

St John's Aqua Games

Pupils have developed a core range of skills required to be confident, competent and safe in water in different aquatic disciplines. Pupils will rotate in houses over four activity stations. House points will be awarded based on each station completed.

R11 Enterprise Week

R11 pupils will take a week from the school timetable to become budding entrepreneurs. They will work very hard designing, producing and then selling products to the pupils in the Lower School. All profits are donated to a worthy cause chosen by the pupils. You will be welcome to view and purchase their products on Friday, 7th April.

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.

R11 Hooke Court Residential Trip

Once again I am looking forward to accompanying R11, Mrs Kloosterman, Miss Thomas and Mr Williams on our residential trip. To accommodate growing pupil numbers, we will be relocating to Hooke Court in Dorset this year. This also gives us the opportunity to change some of the outdoor activities as this centre has more extensive facilities. This trip will provide the R11's with a variety of educational and social experiences and will be lots of fun. More details will be available at the parents' meeting.

Achievements:

Well done to these pupils who achieved music grades recently:

Darcey J (violin); Gala S (piano and guitar); Max M (drums); Jolinaa S (piano); Rhea I (piano and theory); Tanisha K (piano); Harriet W (piano); Sofia A (viola); Yusuf A (drums); Annabel J (flute); Hiya R (flute); Anish C (piano); Conrad (piano); Idris K (trombone); Daniel A (bassoon); Sam D (trumpet); Thomas C (violin); Rajeeth (violin and piano); James P (guitar);

Well done to the following for their sporting achievements:

Annabelle G, Reece M, Benjamin J, Max E (next belt in Tae Kwando); Selina (two trophies for Gymnastics); Joe M, Kofi W (medal in Rugby); Rohan G (3 trophies in football); Gala S (learning to skateboard); Ben J ('super team' football championship); Matilda D (learn't to ride a bike); Finlay B (trophy in Rugby); Katie O, Aoife P, Ronav D (next skiing grade); Katie O (hockey captain); Kundi W; Harri P (trophy in football); Benedict L (goalkeeper award); Akhil Y (medal in Cricket tournament); Annabel J (selected for Swimming club); Rohan G, Ananya A, Conrad S; Ashlin J (next belt in Karate); Joshua O, Max E, Ved N, Siyona N; Anchitha K, Lilah R, Sanwi D, James C, Aoife P, Alma S, Emyr A, Ananyaa Y (next level in Swimming); James F (next belt in martial arts); Tomos H is learning to ski; Zahra R (learning to Ice Skate); Frank M (next level in Climbing); Imogen W, Anisha Y, Poppy M (next grade in Gymnastics); Lucas G, Hiya R, Aryan S (next level in Tennis); Vineet B, Daniel A, Aryan S (playing Cricket for the county); Sophie N (PB for 5km run); Conrad S (2nd in Karate competition); Ashlin J (scored a hat trick for his football team);

And... well done for these achievements:

Joanne S (medal in chess); Robert S (2nd in school Chess competition); Joanne S, Rhys M (badge for chess); Namita C (dance certificate); Hania K (learning Arabic); Alexandra D (role in a drama production); Darcey J (starred in a tennis advert); Ashika P (Under 9's Chess Champion); Olivia E, Tanisha K, Evelyn T, Harriet W (ballet grade); Sofia A, Kiki B (LAMDA exam); Alma S (Chinese exam); Hiya R (Under 12's Chess Champion); Pablo L is playing in the regional National Children's Orchestra.

And Finally...

In the Juniors, we have an 'open door policy' for parents to discuss matters with form teachers/teachers. Please could I ask that if you wish to speak to a form teacher urgently in the morning, it is a brief discussion or at least an opportunity to set a time for later in the day/week. Form teachers are responsible for their form pupils from 8.30am, hearing pupils read, and preparing the pupils for the day ahead with registration, prayers etc.

At the end of the day, please could you collect your child from their teacher rather than pupils walking across the playground unaccompanied. It becomes a very busy car park and small pupils are not always visible to drivers.

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 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.

Dates to remember:

March

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| Wed 1st | Ash Wednesday Service |
| Thurs 2nd | Junior School Eisteddfod |
| Fri 3rd | World Book Day |
| Fri 3rd | Tockington fixture |
| Mon 6th | R11 Last swim lesson |
| Tues 7th | R10 Last swim lesson |
| Tues 7th | Book Club |
| Tues 7th | Parents Meeting for R10 Residential Trip |
| Wed 8th | R9 Last swim lesson |
| Thurs 9th | R8 Last swim lesson |
| Thurs 9th | R10 Tredegar House |
| Wed 8th | Senior production – Twelfth Night |
| Thurs 9th | Senior production – Twelfth Night |
| Fri 10th | Netball Tournament |
| Tues 14th | R9 Llancaiach Fawr |
| Tues 14th | Welsh National Table Tennis |
| Tues 14th | Parents Meeting for R11 Residential Trip |
| Wed 15th | Junior College Council |
| Thurs 16th | SJ Aqua Games |
| Tues 21st | St David's Hall Concert, 1pm |
| Wed 22nd | R10/R11 Football Fixture |
| Thurs 23rd | R9 Cog Water Works |
| Fri 24th | R9 Parent's Assembly |
| Fri 24th | R8 Football Fixture |
| Tues 28th | R11 Techniquet Trip |

April

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|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Mon-Fri 3rd-7th | R11 Enterprise |
| Tues 4th | R10 Fire Service |
| Fri 7th | End of Term |
| Tues 25th | Start of Term |
| Tues 25th | R11 Multi Sports |
| Tues 25th | Book Club |
| Wed 26th | Techniquet visit St John's |
| Thurs 27th | Junior Disco |

May

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mon 1st | Bank Holiday |
| Thurs 4th | R10 Millennium Trip |
| Fri 5th | R10 Millennium Trip |
| Fri 5th | Spring Concert 7pm Cornerstone |
| Mon 15th | R11 Hooke Court, Dorset |
| Tues 16th | R11 Hooke Court, Dorset |
| Wed 17th | R11 Hooke Court, Dorset |
| Tues 23rd | R8 Wonderful Weather |
| Thurs 25th | Junior Sports Tournament |
| Fri 26th | R11 Parents Assembly |
| 29th May – 2nd June | Half term |



St John's College

Junior Newsletter

Lent 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Lent Term newsletter for the Junior School. I am always surprised by how fast time flies and I realise we are already half way through the academic year. It is a good opportunity to look back at the activities we have enjoyed and the achievements of our young pupils, and yet there is so much to look forward to as well. Once again we have revisited our extra-curricular provision by adding new trips/activities or we have revitalised those which the pupils enjoy, but may benefit from a new perspective.

I am particularly looking forward to the Eisteddfod. It is always a pleasure to see our pupils embrace Welsh culture and this year we have continued with the house singing competition to be judged by Mrs Hart. In the same week, we are also celebrating World Book Day by dressing up as one of our favourite characters from a book. I found it very hard to choose and was delighted to hear that some of R8 thought I could be Sophie from the BFG. We have revisited our R11 Enterprise Week by inviting guest speakers from business and a charity as well as providing more space for our budding entrepreneurs to sell their products. I am sure our younger pupils are looking forward to the Enterprise Fair as much as the R11 pupils.

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 Awards



These are awarded for pupils who demonstrate a positive attitude, are always helpful to their peers, participate fully in all their lessons and are valuable role models to all our Junior pupils. Merit awards were also presented during our awards assembly in December and I would like to congratulate the many pupils, across all year groups, who have worked so hard to achieve their first merit badge – well done.

European Table Tennis Championships

R11 had a fantastic enrichment opportunity in November to be spectators at the European Table Tennis Championships held at Sophia Gardens. The pupils watched on as Wales beat Azerbaijan

3-0 in the opening game of the championship. The pupils also got to witness Norway, Ireland and Iceland play competitive fixtures. After the game, pupils were able to meet and chat to all the players and even took the opportunity to get some autographs. We would like to thank Wales Table Tennis for this wonderful opportunity.

R8 and R9 Visit Roald Dahl's Wondercrump Exhibition

On Tuesday 8th November all of R8 and R9 had a great day in Cardiff. First they visited Cardiff Library to listen to some stories, to join the library and to choose some books. Following that they went to the Millennium Centre where they took part in two excellent workshops and had a tour of Roald Dahl's Wondercrump Exhibition. R8 enjoyed inventing new words and meanings through their Gobblefunk Workshop, while R9 became scientists for the afternoon by donning lab coats, goggles and gloves to help with 3 different Mad Science experiments. Wondercrump contains fantastic displays and different settings all linked to Roald Dahl's life and stories. Many children were heard to say it was the "best school trip we have ever been on!"



Primary Maths Challenge



Congratulations to our R10 and R11 pupils who took part in Primary Maths Challenge. The test lived up to its name and was very challenging, however, the children enjoyed puzzling over the problem-solving questions.

Anish C was awarded a Gold certificate, Hiya R and Yash V were awarded a Silver certificate and Krishna L, Luke S, Ashlin J and Dylan were awarded a Bronze certificate. Well done to everyone who took part!

Remembrance Day Assembly

On Friday 11 November, the whole school gathered for our annual Remembrance Day Assembly, in which prayers, poems and music were offered to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who fought for our freedom and to remember recently departed members of the school community.

The assembly was set in the context of the Catholic Year of Mercy, with reflection on the Welsh Assembly Centenary Lecture attended by our sixth formers, which described the remarkable story of the Christmas truce of 1914.

Our commemorations were elevated by Dr Howells' moving rendition

of The Last Post, followed by the Concert Orchestra's inspiring performances of J.S. Bach's Fantasia in C Minor (arranged by Elgar) and Elgar's 'Nimrod' from the Enigma Variations. The Cathedral Choir offered Rutter's The Lord Bless You and Keep You as a fitting end to a very moving assembly.

R9 Wastesavers

During the Autumn term R9 learnt all about our environment. A large part of their learning was about recycling. To see this in action R9 visited Wastesavers, a working recycling plant. They were able to see in real time how the recycling process works and how it benefits our environment. The children thoroughly enjoyed the trip and are now excited to start saving the environment at school and at home!



R10 Trip to @Bristol



On Monday 21st November, R10 headed to At-Bristol. Our morning passed quickly investigating the many hands on exhibits and the amazing 3D planetarium where we discovered lots of facts about our Solar System.

After lunch we went to a workshop based on how the body works, we even got to look at a real animal heart and lungs! After a final look at the exhibits our day was rounded off by a trip to the gift shop. Well done R10 for your excellent behaviour.

Twist of Gold Book Club

Congratulations to team Mostyn for coming out on top in this half term's closely fought Book Club quiz. Twist of Gold, written by Michael Morpurgo, set against the backdrop of the Irish famine, was very well received by all.



Junior Trip to the Sherman Theatre



The Junior Department thoroughly enjoyed their school trip to watch the Sherman Theatre's production of 'The Borrowers'. All the pupils were enthralled by the adventures of Arriety Clock and her family as they endeavoured to maintain their secret lives. Amongst the many highlights the pupils loved the musically talented cricket in the garden and also the nasty cook being told that her 'brain was missing'.

Pupils were well-behaved throughout and enjoyed their interval ice-cream. After returning to school pupils enjoyed their class party food as a reward for their hard work and effort over the last five days of school tests. Well done to all the children. Lastly, many thanks to all the staff for today's trip and many thanks to all the parents who have helped prepare party food for today.

R8 Parents' Assembly

R8 produced a delightful Christmas story for their assembly using John Burningham's book, 'Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present.' It took the excited audience through the trials and tribulations of Father Christmas' efforts to deliver his final present to a little boy, living in poverty. The children thoroughly enjoyed their performance and gave the message of hope, perseverance and care brilliantly throughout the story. Well done R8!



Cathedral Choir Christmas Concert

The Cathedral Choir and Chamber Orchestra of St John's College commenced the Christmas season with a superb concert at St David's



Hall. A large and appreciative audience was treated to a delightful selection of music for Advent and Christmas culminating in three carols by John Rutter with orchestral accompaniment.

Cathedral Choir Sings for HRH Prince Charles



On Friday 16 December, it was a great honour for the Cathedral Choir to sing a selection of carols for His Royal Highness, Prince Charles, at the official opening of The Cornerstone.

Prince Charles was remarkably warm in his praise of the Cathedral Choir and all that has been achieved at St John's College.

It was on the David Neville Gallery, named in honour of our founding Principal, that the Cathedral Choir performed Dr Neville's arrangement of Silent Night for His Royal Highness.

Christmas Lunch for the Juniors

Amongst the many festive activities at the end of term, our Junior pupils and staff enjoyed a full Christmas lunch, with crackers and festive music. This event proved to be very popular and one which we intend to add to our annual calendar.



January Book Clubs



Dodie Smith's 1956 classic tale of loveable Dalmatians appears to have charmed another generation of young readers and has inspired a beautiful dalmatian puppy display in the Junior corridor. Congratulations to teams Mostyn and Bute for jointly winning this half term's Book Club quiz.

Paralympian Jordan Howe visits the Juniors

St John's College were delighted to welcome paralympian, Jordan Howe, to the school today to speak to our Junior pupils. Jordan competed in the London and Rio Paralympic Games in the 100m and 200m events.



Jordan gave the pupils a fantastic insight into elite sport before holding a brief question and answer session. Our pupils had planned some fantastic questions and Jordan proved to be incredibly inspiring with his responses.

The R8 and R9 pupils even had the opportunity to race against Jordan at the end of their Q+A session. This proved to be incredibly popular.

Peer to Peer reading



On 31st January the Juniors took part in peer to peer reading, where the R10 and R11 pupils were paired up with the younger R8 and R9 pupils to hear them read. The younger pupils enthusiastically told their partner about their books before reading to them. In R9, James Chalk said that he really enjoyed the activity and asked if we could do it again. Sanwi said that when he found a word difficult, Frank really helped him. Overall it was a very positive experience and the R10 and R11 pupils were very supportive, writing encouraging comments in the R8 and R9 reading records.

R10 Parent's Assembly

On Friday 5th February R10 welcomed family and friends to their Parents' Assembly.

The R10 assembly was based on the upcoming season of Lent and how it signifies a time to be still and appreciate life. R10 also performed two recitations, Hiawatha and a modern version of The Tortoise and The Hare - both were exceptionally performed. We finished off our assembly by listening to our talented musicians. Well done R10!

Junior College Council



The Junior College Council met for their first meeting during lunchtime on Wednesday 14th December. A male and female representative from each form, voted in by their peers attended the meeting where many important matters were discussed. The Council got to know

one another by taking part in some ice breaker activities and chatting about their ideas over a fantastic lunch provided by the canteen. The next meeting is scheduled for February and Council members have been asked to bring ideas and opinions from their classmates about how the Junior School could be improved.

Sports News

R10/R11 Rugby

St John's College proudly hosted their first ever contact rugby festival this Friday. The festival was held at our superb playing fields and saw over 80 young players take part which is fantastic. All games were played on an enjoyment basis with no scores being recorded. Pupils travelled from across Cardiff and even further afield. We were proud to host Greenway Primary, St Clare's, Ysgol Y Castell and Bro Eirwg.



All pupils were a credit to their schools, showing fantastic sportsmanship throughout the afternoon. It was a privilege to host this tournament and we will look to expand it further in the coming years. I would like to personally thank all the parents who attended for their ongoing support. Well done to all involved. *Mr Williams.*

R10/11 Hockey V Cathedral School

Well done to all the players who played in the Cathedral School hockey fixture. All pupils played extremely well in their first match. A big thank you to Mrs Giannotti and Miss Moody for helping with the fixture. *Miss Thomas.*

R8/9 Hockey V Rougemont

All the R8/9 pupils were involved in their first hockey fixture of the new academic year. Over 40 girls played non-stop hockey over 3 pitches. SJC won the tournament and all pupils made excellent progress. Congratulations to Gala who received player of the tournament. Outstanding work R8/9. (*Miss Thomas*)

R11 Rugby



On Wednesday afternoon, the R11 Rugby team were involved in a WRU Pathways tournament at Llandaff Cathedral School. St John's had two teams, both of whom played outstandingly and produced some fantastic team performances. Congratulations to all involved. (*Mr Tertois*)

R8/R9 Football Festival

St John's College hosted its annual R8 and R9 Football Festival at Began Road Playing Fields. The Festival was a huge success despite the challenging weather conditions and over 50 pupils took part. Congratulations to all involved and a big thank you to all



parents for your support.

R10/R11 Football Festival

St John's College hosted a Football Festival for R10/11 pupils which also involved Rougemont and St Philip Evans. The festival was a huge success and St John's were able to enter five teams which highlights the current interest and enthusiasm for football at the school. There was some fantastic talent on display throughout the afternoon from all teams and over 80 pupils took part. *Mr Tertois and Mr Fowler.*

R8-R11 Netball festival

Well done to the R8/9 girls who competed against Rougemont on Friday afternoon. The girls played a full sided game for the first time and they came away with the win. Special mention to the goal scorers Demi, Isabella, Annabelle, Darcey and Jolinaa. Congratulations to Demi and Gala who received player of the match of their respective matches. *Miss Thomas.*

Congratulations to the R10's and R11's who played a 16 match home tournament against Rougemont. 50 girls played non-stop netball over 3 courts. There was fantastic support from parents, teachers, GCSE students and the Head of Juniors. SJC won a match and drew 5. Teachers from both schools were especially impressed with the movement on court. Outstanding work, R10 & R11! *Mrs Wood.*

R9-R11 Table Tennis

Well done to the Junior Department for an impressive showing at the Cardiff games table tennis tournament on Tuesday. The pupils were incredible throughout and dominated the group stages resulting in 4 from 5 St John's teams competing in the top division. Well done to the A team consisting of Jack P and Dylan J who won the tournament comfortably. Also a special mention to the C Team consisting of Abi R and Harri P for achieving third place. We have now achieved 1st place in all age categories for table tennis which is a credit to how hard the pupils are working. Well done to all involved! *Mr Williams.*



A Promising Partnership between St John's College and Cardiff Metropolitan University

Message from Mrs Wood: The summer of 2016 saw the creation of a promising partnership between St John's College and Cardiff Metropolitan University. The partnership was founded on an interest in hockey. Through the help of Hockey Wales CEO Dave Phenix, weekly hockey sessions began with curriculum delivery and an afterschool club. The after-school club started with 8 attendees in the school hall, now they boast 20+ weekly attendance with sessions being held at the top class facilities at Cardiff Metropolitan University. This 60% rise has been overseen by current Cardiff Met students Ieuan Davies and Tom Wood, who have mentioned the great work ethic that participants bring to each session

Eisteddfod

The Junior School Eisteddfod, on Thursday, 2nd March will be held in the school hall to accommodate our growing pupil numbers, as well as some of the dance performances and recitations. The pupils may come to school in the traditional Welsh dress or a Welsh rugby or football shirt with the school tracksuit bottoms. They will be offered juice and Welsh cakes at break time and the pupil in R11, who has achieved the highest points in the Eisteddfod competitions, will be chosen as Bard.

Lent

Mr John Burns from Mission Together will be delivering our Lent assembly which will explain this year's project in Kenya. As a Junior department we will be donating any monies raised in Lent for the mission's work and our prayers will focus on missions around the world. A collection box and Lenten activity sheet will be given to every pupil.