

## Cross-Over Group



Cross-Over Group is a Christian Educational group mainly for 7-11 year olds. Here you see the group photographed at their recent visit to The Unicorn Theatre in Tooley Street, SE1, where we went to see a production of Duck! which is a modern working of the Hans Christian Anderson fable, The Ugly Duckling.

We left Greenford Station with 14 children and 7 adults. We arrived at London bridge Station and went to play near City Hall where some of the children managed to get wet in the fountains! By 2pm, it was time to go into the theatre and get ready for the show. The tickets were unreserved so the group entered the auditorium early and bagged the front seats!

The experience was one of the best theatrical experiences I have ever had. It was powerfully written, the acting was totally convincing- and no mean feat as the characters all simulated the movement and posture of animals- and the set design was simple but just right. The underlying theme proves to be an effective anti-bullying message with references to a wide variety of differences which should be accepted and accommodated rather than rejected or laughed at. We meet Ugly, and he's no ordinary duck. In fact, he might not even be a duck at all! An embarrassment to his brothers and sisters - Ugly eats snails, speaks funny and looks even funnier. Fed up with being the butt of all the pond jokes, he strikes out on his own. Flippers, wellies and rubber rings combine with live music for this World Premiere of a new play inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's Ugly Duckling. Set on Hampstead Heath, Duck! is a wild adventure for anyone who wants to stand out from the crowd.



Most newspapers raved about Duck! giving it at least 4 \* ratings. The Guardian critic wrote "The Unicorn has cracked it with Osment's play. It is fun, boasts a wistful quality and will strike a chord with all ages. Catch it before it flies away."

The rest of the Spring term will see the group meeting Mrs Whittingham to talk about education, thinking about the meaning of Candlemas, making ash by burning palm crosses ready for Ash Wednesday, and then a major undertaking! We are attempting to build an Easter Garden in the Churchyard in time for Easter.