



## Junior School Newsletter

### Advent 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Junior School Advent term newsletter. It only seems like yesterday that we were saying good bye to our R11 pupils in July and wishing them a bright future in our Senior School.



Although it is sad to see such familiar members of our Junior School moving on, it is also exciting to welcome new faces, not only in R8, but

across all our year groups. The R7/R8 Induction Week provides an excellent opportunity to help the R7 pupils prepare for the transition and as a result they have already settled confidently into the Junior School. I would like to thank existing pupils for being so welcoming to their new peers in all year groups.



In this newsletter I have included a few reports from the end of last year to give new parents and pupils a feel for some of

our extra-curricular activities during the Summer months. We have some exciting events coming up this term, such as the R11 Enterprise Week, the R11 Victorian Day, R10 trip to Cog Waterworks and R9's

noisy trip to Wastesavers and I am especially looking forward to the R8 Parents' Assembly.

With best wishes,  
Rebecca Thompson

### R8 Trip to Caerleon

R8 spent the day at Caerleon, beginning with an hour in the museum looking at artefacts. "We were like archaeologists," explained Kelsie. Next the children participated in two workshops. Anish reports, "We acted as rich Romans and slaves. The rich Romans ate dormice, snails and peacock brains." "I liked the barrack room where eight soldiers lived. There were suits of armour which we all tried on," added Sam. Varshnay continued, "In the afternoon, We went to the bath house. The floor was burning hot so the Romans wore sandals. We saw a strigil which was used to scrape the dirt off you." "I liked trying on the gladiator's helmet," said Conor. The children also visited the amphitheatre to experience Roman drill. Dylan O remarked "My favourite was when we had a battle - Dylan J and Joseph were the centurions." The day provided a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to experience life in Roman times. They also all thought it was a fun trip. "The Roman name for Caerleon was Isca. My favourite part was when we were fighting with swords and bow and arrows. I really want to go again," said Aryan.



### R10 Pirate Day

On 11<sup>th</sup> June the sun shone at Port Eynon as the pirates from R10 worked on improving their mapping skills. The aim at the end of the day was to discover Luca's hidden treasure. The day began with lots of practice at using compasses, following different directions and bearings. Why didn't everyone end up where they should have been?

Soon everyone got the hang of it and it was time to set off in groups to follow the hidden clues in search of the treasure. At each location the pupils collected stamps on their cards and finally they arrived at the castle ruins where they had to piece together a map to locate the treasure. Each group collected its share of the contraband and following some questions pupils were able to swap this for their own gold coin. Before returning home the pupils paired up and built their own desert islands using anything they could find on the beach. Next they had to bury their gold coin and draw a map for their partner to find it. Did any coins go missing? No, R10 were brilliant at drawing their maps!

Here are some of the comments the pupils made: "It was such fun. I want to go again." "I loved the story about Luca the pirate. Can I be a pirate now I can use a compass?" "I loved collecting the stamps." "Yes there was real treasure! The best part was building our own islands and burying the coins. Please can we go back when we are in R11."

### R10 Big Pit



In Art lessons, R10 pupils have been studying the work of the Polish born artist, Josef Herman who spent a number of years living in

a small mining community in South Wales. 'Josef Herman was born in Warsaw on 3 January 1911 and died in London in 2000. Herman arrived in Britain in 1940, one year after the start of World War II. In 1944 he visited Ystradgynlais but ended up staying for a couple of years. He liked to draw the miners and the people around him. Herman drew from memory and his pictures are simple and child-like. Our trip to Big Pit was good fun and it was very interesting to learn how children as young as five would go down into the mine in the pitch black to earn money for their families. In the mine it was dark and cold but on the surface it was blue and grey with clouds.' By Dior Wood and Maddy Bullen.

### Special Achievement Awards



Oliver L, Elizabeth L, Shaad R, Rhys J, Poppy M and Joshua S have been awarded a Special Achievement Award for their positive approach and contributions to school life last Summer Term.

### Junior Book Club Awards

Congratulations to Joseph M and Jack A who received awards in the R11 Summer Assembly for having read all set texts and for their contribution to every Book Club since Book Club was established, when they were in R9!

### R10 & R11 External Sports Tournament

After the horrendous weather we encountered during the Junior Multi-Sports Tournament the external tournament produced some glorious sunshine and was a huge success. St John's College entered four teams, with St John's Porthcawl, St Clare's Porthcawl and Kings Monkton all entering two teams each. The focus of the day was for all the children involved to enjoy and embrace Physical Education. The PE department were exceptionally proud of all the St John's College pupils involved and a special mention to all the GCSE PE students involved in the officiating and coaching on the day.

### R8 & R9 Botanical Gardens



Poisons or Medicines? This was part of R8 and R9s visit to the National Botanical Gardens of Wales in July. The pupils visited an early

pharmacy, learning about how plants can be helpful or harmful.

Working in groups, the children were able to explore Mediterranean climates. This treasure hunt activity sent them to Australia, Californian and South America, all under the giant glass dome. A lunchtime picnic on the lawn with games of "Duck, Duck, Goose" added to the pupils' enjoyment of the day. The second part of the day, under the expert tuition of the centre, involved a study of the ecosystem of a pond. The pupils collected specimens, examined them under microscopes in the laboratory, before returning them to the water.

### R7 & R8 Induction Week

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



superheroes 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 i-pads 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 main building.

### Junior School Activity Day



The Junior School came off timetable in July for an entertaining day of activities which involved 3D table top Mathematics

puzzles where pupils solved problems such as the Towers of Hanoi, 3D Noughts and Crosses. A Crime Scene Investigation in our Science Laboratories, to solve the mystery 'Who Stole Mrs Thompson's Pencil Case'? Traditional playground games and a treasure hunt. Not only did pupils practise their problem solving and team work skills, they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. R11T said it was 'an awesome day'.

### HMS Pinafore



This summer's school production of Gilbert & Sullivan's *HMS Pinafore* received a superlative review from the Catholic

newspaper's arts reviewer, Joseph Green: 'This production by St John's College, Cardiff, was as good as any production of Gilbert and Sullivan I have seen, and I include the D'Oyly Carte company.'

'It had everything, a brilliant orchestra, conducted by Diana Neville, lively chorus and well-cast principals.' Our Junior pupils were particularly praised as members of the chorus, as Green commented 'to use a football metaphor, they acted off the ball and never allowed their characterisations to drop while the focus was on the principals.' (Joseph Green, Catholic People).

### Junior Sports Day

This year's Junior Sports day was a huge success with over 90 pupils taking part in a variety of events. There were some outstanding performances all round and the levels of sportsmanship on display were fantastic throughout. All children were participating with smiles on their faces and really enjoyed the physical challenges they faced. There was even time for the parents' races and staff vs pupils races which were a nice way to end such an action packed day. Special mentions go to Katie W for outstanding performance in discus, Matthew L for his outstanding performance in many events including the 300m, Dior W for a fantastic display in the 300m and Maddy B for achieving all gold medals in her throwing events. A huge thank you to our sixth form helpers, spectators and of course the fantastic Junior department for all their help and support in the running of the event. Congratulations to St David's, the winning house.



### R8 & R9 Caerphilly Mountain Ranch

On the last day of summer term R8 and R9 enjoyed a trip to Caerphilly Mountain

Ranch. We were greeted by the Rangers on arrival and split into 3 groups. Throughout the day we all had a chance to 'face our fears' on the high ropes. This was a challenge for some but perseverance and adrenaline got them through the whole of the course. It was a pleasure to see how the children worked together to encourage their peers to achieve their goals and complete each obstacle. Their enthusiasm for each other was heart warming. There were also forest walks within the new extended woodland area and we went to the Fairy Forest and enjoyed a ride on the swing. We then ventured down to the Indian teepee area and played jumping along the raised tree trunks. Our final visit within the woods was down to the fallen tree where we enjoyed climbing. Of course everyone enjoyed the large play area and an ice cream at the end of the day. I think I can certainly say that a fun day of adventure was had by all.

### R10 Trip - International Centre for Birds of Prey

R10 ended their term with a most enjoyable day out at the International Centre for Birds of Prey in Newent. The sun shone as we had a guided tour of the Centre. The children were able to show off their knowledge as questions were fired at them. Following the tour, we watched the first flying demonstrations when a variety of hawks, falcons and kestrels entertained us as they circled the arena trying to use the thermals to gain height. It was a spectacular sight to see the birds swoop down to retrieve meat from a lure. After a picnic lunch and a play in the adventure playground it was time to visit the owls and everyone was astounded by the size and variety of these birds. The second demonstration followed and included an eagle, a great favourite, the burrowing owls and a yellow kite. An ice cream rounded off the day and everyone agreed it had been awesome! Oh and the best moment? That of course was when one of the trainee owls did not quite make it to the arena and landed on Miss Sayce's back. It certainly was a moment all the children will remember. It was an excellent way to end the year and as we left we were told our children had been the best behaved school party this year. Well done R10!

### R11 Noah's Ark

On a sunny last day of term, R11, Mrs Kloosterman, Miss Sheehan, Mrs Denman and myself, visited Noah's Ark Zoo Farm. It is a hands-on zoo and working farm just outside Bristol, set in over 100 acres of beautiful countryside. R11 enjoyed a packed day getting close to many zoo animals like giraffes and lions as well as feeding animals and birds such as camels and llamas. Ben A was particularly taken by the pigs who unfortunately spent most of their time asleep. Lunchtime was spent at the maze. Some pupils spent a very long time in the maze and a rescue party was sent in!

The day was rounded off by a great game of tag around the adventure playground, although my favourite were the two very fast zip wires which I can personally recommend. And for those of us who are partial to homemade cake and ice creams – they had those too.

### Cathedral Choir Tour to Bruges

In July, the boy and girl Cathedral Choristers had a most enjoyable tour of Belgium. As well as enjoying the splendid scenery on the canals of Bruges, the choristers



performed two magnificent concerts with Llandaff Cathedral Choral Society in Ghent Cathedral and Bruges Cathedral, the latter of which culminated in a standing ovation.

### Book Club

There was a touch of magic about the first Junior Book Club of the academic year. Members were 'sorted' into Hogwarts' houses and quizzed on their knowledge of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, by J. K. Rowling. Congratulations to all who took part, especially the winning team, Hufflepuff (Mostyn). The next Book Club texts are both multi-award winners and written by the current Children's Laureate, Malorie Blackman. *Thief!* (for older readers) and *Cloud Busting* (suitable for all). The next Book Club will be held, in Circle Time, on Tuesday 18th November. As always, those who have read the text, had it read to them or have listened to the audio book are welcome to attend.

### Welsh Storyteller and Book Week



The Junior pupils enjoyed 'Book Week at St John's College'. Scholastic books were available to view and purchase throughout the

week. Purchases totalled over £1000, which enabled us to purchase further books for the Infant and Junior libraries – thank you. There was a Book Cover competition for all form groups and Enid Middleton, a Welsh Storyteller, retold stories from Welsh Folk Lore. She has a wonderful way of capturing the pupils' imaginations and holding them spellbound throughout. The Junior pupils always look forward to her visit, recounting past stories with detail – thank you, Enid.

### R8 Trip to the National Museum of Wales



R8 pupils visited Cardiff Museum to find out about the evolution of Wales and to look at the paintings in the art gallery. Pupils enjoyed finding out

about volcanoes and the creation of the Welsh landscape. In the art gallery, the pupils were very

privileged to meet the mouth artist Rosaleen Moriarty-Simmonds who is a member of The Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. These are professional artists who have no use of their hands because of a disability at birth, an accident or through illness and have learned to paint by holding a brush either in their mouth or between their toes. The children were keen to find out about Rosaleen's art and enjoyed watching her work. They shared their own pictures with her and discussed the paintings in the Impressionism Gallery by Monet with her.

### Autumn Term Extra Curricular Timetable

#### Monday Lunchtime

Junior Library Open, 11.45-12.05pm

#### Monday Evening

R11/R12 Science Club 4-4.45pm: 4.2

Italian 3.50 to 4.20pm and 4.20pm until 5pm: Rm R7

Chess Club 4-5.30pm: Rm 0.1

R8 - R11 Football 4-5pm

#### Tuesday Lunchtime

R8 - R11 Multi-Sports 11.45-12.05pm

#### Tuesday Evening

Cathedral Choir 3.50-4.45pm Rm Sixth Form Library

R8 - R11 Football 4-5pm

#### Wednesday Morning

Cathedral Choir 8.55-9.45am: Rm 0.3

Girls Choir 8.55-9.45am : Rm 3.2

#### Wednesday Lunchtime

Junior Library Open 11.45-12.05pm

#### Wednesday Evening

Golf 4-5pm (R11 Rotation)

#### Thursday Evening

Cathedral Choir 3.50-4.45pm: Rm Sixth Form Library

R8 - R11 Multi-Sport 4-5pm

#### Friday Morning

Cathedral Choir 8.55-9.45: Rm 0.3

#### Friday Lunchtime

Junior Library Open 11.45-12.05pm

#### Friday afternoon

Training Orchestra 12.50-1.25pm: Rm Sixth Form Library

#### Homework Club

Daily 3.50-5.30pm: Rm Dining Room

#### Individual Achievements

Well done to the following pupils who achieved music grades recently:

Hiya (music theory), Rhea (piano), Tanisha (piano), Poppy (violin), Crina (piano), Harshita (piano), Namitha (singing), Sohini (piano), Srinetra (piano).

Well done to the following for their sporting achievements:

Kiki (cheer leading medal), Akshara (next gymnastics level), Alex D (football trophy), Kate (ice skating level),

Aryan (next stage in swimming), Daniel (cricket award), Llyr (selected for development squad in football), Ansha (next stage in swimming), Jamie (next stage in kayaking), Owen W (rugby team won tournament), Oskar (2nd in tennis tournament), Elizabeth (gymnastics badge), Arjun and Jeff (next belt in Tai-Kwan Do).

And ... well done for these achievements:

Sofia, Akshara, Zahra and Anish for their achievements in a recent chess competition, Hiya for qualifying for the Welsh Chess Championships, Harriet passing a ballet exam, Pablo who played in a music festival at Cardiff University, Tanisha and Akshara who danced on stage at Lisvane Hall and the National Museum respectively, Millie who passed an acting exam, Jacob who completed a sailing course, Oliver L, Aditya, Jamie and Ollie S who completed a surfing course, Eleri, Gabriel and Maddy who completed a 11.6 miles sponsored walk for Velindre, Eleri ran in Race for Life and Ella E participated in Remembering Owen's ride for CRY.

And Finally ...

Please remember to check the diaries every night for homework and possible communications from teachers. There is limited room for bags in classrooms so please use the St John's red bags for books. Please can you ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform and that items which maybe removed are named. Name tags are essential as pupils move around the school premises and they can easily forget where they left an item. We will be having 'spot checks' to ensure uniform is correct and items of clothing are labelled.

At the end of the day, please collect your son/daughter from their teacher so they do not make their own way through the busy car park. Pupils not collected by 4pm will be escorted to Homework Club as staff members have after school meetings or extra curricular activities to attend. Similarly, pupils not collected from extra curricular activities, 10 minutes after their scheduled finish time, will also be escorted to Homework Club to ensure they are left safely in the presence of a designated staff member. Please note that Homework Club finishes at 5.30pm. We are grateful for your support in all these matters.

#### Key Dates

##### December:

1st -8th Dec Internal Exams

5th Dec R8 Assembly

12th Dec Prize Giving

17th Dec Arabian Nights at the Sherman Theatre

17th Dec Christmas Assembly & End of term

##### January:

5th Jan Training Day

6th Jan Term starts

13th Jan Book Club

19th Jan R11 PC Pope

19th Jan R9 Parents Evening

22nd Jan R10 Parents Evening

26th Jan R8 & R11 Parents Evening