THE LITTLE FLOWER

I am a little flower. My name is Rose. I have red buds and that is why my name is Rose. I live by myself in a wood. I stand by a pool with a nice tree called Green buds. It was a very nice wood I lived in. There is a sunflower. It is yellow. It's name is Rosely. I think it is a nicer name than my name. Rosely is kind to me. She stands by the pool too. I like her very much. We like to talk and at night we go to sleep. In the morning we get up and have breakfast and we talk. Sometimes we have dinner. Greenbud, our tree is very kind to us.

Kim Ford (Class 1BS)

SAMMY THE SUBMARINE

I am Sammy the Submarine. I can go very deep. I have good adventures when I go down to the bottom of the sea. I like my captain because he steers me well and never lets me crash. Now I will tell you one of my adventures.

I was going along one day when a storm blew up and a big current started and I could not move. I had to turn round and go back to Cyprus. Anyway I went. It was very good because the current was going that way. Just then we bumped into something black and I was surprised. That had never happened before because I had such a good captain. Then do you know what happened? Some water came out from the top of it and I realised it was a whale. Luckily the whale did not do anything but go away. The storm calmed down and I went happily on to where I was going, but I never bumped into a whale again.

Anthony Wright (Class 1BS)

TOBBY SWAN

My name is Toby Swan. I live in Africa. I usually go to a quiet lake. My feathers are white as snow. Most of the days are sunny. At night I sleep in the rushes. I have a brother whose name is Buddy. We go under the water to catch fish. Nearby there lives a woodpecker. He pecks at our bills and sometimes we get very angry. In the summer it is very hot and we just swim in the lake.

Anne Taylor (Class 1 BS)

MY DREAM

One night I had a strange dream. I dreamt that my friend Gary and I went into Space in XL 5. When we landed on the planet we got caught by Space Robots. Then I woke up.

Ian Sheppard (Class 1BJ)

THE FAVOURITE TOY

Once upon a time there was a little girl called Sally. Sally had a golden ball. It was her favourite toy.

Every day she played with it, but one day it went in the pit. She cried and cried until the tears poured down her face. Then a kind rabbit came and said, "What is the matter?" "I have lost my ball", said Sally. "I will get it for you", said the rabbit. He did.

Lindy Allfrey (Class 1 BJ)

LIVING ON A DESERT ISLAND

It was in the year 1832, as I stood on the jetty, that I saw a large sailing ship coming into the harbour.

I was with my father and as he walked away I did not follow him. Instead I ran to the end of the jetty, jumped into a boat and rowed to the other side of the harbour where I climbed aboard the big sailing ship.

Without my father's permission and God's blessing we set sail for New York. It was a long voyage and several days later a great storm broke out. The captain said that we had to fire the signal gun to find out if there were any more ships on the sea, but there was no answer.

Everybody lay on their bunks wondering if they were going to be alive the next day. Soon the ship started to sink so we lowered a boat and drifted to a nearby island. A giant tidal wave rose up and gushed over the boat drowning everybody except me. I lay on the beach half dead. I survived for a few days on coconuts and on the sixth day I saw a ship in the bay. I lit a fire and they saw the smoke and took me aboard their ship and back to England. I am lucky to be alive.

John Aylett (Class 2AJ)

THE HOUSE OF ADVENTURE

Jeremy, John and Jill were just walking up the path to their house. It was new to them, because they had just come home from boarding school, and their parents had bought it when they were at school. When they had said hullo and kissed their mother and father, they hurried to explore the house. After exploring the house they asked mother which were their bedrooms. John went to his bedroom, looked in the wardrobe and he saw a knob in it. He touched the knob just to feel what use it would be and suddenly a panel in the wardrobe slid back as if by magic. John quickly called Jeremy and Jill. They came running in and said "What's the matter?" and he showed them the hole and they all said, "Let's explore it". So John went and fetched a torch and they went down the ladder which was leading from the panel in the wardrobe. When they reached the bottom they found a big trunk and lots of small trunks.

They opened the trunks and in one of the small trunks there were bars of gold. In the others there were cigarettes and French wine. Then Jeremy said, "This must have been smuggled from France," and Jill said, "It must have been the people who last lived in this house". "Yes, it must have been them because this is new wine," said John. So they told their mother and father and they rang the police and the police found the people who last lived in the house and accused them of smuggling.

John Cole (Class 2AJ)

A VISIT TO THE FARM

One day I was playing a game when the postman came. He posted a letter through the letter-box and inside it was an invitation to my Aunty's farm. Of course I was very pleased about it. I showed it to mummy and she said I could go.

When I got there Aunty said that she had a surprise for me and what do you think it was? - a little puppy. I was so pleased about it. I said, "Thank you very much." When I got home mummy said, "What have you got there?" and I said, "A little puppy. Aunty said I could keep it."

Glynis Pilsworth (Class 1 BJ)

THE MISCHIEVOUS PIXIE

There once lived a little pixie. His name was Bill. Nearly everyone called him Pip. He lived up in a great big oak tree with the rest of his family. He was a naughty little thing and sometimes people complained about him to the police. One day he was very naughty. You see, a lady had dropped her purse and it had popped open. The only money she had was her money to get the bus to Toy Town. The pixie saw the money, grabbed it and ran away. The pixie took it to his house in the tree and used it as a plate for nuts. This lady had no money now. She sat crying until an old man came by. He gave the old lady some more money. The pixie had just received an invitation to a fancy dress party from his uncle Tinkle. He began to think about what he should wear and went off to get tea. While he was doing this the door bell rang. When he opened the door there stood the same old man who had helped the unhappy lady. It was Uncle Tinkle! "I have heard what you have been doing so you cannot come to my party," he said. Poor Pip sobbed but he learnt his lesson. He never stole money again.

Linda Oliver (Class 2AJ)

THE MAN FROM MARS

Once I was walking along a road near Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope when I saw a green rocket coming towards me. Then I saw the telescope swing round, pointing at the rocket. Suddenly there was a crash, and the rocket had landed. I ran up, and just as I reached the rocket, a door swung open and a little blue man climbed out. I asked him where he had come from. He said he had come from Mars. I said that was strange because I thought there were no men on Mars. Then he vanished in a puff of blue smoke and I never heard of him again.

Stuart Painting (Class 2AJ)



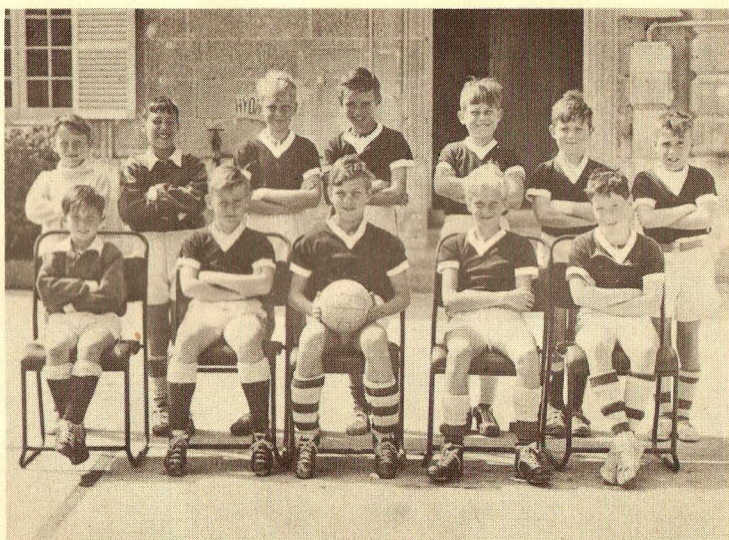
Infants' Percussion Band



Infants' Activities



Verdala "A" XI



Verdala "B" XI

PETE THE MISCHIEVOUS PIXIE

One morning a pixie named Pete was having his breakfast when he suddenly felt very excited. "What's the matter with you?" his brothers asked. "Oh I have been asked to go and play with Gog." So an hour before dinner Pete set out to find his friend Gog. Now Gog was a pixie too and when Pete knocked on the door Gog received Pete kindly. After dinner the two went out. "Now we are going to see a little girl called Janet," Gog kept on saying. They came to Toyland and to a little cafe called 'Toffy Bar'. A toy mouse served them. They went out of Toyland and quite soon they came to Janet's house. "We are here at last," Gog said. They went into the garden and switched on the tap and left it running all night. Pete and Gog slept in a flower which closed up. In the morning Janet found the pixies. She had turned the tap off and she wondered who had done it! Then Janet and the pixies lived together having lots of fun.

Jane Marston (Class 2 AJ)

THE VILLAGE FAIR

My name is Hogg. I am standing on the Common near the village church. Today is exciting for it is Fair Day. I can see lots of gay stalls. Snout is just coming along the path. We are going round the Fair together. I can see the Lord of the Manor. I had better keep out of his way because I stole some of his apples last week. We are going to see the strong wrestlers first. They fight to see who can win the ram. There is Tom the Miller who is a good archer. We saw him shoot and he hit the white with an arrow. There are the quarter staffs. I am going to have a go at bob apple. I have got an apple. There is a dancing bear. I am also going to see the dancing lady. It has been an exciting day. It is time to go home now.

Christopher Everden (Class 2AJ)

THE MONSTER OF GOLDEN HILL

Golden hill was bright yellow. Everybody admired it. But if you dared to put your foot on it you were very brave. It was haunted by the Golden Monster. He was nine feet tall. Many a knight tried to kill him but not one of them succeeded. One dull day a Prince came to the city gate. He had heard of the monster, he told the people, but said no more. He became invisible by putting on a cloak, then he galloped up the hillside. The monster was asleep under a tree. The Prince cut off his head in one minute. The prince went and told the King his story. So the King and his people lived happily ever afterwards.

Rosemary Gledhill (Class 2 AJ)

THE LITTLE GIRL

A little girl called Gillian went walking into the woods. As she walked along the paths she gathered flowers and loved to smell their sweet scent. "These are lovely flowers," she said to herself. As she walked on she saw a little boy. He was sitting by the side of the path and was crying. Gillian bent over him and said, "What is the matter?" "I cannot find my mother," he replied. "Where do you live?" Gillian asked. "In a little village the other side of the woods," he said with the tears rolling down his cheeks. "Don't cry, I will take you there," said Gillian. "But perhaps it would be better to take you to my house and ask my Daddy to take you home". So they went home and Gillian's father took the little boy to his home in his motor car.

Stuart Aggett (Class 2AS)

THE TWINS

There was once a little boy called Timmy who had a sister Janet. They were twins. One fine sunny morning when the twins woke up Timmy said, "I wish we could go to the beach." "So do I," said Janet, biting her toes. This was one of her habits. They dressed and went downstairs and their mummy gave them their breakfast. After breakfast their mummy said, "How would you like to go to the beach?" "Oh yes, please," said the twins. Their daddy put them in the car and off they went. When they arrived at the beach they changed and went straight into the sea and had a fine time until their daddy called them out. "Come here," he said, "It is time for lunch." So the twins came out and ate their lunch and after lunch they had a snooze. They woke up at three o'clock and that was time to go home. Daddy put the tent in the car and away they went. When they reached home they went to bed and dreamt of the lovely day they had spent.

Anne Hooper (Class 2 AJ)

LIVING ON MY DESERT ISLAND

Have you ever thought what you would do if you had to live alone on a desert island for several months? Of course you would need proper food and water more than anything else. Let's say that we have supplies of food and water. Now what else shall we take? Let's say that we can only take what we can carry. I would take with me a tent; a good water-proof one for shelter from the rain and from the hot sun. I would store my food there and other things like a gun and a compass. I would use my compass to find my way there, and, when I was exploring the island, to find my way back to my tent. I would take a magnifying glass and use it to light a fire from the heat of the sun. Candles would be all right to use at night. I would need matches when I could not use my magnifying glass. A penknife would be an important thing to have. I like fishing so I would take my fishing rod.

Robert Pannell (Class 2AJ)

BROWNIE RUN ABOUT

One day I was walking along the road when suddenly I saw a little brownie dash out from a hedge. He smiled at me and said, "Come with me to fairyland". Before I could even reply I could feel myself shrinking. The hedge seemed to grow larger and larger. The brownie told me that his name was Run About. He explained that he got his name by running about taking messages for the fairy folk. As we travelled on our way we passed some biscuit trees. I was tempted to pick some dainty chocolate fingers but Run About hurried me on my way explaining that there were plenty more in the fairy capital. At last we came to a little house with no door. I was rather puzzled but Run About said that in Fairyland doors were not required. Soon I was received by the Fairy Queen in her Palace. After feasting and fairy dancing it was time for me to return - the last thing I remember was saying, "Bye bye I will come and see you again".

Terry Hamer (Class 2AS)

A WALK IN SPRING

One day Aileen and Bruce thought that as it was a nice day it would be pleasant to take a walk in the country.

The countryside was a colourful sight to see. As they walked down the lane they came to a field. The field was golden with daffodils. Along the hedgerows there were crocuses and primroses. Just to look at it filled them with pleasure and happiness. To make the picture gayer lambs were gambling and frisking in the meadows.

On their way back the children saw smoke rising and firemen rushing along the lane. The fire was at the farmhouse and the owner was standing outside. Aileen and Bruce watched the firemen at work for a little while and then went on. They thought that they would pick some spring flowers for their mother. Mother was so pleased with them and gave the children a slice of their favourite cake as a reward.

Luzi Ann Rodriguez (Class 2AS)

JANE THE ELF

One day I saw an elf. Her name was Jane. I did not see her for long. She stepped into a flower petal and was gone. I peeped and saw her fast asleep. She had golden hair, a pink dress and sparkling shoes.

Susan Lowe (Class 2 AJ)

MY LIFE AS A TEDDY BEAR

I had just left the factory where I had been made and was speeding along the road to the shop that I was going to be sold at. The shop I was going to was called KNEES. After a long and bumpy ride I arrived at the toyshop and with a lot of other toys I was placed on a shelf.

It was getting near Christmas when a little girl and her mother came into the shop. The little girl said that she would like me for Christmas. Her mother said nothing and just walked past me. The following day the little girl's mother, Mrs. Latta, came into the shop, on her own and bought me and took me to her house. I was wrapped in a very attractive box. It must have been Christmas Eve for the following day I was unwrapped by the little girl. Her name was Judy. She placed me in her toybox.

Every night at midnight all the toys came to life and we had such fun dancing and playing games. One night a little tin soldier fell out of his box. All the toys including sulky Bruce Bulldog helped to put him back in, but he had made so much noise doing this that Judy heard us and had got out of bed. She gave us all a good spanking and put us back in our proper places. I was the only one she would play with on the following day.

Judy had just left me in the garden when her little brother John picked me up and threw me into the fish pond. He then went and told Judy. Poor Judy nearly cried her eyes out and John got a good spanking. He deserved it too. I think so - don't you?

Gillian Palmer (Class 2AS)

AFRICAN RALLY

I was feeling nervous for this was to be the first time for me to take part in the African Rally. The sun beat down on all the starters and all were very hot. One day the previous week my boss had told me that I was going to have a practice run in a Sunbeam Alpine, together with another driver driving a Jaguar E. That car was much too fast on the hills for me to catch it. In the rally itself I was given an Aston Martin to drive. The race started at ten o'clock in the morning. I started after the Jaguar E so at some stage I would have to overtake it. A surprising thing happened. On our way up a hill a wild animal jumped out onto the road. The Jaguar driver had to slow down and I was able to flash past him. I was so pleased and it seemed that now nothing could stop me. I passed car after car and went hurtling for the winning post, but just as my car crossed the line it skidded and I was taken by surprise. I fought to stop it turning over, but I was too late. I broke my arms and legs and had to give up motor racing.

Keith Gauld (Class 2AS)

CHUM

I was in the woods with Chum, my Grandmother's dog. Chum and I were playing chase and foolishly we strayed deeper and deeper into the wood. We came to a clearing in the wood surrounded by tall, dark elm trees. I soon realised that Chum and I were lost and I wanted to cry, but because I am nine years old I fought the tears back. Suddenly Chum growled. He pushed me with his head to a nearby tree. I knew that he wanted me to get up into the tree so I climbed to one of the low branches and hauled Chum up after me, using a piece of old sackcloth which was lying nearby.

We were hardly hidden in the branches when I nearly fell off in fright. Two thieves I had heard of on the news appeared. Chum jumped down and started to snap at their ankles so I joined him and threw stones at them. I knocked them both out. "So you knocked them out!" There was a big policeman standing over me. "Good work," was all I heard after that. When I awoke I found that I was at home in bed. Everybody was making such a fuss of me. A cheque for £1 was by my bed. I was able to buy a new collar and lead for Chum.

Janet Instance (Class 2AS)

MY LIFE AS A DOLL

Soon after I had been made I was placed in a bumpy lorry and taken to a big store. There a very pleasant looking man bought me.

I was then carefully put into a comfortable box and a sheet of pretty paper wrapped around me. I fell asleep and when I awoke I was being rocked in someone's arms. It turned out to be my little mistress Susan.

That night I was placed in a doll's cot and covered up with warm comfortable bed covers. I was dressed in a lilac party dress with five stick-out petticoats. My dress had roses on it. I had other dresses but none as pretty as the one I had on. Susan named me Sugar Plum Fairy. I had real long golden hair and clear blue eyes.

When Susan's brother came to see me he said, "She looks daft." Susan said that I must go to school. There she wrote lots of lines on the blackboard. I hated baths and I hated the twins Billy and Bobby for they were twin boy dolls. The other toys made me Queen Lilac. I had a crown made from card and cotton wool. At my coronation Billy crowned me.

I loved being rocked and fed. I ate the gold and coloured balls from the Christmas cake. In my hair I wore a flowery headband or a lilac ribbon.

Heather Smillie (Class 2AS)

A TREASURE SHIP OF THE ARMADA

During a holiday at a quiet Cornish village I read of an interesting local legend. This was that a Spanish treasure galleon had been sunk at Demons' Cove, nearby. I decided to have a look round, though I do not believe in legends.

The next day I took my equipment and went to Demons' Cove. I had gone down quite a way when I spotted a dark shadowy shape shimmering in the still waters. Rainbow fish flitted to and fro across the dark form.

I went nearer. "It must be the galleon," I thought. The object was covered in mud and long, wavy seaweed grew here and there. My air was running out now, however, so I surfaced and made for home.

The next day I came back with a special hose for washing away mud. When the mud had gone I entered to explore. How magnificent the galleon must have been at the time of the Armada. I came to a door of rotten woodwork, which, with one heave, broke. Bars of silver, gold, Spanish doubloons and jewels all came tumbling out. I had discovered the Spanish treasure galleon.

That afternoon I returned, bringing other skin divers, each with his share of bags. We filled the bags with treasure, surfaced and handed them to people on a motor launch.

Two days later the work was finished and the story was in the headlines. I was allowed to keep a ruby but the rest of the treasure went to the Crown. I shall never forget that exciting adventure.

Helen Gardner (Class 3 A)

Dear Peter,

Thank you very much for the letter you sent me enclosing the foreign stamps. Today it has been very warm and the temperature is about eighty-five degrees. I went swimming today and the water was seventy-six degrees.

How are you getting on with Cubs? I am progressing very well at Cubs and was awarded my Leaping Wolf and a book about the things you do at Scout Meetings.

How is your dog Sandy getting on? I expect he has grown quite big since I last saw him.

Since I last wrote to you I have moved into another block of flats. We are on the ground floor and have a small garden and a well. This summer we planted some tomato plants and we have had about thirty lbs. of tomatoes from them so far.

Please give your parents my best wishes. I hope you will visit us soon.

Yours sincerely,
Allan Clift.

Allan Clift (Class 4AX)

THE HELPERS

Long ago there was a little old house and in the house lived a poor man and his wife. The house was cold and dull inside and there was not very much food for the old couple to eat. They longed to be rich with a nice warm house and plenty to eat.

One day when they were out looking for firewood they heard somebody shout for help. They ran to the edge of a cliff and saw that a man had fallen over. He was hanging on to the branch of a small tree which was growing on the side of the cliff. The old man found a piece of rope and with the help of his wife pulled the man to safety. The man said, "Thank you very much for being so helpful," and gave the old man and his wife three pounds each. They were very happy.

Next day the old man and his wife went to town and bought a light, a fire and some food. On the way home they were passing a house when once more they heard a cry for help. They saw smoke coming from a window. They ran into the house and helped to carry out a very old man and then put out the fire. The old man was very pleased and gave them a national lottery ticket which turned out to be the winning ticket. They won thirty thousand pounds and lived happily ever after, helping everyone they could.

Christopher Gorman (Class 4C)

A MYSTERY

The valuable necklace was missing. Tom and Jean looked at each other in dismay. Their mother's most precious possession was gone from its box on the dressing table, and all because of their carelessness in leaving the window open.

There was a tree in their garden and it was very high. In the tree there lived a magpie. It had flown in the window and had opened the lid with its beak and had stolen the necklace and flown to the tree.

Tom and Jean were looking everywhere for their mother's necklace. They had been looking for the necklace for a month, every day, when they came home from school. Their mother told Tom to go to Scotland Yard. So he went. The sergeant had not known about the missing necklace so he advertised in the papers for them.

Tom went home and told his mother what the police sergeant did and went to bed. The next day they read the paper and they found nothing about the necklace. They went on with their breakfast. Jean went upstairs to lock the jewel box and in it was the precious necklace with the magpie perched on top of the box.

Carolyn Duffield (Class 4AX)

MY STRANGE ADVENTURE

In the middle of World War II, I was flying off the coast of a little island. Suddenly I ran out of fuel and I was forced to land. I spotted a smooth sand bank. It was a little way from the shore. I sprang out of the cockpit and swam to the shore. I sighted a small canoe. I walked along the shore and heard tom-tom drums. Before I could speak I was surrounded by hostile natives. They came up to me and crowned me with flowers. We walked along the beach and they took me to my plane which they were decorating. They must have thought I was a God from the sky the way they treated me. One day their chief was taken ill and I sent by radio a message for some medical supplies. A few days later they arrived and the chief was soon well again.

Robert Walton (Class 4B)

A FAMILY I FOUND

It was a spring day, cool and sunny. The birds were singing and I felt like going for a walk in the woods.

Under the shade of beech, oak and elm trees, I played with the rabbits. Soon, along came my sister, Julie. In her arms she held the tiniest kitten I have ever seen. "It was found beneath the willow tree!" she exclaimed. "That is the only willow in the wood, and the dear little thing must have been born in the hollow trunk," I said.

Rushing to the willow we found four other kittens. At first they were frightened, but it was so sweet to see them huddle closer to their mother. Julie told me her plan and I agreed to take them home that night.

Once home we put our pocket money together and found we had enough to buy a kitten basket. Setting off for the pet shop we talked of nothing else but the pets we had found.

The man in the shop stared at us with goggle eyes. It was too funny for words. Purchasing our basket my sister looked around at the puppies which looked so forlorn. She felt sad and began to cry. We went home quickly, as the kittens still had to be collected.

As soon as we had taken the basket home we went to collect the kittens. The wood was growing dark so as soon as the five kittens and the mother cat had been collected we rushed home.

Our pets were named Pinky, Perky, Pixie, Pip and Petal. The mother cat, named Tinker, we hope will soon settle down with her family.

Michele Young (Class 4A)

ONE WINTER'S DAY

One winter's day my friend and I went skating. My friend looked at a sign post and it said, "Danger, Thin Ice." She said it had been up a long time and not to take any notice of it so we went on. Not more than a second later she fell into the water. I was frightened, but luckily a man nearby came and helped me to fish her out. She was shivering with cold. The man had a car so he drove us home. The next day I went to visit her and found her in bed with a cup of cocoa, and a tin of cough sweets by the bed. I asked her how she was and she said, "I've got flu."

Teresa Howland (Class 4 B)

THE OLD MANSION

By a country lane stood an old mansion. It had stood there for many years and was once the home of a very rich family. It was a huge building and was now old and crumbling. Two great lions carved out of stone adorned the entrance like watchful sentries. Above the door was a sundial which usually caught the attention of the passer-by.

The door was made of oak and had massive doorknockers in the shape of dolphins. As I opened the door I came into a long hallway with many doors leading from it. At the end of the hallway I entered a large room which, at one time, was the sitting-room. A mantelpiece was over the old fireplace. There was a window at one side of the room. Some of the glass panes were broken. The kitchen, which was next to the sitting-room, was spacious, and had an old fashioned hearth. The other rooms on the ground floor looked alike in size and shape and had a deserted air about them.

Upstairs, there were five rooms, three of which overlooked the garden. The other two were bigger rooms with French windows leading out on to a balcony. At the top was a large attic which was dusty and covered with cobwebs.

When I first saw this empty house I thought what a good place it would be to play in.

Marie Dewhurst (Class 4A)

THE SILLY BOY

One day Philip's mother was getting him ready to go out. They were going for a walk. When Philip and mummy were ready they put on the dog's lead. The dog was called Tikka. When Philip's mother had found a place for Philip and Tikka to play she sat down on the rocks.

She thought Philip was quiet. She went to see what he was doing. She found that he was walking through some water with his shoes and socks on. Philip's mother went into a shop and she told the lady what had happened. The lady laughed too.

Jane Hockett (Class 3B1)

SPACE TRAVEL

At Cape Kennedy in U.S.A. scientists had built a special rocket that could stand any degree of heat on the moon. Colonel Robinson, U.S.A.F. had volunteered to man the rocket and was preparing for his adventure into space. He had been in the service for eighteen years and had had many experiences at flying. To be qualified for this mission one had to be physically fit and mentally alert.

On October 3rd, 1965 the count down started, and the take-off was a success. As the Colonel streaked through outer space Captain Jackson spoke to him on the loud speaker. "How is it up there and are you all right?" he asked anxiously. The Colonel replied, "Well sir, the gravity is losing, otherwise I'm all right". Just then he saw a meteor coming straight for him. Quickly he radioed base, "Change course, meteor!" and he just missed it.

When the Colonel reached the moon he put on his special equipment and set out to explore. He saw many craters and mountains. There were no streams or rivers and everything was very strange and quiet. The Colonel searched the planet but there was nothing living to be found. He wondered if there would be a future base there. He radioed base and told the Captain what he had seen and took off. On his way home he saw many asteroids and meteors. He landed in the Pacific Ocean where the U.S.S. Enterprise (C.V.A. 65) picked him up. When he returned to Cape Kennedy the Captain congratulated him.

Bruce Potter (Class 3 A)

MY TRIP TO MALTA

I took the T.W.A. jet to New York. It was very fast.

From there I went on the Queen Mary to England. I like to sleep in the bunk beds.

From England I took the B.E.A. to Malta.

Stephen Monk (Class 1C)

My school is the Royal Naval School, Verdala. My school is in Malta and the head-master is Commander Sumnall. About one thousand children go to my school.

My teacher's name is Mrs. Hickling. We have football and we have a climbing frame and a swimming pool. Mr. Why has recorders and takes us for swimming. My bus is number 17. On the way to school we pass the dockyard. The ships are loading up. We saw a submarine.

Anthony Tipton (Class 1C)

SUMMER IN MALTA

Malta is a small island in the Mediterranean Sea and is about fifteen miles long and nine miles wide. Malta has about three months winter and nearly nine months of fine, sunny weather. The swimming season is from late March to the end of September. At school during the hot summer months we attend for the mornings only and leave for home at noon. This enables us to go for a swim after we have had our lunch and rest, which we need in the heat. I like swimming in Malta for the water is never less than fifty degrees Fahrenheit and gets as warm as eighty degrees Fahrenheit in the real summer months. We get seven to eight weeks holidays so we have plenty of time for swimming. Sometimes the shade temperature rises above one hundred degrees Fahrenheit.

John Woodhams (Class 2AS)

GOZO

On Sunday near the end of the holidays we went to Gozo for a picnic. We drove down the coast road and parked the car by the jetty and got on the ferry boat. When we got on, my brother, Richard, felt a bit sick so he went down below with Mummy.

When we got to Gozo we walked to a beach in the cliffs and splashed about in the water until dinner-time.

We had hard-boiled eggs, cold chicken-legs, and tomato sandwiches. After dinner we made a big sand castle and then went for a swim.

When I was just beginning to have a good time Daddy said it was time to go home. I got dried and put on my clothes. We had a pleasant journey back. When we got home we had tea and went to bed.

Michael Pearson (Class 4AX)

COMING TO MALTA

On July 19th we were leaving Scotland to come to Malta. It was pouring with rain down at the station, which was called Cupar because that was where I lived then. The train came into the station and it was an express. I said goodbye to my friend Robin, (who came out to Malta about a month ago). The train left for London. We got off at the station and stayed the night there and the next day we got a train to Gatwick. We waited there until 11 o'clock, and then we got on the plane. It was a Cunard Eagle plane. We had sandwiches and an apple with a cup of milk. Then my mum told me to go to sleep. The next morning we were in Malta with the swimming in the summer-time.

Ian Morrison (Class 3B2)

MY JOURNEY TO MALTA

I left Torquay at 1 p.m. on the 2nd October. The trip was going to take about four hours. I fell asleep for part of the time and woke up near London. We arrived at Paddington at 4.55 p.m.

We waited for a taxi which took us to the air terminal at Hendon where we left our baggage. We left Hendon and went by the underground railway to Charing Cross and walked across to Trafalgar Square. We had dinner in a restaurant in Leicester Square.

At 10 p.m. we returned to the air terminal. All of us were taken to London airport by one of their coaches. We embarked in a Cunard Airways plane and left London at 1 a.m. No-one was able to sleep that night because it was so hot. The plane did not refuel at Nice because it was very light.

We arrived in Malta at 5.30 a.m., half an hour late, for there had been strong winds. We went straight to our hotel and I had an hour's sleep before we had breakfast which I did not enjoy.

One thing that impressed me on my first flight was the layout of the cities seen from the air at night.

Peter Clarke (Class 4A)

SUMMER IN MALTA

In the summertime in Malta we spend a lot of time on the beach. It is usually dry and very hot and everybody wears thin, cool summer clothes. Often, in the school holidays, we spend the whole morning swimming. The water is cool and refreshing.

At mid-day it is very hot and one can see many Maltese builders with handkerchiefs wrapped around their heads, to keep the sun off, fast asleep under canvas shades.

In the evenings the sunsets are very beautiful; the sky seems to be a glow of warm colours. The streets in Sliema and Valletta become crowded after sunset, for it is cooler then for people to do their shopping.

Richard Taylor (Class 2AS)

THE CHAIN

One day in the middle of summer I went on a beach trip to Golden Bay with my mum and dad. When I got there I changed and dived into the water and swam until it was time for lunch. After lunch I put my mask on and went into the water with my dad. I was swimming around a rock when I saw a chain. I told my dad what I had found and he asked me if he could borrow the mask to look at the chain. He put the mask on and dived into the water. He looked for the chain but could not find it. I put the mask on again and showed my father where the chain was. When he saw it he said, "Don't touch it, because it might be attached to a mine or some kind of war weapon." Then we got changed and went home. To this day I don't know what it was that was attached to the chain.

Mark Freeman (Class 4C)

A VISIT TO ST. ANGELO

Last year we visited St. Angelo. First of all we explored the passages underneath it and then climbed the many steps to the gardens. We had a wonderful view of Grand Harbour and then made our way up to the Church. We borrowed the key and opened the door. Then we went in and saw the robes which the ancient Knights of Malta used to wear and an old book written in Latin and yellow with age.

After that we went down to a large pit in which the Knights used to put prisoners to starve. After refreshments we went down to the slaves' part of the fort. On the walls were hooks and on to these they chained the slaves. We then descended the steps and returned home after an exciting afternoon.

Vanessa New (Class 3A)

ST. PAUL'S CATACOMBS

Last year my brother and I visited St. Paul's Catacombs. They are very interesting. We went down about two flights of steps then the guide stopped and switched some lights on. We came to a skeleton in a grave which had wire netting round it. When people died there was a feasting hall where the others feasted. We went on turning corners and investigating pieces of ground which had been cut off. Then we saw two skeletons lying side by side in one grave.

We carried on with our strange journey through dark passages and tunnels. When our eyes had become used to the dark, we saw that we could go no further because earth blocked the way. I didn't like it and told Jeremy that I wanted to go back. We went back a different way and were shown several graves, small and large. Then we came up the steps and into the fresh air again.

Penelope Rodgers (Class 3A)

ST. PAUL'S CATACOMBS

St. Paul's Catacombs are a maze of passages and stone tombs. The early Christians buried their dead there because the Romans forbade them to do any burying above ground as they thought it was unhealthy. The tombs range from large ones, in which families were buried, to very small ones for infants. They then sealed the tombs with rocks and mortar. This made them airtight.

The Christians used to perform the burial service in one chamber, where there was a movable stone altar, and then go into another chamber, where there were two round tables carved out of the stone. There a feast was held.

Hundreds of years ago the Moors looted the catacombs and took every movable object. That is why, when the catacombs were discovered, there were no covers or skeletons to be found. The Moors then filled the catacombs in with earth. It took the government five years to remove it.

There are three skeletons in the catacombs which have been brought from elsewhere. One is at the beginning of the catacombs together with some pots. It is fenced in. The other two are together in one grave farther away.

One could easily get lost in the maze of passages.

The catacombs are of great historical interest. They cover a distance of two and a half miles. Much of it is still unexplored.

Jill Henwood (Class 4A)

MY VISIT TO THE HYPOGEUM

A few weeks ago our class had a most interesting visit. Our teacher took us to the Hypogeum.

The Hypogeum (an underground chamber) was found in 1902 by some workmen who were digging a well-shaft for one of a block of houses in Paula.

The caves were cleared of soil and silt and they found many stone tools, beads made of shells, necklaces made of teeth, as well as delicately shaped pottery of refined clay.

The guide at the Hypogeum showed us through some dark passages, into an opening. This is where they worshipped their idol - a fat lady!

After a most interesting afternoon we returned to school.

Linda Erickson (Class 4A)

THE CARNIVAL

I went to the carnival on a bus. I saw floats and clowns walking on their hands. The ladies came down from the floats and danced. They had funny masks on.

Bryan Marshall (Class 1C)

THE FLOATING DOCK

Near the end of the holidays I stayed at my friend's house. I stayed for nearly a week and on my last day we were going on the floating dock in Grand Harbour.

We set off in the morning with sandwiches and stayed all day. It was bright and quite calm. We went over in a launch and got on the stern. Chris and I went to Mr. Whittle's cabin and put our food there.

Next we went up on board and looked around. It was the Siljestad that was going to be docked. She is a tanker. Eventually the floating dock went under water to 25 feet. We saw the tanker coming in, through the binoculars. We had lunch of soup and meat sandwiches with fruit for pudding. She at last came in at about 3 o'clock. Men were rushing about everywhere. The tugs pulled her into the amidships and went out at the stern. The floating dock rose and then we went back in the launch again to go home.

Ralph Taylor (Class 4AX)

A VISIT TO MDINA CATHEDRAL

About Mdina. There have been many names for Mdina. Melita was the first name, but in 1427, King Alfonse of Aragon changed it to Notabile. Afterwards the Order of St. John changed the name again, this time to Citta Vecchia.

The Cathedral. The Cathedral is situated in a square, and beside the steps going up to it are two rusty old cannons. The cannons were used in the Great Siege of Malta in 1565.

The interior is magnificent with its main altar. The main altar like others in Malta has six candles, with silver candle holders. When we visited the Cathedral red brocade covered the walls. This red damask brocade is only put up on certain occasions. It is put up for Christmas on the 17th December and remains for the Conversion of St. Paul on the 25th January. After this it is taken down, except in the main chapel which is dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament. The damask is put up again for Corpus Christi and the Martyrdom of St. Peter and St. Paul on the 29th June. Near the chapel on the left is a monument to Cardinal Testaferata who died at the age of 85. Testaferata Street in Msida was named after him.

Facing the main altar are two seats, one on each side, with a canopy over them. One is for the Archbishop and the other for the Queen. Queen Elizabeth visited the Cathedral twice as a Princess and once as a Queen.

The Choir Stalls. The choir stalls are inlaid with pictures of saints, reconstructed by Decelis, a Maltese artist. The apse shows St. Paul's Shipwreck and the two side pictures show the martyrdom of St. Peter and St. Paul.

Celia Wright (Class 3A)

DESCRIPTION OF FORT ST. ANGELO

Fort St. Angelo was built by Arabs in 870 A.D. The knights of St. John rebuilt it in 1681. The Grand Master, on January 20th, 1681, asked an architect from Sicily to design the fort, and on 15th March work began on St. Angelo.

In 1741, slaves planned a revolution and intended to seize all fortresses including St. Angelo. However, the plot was discovered and the leaders executed.

The Captain's house was enlarged by the Grand Master and the Knights of St. John. The Grand Master had his private apartments in the house and, although much of it has been restored and renewed, many of the rooms still exist. There are fifteen coats of arms including the one of the Archbishop of Malta.

Since 1450 the size of St. Ann's chapel has not been altered. Today it is used for religious services. It was built in Gothic style and there is an Egyptian-granite pillar from a Roman Temple which originally stood on the site of the fortress.

Janet Fraser (Class 4A)

MEDITERRANEAN STORM

Last year when our family went to Gozo, a storm blew up and we had to stay the night at the Duke of Edinburgh Hotel as the ferry was not going back to Marfa.

Early next morning we went down to the harbour where the ferry was waiting. The sailors said it was still very rough but they would take us to Marfa if they could land there, and if not, they would take us on to St. Paul's Bay.

When we looked over the side we saw the high breakers rolling, and when we came to Marfa the Captain decided it would be safer to go to St. Paul's Bay. We entered the bay and then we had to go ashore by a little boat.

Jan Walters (Class 4A)