

The Docklands & East London Advertiser

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Wednesday December 25, 2013

70p

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



■ Steed Manjate singing at the Cyril Jackson Primary School nativity play in Limehouse PICTURE: ISABEL INFANTES

Picture special

Pupils in limelight for festive shows

Hundreds of children take to the stage in nativity plays and pantos as proud parents look on

by Andrew Harrison
andrew.harrison@archant.co.uk

It has been nativity and panto season at schools across east London during the past week and our photographers were there to capture the festivities.

All 200 primary pupils had a part in Chobham Academy's first panto in their new school at the former Olympic Athletes' Village.

They put on two performances of *Panto Pandemonium* for a combined audience of 500 secondary pupils and parents.

"It was something different, better than a traditional panto," said performing arts teacher Emma Warsop.

"The kids had lots of lines to perform and rehearsed for weeks, but they loved it." Meanwhile, the four-year-olds at Cyril Jackson Primary in Limehouse had spent weeks practising and learning their lines during free play periods with their teacher Shainey Wasik.

They had gone through their paces for auditions to select a star cast out of the 60 reception-year pupils.

Secular version

Children from various backgrounds learnt their roles for this secular version of the nativity, reflecting the school's multi-faith ethos that involves studying all the world's major religions. The story of Jesus's birth in a manger followed earlier celebrations of Eid.

And proud parents were treated to a nativity play with a twist at an Isle of Dogs school.

The youngsters at Arnhem Wharf Primary School, in Arnhem Place, acted out



■ Pupils watch the show at Chobham Academy, East Village, Stratford



■ Chobham Academy pupils show their enthusiasm during the performance



■ Pupils at Cyril Jackson Primary School in Limehouse at their nativity show



■ Girls get in on the act at Chobham Academy



■ Arnhem Wharf put on a nativity play with a new slant on the story

the Christmas story from the point of view of the hard-working stable boy.

After weeks of rehearsals, the children delivered the show in front of the audi-

ence, dressed in their festive wear and singing songs. Melanie Atwell, assistant

head for Key Stage 1, said: "I was extremely proud of the children's performances

today and many parents told me how much they enjoyed the show."