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St John's College

Nursery & Infants Newsletter

Summer 2016

Dear Parents,

This term has been marked with a sense of loss and sadness following the death of Dr David Neville. For many of us within our department he had been not only a colleague and leader but, over the decades, a dear friend. David was a man of great compassion and empathy as well as strength. Our thoughts and prayers are with Diana and all the family.

We are delighted that Mrs Rosemary Hart has been appointed as acting Headteacher. Mrs Hart has been a long-serving and highly experienced Assistant Head who has played a key role in the development of the school over many years. Her strong leadership will ensure that the school continues to flourish and develop. The children have enjoyed meeting Mrs Hart in her new role through the course of this term.

Mrs Gill Firth

Birthday Celebrations

We all celebrated her Majesty's 90th birthday with a special assembly at the end of the half term where the children discovered that the Queen could drive a truck and that she likes corgis. We had red, white and blue balloons and serviettes as you cannot have a birthday without a cake. The children were very happy to decide that the Queen was going to share her cake with them!



4Louis Charity Fundraising

We were privileged to have a visit from the founders of 4Louis. They showed the children one of the memory boxes which are given to bereaved families who have lost a baby or child. William and Layla used a special wipe to take their hand prints. The children liked the teddy bears, the glass angel and the balloons in the box. We were joined by the Bhat

family, and Arya presented the cheque for £450 on our behalf in memory of his brother Arnav.

R7 Visit to Roath Park

R7 had a very busy day on Wednesday 25th May when they visited Roath Park. In the morning the class went into the Conservatory and were taken through an educational session led by Ranger Dave. This trip was to enhance the children's studies in school about tropical rainforests. The Conservatory houses many exotic plants and some wildlife. Dave led the groups along the paths, pointing out the fish and terrapins in the pond as well as explaining about many different plants and how to survive in a rainforest. Here are some of the children's favourite parts of the visit:

Matilda and several others, "liked seeing the teachers' faces when they had to try eating a piece of orange that Dave called the funny face fruit!"

Darcy and Hania liked the plant that moved on its own and that even pretended to die to protect itself.



Ben's favourite part was seeing the "hissing cockroaches that hiss to scare off their predators." Alex "liked smelling the lemon tree leaves" and Selina loved "seeing Goldie, the biggest fish in the pond." All the children enjoyed seeing the large stick insects that cleverly disguise themselves on plants, and to see how they can wave their tails!

The children also followed a 'Wildlife Explorer Trail' around part of Roath Park and enjoyed finding the plaques that they could rub to help identify numerous plants and animals that can be seen along the paths. After all this activity they were very hungry. The weather was very kind to us and we were able to sit outside on some benches near the rose garden to enjoy eating our packed lunches.

After lunch, the ranger showed the children how to do mini beast hunts in the long grass and in trees. After that he

organised several environmental games for the children to play. Through these imaginative games they learnt about the importance of trees and preserving rainforests. Through role playing activities as acorns and squirrels, the children also learnt how plants need air, soil, warmth and water to grow.

There was just time for an ice cream before getting back on the bus for the journey back to school, and for some, as it had been such an active day, a little nap!

R6 Special Assembly

The children in R6 began their assembly by singing 'The Big Ship Sails'. The children had made sea creature hats to show which character they were in their play about a rainbow fish. The children had all learnt their lines in just a few days, speaking with real enthusiasm. Dev played the rainbow fish and Manu explained the moral of the story: the fish had learnt a valuable lesson about sharing with friends. The children performed the final song so well, that we asked for an encore. It was a delight to see such enthusiasm from the children who all received their certificates celebrating their contributions and kindness towards each other.

R5 Trip to The Amelia Farm Trust

Earlier this term R5 visited The Amelia Farm Trust near Barry. The children enjoyed a walk through the woods spotting fairy doors and some mischievous looking gnomes. They identified some common plants such as fern and holly. The children visited the birdwatching shelter where they spotted some ducks and heard several other bird calls.



The children had great fun pond dipping from the tanks filled by the Education Officer. They found beetles, pond skaters and nymphs, with one group even discovering a newt. The children learnt how to use the nets and handle small creatures without harming them.

The children were able to have their picnic outdoors and they had fun pretending to be firefighters sliding down the pole in the playground.

The children estimated that there were about a hundred hens on the farm. They saw several small pigs curled up in the straw. They also liked seeing the donkeys playing and rolling in the grass. The children were also allowed to stroke the rabbits.

R5 Creative Activities

In school, creative activities have included painting stone frogs, making owls from pine cones and clay hedgehogs as part of the woods topic.

R5 children have learnt how to write their addresses and enjoyed



walking to the post box to post letters home. The children also tried on equipment as they learnt about safety at sea.



Nursery Visit to Walnut Tree Farm

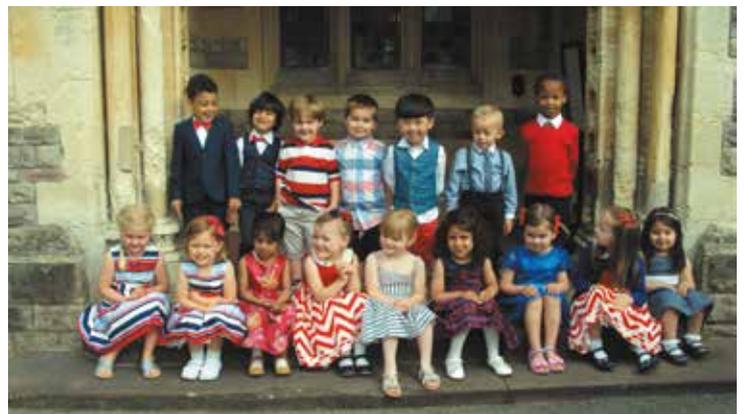
The nursery visited Walnut Tree farm where they had a fantastic time feeding the animals. The children enjoyed the tractor ride and playing in the adventure playground. Madeleine said, "This is the best day ever!"

Nursery Celebrates Queen's 90th Birthday

The nursery children celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday with a royal banquet. The children came to school wearing very smart outfits of red, white and blue. The children played lots of games including pass the parcel and games on the lawn. We had a royal banquet with delicious party food. This was a marvellous end to their topic.

End of Year Service

We would like to congratulate R7 on all their achievements during their time in the Infant and Nursery Department. 'We marked the occasion with a church service on 28th June. We have every confidence that they are ready for the move to the main school in September, but we will miss them. It has been a pleasure to watch the children grow in confidence as they develop their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.



Wishing you all a safe and happy summer break, with good wishes from all the staff.

Mrs Gill Firth