

## **Almost done and dusted!**

Today we took it pretty easily in preparation for our big day tomorrow. After breakfast we moved to the church across the road for an hour's rehearsal and then on to the tube for our last day of sightseeing.

Given that we didn't want to exert ourselves too much we decided that a leisurely cruise down the Thames to Greenwich was the order of the day and it was a terrific way to see London from a different perspective. The trip took about 40 minutes and was relaxing and pleasant.

At Greenwich we walked to a Marks & Spencer to buy lunch and then up to Greenwich Park to consume it under an enormous Chestnut Tree. A passing squirrel kept the boys amused while they ate and with only a few minutes to go we raced up the hill to watch the red ball drop on the hour. We all synchronised our watches! The boys spent some time looking around the Royal Observatory and of course visiting the gift shop.

The park boasts quite a hill at one end and the boys were most keen to run up it and then run, roll, tumble down. Where the energy still comes from, those older of us in the group can't fathom, but run up it they did and run, tumble and roll down they proceeded to do.

Good fun.

We then walked down to the National Maritime Museum which we had heard so many good things about. The staff were a bit fussy, and kept reminding the boys not to touch, to talk to loudly or to run [which none of them were doing anyway], so the museum unfortunately lost a bit of its appeal fairly quickly. A quick visit to the gift shop, naturally, and then back down to the river for an ice-cream and trip back up to London.

The boys then packed up most of their gear as we have a 3.30 a.m. start in the morning and we headed out for dinner. A hearty meal of Bangers and Mash or Hamburger and Chips with sticky date pudding for desert was a nice way to share our last formal meal.

The boys wished me a Happy Birthday with a lovely rendition of the traditional song and a delicious piece of mudcake from the Starbucks next door. We thanked Mrs Woodger and Mr Percy for their special involvement and both Heather Barman and myself spoke briefly to the boys about the wonderful adventure we have undertaken.

I may not blog again tomorrow. As stated, we have a very early start - Hyde Park corner for the ANZAC Day ceremonies, then breakfast with the Abbey School and a tour and then on to Westminster Abbey. We then will head off to Heathrow and the flight home. A big day, and writing and posting a blog may simply not be possible.

I hope you have enjoyed reading about our experiences as much as I have enjoyed reflecting on each day's events.

See you back home Friday,  
Jeff Symms  
Head of Primary  
Canberra Grammar School

