



St John's College



Junior School Newsletter

Lent 2014

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Lent Term newsletter for the Junior School and what a wet start to 2014! Each day the pupils' enthusiasm has not been dampened by the prospect of yet another 'wet play'. I have been impressed, and somewhat relieved to say, that despite



the lack of opportunity to run off some steam, the pupils have responded positively and are becoming masters at lunchtime chess as well as other similar board games.



I am looking forward to the plans for the rest of this term which should make 'wet plays' a distant memory. We have utilised some of the R11 Enterprise profits to purchase some special playground equipment including an outdoor Connect 4 and Snakes and Ladders game.



R11 pupils have volunteered for various roles of responsibility such as Librarians, Play Equipment Monitors and our new initiative of Playground Friends. The Playground Friends monitor our 'Friendship Stop' providing support and



ideas for playground games, to other Junior School pupils.

The Junior Department has further improved the awards system to add an even greater emphasis on positive praise as well as ensuring a consistent approach across the department. We have a variety of



reward opportunities which encourage our pupils to strive to achieve their very best academically and we are enhancing this to reward cooperation, support and



community spirit amongst our pupils. The pupils, in collaboration with form teachers, have created Junior School Golden Rules and we have introduced a Special Achievement Award which is presented to pupils who demonstrate these standards.



In this newsletter you will find brief reports of activities from our Advent Term, an up to date calendar for the Junior School and pupil achievements.



With best wishes,
Rebecca Thompson
(Head of Juniors)

Children in Need 2013 - November 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.

R11 Victorian School Day (St Fagans)



On 12th November R11 pupils visited the Victorian school at St Fagans. They spent the day dressed as Victorian children and were taught in the same way as children would have been

taught during Victorian times. R11 pupils then wrote a report on their visit.

Stephanie wrote, "When we got to Maestir School, Mr Taylor made us do drill – up, down, up, down all the time thinking, "A healthy body makes a healthy mind!"

Lloyd wrote: "Right in the middle of the lesson, Suyash received the Welsh not for speaking Welsh. You weren't allowed to speak Welsh because it wasn't the language of the empire."

R9 Wastesavers



On Tuesday 12th November the pupils of R9 went to visit 'Wastesavers Newport' as part of their geography topic. After a term of hard work, learning about improving the environment for the future, it was an opportunity for the pupils to see how effective and better for the environment it is to reduce,

reuse and recycle! The learning room provides a lot of fun, with a variety of activities from the 'metal crane' to 'Textile Tim!' They even got the chance to see the recycle centre in full action when they went out onto the viewing platform.

Adi Bhat said 'When we went on the viewing platform it was a bit smelly and so loud that we had to wear ear defenders. We saw the conveyor belt with a magnet that separated the different metals.'

Sinead Hennelly-Bridges said 'we could see all of the rubbish being sorted out so it went into the right sections. We had a lovely time and even got to buy some recycled items!'

Kids' Lit Challenge



Congratulations to our Junior team, Sophie H, Madeline C, Jack A and Luca A on an impressive performance at the National Kids' Lit Quiz on 2nd Dec. The quiz is an annual literature

competition for children aged 10 to 13. The quiz has heats in New Zealand, United Kingdom, South Africa, Canada and China, winning teams qualify for national and world finals. Questions cover a wide range of texts and therefore competitors require a good general knowledge of children's literature and authors. Those who would like to be considered for next year's event should start reading now. Staff would be happy to advise on suitable reading and further information can be found at www.kidslitquiz.com

Primary Maths Challenge

Some of our pupils in R10 and R11 took part in this year's Primary Maths Challenge, run by the Mathematical Association (MA). This year over 77,000 pupils in 2100 schools took part in the challenge. The questions posed involve problem solving and are quite challenging. Feedback on the MA website suggests that this was the toughest paper for about 5 years, so well done to all our pupils who sat the challenge. Congratulations to the following pupils:

Gold Award - Dylan O (R11)
Silver Award - Sachin P (R11), Jasmine S (R11)
Bronze Award - Benjamin A (R11), Luca A (R11)



R8 Assembly

At the end of term R8 welcomed their families to a celebration of their first term in the Junior school. The children had worked hard during the

previous two weeks to learn their lines and to remember to face the audience on stage. They looked magnificent in their Victorian costumes as they performed a version of 'A Christmas Carol'. They sang several traditional carols however; their favourite was 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' with actions! Guests were also entertained with musical performances on the piano, violin, recorder and cornet. All the children received a certificate to commemorate their successful transition from Infants.

Sleeping Beauties

On the last day of the Autumn Term the pupils enjoyed a performance of 'The Sleeping Beauties'. This new version of Sleeping Beauty held everyone's



attention. Kavin said that he enjoyed the play because it was scary and mysterious. Arnav enjoyed the part where the sleeping beauties slept for 100 years. Both Sabit and

Maddy thought some of the scenes were extremely funny especially when the maid was told to stop being so miserable. Oscar particularly enjoyed the music and the sound effects, including the thunder. Gabriel liked the fact it was different to what he had expected. No theatre trip is complete without an ice-cream or ice lolly and everyone enjoyed theirs. R10 said that it was a great way to end the term!



Book Club

It would appear that Dodie Smith's classic tale of loveable Dalmatians, 'The Hundred and One Dalmatians', has charmed another

generation of young readers. Congratulations to The Sheepdog team (aka St. David's) for winning a closely fought Book Club quiz this half-term.

The next Book Club text is 'Wonder', a debut novel by R J Palacio, published in 2012. Malorie Blackman, the current Children's Laureate, said of 'Wonder': "What a gem of a story. Moving and heart warming. This book made me laugh, made me angry, made me cry". The next Book Club will be held on Wednesday 12th March, in Circle Time. All those who have read the text, had it read to them or have listened to the audio book are welcome to attend.



Cathy Farr Visit

On 14th January R10 and R11 pupils enjoyed a visit from a local author, Cathy Farr. She led a creative writing workshop for each year group where they were

encouraged to create their own imaginary pet. Cathy Farr talked about her own books and what inspired her to write fiction. Pupils were also given the opportunity to purchase signed copies of her books. Joshua wrote, 'When Cathy Farr came to visit, I found it very exciting. Cathy Farr is the author of the books *Moon Chase* and *Moon Crossing*. I have not yet read *Moon Crossing* but I found *Moon Chase* amazing. I really enjoyed her visit as we got to hear about what she did when she was young and what it takes to be an author.'

Ben wrote, 'I particularly enjoyed Cathy Farr's visit to St John's as she was open minded and gave us top tips on how to write. It was interesting when she explained how she had created the great hounds in her fantasy land.'



Clarice Cliff

R11 started the new term learning about colour. Clarice Cliff was an Art Deco artist who specialized in ceramics. Her bold, colourful pottery

captured the imagination of the pupils who soon began creating their very own designs for a tea set that can be viewed in the PE corridor on display. To complete our term and entwine all our knowledge we embarked on a clay plate project, using Clarice Cliff and seasons as our inspiration.

The R11 pupils rolled out their own clay and scored a pattern before they were fired in the kiln. After this, coloured glaze was added followed by an overglaze to add shine and protection. Once the plates were removed from the kiln, the pupils were delighted with themselves as they viewed their individual, colourful works of art.



R8 Museum Trip

On Valentine's Day R8 enjoyed a special treat, a visit to the National Museum of Wales. The pupils discovered how birds had adapted to coastal and rural areas.

They created museum labels for Celtic and Roman artefacts. They made sketches in the Portraits of Wales gallery and were complimented on their talents by other visitors. The children also saw works by Monet, Renoir and Cezanne.

In the Evolution of Wales gallery, the children found meteorites, a rock from the moon and fossils, along with their favourite, dinosaur bones. They also learnt how earthquakes and volcanoes occur.

It was a very busy but enjoyable day. The R8 teachers would like to congratulate them for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour.

Poppy: 'I liked it when we watched the film about the earthquake. I thought it was very interesting.'

Frank: 'I liked the Art gallery because I got to draw my own version of a painting there'

Varshnay: 'I enjoyed everything but my favourite things were when we looked at people skulls and the oldest and biggest stone in the world.'

Junior Swimming Gala - Thurs 20 February 2014.

The Junior pupils enjoyed a fantastic morning of swimming competitions. Every pupil competed with enthusiasm and team spirit which was rewarded with a participation medal. Thank you to all parents for their support at the poolside and also all Junior and PE staff for their help during the event.

1st Mostyn - 258 points

2nd De La Salle - 214 points

3rd Bute - 206 points

4th St David's - 180 points

Well done to all the children involved!

Eisteddfod - Friday 7 March

Our growing pupil numbers, as well as some of the dance performances and recitations mean the Junior Eisteddfod moves to the Hall this year. The pupils may come to school in Welsh dress and they will be offered juice and Welsh cakes at break time. The pupil in R11 with the highest points in the Eisteddfod competitions, will be chosen as the Bard.

R10 Millennium Trip

This two-day activity trip involves an overnight stay at the Urdd City Sleepover. Last year's trip was a resounding success and enjoyed by all pupils.

Amongst other activities, the pupils will enjoy a tour of the Millennium Stadium, the Senedd, the Millennium Centre, a boat trip and bowling.

Technique Visit St John's

Why are chairs made of wood, not jelly? What are smart materials and how can their extraordinary qualities be useful in emergencies, as well as everyday life? Discover amazing memory metals and how they mend broken bones. This magic show explores the different properties of solids, liquids and gases, and also demonstrates how some materials appear to resist being defined as just one of the three states of matter.



Cathedral Choir News

The Cathedral Choristers have had a busy few months with a superb performance to a large and appreciative audience in their annual

Christmas Concert at St David's Hall in November.

On 2 March, the Choir had the great honour of being selected to sing the St David's Day broadcast of *Sunday Worship* live on BBC Radio 4 to an audience of 1.8 million. The broadcast was very well received, and we have received lovely messages from across the UK and even from abroad, including several from professional musicians and musicologists.

Preparation is also well-underway for the Choir's Easter performance of Monteverdi's magnificent

Vespers of 1610 at St David's Hall on Tuesday 11 March, 1pm. This renowned work is rarely performed by such a young choir, and the girls and boys can be very proud of their preparation of such a complex work.

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 find it beneficial to be in school on time so they have enough time to unpack their bags as well as greet their peers before registration commences. Registration involves a morning prayer and other teacher/pupil administrative tasks and requires that all pupils are present.

We would be very much obliged if you could drive slowly into the parking areas of the school especially those areas which are also a playground during the daytime. There are small children who are not always vigilant or as comprehending of the possible dangers.

A few other quick administrative reminders:

- Pupils should read every night and the reading diary annotated accordingly. Improved reading skills are fundamental to pupils' development at this age and to their ability to access all areas of the curriculum.
- Diaries are a vital means of communication between teachers and parents. Please could you check (and sign) the diary every night.
- Homework club finishes at 5.30pm.

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

Key Dates	
March	
Wednesday 6th	R9 Cog Waterworks
Friday 7th	Junior Eisteddfod
Tuesday 11th	Cathedral Choir Easter Concert St David's Hall, 1pm
Wednesday 12th	Book Clubs
Thurs 13th-Fri 14th	R10 Millennium Trip
Tuesday 18th	R9 PC Pope
Friday 21st	R9 Parents' Assembly Spring Concert, 7pm
Wednesday 26th	Technique visit St John's
Monday 31st	PC Pope for R11
April	
Wednesday 2nd	Parents' Meeting for R11 Residential Trip
Wednesday 9th	Last Day of Lent Term
Monday 28th	Summer Term starts
Thursday 1st	R9 Llancaiach Fawr Junior School Disco, 6-7.30pm
May	
Wednesday 7th	R8 Wonderful Weather
Friday 9th	R10 Parent's Assembly
Monday 12th	R8 PC Pope
Wed 14th-Fri 16th	R11 Llansteffan

Chess Success

Many congratulations to Irene, Ollie and Oscar of the Junior School for their successes in the Cardiff & Vale Schools Chess Championships at Cardiff City Council Offices in Atlantic Wharf, on Sunday 9 February 2014. The St John's College Chess Club continues to grow in popularity, with ever increasing numbers at its Monday evening meetings. With so many victories in chess competitions this year across the school, our Chess Club is certainly making a name for itself in the South Wales area.

Individual Achievements:

Congratulations to these pupils who have achieved music grades recently:

Ben A (trombone), Jack A (trumpet), Joe M (cornet), Arnav G (piano), Topsy P (piano), Ella E (violin), Christina L (violin), Karan M (guitar), Harshita A (piano), Elizabeth L (piano), Aditya B (piano), Oliver L (piano), Tomos H (cornet).

Well done to the following for their achievements:

Ellie S, Lotte T, Alex W, Jeff G passed their Taekwondo Grades.

Christina L achieved her next belt in Karate.

Daniel P qualified for the Cardiff Advanced Development Centre for football.

Catrin D and Poppy M passed their ballet grades.

Pannu N, Eleri R, Akash N all went up a stage at swimming.

Millie P entered Britain's Got Talent.

Dylan J passed his Track Bicycle stage.

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

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, 12.55-1.25pm 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**

Junior School Extra-Curricular Timetable

Monday Lunchtime

Junior Library Open, 11.45-12.05

Monday After School

R8 to R11 Multi Sport 4-5pm: Hall

R11 Hockey Training

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 Girls' Netball 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

Note to Parents:

Please email news of any extra-curricular achievements of your son / daughter to **jwneville@stjohnscollegecardiff.co.uk** for inclusion on the school website and in newsletters.