

## New Hall School Tudor Day

I attended the Tudor Day at New Hall School on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2007

I was feeling a little nervous to be going to a 'big' school which was a fair distance away from my home. I am currently able to walk to school. Mummy and I drove the 20<sup>+</sup> miles to the very grand tree lined avenue that leads up to the entrance of the school. The autumnal trees lining the long drive were very colourful.

We arrived at 10 am and I was given a label with my name and group letter on it. We went into a room where lots of girls and boys were all excitedly waiting. I saw Cherie, Rebecca, Annamarie and Kome from my school. I was in the same group as the girls which helped relieve my apprehension.

There were 45 children in total, divided into 3 groups of 15. We had six activities planned for the day and our first workshop was Tudor arts and crafts.

Mummy went home, as we went upstairs to the art room and made our Tudor Rose prints using polystyrene, marker pens, paper and paint. I was pleased with my roses.

We then went to explore the cellar at New Hall which is where Henry VIII reportedly kept his food, wine and ale. He was a big man. When he died he had a 52" waist and he was six feet tall. I asked my dad his waist size on the way home - he was only a 30" waist! Our group squeezed into a small cobbled room used for storing baked bread and had our photo taken by our organiser.

All three groups met up for lunch in the school canteen and had a selection of nice food to choose from.

After lunch we had the Shakespeare workshop where we dressed up in Tudor outfits and read from Romeo and Juliette. I was a Tudor girl. I wore a bonnet, shirt and waistcoat. We had a mock fight and made bracelets or necklaces out of green or yellow crepe paper.

Another exciting workshop was exploring a Tudor Herb Garden. We then returned to a classroom where two Tudor ladies called Greasy Jones and Griselda, asked us to identify various plants by touch, sight and smell. We did well and got eight correct answers, beating the boys who got seven.

Another activity was Tudor Cookery where we made Tudor Rose biscuits. We had a large, medium and small biscuit. The large one was painted red, the medium was left unpainted and the small one was painted gold. We then arranged them in size order and decorated the grooves with glitter. We also made Tudor almond rose petal cakes which the parents sampled later in the day.

We moved on to explore where parts of the Palace of Beaulieu might have been. We marked out on the ground where the gate house and old tennis courts stood.

To finish with we played Tudor snap and gambled with half pennies.

I thoroughly enjoyed my day at New Hall. Our parents started arriving at 4pm and were welcomed with a cup of tea and Tudor Pottage.