



St John's College



Early Years & Infant School

Newsletter June 2010

Dear parents,

It is hard to believe that another academic year is drawing to a close. The children have achieved a great deal academically and socially, and we thank you for your continued support. We hope you enjoy this term's newsletter. Mrs J. Walton

Eisteddfod

Competitions were held in handwriting, colouring and painting, and each class performed a Welsh item on the stage. Welsh cakes were enjoyed by all during the interval. Several pupils played the piano, and Ellie South treated us to an item on the harp. Folk dancing rounded off the morning's events, and this year the shield was presented to St David's House.

Easter Designs

Home - School Easter tasks were excellent, and the department came together to entertain the Junior classes. R6 and R7 took part in an Easter bonnet parade, R5 displayed their delightful spring gardens and the Nursery showed their Easter collage work. The work completed at home was much appreciated.

Lenten Project

The children in the Nursery and Infant Department again rose to the occasion and raised £900 via Sponsored Silence/Sponsored Walk. The money raised will be divided equally between H.C.P.T Pilgrimage Trust (Group 73) and Haiti Earthquake Disaster Fund via C.A.F.O.D. May I take this opportunity to thank the children for their enthusiasm, and their families and friends for their continued co-operation and support. Thank you to everyone / Diolch yn fawr i bawb.

Dinosaurs

R5's topic for the spring term proved to be a very successful scheme of work. The children and staff learnt many new facts about dinosaurs. We went on two very enjoyable visits to Cardiff museum, one of which was a dinosaur workshop with interactive activities. The children interviewed a geologist, having prepared their questions in class. I would like to thank the R5 parents for the excellent resources they provided throughout the topic.



This term's topic 'People Who Help Us' is well underway, and we have already enjoyed trips to the local postal sorting office and Roath Fire Station.

Dates for the Diary

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| Tues 15 th June | Visit to Llantarnam Abbey |
| Mon 28 th June | Pupil Progress meeting: 3.40pm onwards (by appointment). India Week |
| Wed 30 th June | R6 and R7: St Fagans. |
| Mon 5 th July | Sports Day |
| Tues 6 th July | End of year service at St Cadoc's Church, 10am. All families welcome. |
| Thurs 8 th July | R5: The Amelia Trust Farm |
| Fri 9 th July | Disco & Party day |
| Date TBC | Nursery: Cefn Mably Farm Park |

The Beach

The nursery children are enjoying this term's topic and are very much looking forward to their summer trip to the Gower, to explore rock pools and sea life.

Visit to St Cadoc's Church

We participated in an age-appropriate Stations of the Cross, and Father Gray took the children onto the altar where he chatted with them about how we prepare in Lent for the celebration of Easter. The children then enjoyed hot cross buns in the Church Hall. R6 and R7 children also wrote their own questions to God, and these questions were answered by Father Gray.

World Maths Day

Each child in R6 had several turns on the computer and they were playing against children all over the world. The day greatly improved the children's mental recall and number bonds to 10. R6 also made a **toy museum** in the classroom. We had a visit from Mr Graham Goode who spoke to the children about old toys and life when he was a little boy. The children were enthralled.

Big Pit

R7 have been studying the history of mining in Wales and a visit to Big Pit has enabled the children to get an idea of what it was like to work in a coal mine. The activities included an underground tour where the children were able to turn off their helmet lights and experience true darkness. They liked this so much that they asked to do it in different parts of the mine. Our miner guide, Mike, was very impressed with the children's behaviour and listening skills. Well done R7!

Ancient Egypt History trip

As part of their History topic studying Ancient Egypt, R7 travelled to Swansea University to visit the Egypt Centre. The children took part in a range of exciting and interesting activities which included dressing up in Egyptian costumes, playing musical instruments, studying and drawing a variety of artefacts and, most popular of all, re-enacting the ceremony of mummification! Finally, R7 gave a presentation to the department with R8 and R9.