

Fair spreads festive cheer

Bright ideas raise charity cash

by Alex Wellman

alex.wellman@archant.co.uk

A record number of visitors came to support a Regent's Park school as it celebrated its annual Christmas Fair.

Thousands of pounds was raised for charity as pupils of

Francis Holland School in Ivor Place got into the festive spirit with cakes, puddings and a grotto.

Business-minded pupils also raised cash by bringing along cardboard cutouts of pop band One Direction and charging people to have their photo taken with the boys.



■ Barbara, Danah, Lorena, Mariam, Rim, Aine and Flo with the cutouts of One Direction which visitors were invited to have their photos taken with



■ Saskia, Tilly, Georgia, Katherine and Issy (Santa) in the grotto

The school's hall was transformed into a winter wonderland as young and old took part in inflatable jousting, while ladies were able to be pampered in a nail bar and beauty room run by fifth formers.

Cashmere scarves were on sale along with jewellery and other stocking fillers to create the perfect festive shopping experience.

Headmistress Vivienne Durham said: "The Francis Holland Christmas Fair has raised thousands of pounds for local charitable causes,

including Swiss Cottage School and the FHS Summer Camp, which our own staff and girls run for local children every summer.

"I would like to thank our parents' association, once again, for its incredible support of the school."

Money from the event on November 23 – the amount of which has not been fully totted up yet – will also go towards supporting St Amadeus School in Tanzania.

Laurel Rafter, chair of the parents' association, said: "We have



■ Ella, Vicky and Angharad Langley, head of psychology and PSHE, with some delicious treats

never before had so much enthusiasm and participation from the students who came up with so many stalls and ideas of their own for fundraising and contributing to the fair.

"Stalls run by the girls included the beautifully baked For Goodness Cake, chocolate fountain and handmade mosaic pieces to selling lucky jars filled with goodies.

"Thank you to everyone in the Francis Holland community for making this such a wonderful event."