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WEST LEIGH:

Children went back to the Victorian era at St Alban's C of E Primary School for one day. It helped them to understand how school life had changed since the 19th century.

Year 2 children Imogen Walsh, Alfie Simms and Chloe Anderson said: "We marched in, girls in one line, boys in another and sat down when Ma'am told us to. After Mrs Phillips called the register and we said 'yes Ma'am', she checked our nails and shoes to make sure they were clean.

"We had slates and chalks and Mrs Phillips gave us sums to do from the board. Later, we had Victorian playtime, and some of us played with the hoops and the wooden spinning tops and skipping ropes."

DIOCESE: Churches across the diocese are being encouraged to mark Education Sunday on February 12.

It's a national day of prayer and celebration for all involved in education. This year's theme is 'Winning a prize that will last for ever', based on 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27.

The resources draw



Sarah Webb at Hook-with-Warsash Primary

the school report

parallels between the worlds of education and sport. The 2006 leaflet includes readings, hymns and prayers for churches to use, and is available on www.natso.org.uk

PORTSMOUTH: An Ofsted inspector praised the quality of care and education at a church-run pre-school. The report said children at Swishers flc, based in St Wilfrid's church hall, Fratton, were eager to learn, well-behaved and

extremely happy.

Staff interact with them exceptionally well, praising them and encouraging them to try new skills. They treat children as individuals, and are enthusiastic to ensure children make good progress.

Improvements in hygiene, security and staff training had been addressed since the last inspection. The overall provision was described as 'good'.

The group is celebrating its 40th anniversary

sary next month. It was launched as St Wilfrid's playgroup, but changed its role as pre-school provision changed over the years.

In March 2003, it re-invented itself as 'Swishers flc', and now provides a pre-school, breakfast and after-school club, holiday playscheme and wrap-around care.

HOOK-with-WARSASH: It's not every day that an Olympic gold medallist visits your school - so pupils at Hook-with-Warsash Primary were impressed when Sarah Webb turned up to open their Christmas fair.

She was part of the 'three blondes in a boat' team who won gold in the Yngling sailing class at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

She cut the red ribbon and greeted children at the fair, which included a cake stall, lucky dip, craft tombola and face-painting. The children even met Father Christmas.

Headteacher Christopher Hines said: "We would like to say a big thank-you to Sarah Webb for opening the fair. This made it an extra special event this year."

NEWPORT: The organist at St John's Church has achieved a significant milestone.

John Matthews gained the Archbishops' Certificate in Church Music from the Guild of Church Musicians, which is awarded on behalf of both the C of E's Archbishop of Canterbury and the RC's Archbishop of Westminster.

It is the next stage on from the Archbishops' Award, which he was given last year. He received the certificate during Vespers from the Rt Rev Bernard Longley, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, in the lady chapel of Westminster Cathedral.

At the same ceremony, the Rt Rev David



John Matthews (right) receives his certificate from the Rt Rev Bernard Longley

news from the pews

Stancliffe, Bishop of Salisbury and formerly provost at Portsmouth

Cathedral, received an honorary fellowship from the guild.

PETERSFIELD: An organ recital at St Peter's Church has raised £325 for the Rowans Hospice in Purbrook.

Mark Dancer, director of music at the church, played Bach's *Tocatta and Fugue in D Minor* as part of a one-hour programme of music for Christmas.

The St Peter's congregation was joining in hundreds of similar events throughout the UK in a nationwide celebration of the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

The ambitious occasion was organised by BBC Radio 3 and the Royal College of Organists and part of the radio station's 10-day broadcast *A Bach Christmas*.

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