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St John's College

## Nursery & Infants Newsletter

### Advent 2016

Dear Parents,

We had a wonderful end to the summer term with the children enjoying a Fairy Tale themed day with the dining room transformed into a scene from Alice in Wonderland. The children have all settled extremely well into their new classes and we have welcomed Georgina, Seren, Anya, Bethan, Jasmine, Connor, Aryan, Lola, Matilda and Tanisha to our school. Our new playground surface and equipment have been thoroughly tested and approved by the children.



It has been a very industrious first term with our celebrations for Roald Dahl's centenary and charity events. Thank you to everyone for supporting our cake sale and wearing their silly socks in support of Children in Need. The name the dog competition and raffle were won by Natasha and Maya in R6. We have also had a superb talk by Neal in R7 on how his family celebrated Diwali. Some of the pupils in R7 attended a lunch organised by our parish UCM. Calum said he had really enjoyed the soup, even having seconds. The children introduced themselves and chatted to the other lunch guests, we were very proud of them. The children then sang a selection of carols with Henry performing a solo. Further lunches are planned in the New Year.

Thank you to everyone who has purchased the new school coats and navy hats. These will be the only overcoats, hats and scarves that may be worn in school from September



2017. The children look very smart and most importantly are warm whilst playing outdoors.

The children throughout the department have been busy making Christmas decorations from snowflakes to turkeys and baubles. It is lovely to see them developing their skills and dexterity with these creative activities.

The Nursery and Infant Department have been working hard to develop their confidence in public speaking and performing. They are very enthusiastic about our production of 'The Sleepy Shepherd' on December 13th. They are also very excited about our party day and a visit by the Puppet theatre. We will also have a special guest on the last day of term... we just hope he manages to park his reindeer!

Merry Christmas and our good wishes for the New Year on behalf of all the Nursery and Infant Staff,

Mrs Gillian Firth

### R6

R6 have been busy in Forest school using their observational skills to play Forest School eye spy. The children had to find things beginning with different letters of the alphabet.



The children were also given the task of making a home for a hibernating hedgehog using the materials they could find. They worked cooperatively in groups and used their problem solving skills. Prajna said, 'We wanted to make the hedgehog really cosy.'

Nell explained how her group made a shelter, 'We ripped up leaves and covered the cardboard so that the fox would not find the hedgehog.'

Henry continued, 'The hedgehog has a bed inside to sleep on. We used leaves to camouflage the house so that foxes can't eat the hedgehog. We gave the house a garden.'

Daniyal really enjoyed this activity, 'We put leaves on top of the hedgehog so that the fox cannot find the hedgehog. We made it safe by using sticks and leaves.'

### Nursery

The nursery children have some new additions to their class. Stick insects! The children have enjoyed looking at the stick insects and helping to look after them. We think that they are growing very quickly and eating lots of brambles.



The nursery children's first topic was Colours. The children had lots of fun using different mediums and exploring with colour. Their favourite activity was painting with their feet using bubble wrap. They thought it was very amusing!

The nursery children went on their annual trip to the Thornhill farm shop to visit the farm animals and buy their Christmas tree.



The children said, 'We had a fantastic time! Mr Fowler drove the bus and we sang Christmas songs. We saw Farmer Phillips and he showed us the animals. We all thought the stable with Baby Jesus looked beautiful.' The Christmas tree looks magical outside our classroom for all the children to see!

### R7



On Monday, 14th November, R7 pupils visited the War Memorial in St Mellons. They looked at the wreaths from Remembrance Sunday and listened to readings and prayers. The children

had made giant poppies; each one of these poppies bears the name of a soldier from the St Mellons area who is named on the Memorial. The Children held these up in our own Remembrance Service and at the Memorial where the names of the men were read aloud. The children showed great respect and dignity and were a credit to the department.

R7 pupils visited Pugh's Garden Village in Radyr on Monday 21st November. The children discovered which bulbs were best for spring colour. They were taught how to plant bulbs and look after them. They completed some worksheets and planted several bulbs each, which are now beginning to grow

and will hopefully be ready for Christmas.

### R5



We have been looking at some traditional tales. The children have made puppets and even tasted porridge just like Goldilocks did. However, R5's favourite activity was singing 'We're going on a bear hunt' in assembly. The children are also very proud that they can now copy writing from the board.

On Tuesday 6th December, R5 formed the Tableau in our Advent service with Madeleine and Dylan playing Mary and Joseph. The other children were wonderful in their roles as innkeepers, shepherds, kings, stars, angels and the animals. It was a moment to treasure and the children were thrilled to be wearing their costumes.



### Key Dates

#### Tuesday 13th December

Nursery & Infant Department Christmas Production 'The Sleepy Shepherd'

#### Friday 16th December

Term Ends  
Awards Ceremony & Christmas Concert

#### Sunday 18th December

Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral Carol Service, 3pm – 4.30pm

#### Saturday 24th December

Midnight Mass at Cardiff Metropolitan Cathedral, 10.30pm

#### Thursday 5th January

Pupils return to school

#### Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th February

Nursery and Infants Parents' Evening, 4pm until 5:30pm

#### Thursday 16th February

R5 Parents' Assembly, 2:30pm

#### Friday 17th February

INSET day