

event on 14 November. St John's College finished as the best Cardiff team and best competing independent school. The Dell won 14-6, and St John's edged The Grange into second place, thanks to superior game points. St John's Division 1 team: Hiya, Anish, Ben J, Ashika, Krishna, Sanvi, San, Aryan M, Krithik and Robert. Ben J was nominated the best improved player for his age and received the team chess medal – well done, Ben!

Achievements

Well done to these pupils who achieved music grades recently:
Ben Jo (Piano); Gala (violin); Selina L (piano); Isabella (piano); Niamh (piano); Aryan (piano); Selina H (piano); Nia (piano); Anchitha (piano); Hiya (piano); Sofia (singing); Nadia (piano); Emyr – joined Training orchestra; Rishi T – started drum lessons; Joshua H for gaining a place with RWCMD (violin); Alma (violin); Dylan J – cello solo in an external orchestra; Pablo – audition for National Children's Orchestra.

Well done to the following for their sporting achievements:
Adi – Athletics certificate; Noah, Olivia, Joanne and Robert – Swimming certificates for distance swim; Annabelle, Benjamin Ja, Joshua O, Gala, Kofi, Reece, Aoife, Isabella, Ved, Finlay, Imogen, Anchitha, Isabel, Annabel, Aryan S, Haris, Sam, Owain, Yash - next grade at swimming; Leila – won a horse riding medal; Max, Reece, Harry, Aryan S, - next level in Taekwondo; Kofi - player of the week twice in Rugby; Kundi – quarterfinals of tennis competition; Ben L – best goalkeeper in club; Lily, Katie, Isabel – next level at gymnastics; Harri – player of the year at football club; Ronav – won two tennis tournaments; Alfie, Aryan S, Daniel – next tennis level; Krithik, Conrad – next belt in Karate; Nia – tennis tournament certificate; Sean – second in tennis tournament; Oliver – top goal scorer in hockey; Abi – won cricket medal; Vineet – Cardiff Met Academy and U10's cricket trials; Aryan S – county cricket and next level at badminton; Haris – played in cricket finals; Ashlin won a Karate tournament; Jack – top football squad at Cardiff Met; Ananyaa – next stage of life saving; Dylan J in promotional advert on Youtube for Cardiff Met Tennis Academy.

And... well done for these achievements:
Olivia – certificate in Ballet; Alexandra was cast as 'Small Alice' at stage school; Darcey received a green Blue Peter badge and certificate; Selina won a drawing competition in China and a Chinese writing competition in Cardiff; Lilah – won street dance competition; Sanwi – 4th in Chess Giga finals; Ashmit – came first in singing and dancing competition; Hiya – U10 Welsh Champion and 21st in Europe; Emyr – joined Training orchestra; Kiki – started LAMDA exams.

Mathletics Certificates since the start of term:
Silver: Ben Ja, Ronav, Anchitha, Katie, James, Sofia (2) and Yash.
Gold: Conrad.

And Finally...

Please remember to check the diaries every night for homework and possible communications from teachers. Your initials let us know it is being checked daily.

Please can you ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform and that items which may be removed are clearly named. Name tags are essential as pupils move around the school premises and they can easily forget where they left an item. Similarly, it would be helpful if lunchboxes, pencil cases and purses / wallets have names in them too please.

And lastly, absences from school during term time require permission from the Headmistress. Please could you copy me or the form teacher into your written request for absence.

We are grateful for your support in all these matters and please continue to keep us informed of any matters which may affect your child's wellbeing in school.

Forthcoming Dates

November:
Mon 21st R10 @Bristol
Tues 22nd Kids' Lit Quiz
Wed 23rd Table Tennis Tournament
Tues 29th St David's Hall Concert

December:
Fri 2nd- Fri 9th R9-R11 Internal Exams
Thurs 8th Cathedral Choir event
Fri 9th Sherman – The Borrowers
Mon 12th R8 Parents' Assembly
Fri 16th End of term
Fri 16th Awards Ceremony and Concert 7pm School Hall

January:
Wed 4th Staff Preparation and Meetings
Thurs 5th Term starts
Mon 9th R11 Swimming Commences
Tues 10th R10 Swimming Commences
Tues 10th Book Club
Wed 11th R9 Swimming Commences
Thurs 12th R8 Swimming Commences
Thur 19th R9 Parents Evening
Mon 23rd R10 Parents Evening
Mon 30th R8 and R11 Parents Evening

February:
Fri 3rd R10 Parents' Assembly
Tues 7th Peer to Peer Reading
Fri 17th Staff Preparation and Meetings
20th-24th Half term

Junior Extra-Curricular Timetable - Autumn 2016

Monday

Lunchtime R11 Hockey 11.30-12.00pm Hall
R10 Hockey 12.00-12.30pm Hall
Junior Library Open 12.15-12.30pm Rm: 3.1

Evening Chess Club 4-5.30pm Rm: Dr Nades (New Building)
Junior Football 4-5pm
R11 Mixed Hockey 4-5.15pm

Tuesday

Morning Table Tennis Club 8-8.30am Hall

Lunchtime Puzzle Club 11.45-12.30pm Rm: 3.4
Junior Table Tennis Club 11.45-12.30pm Hall
Junior Library Open 12.15-12.30pm Rm: 3.1

Evening Cathedral Choir 3.50-4.45pm Rm: Sixth Form Library

Wednesday

Morning Cathedral Choir 8.55-9.45am Rm: 0.3

Lunchtime Junior Library Open 12.15-12.30pm Rm: 3.1
R11 Latin Club 11.45-12.05pm Rm 3.4
Junior Netball Club 11.45-12.30pm Hall

Evening Girls R11 and Senior Netball 4-5pm
Golf 4-5pm (R11 Rotation)
Italian 4.15-5pm
R10/R11 Rugby 4-5pm

Thursday

Lunchtime R10 and R11 Mandarin Club 11.45-12.05pm Rm: 3.3

Evening Cathedral Choir 3.50-4.45pm Rm: Sixth Form Library
Junior Multi-Sport 4-5pm Hall

Friday

Morning Cathedral Choir 8.55-9.45 Rm: 0.3
Girls' Choir 8.55-9.45am Rm: 3.3

Lunchtime Junior Library Open 12.15-12.30pm Rm: 3.1

Afternoon Training Orchestra 12.30-1.15pm Rm: Sixth Form Library

Homework Club Daily 3.50-5.30pm Rm: Dining Room

NB: Please check the website for weekly updates to the PE extra-curricular timetable.



St John's College

Junior Newsletter

Advent 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Advent term newsletter.

This term has been full of exciting new developments: new pupils, new staff and new extra-curricular activities. We have two new R8 form groups as well as new pupils across all our year groups. Each year, I am pleased to see them integrate confidently into our Junior community. I would like to thank existing pupils for being so welcoming to their new peers.



I am sure most of you have now met our new staff Mrs R Giannotti, Mrs C Clint and Mr M Blackburn and have heard that Miss S Thornton is now Mrs S Hall. Mrs R Howells has begun her maternity leave but we will see her again in July, if not before, when she visits the school with her new family member.

We have also changed some of our extra-curricular activities. Mr Turner took the R11's on a River study, Mrs Kloosterman took R10 on a trip linked to their class text 'Kensuke's Kingdom' and R8 have visited the Round House at St Fagan's. We now offer a Mandarin club at lunchtime for R10 and R11 and the PE team have brought in a coach to develop field hockey across all year groups. It was fantastic to see the team spirit and enthusiasm amongst the R8 and R9 girls at the recent hockey tournament held at our school.

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, as well as some imminent dates. The full school calendar for the whole year is available on the school website.

With best wishes,
Rebecca Thompson

R8 History Trip to Caerleon

R8 pupils have been finding out about the Romans in History lessons this year and their studies culminated in a trip to the Roman Legionary Museum, Baths and Amphitheatre in Caerleon on Tuesday 7th June. Pupils had the opportunity to dress as soldiers and civilians and enjoyed some role-playing activities. They looked at the many interesting artefacts in the museums and tried to imagine gladiator and animal fights in the now peaceful amphitheatre. Despite the somewhat unsettled weather forecast, the rain held off and R8 had a fabulous day out and were most enthusiastic in all they did, especially lunch and singing on the coach!



R10 Pirate Day

R10 enjoyed a day at Port Eynon Beach where they practised using grid references and compasses. The skills learnt enabled them to follow a series of clues to discover where the pirate treasure was buried. Further exploration of the Salt House revealed the pirates' hidden stash. Once the goods had been exchanged for gold coins the pupils set about building their own islands in the sand. Next they hid their coins and drew maps with grid references to show the location of their treasure. Their partners then had the task of trying to locate the coins. Most were successful!



R8 First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Selina H-E, Niamh H-B, Harri P, Aoife P, Dylan S, Jolina S and Imogen W who attended the service at St David's Metropolitan Cathedral on Sunday 12th June for their First Holy Communion. The children have been preparing in school over the course of the year and this day was a culmination of all their hard work.

Archbishop George Stack conducted a lovely service and the Cathedral Choir's singing helped to make it a memorable occasion for the candidates. We wish all the pupils well in this new stage of their Christian journey.

Archdiocese Centenary Celebration

Monday 20th June 2016 gave witness to the main Centenary celebration for the Archdiocese of Cardiff, when Archbishop George Stack offered a Mass of Thanksgiving in the presence of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Apostolic Nuncio, His Excellency Antonio Mennini and 19 Catholic Bishops of England and Wales. The Cathedral Choir was at the centre of the liturgy, performing Charles Wood's double choir anthem Hail Gladdening Light and Bruckner's Locus iste magnificently.

Tangerine Dream Machine

On 22 June, pupils from R8 to Sixth Form came to see the inspirational innovator Andrew Jenkins and the amazing velomobile he has built with the help of Swansea University in order to achieve two ambitious goals: firstly to tour the UK in this remarkable vehicle, visiting Maggie's Cancer Trust Centres stretching across England, Wales and Scotland, and secondly to smash the world land speed record. Andrew Jenkins has sung with the Cathedral Choir over several years and our pupils were captivated by his velomobile and the engineering that has inspired the 'Tangerine Dream Machine'. Andrew is fighting a remarkable battle against cancer, and for further information, please view www.justgiving.com/fundraising/The-Tangerine-Dream-Machine



Junior Book Club



Junior Book Club members continue to be enchanted by the magical world of Harry Potter. They were keen to discuss its universal and enduring appeal. St John's house teams were "sorted" into Hogwarts houses to compete in the Book Club quiz. Congratulations to all who took part, especially Mostyn (aka Ravenclaw) who narrowly won the quiz.

R9 Llancaiach Fawr

During the summer term R9 had the chance to visit Llancaiach Fawr as part of their History studies. The children were able to speak to Tudor characters, finding out about Tudor life in Wales, and took part in a number of workshops throughout the day. A good day was had by all, with the children looking the part in their fantastic 'Tudor dress'.



R7 / R8 Induction Week



R7 pupils joined R8 in the Junior Department for a week filled with Olympic based activities. Pupils looked at the Rainforest and made beautiful animal and plant collages. They studied the origins of the Ancient Greek Olympic Games and drew Ancient Greek pots depicting sporting events. They performed Science experiments to see how their breathing changed following exercise and enjoyed using the peak flow meters to check their breathing rates. The pupils made medals out of food and the week ended with an exhausting but exciting mini Olympic Games held at UWIC where R7, R8 and R9 pupils competed in a number of sporting activities and were each presented with a medal for participation. R7 enjoyed their visit to the Junior Department and are looking forward to becoming R8.

R8 / R9 Maths Trip

On Tuesday 28th June, R8 and R9 pupils visited Parc in Grangetown. The children worked in groups to complete a series of Maths challenges. They used stopwatches to time themselves on the different activities and measured their strides in the sand. They made estimations and compared these with their actual results. A fun day was had by both pupils and staff.



Awards

At the end of the term we celebrated the achievements of our pupils. Amongst those receiving awards were the pupils awarded the highest number of merits and those who were given a special award for being excellent role models. Well done to everyone who gained their Bronze, Silver or Gold merit certificates too.



Junior Activity Day



This year our activity day had a Roald Dahl theme as part of the centenary celebrations. Pupils enjoyed a number of creative and scientific activities linked to themes from a variety of our favourite Roald Dahl books. We also enjoyed some fabulous cakes inspired by Roald Dahl's vivid imagination.



Junior Sports Day

This year saw a fantastic annual Junior Sports Day, which was held on the 4th July 2016. All pupils greatly enjoyed themselves and worked so hard to win their house points. This year the pupils were introduced to high jump and long jump master classes. Sinead commented "this year's sports day was so much fun as we had so many activities to do". Dylan J displayed excellent commentating skills. The winners, with an amazing 440 points and who took home the cup, was Mostyn house.



Mrs Thompson and Welsh Swimming Champion, Cerys Coley (L6th) presented the medals at Junior Sports Day and the winning house trophy was presented by Mrs J. Cooke on her very last Junior Sports Day.

R11 Assembly



On Tuesday 5th July, the R11 pupils said their goodbyes to the Junior Department in an assembly to their parents. The theme was 'Hello, Goodbye' and pupils talked about what they enjoyed about the Juniors and what they would miss, followed by what they were looking forward to next year in the Seniors. They performed the well-known Beatles song, 'Hello, Goodbye' where the four boys enjoyed dressing up as members of the Beatles. They also performed the witches' spell from Macbeth, studied earlier in the year in their English lessons. Some pupils performed musical items and Sruthi and Carys performed the poem, 'The Dentist and the Crocodile' as joint winners of the English recitation in the Eisteddfod. Mrs Thompson and Mrs Kloosterman were sad to say their goodbyes to a lovely group of R11 pupils and presented the children with certificates of achievement.

R10 Birds of Prey

For their end of year trip, R10 set out for Newent to visit the International Centre for Birds of Prey. We started off the day with an informative tour around the centre where the children were able to learn about the different birds of prey. They were lucky enough to get up close to a variety of birds, including eagles and burrowing owls. We then settled down to the first of our flying displays; the children were very impressed by the acrobatics of the birds. After a lunch and a well deserved ice cream we settled down for the second flying display; all the birds (and handlers) were brilliant but the favourite of the day was the Burrowing Owl. R10 were well behaved throughout the day and were a credit to themselves and St John's.

R11 Noah's Ark

R11 celebrated their last day in the Junior School with a visit to 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 rhinos, chimpanzees and giraffes. They fed less exotic animals like hens and goats. Their favourite activities were the indoor and outdoor adventure playgrounds and getting lost (on purpose) in the Monster Maze. Varun G said "it was the best trip he have been on in the Juniors - although Llansteffan was quite good too". The coach driver said they were the most polite group of pupils he had met in a long time. It was a lovely end to their time in the Junior Department. I wish them every success as they move into the Senior School.

R8 and R9 Fun on the Lawn



R8 and R9 enjoyed their last day of school with many activities in the school grounds.



Roald Dahl Book Club

September 13th 2016 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth, in Cardiff, of the much loved children's author, Roald Dahl. To celebrate this anniversary, Junior Book Club members read a range of Dahl classics, Danny the Champion of the World, Matilda and Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and then pitted their wits against each other in the Book Club quiz. Congratulations to team Bute 2 for an impressive victory.

Gala Concert

Following on from the success of last year's inaugural annual Gala Concert, our award-winning Concert Orchestra, Cathedral Choir, soloists and ensembles offered a stunning performance to a packed audience at the Dora Stoutzker Concert Hall, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama on 15 September. The superb evening featured performances of the highest calibre, including music by Bach,



Mozart, Mendelssohn, and movements from Grieg Piano Concerto in A Minor and Stravinsky Pulcinella. It was also a fitting way to bid farewell to our immensely talented outgoing U6th students who will begin their university studies in the coming weeks.

R10 Kensuke's Kingdom



On 19th September, R10 went on a trip to the Gower to learn about how to survive on a desert island. In English they have been reading Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo where the main character, Michael, is shipwrecked onto a deserted island without any belongings. R10 learnt about the importance of shelter and water, then in groups built shelters and a solar still. Hopefully this has made the pupils think carefully about what Michael will need to do to survive and will help them when they write their own survival stories.

R11 Rivers Trips

R11 investigated how a river changes from source to mouth in the Swansea Gower. They collected river width, depth and velocity readings at 3 different sites. Despite the rain, R11 were very enthusiastic to share their knowledge and get into the river!



Welsh Storyteller and Book Week

In preparation for book week, pupils from all classes, produced book covers as part of a competition to win vouchers to spend at our book sales. Well done Joseph M, Ben J, Max M, Lilah R, Akhilesh Y, Lewys R, Anish C and Sam D for their winning entries and to all who took part. The book fair proved to be as popular as ever and over £1000 was spent in total, resulting in many free books from Scholastic for our Junior library. We also enjoyed listening to Enid, our Welsh storyteller, who the children look forward to seeing every year.

R8 Celtic History Trip to St Fagans

On Monday 10th October, R8 had a fantastic visit to St Fagans to see the Celtic Round Houses this afternoon. The children were extremely attentive and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of seeing many different Celtic artefacts, handling each one and even grinding grain for flour by hand. They all asked some very probing and interesting questions to gain a better understanding of what life must have been like as a Celt in Wales and now have more tangible information to bring to their History work.

R10 Cog Waterworks



R9 visited Cog Waterworks with the aim of learning about water efficiency and variations in water consumption across the world. They took part in numerous activities in the "African village" such as collecting water and cleaning household items. The pupils really enjoyed this hands on approach. James P said "this is the best trip ever".

R11 Trip to Cardiff Castle to study the Blitz

Shortly before the half term break R11 enjoyed a visit to Cardiff Castle to enrich their history studies of the Second World War. They started the experience with a wartime sing-song during which they learnt two songs of the time, "We'll meet again..." and "Hey little hen..." Following that they were met by an ARP warden who set the scene and guided them through the wartime shelters in the banks to the side of the castle grounds. In the shelter they heard the sounds of sirens warning of air raids and bombs being dropped. They were told about the reasons for Cardiff being a target and tried to imagine what it would have been like staying in the shelters for hours at a time. Later in the day the pupils were met by another ARP warden who talked to them about life for everyone during the war, the role of ARP wardens, how women took on many new roles and showed a variety of artefacts. Some of the pupils got to try on gas masks and at the end of the trip everyone was involved in a team race using stirrup pumps and hoses.



Grandparents' Week

In October, the Junior Department celebrated Grandparents' Week. Over the course of the week the pupils completed various tasks to recognise

the importance of the roles of our grandparents in our lives today. These activities included writing prayers, interviewing grandparents, researching the family tree, writing poems and even recipes for perfect grandparents!



The pupils invited their grandparents to come into school to see all their beautiful work, to share an assembly of celebration and to enjoy a cup of tea and a cake. We had a huge number of visitors and I would like to thank everyone for their time and generous donations of cakes. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the donations towards 'Action for Hunger,' raising £150 for this worthy cause. The pupils had a lot of fun and there were certainly many happy faces and memories shared.

Harvest Festival



Pupils from Nursery to R14 came together to celebrate our Harvest Festival, and what a splendid celebration it was! We were joined by special guests from St Cadoc's Parish, Fr Brian, Mr Thomas and Mr Madge. They were delighted to hear about how the harvest started from a tiny seed courtesy of our Infants, who sang with real enthusiasm. The readers from R8 to R13 were confident and expressive, and our musicians from R14 and the Junior Girls' Choir complemented the theme beautifully. We were overwhelmed by both the generosity of our pupils' talents and Harvest gifts. It took three trips to the church to clear the hall! Thank you again for your support, and very well done to all those involved.

Hiya Leads European Chess Championship



Many congratulations to Hiya (R10) who took this year's European Youth Chess Championship by storm in the historic city of Prague. The following extract is taken from the Welsh Chess Union:

'Hiya has been stacking up the rating points of late, leaving many opponents in disbelief. On a recent visit to Prague, Hiya continued her rich vein of form and after three rounds found herself leading the field. An impressive three wins on the bounce saw her reach the summit of the crosstable. If only the competition ended there. Alas, there was a further six rounds of competitive chess to play. By the end of the tournament, Hiya finished with a very creditable score of 5½, and joint 21st from a field of 106 competitors.'

Chess Success for Brothers Daniel and Benjamin



Meanwhile, on 6 November, brothers Daniel and Benjamin J took part at the Wiltshire Junior Chess Open Tournament in Swindon. Daniel finished 3rd while Benjamin finished 2nd in the U14 and U8 sections respectively. In this process Benjamin qualified to play in the U8 London Junior Chess Championships and Daniel will be playing in the Under 14 section in December.

ECF Under 11 Open

On 20 November, St John's College gained second place in the regional semi-final of the ECF U11 Open. In this teams-of-six competition, which involved seven teams and was held at The Grange, The Dell netted 38 points out of a possible 42. St John's College came second with 35.5 points. Our top team were; Hiya, Anish, Ben J, Ashika, Krishna and Sanvi.



St John's College hosts the Final Junior Qualifier in South Wales



On Saturday 12 November, the school hosted the third and final qualifier in South Wales for the Welsh Junior Championships. Congratulations to Hiya who achieved first in the U11 competition, and to Ben J who is now the current winner of the U8 Welsh Junior Grand Prix. Well done to the many St John's chess players who took part.

Best Ever Result at Cardiff Stadium Event

Congratulations to our U11 pupils who finished second amongst very tough competition from the 34 schools participating in this team-of-ten