



St John's College



## Early Years & Infant School

### Newsletter Summer 2013

Dear Parents,

With another academic year coming to an end, we would like to thank you for your continued support. It has been another very busy year, with excellent progress having been made by the children. We have welcomed a number of new pupils, who have settled in well, and we would like to extend best wishes to our R7 pupils, as they prepare for their life in the Junior School.

Mrs J. Walton.



### Nursery News

The Nursery have had lots of fun on their weekly trips to forest school. We have been exploring bugs on a bug drop, and a bug treasure hunt. We really enjoyed eating our camp food and were surprised to find, on one of our visits, a treasure chest with lots of exciting things to go with our topic, The Beach!



Olivia Equeall in the Nursery had 'Star of the week' for working hard in P.E. We are very proud of you Olivia. Well done! The Nursery went to see Spot The Dog in the New Theatre, Cardiff. Norman Bear came too and really enjoyed his ride on the big bus! We had fun singing and dancing with Spot The Dog at his birthday party.



The children in the nursery are enjoying this term's topic 'The Beach'. We have been looking at different sea creatures each day and had the chance to look at real mackerel fish using magnifying glasses. We are looking forward to our trip to The Gower in June to explore rock pools!

### Links with KS2

In early May, R10 visited our department to recite two very impressive poems that they had learnt, *Hiawatha* and *The Hare and the Tortoise*. We were all very impressed with the amount they had learnt, and enjoyed their al-fresco performance in our playground.

### Roath Fire Station Visit



On 2 May, R5 went on a topic-related trip to Roath Fire Station. Within minutes of our arrival, the fire crew were called to an emergency. Fortunately it was a brief call out on Newport Road, and it wasn't long before the fire crew returned. It was certainly worth waiting for, as the children and staff were given a ride on the engine (in small groups), and everyone had a turn at using the hose. The whole experience was informative, and great fun. R5 are also looking forward to their trip to the postal sorting office at Lamby Way.

### R5 'People Who Help Us' Work

As part of our 'People Who Help Us' Topic, R5 went on a walk around the school, focusing on finding and interviewing the various people who help us at St John's College. These included the secretaries, bursar, caretaker, dining room staff, transport co-ordinator and teachers. The children enjoyed asking questions, observing and discussing the various equipment used by each person. The children are very proud of their classroom display on this topic.

### R5 P.S.H.E. Programme

R5 have thoroughly enjoyed the interactive programme called 'Say What You Think', which we have viewed on the interactive whiteboard. This programme has offered five key themes relating to citizenship - Fairness, Rules, Right and Wrong, Working Together and Taking Care. R5 have become thoroughly absorbed in each episode, and were sad when the series came to an end.

### Nursery & Infant Open Day

It was good to see many of our colleagues at the Nursery and Infant Open Day for the Junior and Senior staff last month. We were all proud to show the work, wall displays and great achievements of our pupils. Well done everyone!

## Lenten Project

The children in the Nursery and Infant Department raised £800 in a Sponsored Silence, Sponsored Walk (around the Mews) and the weekly Lenten Pot. The money raised will be divided between C.A.F.O.D. and H.C.P.T. Pilgrimage Trust (73). Thank you to everyone / Diolch yn fawr i pawb.

## Visit to St Cadoc's Church

Children from the Infant Department visited St Cadoc's Church for our annual 'Questions to God'. A selection of questions written by R6 and R7 were read out by the children from the lectern. Father Gray answered the questions at an age-appropriate level and understanding. He commented on the quality of questions from the children. May is a month when we have a special devotion to Mary. Each child in R7 wrote a prayer to Mary and read it out from the altar. Nadia A., Kate F. And Poppy M. in R7 processed to the altar carrying flowers and a tiara, whilst the children sang 'Bring Flowers of the Rarest'. Kate F. crowned Mary's statue with a tiara of flowers and the children commented on how they all enjoyed this custom of honouring Mary in the month of May.

## Super Seven Book Club



Our R7 book club has had another successful term, with 18 members attending for an hour a week after school. The children have enjoyed reading *The Chocolate Monster* by Jan Page. We have discussed the plot and the characters and designed our own Chocolate Monsters. Our next book is *Space Race* by Marjorie Blackman.

## R7 Castle Day

Following on from their exciting History trip to Cardiff Castle in May, R7 completed their study of castles by holding a Castle Day. All the children came to school dressed as a castle character which included a king, a prince, a servant, several princesses and knights, and even a jester! A tournament was held in the morning with archery, aiming and stick horse riding competitions. The Royal Banquet was held in the afternoon when we ate decorated cakes and biscuits and honey sandwiches which the children had made in the morning. Medieval music and dancing followed, ending with the jester telling some jokes. A memorable day for everyone.

## R6 Forest School & Gardening

R6 have been busy with outdoor activities in recent months. During our Forest School sessions we have been bird watching, built our own birds nests and collected and pressed wild flowers. We have also drawn observational drawings of our garden in full bloom! We have recently planted sunflower seeds which have sprouted quite quickly, no doubt because of our 'green fingers'! R6 have been enjoying the topic of water and the seaside and have made a very busy interest table. The children's lovely artwork has made the classroom very colourful. We are looking forward to our future trips to the beach with the Nursery and to Newport Wetlands with R7.



## World Maths Day

In March the children of R6 and R7 took part in World Maths Day. They had the opportunity to practise at home before the actual challenge. The children were competing against children from all over the world. All pupils did very well and improved their mental maths and IT skills.



## Welsh Schools Circuit Competition

Dylan Jones (R7) achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Under 7 Boys Cycling Competition. He had to cycle 3 laps to qualify and then race just over 1 lap to gain his place. Well done, Dylan!

## Foundation Phase PE

Nursery and R5 have been learning about 'Megan and the baby dragon', using the story book as a guide through a variety of different activities. As a PE department we were able to showcase the foundation phase PE when Cardiff Metropolitan University students attended an observation session involving R5. The children and the department received outstanding feedback. R6 and R7 have also used a story book; theirs followed the theme of 'The beach party'. Both year groups have been encouraged to develop their basic skill level and knowledge by participating in modified small-sided games such as netball, hockey and football.

During the past couple of weeks the pupils have been playing small-sided strike and fielding games, with a noticeable improvement in sending and receiving skills amongst the children. Next term the pupils will be focusing on athletics in preparation for their sports day on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Nursery and R5 have already familiarised themselves with the NIAC (National Indoor Athletic Centre). The enthusiasm shown by every pupil in PE has been outstanding and they are a pleasure to teach!

## Chess Club News

St John's College Chess Club continues to flourish with 20-25 club members attending after school from 4-6 pm every Monday in room 0.1, led by Dr Howells and Tim Kett (Professional chess tutor and Welsh chess champion). Many congratulations to Ethan Chung who won third prize in the Club's recent internal competition, and went on to win first prize for his age group at the regional Mega finals hosted at St John's College. Ethan now has a place in the highly coveted Giga Final this summer!

## Dates for the Diary

- 17 June: An introductory evening for parents of pupils joining the Nursery in September 2013.
- 24 June: Progress evening & start of R7 transition week with R8.
- 2 July: End of Year service, St Cadoc's Church. All families welcome.
- 8 July: An introductory evening for the parents of pupils joining R5 in September 2013.
- 9 July: Sport's Day.
- 12 July: R6 & R7 Science trip to Newport Wetlands & End of term.