



St John's College



Junior School

Newsletter September 2010

Dear parents,

The term has got off to a good start after an enjoyable end to the summer term.

The weather on Trip Day was glorious – too hot, if anything. R8 and R9 enjoyed Longleat, especially the Boat trip and dodging the water suddenly spurting from the ground in the Water Park. The R10 outing to the Birds of Prey Centre gave the pupils the chance to observe numerous flying demonstrations and to learn about birds of prey. R11 had a lovely day out in Bristol. It is hard to believe that the SS Great Britain was the equivalent of Cunard's Queen Mary today. It was very interesting historically.

The school is looking spick and span. The junior classrooms in the New Building have all had new carpets laid. The stock of books in the library has been added to and the fiction section is of the highest quality. There are two new teachers whom your children might meet: Miss Laura Sayce who will be teaching science and geography in Upper Juniors and Mrs Emma Jones in PE who has a special interest in Hockey.

We have welcomed many newcomers into the Junior School and they are settling in well and are being helped by their classmates to find their way around what is a much bigger school for many of them.

Meet the Teacher

On Tuesday, 21st September and Thursday, 23rd September you will have an opportunity to meet your child's new form teacher from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm. There will be an appointment system with a maximum time of 10 minutes per appointment. We have taken notice of the view that a return journey or a long wait for a short appointment was inconvenient and for this reason have made two nights available as many parents do appreciate a time near 4.00 pm. If in the end your appointment is inconvenient there is always the possibility to see your child's teacher at a mutually convenient time after or even before school. The purpose of this short meeting is to see if your child has settled well and inform us of any little problems.

Book Week

Books will be on sale after school on Wednesday, 29th September, Thursday, 30th September and Friday, 1st October in the New Building. There will be a wide selection of books to purchase. The school is able to add to the stock of the library from the proceeds of the sale. Please encourage your child to read as much as possible.

Dates for the Diary

Tues 14 th September	R8 visit to Museum in Cardiff
Tues 21 st	
& Thurs 23 rd September	Meet the Teacher
Mon 27 th September	R10 Visit to Big Pit
Mon 27 th - Fri 1 st October	Book Week
Fri 1 st October	Welsh Story Teller
Wed 6 th & Thurs 7 th October	CAT tests for R9 & new R10 pupils
Thurs 7 th October	R11 Crucial Crew
Mon 11 th -Fri 15 th October	R11 Enterprise Week
Fri 15 th October	R11 Trade Fair
Wed 20 th - Fri 22 nd October	INSET
Mon 25 th - Fri 29 th October	HALF TERM
Mon 15 th November	R11 Victorian Day, St Fagans
Tues 30 th November	St David's Hall Carol Concert
Wed 1 st December	R8 and R9 PSE afternoon with PC Pope (community liaison)
Wed 1 st -Wed 8 th December	School Assessments
Fri 3 rd December	R10 and R11 afternoon with PC Pope (community liaison)
Fri 10 th December	R8 Parents' Assembly, 2.15pm
Wed 15 th December	END OF TERM

Enterprise Week

During Enterprise Week the children of R11 will run their own companies with guidance from adults and help from Careers Wales. The school is given a grant to purchase raw materials from which to make goods for sale at the end of the week at the Trade Fair. It has been the custom to quadruple the money from the grant and to make a donation to a worthy cause.

This year we were thinking about helping the Children's Hospital in Wales and perhaps allocating some money to beautifying some part of the school. However, note the word Enterprise. Can the children think of some services or something which they could make beforehand in order to raise money? It is always very tempting to try to beat the amount raised the previous year.

For R10 parents

Please note that the cycling proficiency course is no longer possible in school because of Health and Safety concerns. However, in order to prepare R10 for their residential stay in R11 we have arranged an overnight stay for them at the Wales Millennium Centre in their luxurious accommodation. They will have a full day of educational activities in the Bay. This will take place towards the end of the Spring term, on **Tuesday, 5th April** and the cost of staying overnight will be in the region of £60.

School Dining Room

The school day has been organised in such a way that the Juniors are able to have a separate lunch hour from the Seniors. This means that they are able to play in both playgrounds and enjoy more space and also to go in the dining room and purchase hot and cold food every day if they wish.

If parents are interested, the school cook has said that she is able to provide a 'grab bag' with a sandwich, a cold drink and either a piece of fruit or a bag of crisps for £2.10. Please let me know if you would find this helpful by writing a note in the diary.

New Sports this term

The boys and girls will be involved in a wide variety of sporting activities this year with new lunchtime activities each term. This term the boys and girls will take part in the new Hockey Club led by Mrs Jones. The Junior boys and girls will also participate in a



Tag Rugby festival. This will follow on from a number of coaching sessions that will run from 27th September until the 18th October.

Each Junior class have swimming lessons once a week and personal survival

has also been introduced into the lessons this year. Pupils will receive a certificate and badge at the end of the course. R10 & 11 boys and girls will compete in matches over the course of the Winter Sport Term in: Hockey, Netball, Football, Cross-Country, Rugby and Tag Rugby.

The Sports Awards Assembly will take place on Tuesday 19th October. This will celebrate the sporting achievements of pupils from R10 and R11 in 2010. For further information on Junior School sports please see the school website or email pe@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk.

Music

Music's wider benefits are so great on a child's development, both now, and looking ahead towards University application and adult life, we are delighted to have a thriving music department, full of excitement and opportunity.

Private Instrumental Lessons

Every pupil takes up the opportunity to learn recorder and violin in music lessons in the course of the Junior School with Mrs Mandy McMahon and her team of specialist music staff. We are very pleased to welcome our new violin teacher, Miss Marisa Wall.

A wide variety of musical instruments may be learnt privately during the school day. Please contact Mrs Rachel Lawrie for further details: ainsworthrhj@googlemail.com

Training Orchestra

Everyone is welcome to join the Training Orchestra. We rehearse in 0.2 (Mrs Cooke's room) on Friday lunchtimes, and this term's music includes *Joy to the World*. Please ask Mrs Mandy McMahon for further details.



Concert Orchestra

For instrumentalists on grade 4 and beyond, the Concert Orchestra plays a wonderful range of music including film music (*Band of Brothers*) and some of the world's most famous orchestral repertoire, including Rachmaninov *Piano Concerto No. 2* this term. We rehearse twice a week in the school hall, on Mondays and Fridays at lunchtime. Please see Head of Music, Mrs Diana Neville for further details: drneville@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk.

Junior Girls' Choir (R7 - R12)

We rehearse on Wednesdays during period 1 for special events and occasional Wednesday Benedictions at the Cathedral (transport to the Cathedral provided by SJC) as well as our annual concert at Nazareth House. The girls enjoy wider benefits including Christmas parties, and a Winter Pantomime, and we are always delighted to welcome new members. Please ask Mrs Neville for further details: drneville@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk.



The Boys Cathedral Choir (R8 up to R13 and beyond)

We are always keen to attract new members. The choristers receive an outstanding musical education beyond the normal curriculum and receive a scholarship. We sing at the Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday mornings, and after school at SJC until 4.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We sing two concerts at St David's Hall each year, we regularly sing on BBC radio, and last year we sang on the Christmas special of BBC's *Doctor Who*. This year, the Choir is singing in **Paris**.

Please contact the Director of Choral Music, Mr Dominic Neville, for more information: dominicneville@cantab.net

A Reminder about Attendance and Punctuality

Please remember to telephone on the first day of the child's absence before 9.15 and, if possible, indicate when a return to school is expected. The child's form teacher will always collect together work if any is required. A letter or email concerning the absence is also required. Punctuality in the morning is very important and in fact a comment is made on punctuality by inspectors when a school is inspected. Children now need to be in school by 8.45 at the latest. Any lateness will mean that the punctuality will be noted as unsatisfactory on a child's report.

Future Dates

Our usual Christmas outing to the Sherman Theatre is sadly not possible this year because of the closure of the theatre for refurbishment. We are looking into alternatives for the last day of term. This year may have to be a fun morning in school and a party at lunchtime due to other events taking place in school that day.

Finally ...over the next few weeks, please be assured that everyone in school – teachers, support staff, reading assistants, teachers in the playground, will try to ensure that children become settled in school. However if you have any concerns, please do not let them fester but arrange an appointment to discuss them.

I should like to wish you all a very happy Autumn term.

Yours sincerely, Mrs E. C. Loveland (Head of Juniors)