

Schoolchildren get to meet the

Duchess delights all she meets on visit

by RUTH SCAMMELL

The News

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THE smiling faces of children were the first things the Duchess of Cambridge saw on her day in Portsmouth.

Kate was visiting Sir Ben Ainslie's base in Camber docks in Old Portsmouth – the construction site of the new headquarters and the Ben Ainslie Racing visitor centre.

Waiting patiently to meet her were a group of 70 children from schools across the area, who wanted to show off their achievements in painting a giant mural.

The artwork, which surrounds the outside of the site, depicts the Solent from Portsmouth to the Isle of Wight, with images of the area's rich maritime history.

The project was launched last October by the 1851 Trust, which aims to inspire a new generation through sailing and the marine industry.

The Duchess spent time talking to the children, who told with delight about the part they played in the mural.

Kate, who is pregnant with her second child, then went on to make her own contribution, by painting the crew on to the depiction of Sir Ben's yacht.

'What a great idea,' she was overheard saying to James Waterfield, the lead artist in the project who is a teacher at Park Community School in Leigh Park.

The children were from six local schools, including St Jude's Church of England School, Park Community, Admiral Lord Nelson, Charter Academy and two schools from the Isle of Wight.

Liam Evens, 12, is in Year 8 at Charter Academy in Southsea.

He said: 'At first I was scared. I was excited to meet her because she's the future Queen.'

'When I did meet her I realised that she was a bit more relaxed than I thought she would be and she's a nice person.'

'She asked me what paintings I painted and she complimented them.'

'It's nice that the future Queen has spoken to me because meeting someone important makes you feel good inside.'

Abigail Hopkins, 12, in Year 8, said: 'I felt proud because it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and I felt



HANDS-ON The Duchess of Cambridge tries a sailing winch simulator

special because of how important she is to us.'

Joanna Bryce is the head of art at Charter Academy.

She said: 'It was a brilliant experience for the children, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them to showcase their work and to meet the Duchess of Cambridge so they were very excited.'

'She was lovely. She was

'I think the children were shell-shocked and a little about meeting her but she was lovely to talk to and polite to the kids.'

Ms Bryce said the children enjoyed painting the mural.

'They loved it. They're very proud to

Youngsters pass on Pompey kit for baby George

IT COULD be the start of Prince George becoming a life-long Pompey fan.

Children from Mayfield School in North End presented the Duchess of Cambridge with a mini Portsmouth Football Club kit.

It was complete with George's name printed on the back.

It was presented by school head boy Ryan Joliffe, 15, head girl Lucy Burroughs, 16, and five-year-old Alexandra Firth.

She also had a bunch of flowers to

present to Kate.

Ryan, a Year 11 pupil, said: 'We all came up with the idea to give the Duchess a Pompey kit for George.'

'We felt very privileged to meet her – it was an honour.'

'I was really pleased to give her the kit.'

The Duchess took a walk across the glass floor of the Spinnaker Tower with Lewis McMullan.

The 11-year-old, who goes to Riders School in Havant, said: 'I was really happy when she agreed to it.'



GIFT Kate is given a Pompey shirt for Prince

thrilled as they future Queen



Spinnaker Tower, and right, various shots from the visit

talk about the bits that they contributed to.'

Chloe Larcom, 15, is a Year 11 pupil at Park Community School in Leigh Park.

She said: 'It was amazing. I was excited. Everyone kept saying that she's kind and lovely and it's true, she is.'

The Duchess was also shown the progress that has been made building Sir Ben's racing base and she had the

opportunity to meet some of the builders.

As she walked round to the entrance of the base, hundreds of workmen had paused to welcome Kate and she gave them a wave and a smile.

Norman Jones is the groundworks foreman for Mackleys and has been working the base since August.

He said: 'It was very good. She was

nice and sweet.

'It's a privilege for all the workforce. She's a member of the royal family and she's the first member of the royal family we've met.'

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portsmouth.co.uk

Doing her bit for the mural

THE Duchess said she enjoyed contributing to the mural at the BAR base, as she had been painting with Prince George the day before.

James Waterfield was the lead artist on the mural and is an art teacher at Park Community School in Leigh Park.

He joked with Kate about his concerns about getting paint on her cream coat, but it escaped without a mark. He said: 'She was nice. She's a lovely young lady. She's friendly.'

'I was worried about shaking hands with her but she said it was fine and she was painting with baby George yesterday and she said she should have brought him down.'

'She painted the crew of Sir Ben Ainslie's yacht.'

'It's really good for Portsmouth to have such a prestigious royal visitor.'

'It's also good that she's lending her weight to the 1851 Trust which is helping young people in the area.'



ARTY Kate paints on the mural at the BAR base



Kate shows off her bump in the stunning cream Max Mara coat

Kate and bump are pretty as a picture

By **Richard Palmer**
Royal Correspondent

SEVEN months pregnant and dressed in a cream coat showing off her burgeoning bump, the Duchess of Cambridge braved a potentially messy painting session yesterday.

Her belted wool £580 Max Mara coat survived unscathed as she put the finishing touches to a mural depicting Portsmouth's rich maritime history.

Kate, who was visiting the Naval port in Hampshire to see the construction site for Sir Ben Ainslie's new America's Cup yacht racing headquarters, has a passion for art.

She revealed yesterday that her 18-month-old son, Prince George, also loves to paint with her.

The Duchess, 33, painted in five crewmen, including four-times Olympic gold medallist Sir Ben, on a picture of a racing yacht, concentrating on depicting their bottoms hanging over the side.

"Make it accurate," Sir Ben told her, as she painted in his bottom.

Reveal

Art teacher James Waterfield from Park Community School in Leigh Park, Havant, stood watching anxiously after shaking hands with her despite having paint on his fingers.

He said: "I was so worried about getting paint on her fantastic cream coat."

"She told me she was painting yesterday with George and she should have brought him down because he loves doing all of this."

Kate, a keen sailor in her youth, is backing Sir Ben's bid to win the America's Cup for Britain for the first time since the yacht race began in 1851.

Sir Ben hopes to employ up to 100 people and pump £60million into the economy in Portsmouth, which will become the base for his attempt to win the 35th America's Cup in 2017.

Later, at the city's landmark Spinaker Tower, Kate took off her coat to reveal a £99 Alice Temperley Somerset dress before watching a demonstration of indoor sailing.



James Waterfield looks on as the Duchess paints the sailing crew, left, during her visit yesterday. Later she revealed the £99 Alice Temperley dress she was wearing under the coat which was an instant hit



Kate flaunts her winter tan (and bump)



PROUDLY clutching her growing bump, a beaming Duchess of Cambridge looked the picture of health during a royal engagement yesterday.

The mother-to-be, who has just returned from a two-week family holiday to Mustique, showed off her Caribbean tan in a £345 ivory Max Mara coat at the Portsmouth HQ of Olympic sailor Sir Ben Ainslie.

During her tour of a new visitor centre, where she helped pupils make a sailing mural, seven-months pregnant Kate revealed her 19-month-old son Prince George is

By **Rebecca English** Royal Correspondent

a budding artist. Art teacher James Waterfield of Park Community School in Havant said: 'I was so worried about getting paint on her fantastic white coat. She told me she was painting yesterday with George and she should have brought him down as he loves doing all of this.'

The duchess's mural featured a painting of sailors including Sir Ben. The Olympian made Kate, 33, laugh by joking as she painted his bottom: 'Make it accurate.'

Elegant in Ivory: Kate wore a £345 coat in Portsmouth yesterday

Kate

Middle-tu

By TOM GOODENOUGH

THE Duchess of Cambridge has a bumper day out yesterday as she cradles her growing baby bulge.

The six-months-pregnant mum, 33, visited the £7.5million HQ of Olympic sailing champ Sir Ben Ainslie.

Kate, *right* — patron of a charity plugging the sport — was watched by 72 pupils as she daubed on a Portsmouth mural showing him boating. As she painted his bum, he joked: "Make it accurate."

Teacher James Waterfield said: "She said she painted yesterday with baby George and should have brought him."

Kate also proved a dab hand as she tried out a sailors' training machine.



Belly laughs . . grin trying machine

Touches of Cambridge . . painting mural