



Junior School Newsletter

Lent 2015

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Lent Term newsletter for the Junior School. This time last year we were beset with a run of rainy weather which did not prove popular with pupils or teachers alike. This year I am pleased to say that pupils have been able to spend more free time outdoors. With the new Dining Room rota, pupils have the opportunity to eat at a more leisurely pace as well as spend a little more time in the playground or attending the lunchtime extra-curricular activities. Feedback from the pupils has been positive and encouraging.

I am continually pleased to see the achievements of our Junior pupils whether it be their perseverance during examinations, their musical talents, their prowess in sporting activities, their artistic flair and creative imaginations. To reward their efforts, pupils have been busy earning merits and we were able to



award merit badges at our latest assembly.

Congratulations to the many pupils who have worked so hard. Also, congratulations go to the pupils who have been nominated by teachers for the Special Achievement Award last term. In this newsletter you will find brief reports of activities from our Advent Term as well as pupil achievements and future activities.

With best wishes,

Rebecca Thompson (Head of Juniors)

Special Achievement Award

These are awarded for pupils who demonstrate a positive attitude, are always helpful to their peers and participate fully in all their lessons. Well done to Abhiram, Akshara and Harriet, Poppy, Tomos and Kelsie, Oliver, Carys and Oskar and Ella, Ben and Topsy.



R11 Enterprise Week

At the beginning of November, R11 enjoyed their annual Enterprise Week. On the first day they

were put into mixed groups and were given a team-building task to make a spaghetti tower. In the afternoon they gave their companies names, decided on roles for each team member and decided what they would produce as a business. On Tuesday and Wednesday, each group began making their products and each group produced some fantastic products. On Thursday they worked out cost and made advertising posters, culminating in a display for Junior and Infant pupils.

On the final day, they set up their stalls in imaginative and eye-catching ways ready for the big sale in the afternoon. Each group was very successful and also thoroughly enjoyed the week, learning lots of new skills along the way.

Ella S said, 'I really enjoyed enterprise because it was fun and we made lots of things.' Oscar H said, 'Enterprise was really good fun and interesting. We learnt a lot.'

R9 Wastesavers

This term R9 have been studying ways we can look



after our environment. A large part of this topic was to learn about recycling. On 11th November R9 were lucky enough to put this theory into practice

by visiting Waste Savers, a working recycling plant. The pupils were able to participate in activities to teach us about the journey of a recycled product. Poppy M said the trip was 'very fun' and 'liked the activities'. The pupils were then able to go onto a viewing platform to see recycling at work. This was Nadia A-I's favourite part of the trip, she said 'it was really exciting to see all the waste being recycled in different ways'. In all, R9 enjoyed the trip and are all now experts in saving our planet!

Children in Need



On 12th November the whole Junior department took part in creating a Pudsey Bear face in our school hall. The pupils used spare

coins brought from home. The generous contributions from our Juniors and their families, led to further Pudsey-related shapes being created too. The many pennies raised £173. As well as this we also had a cake sale. The children thoroughly enjoyed purchasing cakes for the good cause. Ollie S and Sinead HB had their own mini cake sale a day earlier raising £11.30. Well done to all involved. Finally, congratulations to all pupils who entered the acrostic poem for Children In Need. We have lots of budding young poets in our department.

R11 Victorian Day



On 13th November, R11 enjoyed stepping back in time to the Victorian era, as they visited Maestir School in St Fagans. Pupils started their day in

true Victorian fashion, wearing clothes typical of the historical period. Pupils were accompanied by Mr Taylor, the school master, and Miss McManus, the pupil-teacher as they made their way to the school where they took part in a drill, and a number of Victorian school activities, such as handwriting, arithmetic, reading and singing. Topsy P wrote 'When we had our lesson, Jeff was writing with his left hand, so he got told off by the teacher!'

In the afternoon, pupils visited the terraced houses from different historical periods, learning about the living conditions in Britain leading up to, during and after the Second World War. Pupils enjoyed collecting research from the different homes. Maddy B wrote 'The last house we saw was a prefab house built after the Second World War, to be honest, I wouldn't mind living in it; it was cosy and comfortable.'

Primary Maths Challenge

In November, some of our R10 and R11 pupils took part in the Primary Maths Challenge, run by the Mathematical Association. As the title implies, the questions are very challenging and I am always impressed by how the pupils apply their skills to these problem solving questions. I would like to say well done to all those who took part and congratulations to Harshita (R10), Kavin (R11), Ella E (R11) and Akash K (R11) who were awarded the Bronze certificate; Crina (R10), Ayush (R11) and Arnav (R11) who were awarded the Silver certificate and a huge well done to Srinetra our Gold certificate winner.

R8 Assembly

On Friday 12th December, the parents of R8 pupils came to the R8 Christmas Assembly in their form room. The pupils had researched the life of King Wenceslas and told the parents everything they had found out. They had also written a play based on the carol, 'Good King Wenceslas' by John Mason Neale (1818-1866). They performed their play with Krishna L playing the part of King Wenceslas, Rishi P the Page and Abhiram R the Old Man. All of the pupils sang with great enthusiasm, having learnt all of the words to the carol. Pupils then performed some short musical numbers - singing, violin, recorder and piano.

Training Orchestra - Peter & the Wolf

On Thursday 11th December 29 Junior and Senior pupils from the Training Orchestra enjoyed a performance of Peter and the Wolf at the RWCMD. It was a wonderful experience to see and hear the instruments at close quarters and was further



enhanced by the enchanting use of both full-sized puppets and shadow puppetry. The event was rounded off by an enjoyable "sing along"

with festive favourites and we all got to meet the puppets after the show! A great time was had by all and for one pupil "it was the best concert he had ever been to!" This was a lovely end of term treat for all the hard working members of the orchestra.

Junior Department trip to Arabian Nights



On Wednesday 17th December, the entire Junior School visited the Sherman Theatre to see a splendid production of the 'Arabian Nights'. Pupils

were enthralled by the different stories told by Sheherazade each night to her husband in order to delay her execution. As Kiki Farrell (R8) said, "It's a story with lots of stories inside it." Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the production and it was a great end to the term.

January Book Club



The magic of C S Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe* appears to have enchanted another generation of children, 65 years on. Book

Club members were passionate about this text and were keen to discuss and answer quiz questions on it.

Congratulations to all who took part, especially to the Bute and De la Salle teams, the joint winners of the unabridged text quiz and to the St David's team for winning the abridged text quiz.

Peer to Peer reading



On 24th January, the Junior pupils all participated in peer reading for the second time this academic year. The R8 pupils were paired with R10

pupils and the R9 pupils were paired with R11 pupils. The younger pupils read to the older pupils who gave them guidance and encouragement. In some cases, the reading was shared. At the end of the session, the pupils wrote positive comments into the reading record books. The older pupils appreciated the responsibility and were very supportive and the younger pupils enjoyed the opportunity to show their reading skills. Staff were very pleased to hear their usual words of guidance repeated in the conversations between the pupils.

PC Pope Visits R9



PC Pope came to discuss Stranger Danger with R9. They showed off their excellent knowledge about the people who can help us

and we learnt about Stranger Danger. R9 especially enjoyed role-plays where they acted out what they would do if they encountered a stranger.

R10 Assembly

On Friday 6th February, R10 invited family and friends to their class assembly. As it was close to St Valentine's Day, we performed an assembly about St Valentine. Highlights included going back in time to Ancient Rome where we found out about the origins of St Valentine and Valentine's Day traditions from around the world. Pupils then read messages of love to their parents and performed a wonderful rendition of Hiawatha. We finished off the assembly with prayers and listened to performances from our R10 musicians. Well done R10, we were very proud of you all.

Musical Collaboration Project



On Friday 13 February, pupils from three local primary schools joined St John's College pupils for a musical collaboration project. Boys

and girls from Christ the King, Rhydypenau and Glasllwch primary schools joined our Concert Orchestra and Cathedral Choir for an afternoon of music workshops, culminating in a joint performance of Haydn 'Gloria' from the *Nelson Mass*, Rutter's *The Lord bless you and keep you*, the Finale from Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite* and the first movement of Mendelssohn's *'Italian' Symphony* (No. 4). It was a wonderful opportunity for musical collaboration between pupils of all different ages, and it was a great pleasure to welcome parents and pupils of each of the schools to a memorable performance.



Junior Girls' Choir Concert

On Thursday 26th February the Junior Girls' Choir and R15 musicians thoroughly enjoyed

performing for the residents of Nazareth House. Congratulations to all the pupils for their confident solo and group performances and impeccable behaviour throughout our visit.

Cathedral Choristers Win CSA Football Tournament



On Wednesday 4 March, our boy and girl choristers attended the annual Choir Schools Association Sports and Evensong Day,

this year generously hosted by Hereford Cathedral. In the Netball Tournament, our girl choristers battled valiantly to come third, while in the hotly contested Football Tournament, our boy choristers were crowned overall winners, seeing off competition from the Cathedrals of Bristol, Exeter, Gloucester, Hereford,

Llandaff, Truro, Wells, Winchester and Tewkesbury Abbey.

The glorious sunshine held out all day, and a busy afternoon of sport culminated in a joint Evensong in the magnificent setting of the cathedral, with well over 150 cathedral choristers taking part. The boys and girls deserve to be commended for their superb behaviour and team spirit throughout the day, both on the sports field and at Evensong. The service ended with a presentation of trophies to the winners of the netball and football. Needless to say, the boys were very proud to return the trophy to Cardiff (having last won it in 2000 and 2005).

This has been a busy term for the the Cathedral Choir, which has also performed a lunchtime concert in the magnificent setting of St Paul's Cathedral in February, featuring a programme of music from the British choral tradition, including some of Britain's finest repertoire from the Tudor period through to the present day. It was wonderful to see so many parents, past students and friends of the choir attend the concert. The Cathedral Choir now looks ahead to its next concert at St David's Hall on Tuesday 17 March, its busy period of Holy Week services and evensong at Westminster Abbey in the summer.

Sports News



It has also been a busy term for Junior sports which commenced with the January Fitness Challenge and a highly successful R10 & R11 Mixed

8-a-side Football Tournament. In the Junior Netball Challenge, several pupils achieved a Gold certificate and four R11 pupils were selected for the City of Cardiff Swimming Trials: Eleri R, Ella E, Arnav G, Christina L. Meanwhile, Table Tennis has proved very popular and the A-squad recently achieved third place (of 37 teams) in the Welsh Primary Schools Table Tennis Tournament. Also in March, pupils across the Juniors participated in the Tockington Manor cross-country relay event in the Gloucestershire countryside.

Eisteddfod

The Junior School Eisteddfod, on Monday 2nd March, was held in the school hall to accommodate our growing pupil numbers, as well as some of the dance performances and recitations. The pupils enjoyed coming to school in Welsh dress and celebrating their Welsh culture. The juice and Welsh cakes at break time proved very popular!

St John's Aqua Games

The St John's College Junior Aqua Games will replace the usual Swimming Gala format. Pupils have developed a core range of skills required to be confident, competent and safe in water in different aquatic disciplines. Therefore, to make our new 'Aqua Games' more inclusive and everyone involved at all times we have used the power of pupil voice to ensure that fundamental sport skills are very much part of this year's games. Pupils will rotate in houses over four activity stations. House points will be awarded based on each station completed.

R10 Millennium Trip

R10 will have the opportunity to participate in a number of activities based around the Millennium Centre over a period of two days. This trip also involves an overnight stay at the Urdd City Sleepover. Last year's trip was a resounding success and enjoyed by all pupils. To give you an idea of some of the activities involved the pupils will have a tour of the Millennium Stadium, tour of the Welsh Assembly, back stage tour of the Millennium Centre, a boat trip and bowling.

Chess Champions

Our Junior Chess Teams have had remarkable success this term, having qualified for the semi-finals of the EPSCA National Primary Schools Chess Championships, obtaining a 4-0 victory over Chepstow in the East Glamorgan Minor Chess League (in which we are currently the leaders) and most recently achieving 1st and 2nd place in the under 10s Welsh Junior Championships hosted at St John's College. Several Junior players have also contributed to the Glamorgan team's victory in all three of the age categories at the Wales & West of England Championships in Devon. Many congratulations to all the pupils involved.

Nicky Piper Visits Juniors for Charity Fundraising

R11 were delighted to be visited by Former Commonwealth Light-heavyweight Champion, Nicky Piper, as representative of George Thomas Hospice Care. The children raised an impressive £500 for the charity in their annual Enterprise Week. The boys and girls were tasked with forming a business idea, deciding on a company name and producing items to sell to make a profit. On the Monday the pupils were put into mixed groups and, throughout the day, they decided on what they were going to make, the name of their business and roles for each member. Tuesday and Wednesday saw the groups making their products. On Thursday they worked out the costs and made advertising posters in readiness for the big sale day on Friday. There were lots of things produced, such as Greeting Cards, Gift Boxes and cuddly toys.

Individual Achievements:

Well done to all of the following pupils on their successes:

Music Grades: Tanisha (piano), Alma (piano), Abhiram (guitar), Nadia (piano), Soraya (violin), Ella (piano), Carys (piano), Matthew (violin), Christina (violin), Topsy (piano), Ella (violin), Rhys (music theory).

Sporting Achievements: Oliver (Taekwondo trophy), Akshara (Indian dance medal), Tanisha (completed next grade Indian Dance), Harry (Taekwondo next belt), Aryan (next stage in swimming), Jamie (next level in indoor surfing), Llyr (tried for Swansea FC), Matthew (won a tennis tournament), Jake (now swims with Cardiff Swimming Club), Ollie (certificate for basketball), Elizabeth (medal in gymnastics), Owen (won rugby tournament), Soraya (ballet grade), Karan (next belt in karate), Akash (next stage swimming and next belt in karate), Alex (who won a golf competition).

Anish who won a chess competition and Akshara who came second in her chess tournament and Kiki, Rohan, Rishi and James who were all awarded a badge for chess. Oscar who achieved all cub badges, Millie who is starring in Oliver Twist at the Riverfront Theatre, Ella, Eleri and Gabriel who all passed their next stage in skiing, Ella who performed in a dance show.

And Finally....

If a pupil is unable to take part in PE lessons, please could you provide a note to PE staff on the day of the PE lesson. Please also remember that white trainers are the required footwear for PE.

Please be reminded that the school day commences at 8.40am. Pupils need to unpack their bags before registration which involves our morning prayer and other administrative tasks. Pupils then need to leave for their first lesson which commences at 8.55am. Please put a name on all removable items of clothing as we have a number of items of uniform which do not have name tags and as such we cannot match pupils to lost items.

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

Key Dates

March

Monday 16 th	R8 PC Pope
Tuesday 17 th	St David's Hall Concert, 1pm
Friday 20 th	R9 Parents' Assembly
Wednesday 25 th	Parents' Meeting for R11 Residential Trip
Thursday 26 th	Techniquet visits St John's
Friday 27 th	Last Day of Lent Term

April

Monday 20 th	Summer Term starts
Thursday 23 rd	Junior School Disco
Tuesday 28 th	Book Clubs
Tuesday 28 th	Spring Concert, 7pm

May

Friday 1 st	R9 PC Pope
Thurs 7 th -Fri 8 th	R10 Millennium Trip
Wed 13 th -Fri 15 th	R11 Llansteffan
Tuesday 7 th	R8 Wonderful Weather
Thursday 21 st	Junior Sports Tournament