



IN CARITATE NON FICTA

St John's College

Nursery & Infants Newsletter

Advent 2015

Dear Parents,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to new pupils and their families. The children have already made a promising start to school life and are thoroughly involved in all the activities on offer. We have also welcomed Mrs Burleton who has joined the Welsh department and Ms Prettegiani who is teaching Italian after school. The children are very enthusiastic about these lessons and clearly enjoying learning new languages. Several members of R6 have joined Thursday's Activity Club and have experienced playing hockey and netball for the first time.

We are continuing to refurbish the department including new desks in R6 and tables in R5 which have been matched to the heights of the children. You are welcome to look at the displays in any of the classrooms as well as your own child's room before the start of the school day.

We are fast approaching one of the most magical and memorable times of the year. The children are already counting the days to Christmas! We would like to wish you a peaceful and joyous time with your little ones.

Mrs Gill Firth

R7 Islands, Castles & 'Pop Art'

Miss Nirenberg is very pleased at how quickly and happily the pupils have settled into the busy timetable followed by R7.

R7 started this term learning about Islands. The class researched and compared life on an island with living in our own city. The children have enjoyed reading about the character Katie Morag and the fictional Isle of Struay off the coast of Scotland. The children have developed their listening and comprehension skills. There are several of these books by Mairi Hedderwick which the children may wish to continue reading. The pupils have also written their own adventure stories for Katie Morag.

The second R7 topic was Castles, with the children making their own 3D models of castles complete with crenellations and a portcullis. Please do look at the wonderful wall display.



The children were praised on a recent visit to Cardiff Castle for their excellent behaviour and attentiveness. As a treat they were allowed to eat lunch in one of the banqueting halls. During the visit to the education centre, the class had first-hand experience of the different types of castles throughout history and the various materials used to build castles. The boys and girls were shown the different weapons and armour used to defend a castle.

As part of the Art curriculum, the children have also created their own interpretations of Andy Warhol's 'Pop Art', linked to the theme of castles.

R6 Seasons, St Fagans & Costumes

R6 have been busy enjoying activities in Forest School. They recently made autumn wands with sticks and leaves. The children followed up this outdoor activity by writing autumn spells. The autumnal theme continued with a long walk through the woods at Saint Fagans National History Museum. The children are now able to identify signs associated with the changing seasons. The class visited several houses as they studied the development of Welsh homes. The warmth from the huge fireplaces was very welcome and was something that the children recognised as being different from their own modern homes. The class had a lovely visit to St Teilo's Church and voted this their favourite building. The children thought that the paintings on the wall were very colourful and interesting.



R6 have improved their observational and drawing skills by working on portraits of each other. Miss Davis also tested the other teachers to see if they could recognise the pupils!

R6 have also been trying out prototypes for their costumes, making

old fashioned sandwich style news boards.

R5 Senses, Bears & Nursery Rhymes

R5 started the term by learning about their senses, using only touch and hearing to identify things. They discovered how Helen Keller learnt to read. The children investigated different fabrics to make a display about swimming, but their favourite activity was making pizzas.



porridge, including fruit, golden syrup and cinnamon. However, the least popular was salty, a Scottish tradition.

Nursery Foraging in Forest School & 'All about me'

Our youngest children have settled extremely well into the Nursery. They are already confidently talking and enjoying a wide range of activities including PE in the hall and cooking on a Friday. Mrs Banks is pleased that the children are learning to share and wait their turn. The children have been introduced to outdoor learning in Forest School. The Nursery pupils explored the area whilst collecting materials for a mouse's house and a crown.

The new topic for Nursery is 'All About Me'. The children have been investigating different art mediums, making hand and footprints. They also had fun making a stick man.

Remembrance Day & Nativity Tableau

Mrs Brodie led our Remembrance Day service in November, with every child placing a poppy in our garden which is dedicated to Mrs Brown. We are also preparing for the Advent service at our local parish church. We can look forward to readings from R7 and a quintet of R6 singers, while R5 are trying out their costumes for the Nativity Tableau. Thank you to the many parents who joined us at Saint Cadoc's on Tuesday 1st December.



Children in Need 2015

The children in the Infant and Nursery department had an amazing time raising money for Children In Need. They wore super-hero capes to school and participated in Pudsey Bear-themed activities. We were overwhelmed by your generosity in contributing to the cake sale. Benjamin in R6 won the competition to estimate the number of sweets in the jar. Rithvika in R7 correctly guessed the name of the teddy bear by picking 'Pippin'.



A total of £238.72 was raised, and we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who took part in this and the Shoe-box appeal.

Nursery Christmas Tree

The Nursery children recently went to The Thornhill farm shop to visit the animals and buy their Christmas tree for outside their classroom. We all had a lovely time and enjoyed visiting the cows, pigs, sheep and donkeys and we even saw Baby Jesus asleep in the manger. Farmer Phillips helped us choose our Christmas tree and it looks beautiful, full of lights and decorations!

Angel Express

We are now preparing for the Christmas Concert which will be performed on our stage in the school hall at 7pm on Tuesday 15th December. The production is entitled 'Angel Express' and centres around a choir of not so tuneless angels, who have seen the story of the Saviour's birth in the daily paper and wish to sing to the new baby. The pupils have been diligently rehearsing and are very excited to perform to their families. We are very pleased with the confidence, enthusiasm and energy shown by all the children. They should feel proud of their many achievements this term.



Key Dates

2015

Fri 11 December R5, R6 & R7 Trip to 'The Princess and the Pea' at the Sherman Theatre, 1pm
Tues 15 December Angel Express 7pm School Hall
Thur 17 December Awards Ceremony & Christmas Concert College Hall, 7.00pm
All parents warmly welcome.

Sun 20 December Cathedral Carol Service, 3.00pm

Thur 24 December Cathedral Midnight Mass, service at 10.00pm

2016

Tue 5 January Staff Preparation and Meetings
Wed 6 January Start of Lent Term (for pupils)