



## Nursery & Infant School Newsletter

### Advent 2014

Dear Parents,

As our Advent term draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new pupils and their families to the Nursery and Infant Department. With Christmas approaching, the children are very busy preparing for the forthcoming Production and Tableau, and we look forward to seeing you at both events. With very best wishes,

Mrs Gillian Firth.

### R7 Superheroes

In July, R7 were welcomed to the Junior department in a fun-filled induction week based on the theme of Superheroes. The children spent a morning outdoors completing a circuit of challenges to become a super hero. They also designed and painted their own superheros T-shirt. The children completed a maths challenge and built models of a superhero's secret lair. To enable the children to make new friends, R7 and R8 worked together using the iPads to research a real life superhero. The children then produced an information board and presented their findings to everyone. R8 always enjoy the opportunity to revisit the Infant Department and remarked on how they feel more confident and independent following a year in the primary school.

### Nursery Captains



The Nursery children have all settled well into school life. Our new class captains this year are Nia and John and they are doing a great job,

helping to tidy the nursery, taking messages and helping others.

### Nursery Fairytales

The Nursery children have been learning traditional tales, completing creative work, forest school activities and cooking. During Teddy Bear Week we had a picnic in Forest School with our teddy bears. We made Three Bears porridge and Teddy Bear toast!

### Nursery Allotment



The Nursery has also been looking at the features of autumn and we made beautiful autumn leaf crowns in Forest School. Meanwhile, the Nursery have been busy on

their allotment, planting daffodil bulbs ready for the spring in memory of Mrs Brown.

### Christmas Nativity

R7 have been working very hard (see photo above) and they are very excited about this year's Christmas Nativity Production, The Curious Sheep. Miss Nirenberg would like to thank R7 parents for their help and support in assisting the pupils to learn their lines. R7 have been developing their acting and dance skills as well as stage presence and confidence in learning to speak clearly in front of groups of people. Every child in the Infant and Nursery Department has a singing and dancing role and rehearsals with Mrs McManus are now in the final stages. Thank you to those parents who are providing costumes. We will be holding a competition for the story synopsis and programme cover. We appreciate your continued

support and hope you enjoy this interesting, funny and magical performance.

### Children in Need

Mrs Firth would like to thank all the parents for their



generosity in supporting Children in Need. The children held a cake sale and placed coins in the shape of Pudsey bear.

### R6 Visit to St Fagans Museum of Welsh Life

R6 have been learning about homes through the different centuries. The children visited St Fagans Museum of Welsh Life in October, a beautiful place during the seasonal changes of autumn. Darcey remarked, "I liked the water wheel because I thought that it was interesting." Joseph also enjoyed the mill and found the miller's talk about making flour interesting. Olivia commented, "I liked it when I was in the chapel, particularly going upstairs". Many of the children especially enjoyed visiting the farmhouse and looking at the piglets. Noah thought the piglets were cute and Alma said, "I liked the mummy pig because she was sniffing us."

### R5 Cook a Bonfire Night Feast



### Chess Club

Congratulations to Ethan and Hiya, who achieved 1st place in the Under 7 boys' and girls' categories of the Delancey UK Chess Giga Final 2014 last summer.

Key Dates	
Sun 21 Dec	Cathedral Carol Service, 3pm.
Wed 24 Dec	Midnight Mass, 10.30pm.
Tues 6 Jan	Lent Term begins for pupils.
Tues 10 Feb	Cathedral Choir Lunchtime Concert at St Paul's Cathedral, London, 1.15pm.
Fri 13 Feb	School CLOSED - Staff Training & assessment day.
16-20 Feb	HALF TERM.
Fri 27 March	Lent Term ends.

This term has been very exciting for our many young chess players who have participated in a Chess Swiss Tournament and the National Schools Chess Tournament Semi-Final.



### R5 Woodland Topic

R5 visited The Amelia Trust Farm in Barry on 12th November. The children were taught how to identify different types of

plants and trees. They spotted birds and listened to their calls. Amazingly the pond still had water lilies. The children particularly enjoyed seeing the farm animals and stroking the donkeys. "I liked the big goats," remarked Arvin. To end the visit the children enjoyed their time in the playground.



### Activity Club

Many R6 and R7 pupils have attended Activity Club this term, improving their fitness and co-ordination whilst having great fun. A range of sports

includes hockey, basketball and golf.

### Garden of Remembrance

To commemorate the centenary of World War One, the Nursery and Infant Department placed poppies in a Garden of Remembrance. We listened to a poem and said a prayer for those who had sacrificed their lives.

During half-term we celebrated the life of our dear friend and colleague, Mrs Linda Brown, who so sadly passed away this term. Originally Mrs Brown taught R6 in the former school site at Greenway Road. Mrs Brown was both Head of Infants and Juniors. She was often the first person new parents met as she showed them around the school. For pupils, parents and staff, her warmth and kindness meant that she was the person everyone trusted and turned to for support in difficult times. It was these qualities that made her a natural choice for Head of Pastoral Care. When she was given her diagnosis, Linda chose to continue her lifelong work with the young people she valued so highly. I am sure it was a comfort to her family to see so many past pupils attending the mass at Saint Cadoc's and the Memorial Service at the Cathedral. We would like to thank you Linda for all the love and care you gave our children and for making us a family.