



St John's College



## Junior School

### Newsletter Advent 2013

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Junior School Advent term newsletter. It only seems like yesterday that we were greeting pupils back from the Summer break, hearing all their exciting news and yet we are well into our first school term already.

We have been joined by many new faces not only in R8 but across all year groups. Also, with our growing numbers in the Junior School, we have new teaching staff too. The new pupils have settled so well, it's as if they have always belonged to St John's College and I would like to thank existing pupils for being so welcoming to their new peers.

In this newsletter we 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 Victorian Day, R10 trip to Cog Waterworks and R9's noisy trip to Wastesavers and I am also looking forward to the R8 Parents' Assembly.



With Best Wishes,

Rebecca Thompson

#### R8 History Trip to Caerleon

R8 visited the Roman Legionary Museum at Caerleon in May. The pupils became museum detectives, discovering many Roman artefacts. They also visited the remains of the barracks and the replica barrack room where they tried on the armour. Later, they learnt Roman drill in the amphitheatre. The workshop session had the children acting as masters and slaves at a banquet.

#### R8/R9 Trip to Bristol Zoo

To close the academic year the R8 and R9 classes embarked on a wonderful trip to Bristol Zoo.

A fun time was had by all and the spectacle of the animals



provided a great day out. For some pupils it was their first visit to the zoo,

which gave them the opportunity to see animals that they had never seen before. Elizabeth said 'When we went

*under the bridge, the seals were going over our heads doing swimming tricks. It was really cool.'*

Harshita described them as 'very talented seals.'

Crina enjoyed the experience so much that she 'wishes that she could have touched them.' Another hot favourite was the butterfly



enclosure where we were able to capture some fantastic photographs. 'One of my favourite parts was in the butterfly enclosure as one butterfly landed on my nose!' says a giggly Ella. Miss Knight and Elizabeth also experienced a landing from a butterfly too! Sayaam enjoyed the bats and was amazed to see them sleeping upside-down. The park and play area was another big hit with many

of the children, where they had lots of fun swinging, jumping and climbing. The maze caused a lot of excitement too, although Matthew says at one point he got lost and had to be guided out by a friend. It was a fun-filled day for all involved.



#### R8/R9 Lego City

By popular demand, Electro-city workshop returned in July. The children from R7 to R11 were shown how to construct a model building by a real architect. This time they placed the buildings along a main road. The lights were turned off in the hall as the

children switched on the circuits they had created to light up the model town. The teachers were very impressed by the space centre created by one group. Great fun was had by everyone.



**Induction Week**  
R7 and R8 worked on a joint project about Space for the induction week. The children researched facts on our solar system and made models

of the planets. Their imaginations were inspired by the idea of alien life forms. They made and painted clay aliens, as well as sewing puppets. One session involved the children making sandwiches or 'alien fingers'. The taste testing session involved some interesting reactions to some of the flavours! The week ended with a games session on the front lawn which had to include space hoppers.

### R11 Parents' Assembly

R11 worked very hard to prepare for their end of year assembly which included a performance of 'The Undertaker's Apprentice' (based on the early life of Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens). Lines were learnt extremely well and the acting was excellent. R11 also performed some musical pieces - all of which were of a high standard. Oliver Lau performed a recitation of the poem 'Overheard on a Saltmarsh.' Mrs Thompson, Mrs Kloosterman and the parents were very proud of them and wish them every success in R12.



### R11 Trip to Noah's Ark Zoo Farm

On a sunny last day of term, R11, Mrs Kloosterman, Miss Sayce and Mrs Thompson, 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 such as camels and llamas. Neil M,

Sanay G and Shyon K were particularly taken with feeding the hens until the hens decided to chase them around their large aviary. Sid M bravely petted a very grumpy goat after much encouragement – well done, Sid.

Some of the group went to an educational talk where they learnt about animals from other continents by handling jaw bones, teeth and animal hides and then came face to face with an enthusiastic Leopard tortoise called Terry and a python.



Mrs Thompson faced her fear and stroked the snake – how amazing! Finn M and Morgan O did us proud and were able to answer most of the questions posed. Many of R11, however, would also say that a highlight was getting lost in the maze (soon ably rescued by Mrs Kloosterman and Miss Sayce) as well as playing in the adventure playground where there were two very fast zip wires. And for those of us who are partial to homemade cake and ice creams – they had those too!

### Junior Book Club



At the end of last term, Book Club members voted to read 'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire', as a summer read. J K Rowling obviously had them spellbound during the long summer

holiday and the location of this half-term's Book Club, deep in Forest School, added a further touch of magic to the first meeting of the year.

Pupils were divided into teams to be quizzed on their understanding and recall of the text. Their comprehension of the twists and turns of this complex plot proved to be outstanding. Congratulations to Gryffindor (a.k.a. De la Salle) for an impressive, winning performance.

The next Book Club text, 'Twist of Gold', by Michael Morpurgo, was also chosen by Book Club members. Set against the backdrop of Ireland gripped by famine in 1847, it follows Sean and Annie's struggle for survival as it takes them on a daring journey across America against all the odds.

### R9 Trip to Cardiff Library

At the beginning of October, R9 enjoyed a successful and informative visit to Cardiff Central Library. There were two main purposes to the visit. First, being able to look at the vast number of books available and secondly to learn about the library building and how it links to our geography topic. The children enjoyed a tour of each floor and learnt about the colour coded system for each one. They saw the silent piano on the music floor and at the very top of the building they found out about the materials used to build the library. They also learnt that the library has no light switches and that the lights are operated by sensors to save the problem of lights being left on or used when they are not needed. The windows are special because they keep the heat out in the summer and the warmth in during the winter.

The roof of the building is covered in grass and a bird of prey visits every day to ensure that the seagulls don't eat it. The children then spent some time exploring the children's section of the library, learning about how to borrow books, sitting on the unusual book shelf seats and finally getting to choose a book to borrow! R9 really enjoyed their experience at Cardiff Central Library.

### Junior Book Week

The Junior Book Week took place from the 30 September to the 4 October. All pupils designed a front cover from a book and we had some outstanding entries, with well deserved vouchers going to the winning pupils to spend at

the Book Fair. At the latter end of the week the Book Fair was open to all after school and it was well stocked with a variety of books for all ages along with fun stationery!

Jeffrey wrote *'I enjoyed the Book Fair because there were loads of books to choose from.'* Ella E wrote *'I enjoyed going to the Book Fair because there is lots of choice and they are all fun.'* Millie wrote *'I liked the book fair because you were able to find a perfect book and there was stationery available for people who were running short.'*

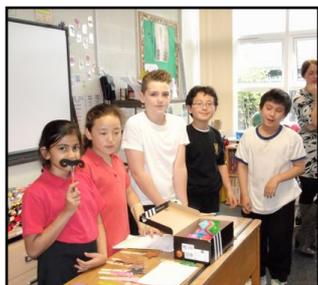
For a fantastic end to book week on Friday 4 October the Junior School welcomed back Enid, the Welsh Storyteller. Enid tells each year group original and captivating stories - all pupils were thoroughly entertained.

Eleri wrote *'I thought Enid's story was spooky and exciting. It was very interesting and I would love her to come back next year.'* Theo wrote *'It was a great story that I had never heard before. I would love to hear one again.'* Oscar H wrote *'I thought that Enid's story was awesome!'*

Thank you for supporting the Book Fair and happy reading!

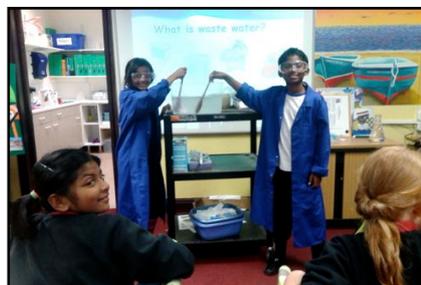
### R11 Enterprise Week

In October, R11 experienced the world of work for a week. They used their English, Maths, ICT and creative skills to run their own businesses, taking on roles such as financial director, marketing manager etc. For four days, room 3.1 became a hub of creative ideas which transformed art and craft materials into Christmas cards, door hangars, puppets, pompom pets (a firm favourite with our Infant Department) and so much more. On Friday, R11 held a Trade Fair with a cafe and invited staff, pupils from across the school and parents to purchase the merchandise. The winning team was 'Mini Makers' who made a profit of £137. Thank you to all our volunteer parents and to pupils in R11 who worked very hard during the week. Monies raised will be donated to charity.



### R10 Trip to Cog Waterworks

On a blustery morning R10 set off to the waterworks where they participated in a workshop about the water cycle. In groups the class carried out several experiments to increase their understanding of the processes of evaporation and condensation. Matthew, the course leader, was very impressed by the knowledge the pupils demonstrated during these



activities. Following lunch, the pupils were asked to consider what items we should and should not flush down our toilets and they had to group materials

accordingly. This led to some heated discussions! Kavin and Srinetra became scientists and had the dubious task of adding a variety of substances to the water supply, including toothpaste, kitchen roll, wet wipes, shampoo, cleaners and things best left unnamed. We then had a tour of the waterworks and the pupils were able to see the various processes involved in cleaning our dirty water so it can eventually returned to the sea. Everyone agreed that it was very smelly, especially, during the screening process where larger items are removed. The depth of the filter beds was also a surprise to many pupils. All of the pupils said that they had learnt a lot from the visit and would be able to tell their parents how important it is to save water.

### Children in Need 2013



A big thank you to our Junior School pupils who raised approximately £310 for Children in Need. Our normally sociable R9 pupils were able to keep silent during their lunch

break by using their mini boards to communicate. R10 ran two of the Pudsey Bear fundraising games and some enterprising individuals created their own fundraising competitions. Thank you to Ben D, Alex W, Katie W, Elizabeth L, Isabelle O, Ella H, Llyr B and Owen W for their ingenuity and donation of their own prizes.

### Cathedral Choir News



The Cathedral Choir has been delighted to welcome several new members from the Junior School this term. Our newest choristers have settled well into the demands

of being a chorister in Wales' National Roman Catholic Cathedral and are already making a significant contribution to the Choir. The boys and girls are looking forward to the busy period ahead, which includes our annual Lunchtime Christmas Concert at St David's Hall on Tuesday 26 November, at 1pm, the Cathedral Carol Service on Sunday 22 December, at 3pm, and Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve (carols from 10.10pm before 10.30pm Mass). Looking ahead to the New Year, the Choir is again honoured to be performing live on BBC Radio 4 on Sunday 2 March to an estimated 1.8 million listeners.

### Individual Achievements

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

Ellie South (trombone), Holly Chung (piano), Olivia Prosser (flute), Oscar Harrison (euphonium), Srinetra Bannerjee (piano), Arnav Goel (piano), Sohini (piano).

Well done to the following pupils for their sporting achievements:

Joshua Wright qualified for the UWIC Football Academy.  
Holly Chung achieved the silver award in swimming.  
Matthew Logan went up a squad in swimming. Christina Logan gained her yellow belt in Karate, while Karan Mohanty gained his green belt and Akash Nannapaneni gained his blue belt.

Well done to the following pupils for these extra-curricular achievements:

Jack Aldridge & Millie Power passed their LAMDA drama grades.  
Sachin Patel performed in 'The Little Shop of Horrors' at Llanover Hall.  
Charlotte Tilsley passed her dance course.  
Ansha Khurana and Namitha Pasunuru will be representing Wales in the Speech Competition Final held in London, to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's birth.

### Autumn Extra-Curricular Timetable – Junior School

#### Monday Lunchtime

Junior Library Open, 11.45-12.05

#### Monday After School

R8 to R11 Multi Sport 4-5pm: Hall

R11/R12 Science Club 3.50-4.45pm: Rm 4.2

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

Chess Club 4-5.30pm: Rm 0.1

#### Tuesday After School

Cathedral Choir 3.50-4.45pm Sixth Form Library

#### Wednesday Morning

Cathedral Choir 8.55-9.45: Rm 0.3

Girls' Choir 8.55-9.45: Rm 3.3

#### Wednesday Lunchtime

R11 Latin Club 11.45-12.05: Rm 3.4

Junior Multi Sports 11.45-12.05: Hall

Junior Library Open 11.45-12.05

#### Wednesday After School

R8-R11 Football 4-5pm: Field/Hall

#### Thursday After School

Cathedral Choir 3.50-4.45pm: Sixth Form Library

R8 to R11 Golf 4-5pm (allocated sessions)

#### Friday Morning

Cathedral Choir 8.55-9.45: Rm 0.3

#### Friday Lunchtime

Junior Library Open 11.45-12.05

#### Friday Afternoon

Training Orchestra 12.55-1.25pm: Sixth Form Library

#### Homework Club

Daily 3.50-5.30pm: Rm Art 1

### And Finally....

Please remember to check the diaries every night for homework and possible communications from teachers.

There is little room for bags in our classrooms so please use the St John's red bags for books.

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.

### Note to Parents:

Please email news of any extra-curricular achievements of your son / daughter to

[jjwneville@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk](mailto:jjwneville@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk) for inclusion on the school website and in newsletters.

### A Cathedral Choir School

Mr Dominic Neville is always pleased to hear from prospective boy and girl Cathedral Choristers. For further information, please email: [dominicneville@cantab.net](mailto:dominicneville@cantab.net)

### Junior Girls' Choir - Wednesdays, Period 1, room 3.3

Open to all Junior girls with enthusiasm for singing.

Please see Mrs Lawrie for more details.

### Training Orchestra - every Friday, Sixth Form Library

Open to all instrumentalists in the Junior School from beginners to grade 4. Please see Mrs McMahon for more details.

### Peripatetic Instrumental Lessons

If your son / daughter would like to have private instrumental lessons in school, please contact Mrs Lawrie: [ainsworthrhj@googlemail.com](mailto:ainsworthrhj@googlemail.com)

### Dates for the Diary

5<sup>th</sup> Nov R10 PC Pope

6<sup>th</sup> Nov Book Club

11<sup>th</sup> Nov Remembrance Day Assembly

12<sup>th</sup> Nov R9 Wastesavers

15<sup>th</sup> Nov R11 Victorian Day

19<sup>th</sup> Nov R11 Primary Maths Challenge

20<sup>th</sup> Nov R10 Primary Maths Challenge

26<sup>th</sup> Nov Cathedral Choir Christmas Concert, St David's Hall, 1pm

2<sup>nd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Dec Internal Exams

13<sup>th</sup> Dec R8 Assembly

19<sup>th</sup> Dec Sleeping Beauty at the Sherman Theatre

19<sup>th</sup> Dec End of term

6<sup>th</sup> Jan Training Day

7<sup>th</sup> Jan Term starts

15<sup>th</sup> Jan Book Club

20<sup>th</sup> Jan R9 Parents Evening

23<sup>rd</sup> Jan R10 Parents Evening

27<sup>th</sup> Jan R8 and R11 Parents Evening