

Hamburg Rally – Stiftung Mittagskinder children discover the city!



Thursday 16th October 2008

The sound of the three small words, the ‘BerenbergKids Rally’ was the reason for excited smiles on 25 children’s faces. At 2pm on Thursday 16th October, a group of children from Hamburg’s Stiftung Mittagskinder organisation met enthusiastically in the entrance hall of Berenberg’s offices on the Neuer Jungfernstieg, ready to set off on their city adventure. The majority of the children had never visited Hamburg’s city centre before and their anticipation of the afternoon ahead was impossible to contain.



The Berenberg employees led the group to the in-house ‘1590 Bistro’ where, after light refreshment and a very warm welcome from the many Berenberg volunteers, the children were split into teams of five, accompanied by a mentor and a couple of Berenberg staff.

Soon the rally was under way with the groups setting out in different directions. Each group was to complete a questionnaire comprising of over 30 questions while following a route leading from the bistro through Hamburg’s city centre, passing the Town



Hall, Gänsemarkt and Alster before finally returning to the Bank. Several questions focused on the various monuments around the city commemorating famous German poets and writers and many concentrated on Hamburg’s history, architecture and other important landmarks of the city. The aim being that the children could learn more about the environment they live in.

The St. Petri Church, the Hamburg stock exchange and the Heinrich Heine monument, amongst many others, were focal points where the teams were given riddles to solve by using their observational skills and questioning bypassing pedestrians. The policemen in front of the Town Hall were a particularly good source of information for those questions about Hamburg’s history and government!

Throughout the rally, the children remained eager and energetic, becoming more and more excited with each puzzle they solved and every new discovery they made. Even the raging storm could not stop the teams’ enthusiasm in finishing their questionnaires or destroy their enjoyment of the day!

Two and a half hours later and after having tackled all hurdles successfully, the teams met back at the Berenberg Bistro for hot dogs and ice cream. Under rapturous applause, every participant received a personalised certificate as a memory of their day, with the winning team being awarded a sightseeing tour of Hamburg by boat, which will be organised by BerenbergKids next year.



Even when the youngest children started to display signs of tiredness, the atmosphere remained high spirited. At the end of the day photos were taken with the Berenbergs, who had become popular with the children along the route, whilst the group exchanged their stories of the day.

Berenberg participants: Christine Ahrens, Katrin Blankenburg, Christine Boulnois, Daniela Cramer, Katharina Hartwig, Jenny Maté, Meike Pohl, Mandy Popp, Martina Seite, Mareen Utech, Carl-Christian von Plessen

