



IN CARITATE NON FICTA

St John's College



Early Years & Infant School

Newsletter May 2011

Dear Parents,

The Summer Term is upon us, and following a glorious Easter, we hope that the good weather will continue.

We hope you enjoy reading about the activities and trips undertaken during the spring term. The children continue to work very hard, and participate in all activities with enthusiasm. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new children that have recently joined us in the Nursery, R6 and R7.

Thank you for your continued support,
Yours sincerely,

Mrs J. Walton.

Nursery topic: Winter 2011 - 'Fairytales'



The Nursery topic this term has been 'Fairytales'. The children have been learning about traditional fairytales, castles and dragons. We had a trip to **Castell Coch** where we found a real princess and we celebrated The Royal Wedding with a Royal Banquet. We even had two very special guests!

R5 learn about Dinosaurs



The Spring Term topic for R5 was dinosaurs. As with last year's class, it proved to be a very successful area of learning. The children always surprise me with their enthusiasm, and the many facts they learn and retain. This was

very noticeable during the dinosaur workshop we attended at the museum.

The geologist who took the workshop was very impressed with their knowledge and the questionnaire that we had put together in a language and literacy lesson. The children worked very well when creating the dinosaur-related wall displays, together with many other cross-curricular activities.

R6 Toy Museum

R6 enjoyed a visit from Mr Graham Goode who came to speak to us as part of our history topic. We had been learning about toys old and new and had made a class museum. Mr Goode showed us photographs of when he was in school and told us about the games he used to play and the toys that he made.

R7 Historians discover the world of Ancient Egypt



As part of their History curriculum, R7 have spent the Spring Term studying the Ancient Egyptians. The children enjoyed a visit to the Egypt Centre at Swansea University where expert staff led a range of activities, including food making, offering trays, dressing-up, playing instruments, examining artefacts in the displays and even re-enacting the mummification ceremony!

R7 Geographers design their own Parks



The Geography topic for R7 during the Spring Term asked the children to investigate what would make a good park. The children spent a morning at Roath Park identifying examples of good features and recording them with a digital

camera. They used this experience to design their own parks which they shared with others.

Easter Activities

We would like to thank all parents for the help and guidance you have given to your children in their home/school Easter tasks. The collage work, decorated eggs and Easter bonnets made colourful displays in each classroom. We had a parade in the school hall on the last day of term, showing every item to R8, R9 and their teachers.

Comic Relief

Comic relief was very well supported throughout the school, and our department collected just over **£100**. The cake sale remained a favourite, and there was great excitement when the department gathered together at the end of the day to hold the raffle. There were three prizes for each class, and a further ten were given out when every ticket was put into the hat. Many thanks to the parents who supplied prizes.

Book Day

The children had a busy first week in March, celebrating the Eisteddfod and Book Day. This year's theme was Fairytales. The costumes were very colourful, and a parade was held for some of the Junior classes.

Mrs. Isaac also made a book worm in our departmental library. Every child contributed by drawing an illustration from a favourite book, and with help, wrote its title and author.

Eisteddfod



Our departmental Eisteddfod was once again a very enjoyable and successful event, the children thoroughly enjoying the spirit of the house system. They clapped and cheered as their particular houses gained points.

The stage items which comprised Welsh songs, acting and simple Welsh conversation were performed with enthusiasm. The winning entry of the special person competition was read out. Sixteen children contributed to our musical item, with fifteen playing the piano, and one the violin. Welsh folk dancing ended the celebration. Points were recorded by Mrs. Minton, while Miss Rowlands presented the shield to the winning house - St David's.

Guest Speaker

We were very glad to welcome Dr. Elhenawy, to contribute to one of our religious study lessons. She explained some of the traditions of Islamic worship to children and staff in the Department.

Lenten Project & Visit to St Cadoc's Church:

This year's proceeds from our 'Sponsored Silence', 'Sponsored Walk' and the weekly 'Lenten Pot' was divided equally between 'S.A.N.D.S.' (Still Births and Neo-natal Death Society) and HCPT Pilgrimage Trust (73). Total raised this year **£860**.



Heather Combs was presented with a cheque for **£430** on behalf of S.A.N.D.S. and a representative from HCPT will be presented with a cheque for **£430**.

Our Lenten Project culminated with a visit to St Cadoc's Church for 'Stations of the Cross' (age appropriate for 5, 6 and 7 year olds). Father Gray spoke to the children about Lent as a time for beginning a New Life and that Easter is a time for celebrating the New Life of Jesus. The children, staff and Fr. Gray, then enjoyed hot cross buns in the church hall.



I would like to thank the children for their enthusiasm and their family and friends for their continued support and co-operation.

Thank you to everyone / Diolch yn fawr i bawb.

Music Department message for all pupils in R7:

Our Cathedral Choir is now welcoming applications from boys and girls in R7 who will be entering R8 in September 2011:



The benefits of being a Chorister in Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral Choir:

- √ A first-class musical education and eligibility for a bursary at St John's College.
- √ A relatively light but enriching commitment.
- √ Confidence building - choristers often excel at school and achieve top University places including Oxford, Cambridge and top Medical Schools.
- √ Camaraderie and friendship of a new group of friends of different ages.
- √ Opportunities to participate in recordings and broadcasts on BBC radio and the Christmas Special of *Doctor Who*.
- √ The chance to sing abroad, including concerts in the famous Nôtre Dame Cathedral (Paris).
- √ To work with professional directors with Oxford and Cambridge University backgrounds (including two former choral scholars of the world famous King's College Choir), and professional singers.

For more details, please contact Mr Dominic Neville or Mrs Diana Neville: dominicneville@cantab.net
drneville@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk

Training Orchestra & Instrumental Lessons:

Our thriving Training Orchestra (beginners - grade 4) performs to a high standard in several concerts per year. It gives beginners the chance to play in a full orchestra, and prepares them to audition for our award-winning Concert Orchestra. Training Orchestra is conducted by Mrs. McMahon and rehearses on Friday lunchtimes.

Visiting professional musicians give tuition in voice and a broad range of instruments. For more details about instrumental lessons or joining the Training Orchestra, please contact Mrs. Rachel Lawrie: ainsworthrhj@googlemail.com