



St John's College



## Junior School

### Newsletter Summer 2013

Dear Parents,

We are fast approaching the end of what has been a very busy year and yet we still have many activities to look forward to before we finally break for what I hope will be a beautiful summer holiday.

Since the last newsletter, the highlights for me have been the two R9 and R10 assemblies, our Comic Relief day and the Multi Sports Tournament. It is always a touching experience to see the pupils perform in such close proximity to their parents, proudly reciting poems, songs, speeches and confidently playing their musical instruments even as beginners.

Both the Comic Relief day and the Multi-Sports Tournament saw all pupils working cooperatively and greatly enjoying themselves at the same time. I would like to thank the PE staff for such a successful first Multi Sports Tournament. Pupils (and teachers) thoroughly enjoyed the event and it was rewarding to observe the progress made by pupils throughout the day. The odd bout of rain did nothing to dispel the prevailing enthusiasm.

This newsletter contains some brief reports of events in the Junior School, future dates and extra-curricular achievements.

With best wishes,

Rebecca Thompson (Head of Juniors)

### R9 Parents' Assembly

R9 celebrated Mother's Day with a wonderful assembly this term. Parents were invited to join in with the special occasion and were 'wowed' by the children's spectacular performances of music, singing and poetry. During the assembly we learnt about all the busy jobs that our mothers do, mother's day in other countries and we even had a game of the strongest link! There were many tears shed as the children shared their beautiful portraits of their mums, along with their heartfelt words of love. Oscar said 'When it actually came to the day of the assembly I felt very happy with myself. I enjoyed learning the actions to the poems too. My mum was even crying a bit!'

Namitha added 'I really enjoyed the assembly and I hope we do another one in R10.'

### Junior Swimming Gala

Congratulations to the many children who took part in our annual Swimming Gala in March. Results:



De la Salle  
1st 232 points,  
Mostyn  
2nd 220 points,  
St David's  
3rd 158 points,  
Bute  
4th 146 points.  
Pupils were  
presented with their

swimming certificates at our Merit Award Assembly.

### Junior Book Club

All Junior pupils read *Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson



Mandela and Book Club was consequently a lively affair last half term. Pupils were divided into 10 teams for the quiz. Each team was named after a South African animal. All

teams were able to demonstrate a mature grasp of the challenging issues raised in this text. The next Book Club text was *Lionboy* by Zizou Corder, winner of the Blue Peter Book Club award. This provoked a fascinating discussion. Book Club members were able to articulate their opinions about the strengths and weaknesses of the text, debate the author's interpretation of a future without fossil fuels and demonstrate a mature understanding of this complex plot. Congratulations to all who took part in the quiz, especially the winning teams, 'Charlie' and 'Magdalen'. For the final Junior Book Club of the academic year, members requested a return to an old favourite, *Harry Potter*. Having read book one and two in the series for previous Book Clubs, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, by J K Rowling has proved very popular.

### Junior Comic Relief - Fri 15 March 2013.



I would like to thank the pupils of the Junior School for their generosity and enthusiasm in raising money towards our nominated charities. The Junior pupils brought in their 'loose change' and managed to create a line of coins around our Sports Hall with enough coins left over to create a huge smiley face. In all, these coins added up to approximately £125. It was

delightful to see all the pupils from R8 to R11 working together to achieve this task. There were some individual sponsored activities by Ben Wieser, Alex Widnall, Maddy Bullen, Gabriel Robinson, Ben Davies, Dior Wood, Eleri Robinson and Katie Wright, and they raised £51 between them. Well Done!

### Cathedral Choir Easter Concert at St David's Hall



In March, the Cathedral Choir performed a varied programme of Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs* and Vivaldi *Gloria* with chamber orchestra, as well as a selection of

Lenten motets, to an appreciative audience in this ever-popular Easter concert. Many congratulations to the boy and girl Cathedral Choristers for their uplifting and polished performance.

### R10 Millennium Centre Residential Field Trip

- Thur 21 - Fri 22 March 2013.



The torrential rain and cold wind did not prevent R10 from enjoying their overnight stay at the Millennium Centre. The trip began with a tour of the Millennium Stadium

where pupils particularly enjoyed lifting a trophy and sitting in the Royal Box. Following this, the pupils met up with three AMs and learnt about the workings of the Welsh Assembly. The tour manager was so impressed by the quality of the children's questions and their excellent behaviour that he extended the tour by an hour, allowing the pupils into one of the conference rooms. There they were able to discuss future changes they would like to make in Wales. The day was rounded off with a quiz and talent show which had everyone laughing.

The next day the wind died down sufficiently to allow the boat trip around Cardiff Bay to go ahead and the pupils learnt a lot about the history of Cardiff and the docks.

This was followed by some very competitive bowling with Joshua Wright coming out on top - well done. There was just time for a tour of the Millennium Centre. The highlight was being allowed to stand on the stage and seeing how enormous the auditorium appears. Finally it was time to return to school and to have some well earned sleep!

### Junior School Disco - Thurs 18 April 2013.

The children arrived in eager anticipation to the sounds of



the latest dance music. Fashionably dressed and keen to demonstrate their high energy moves, the school hall soon became a dance studio. DJ Sterling lived up to all expectations as

music and bubbles filtered through the air. Refreshments were served at short intervals, but the children were eager to dance the night away. A fun time was had by all.

Maddison: "My band performed at this year's disco. I was so excited that I was the lead singer! I had lots of fun; it was the best one yet!"

Ella: "My favourite parts were when the teachers joined in dancing and DJ Sterling showed us all how to street dance."

### Junior School Detectives for the Day

On Tuesday, 30th April, Techniquest visited the Junior School. They needed our help in solving a most heinous



crime. The beloved and extremely valuable teddy bear belonging to Lord Llandaff had been stolen. Who could the culprit be? Was it Lee Biro, the accountant; Peter Platter, the butler;

Heather Duster, the maid; Daisy Lawn, the gardener; or Lady Llandaff, his wife? There was evidence aplenty which we had to examine. Which pen wrote the ransom note?

Chromatography helped us there. The fibres from which fabrics were left at the crime scene? Whose fingerprints were there, and could we follow and identify the footprints to find the thief? Close scrutiny was required. Finally, a secret message was found. Would this reveal the culprit? Great fun was had by all as the identity of the thief was discovered by team work, logic and the process of elimination.

Gabriel: "When Techniquest came we did experiments. My favourite experiment was the finger print identification, because it made me feel like a real detective."

Alex: "I can't wait until next year!"

### R8 Wonderful Weather Trip

On 8 May, R8 enjoyed a busy day at Oxwich Bay beach, taking weather measurements and visiting the weather station. They also had great fun making sand castles, followed by a picnic lunch. Ella "The best bit was flying the kites."

Karan "My favourite part was going on top of the tallest sand



dune." Harshita "We had played a parachute game to learn all the names of the clouds." Llyr "You pumped air into the rocket and it flew up when there was too much pressure."

### R10 Parents' Assembly

On 10th May R10 invited parents and friends to their class assembly. The theme of the assembly was 'perseverance'. The children enjoyed acting out various scenes in which some pupils persisted in activities whilst others gave up very easily. Next, all the pupils took part in a modern version of the Hare and the Tortoise. There was much applause afterwards. The pupils also read various stories to inspire them to keep going even when things become difficult. The parents were shown a clip of Derek Redmond at the Barcelona Olympics when he hobbled over the line following an injury which destroyed his dreams of becoming an Olympic champion. The assembly concluded with a perfect rendition of the poem Hiawatha, complete with Indian headdresses. Finally, pupils demonstrated their great musical talents by playing a variety of instruments. Each pupil was presented with an achievement certificate by Mrs Thompson. Well done R10!

### R11 Residential Trip to Llansteffan



On Wednesday 15th May R11 went on a residential trip to Llansteffan for three days where they enjoyed a variety of activities. On the first day, they went rock pooling at the local

beach. Jasmine said, "We walked quite a long way, but it was definitely worth it! After a short talk from Chris, we set off looking for crabs, fish and shrimps." Georgia said, "When we got to the beach, we went rock-pooling to see if we could catch any crabs. I caught a small crab and a massive crab!" Whilst at the beach, the pupils also explored a cave. Sid said, "Our tour guide, Chris, told us about the erosion of the rocks producing caverns and caves. We went inside the cave, where he told us more about how it was formed. I found it very spooky and dark!"

In the evening, we walked to a castle where Chris told the children about how the castle was invaded. Sanay said, "We went to Llansteffan Castle which was in ruins. We saw the Murder Room within the castle, which I found really interesting. We then went to the first floor, where Chris told us two stories containing dragons and a really old Welsh legend. These stories were intriguing and fascinating to me." The next day was all about survival in the wild. The pupils built shelters in the morning and learnt about edible plants. In the afternoon, they learnt all about bush tucker and cooked food, prepared by the children over a camp fire.

They also learnt a variety of bush craft skills. Suyash said,



"On Thursday, we made shelters in the forest, only using some tarpaulin and what sticks we could find on the ground. I enjoyed it very much. Just before lunch, we ate some chicken,

rabbit and fish that Chris cooked over a fire. I liked my first rabbit. After lunch, we learned to light fires and weave clothes. I enjoyed lighting fires but weaving the cloth was hard." Gwennan said, "It was a really nice sunny day and the view of the beach and hills were beautiful. There were lots of horses and ponies in the fields around us."

In the evening R11 took part in team-building games. On the final day R11 returned to the beach to learn about coastal erosion. They also played games on the beach. It was an excellent trip and everyone really enjoyed it.

### R10 Trip to Big Pit - Tues 21 May 2013.



This was an Art and History trip and pupils found out about working in coal mines from Victorian times up to the closure of Big Pit in the twentieth century.

They also looked at

the scenery, the Pit Head and the miners and other people who work at the mine and attempted to draw them in the style of Josef Herman, the Polish-born artist who lived in South Wales and became famous for his paintings of the miners. Pupils went on an underground tour with David Williams, an ex-miner and visited the museum and galleries. They also met the large family of canaries that still lives in the lamp room.

### Junior Multi-Sports Tournament - Thursday 23rd May



This was our first Multi-Sports Tournament. It consisted of 8 a-side Football, Tag Rugby, Rounders and Cricket. Apart from a few showers, the weather held off,

and it was an amazing day with all pupils thoroughly enjoying themselves. Each half or innings was 8 minutes in length with a half-time of 1 minute. The tournament started at 10.30am and finished at 3.00pm. There were four mixed teams for R8/R9 who played Tag Rugby and Football for the morning session with the four mixed R10/R11 teams playing Rounders and Cricket. These then changed over for the afternoon session. Each team had three matches in each sport and it was a pleasure to see over 80 pupils playing a variety of sports and enjoying themselves so much.



There are so many talented pupils in the Junior Department and it was brilliant to see different pupils stand out in different sports. The teams were

split into four equal teams for each age group.



The winners of the R8/R9 team were the Red team and the winners of the R10/R11 competition were the Blue team. Boys' player of the tournament for R8/

R9 was Matthew L. with the girls' award going to Dior W. In the R10/R11 tournament, Niamh F. won the girls' award and Rijul J. won the boys' trophy. An extra mention must go to Rijul J. who was fantastic. His attitude throughout the whole tournament was exemplary, even when his team were losing or down in a match, his attitude to others was excellent. The final award was given to the winning house. This was calculated by giving each individual in the winning team 4 points towards their house, 3 points to the team who came second and so on. The winning house was Mostyn and Lloyd F. and Georgia W. (the Mostyn team captains) were awarded the first Junior Multi-Sports trophy.



Mostyn (2013) will now be engraved on to the trophy and put up in the school for all to see. The day was a great success and as a PE department we would like to thank

all pupils, staff and parents for their help prior to the day and throughout. The GCSE pupils who officiated and refereed throughout the day were also excellent. We hope that this is the first of many Multi-Sports tournaments here at St John's College and that each and every pupil who participated enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next year!

## World Maths Day



Many congratulations to Adi, Joshua & Sannay of the Junior School who have been presented with certificates for attaining the highest scores for World

Maths Day. Certificates were also given to those who made the greatest improvement across the practice days. Well done!

## Achievements:

Well done to these pupils who achieved music grades recently: Kelly Yip (harp), Annalisa Albuquerque (piano), Catrin Dimond (clarinet), Maddy Constable (flute), Ayush Sinha (piano), Srinetra Banerjee (piano), Ella Evans (piano and violin), Topsy Perrington (piano), Theo Lloyd (piano), Isel Hafiz-Echeveste (piano), Ansha Khurana (piano).

Congratulations to the following pupils for their extra-curricular achievements:

Gwennan Shewring completed PICA Typing Course, Joshua Wright, Evan Loder and Daniel Power are all through to the second round of Cardiff and Vale Schools Football, Charlotte Tilsley swam 1 mile, Joe Morris (swimming stage), Dylan Oshnoei and Luca Ateleanu, who took part in a Singing Competition at the SGFYM, Alex Widnall (taekwondo grading), Ben Davies (swimming stage), Arjun Eligar (taekwondo grading), Akash Nannapaneni (swimming stage and karate grade), Gabriel Robinson (gymnastics level and taekwondo grading), Sohini Guha (swimming stage), Christina Logan (karate grade), Srinetra Banerjee (gymnastics level), Ella Evans (gymnastics level), Eleri Robinson (taekwondo grading, gymnastics level, swimming stage and ballet grade), Katie Wright (cheerleading certificate), Isabelle O'Sullivan (gymnastics level), Sinead Hennelly-Bridges (gymnastics level) and Harshita Agarwal (two tennis trophies).

## Car Park

The car park can be a potentially dangerous area and we would like to avoid pupils walking, unattended to waiting cars. Please can parents collect their children from the teachers at the end of the day. Thank you.

## And Finally....

Our thoughts are now turning to the next academic year. We shall be looking forward to welcoming R7 into the Junior School. They will be undertaking an Induction Week at the end of June, working with R8 on a joint project. All new Junior parents are invited to a meeting with myself and Mrs Firth on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July at 4.00pm in room 3.1. We will also be saying goodbye to our R11's at the Parent's Assembly on the afternoon of Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> July. They will perform a drama piece and be awarded well earned certificates of achievement. We wish them every success as they move onto the Senior School.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all my Junior colleagues for their support this year and wish all pupils, and their families, a relaxing Summer break.

## Dates for the Diary

24 <sup>th</sup> June	Internal Exams commence
24 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> June	R7/R8 Induction Week
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Sports Day at UWIC
4 <sup>th</sup> July	R10 and R11 Lion Boy at the WMC
5 <sup>th</sup> July	R8-R11 Lego Day
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Whole School End of Year Mass
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Junior School New Parents' Induction
11 <sup>th</sup> July	R11 Parents' Assembly
12 <sup>th</sup> July	School Trips
15 <sup>th</sup> July	INSET
3 <sup>rd</sup> September	INSET
4 <sup>th</sup> September	Start of Academic Year 2013-2014