



Lawrie Chivers smiles over Danny Thurgood (who holds the trophy shield) and Brijesh Pujara. Photo by Hugh Petrie

Brookland School Through to National Chess Finals

Brookland Junior School's champion chess players have just notched up another victory by getting through to the finals of the National Schools Chess Championships held in Rutland at the end of June. A record number of Brookland players – 42 – attended the semi-finals at Pontins in Norfolk in mid-June. Out of the school's seven teams – more than for any other primary school in the UK – two teams, Brookland Under 11 'A' team and Brookland Under 9 'A' team both made it through to the finals.

Brookland head teacher Heather Blackmore said, "I am absolutely thrilled for the children and delighted at their successes, which are due in no small part to the enthusiasm and dedication of our chess coach, John Fleetwood. We also receive wonderful support from parents who ferry the children to tournaments, help with extra practice sessions and do not seem to mind the ignominy of being beaten by their young sons and daughters on the chessboard!"

All the right moves

John Fleetwood said, "Brookland has been doing phenomenally well and to get so many youngsters to such a high level is a real achievement. The school has got some really excellent young players and they seem to be on a winning streak, so we are keeping our fingers firmly crossed for the finals."

Ms Blackmore confesses that she herself is not a chess player but greatly enjoys watching matches and believes that chess has huge educational value. "I believe chess teaches the children so much about the need for team-

work, about competition and how to cope with both winning and losing. It also improves their powers of concentration and helps them appreciate the value of strategic thinking. The UK finals will be our next big challenge."



Cartoon by Jake Eisman-Renyard

Good Times...

On Saturday 14 June Martin School PTA had their annual Fun Day. The field of Martin's School was meant for children's memories. Adults made themselves busy: painting faces, tattooing with henna, barbecuing, serving fruit cocktails. In front of the bookstall a child was lost in a volume, while in other parts of the field, older children cooled off in a water fight, and younger children played on the bouncy castles.

In one corner two girls played at make believe by the hedgerow with nothing more than imagination. The fancy dress competition was won by a walking sweet corn; the many girls dressed in witch and fairy costumes unable to win through magic. Finchley fire brigade brought an engine, and for a while the sirens wail echoed off Coldfall woods, on the distant blue-sky horizon across the busy fields of allotments.

...and good sports

The back of the field was taken up by five-a-side football. Teams named after cars, in honour of the sponsor, A1 Chivers, played for a shield. The final was between the 'Volvos'

and the 'Rovers'. The Volvos, weakened by a late substitution, were no match for the Rovers. One of the Rovers singled himself out with a degree of elegance unusual at his age. Danny Thurgood with dexterity, command, and confidence, scored five goals. The game would have been his if Brijesh Pujara had not made the victory 6-0 in the last moment. The Volvos, though losing, played to the whistle as if there was still a chance and left the field, without signs of ill feeling or disappointment, as good sportsmen. When all these children have grown they will remember the summer fun day; Martin School Field is made for memories.

YOUNG ARCHER

Friends

What is a friend? You probably have plenty of them at school, around where you live and at any clubs you might belong to. One of them will be your best friend and some of them could be friends with you for a very long time. But most of them will be about the same age as you.

However, an old age pensioner called Pam Smith has written the poem below called *My Friends*. It is not about the old people she knows; it is about some children who live in her road.

My dictionary says that a friend is "a person whom one knows, likes and trusts."

Some children nine and ten-year-olds in Holy Trinity School wrote these descriptions:

- "I think a friend is someone who helps you and is kind to you." (Cicely King)
- "A friend is someone who cares for you and stands up for you." (Alex Sakuru)
- "A friend is someone who cares for you, understands you and comforts you so you know you're safe and protected with love. They listen to your problems." (Evan Coleshill)
- "A friend is someone who looks after you and plays with you." (Edward Amery)

My Friends

By Pam Smith

My friends are the children who live in my street
They all say "Hello" whenever we meet.
There's Carina and Luca and Caterina too
Tom and Chloe and a dog named Boo.
There's Matthew who lives next door you know
He always smiles and says "Hello".
There's nothing they won't do for me
Because I am their friend you see.
When we meet they call out "Hello Pam!"
They knock on my door to see how I am.
In winter when we had the snow
They cleared my path all in one go.
They had the day off school you see
And decided to come and call on me.
In summer when the flowers are big
The children come and help me dig.
The aphids have arrived this year
The poor roses are covered I fear.
I needed ladybirds to come
And eat the aphids one by one.
I hadn't any on the plants
All I had was a lot of ants.
The children went up and down the road
And brought me back a lovely load
Of ladybirds of every size.
Along the road I heard their cries,
"Here are some more. Oh, come and see!"
They were bringing them, just for me.
I thank God for my little friends
And that is where my story ends.

Holy Trinity Church

Church Lane N2

Sundays: The Parish Communion 10 a.m.

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Contact: The Revd. Laurence Hill

Telephone: 020 8883 8720

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