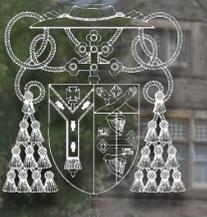


Junior School Newsletter


IN CARITATE NON FICTA
St John's College
Cardiff

Dear Parents,

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and can join me in agreeing the pupils have been absolute 'stars' this term.

We have enjoyed an exciting Lent term in the Junior School, as well as the whole school. A particular highlight from our Junior School was the Open Afternoon for existing parents. It was a tremendous success and you should all be very proud of such confident and approachable children. They exceeded our expectations and enjoyed the day thoroughly. The Senior School production of *Beauty and the Beast* was a fantastic and entertaining production. It has whetted our appetite for our production, next year. We are currently deciding on a suitable play – which is always the hardest decision.

I would like to congratulate our pupils on their contributions to the Eisteddfod. Mrs Burleton, and all the staff from the Junior School and Music department, who worked very hard to ensure the day was an exciting celebration of Welsh culture. If you would like to see the fantastic work submitted by some of our competitors, there is a lovely Eisteddfod display in our corridor.

I would like to thank you for all your donations to our charitable events like World Book Day etc. We are currently raising money for Mission Together, our Lenten project and would like to thank you and the pupils for the donations already received after one week. Your kindness and generosity is appreciated.

With best wishes.

Mrs R Thompson, Head of Junior School

Visit by Author, Cathy Farr

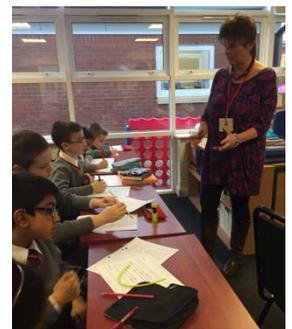
R10 were privileged to have a visit from author Cathy Farr on 24th January. Cathy spent a couple of hours with each class and talked about her books and how she writes them. She gave our young writers plenty of useful tips on how to make the most of their writing and everyone had the opportunity to create descriptive paragraphs and short stories based on her ideas.

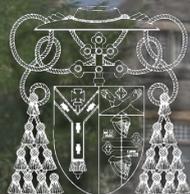
Here are some of the tips that R10 remembered afterwards:

- don't always use the verb 'said' in dialogue;
- short sentences can be very effective;
- try free writing using a random selection of words;
- and read your work out loud to check it.

Matilda stated, "I loved this workshop because it was so much fun and I didn't even realise I was learning!"

Mrs Clint





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Junior Aqua Games

On Thursday 31st January 2019 we hosted our Annual Junior Aqua games at Pentwyn Leisure Centre. First up we saw the competition between the R8 and R9 pupils who were fully supported by their R10 and R11 house captains, who did a fantastic job. We saw Katie & Kushi captaining Mostyn, Hana & Mahati captaining DLS, Siyona & Alfred captaining Bute and Selina & Lilah captaining St Davids. After a fun-filled morning for the R8/9 pupils, we saw De La Salle take the Aqua games title for the second year running.

Next up, the competition between the R10 and R11 pupils started at 11am. After a competitive morning, with pupils taking part in the flume race, boat race, float race and a game of water polo, we saw St David's house who also took the win for the second year running. It was fantastic to see all pupils having fun whilst competing in their teams for house points.

The sports department would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved; pupils competing, parents, school staff, Pentwyn Leisure Centre and Walton Coaches for efficient transportation.

PE Department

Junior Digital Leaders

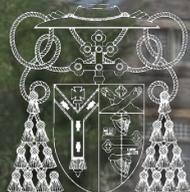
On Wednesday 6th February, the newly qualified Junior Digital Leaders started their computer clubs for the different classes. Today was the R8s' turn and they were guided through a very comprehensive introduction to Scratch Jr and managed to create a short animation.



The club was a huge success and the pupils went away with a certificate and a computer club sticker.
Well done George!

Mrs Howells





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On Thursday, 14th February we welcomed our parents into the Junior School.

The R11 Prefects and Librarians took groups of parents on a tour around the Junior classrooms where their peers, from R8 to R11, demonstrated their subject knowledge and skills across a variety of curriculum subjects. We had pupils dramatizing the three witches from Macbeth in English; Science experiments demonstrating reversible and irreversible changes; pupils teaching parents long multiplication and long division in Mathematics; Geography Q and A on an interactive whiteboard; World War II rations in History; various apps on modelled in ICT; various creative techniques in Art linked to their studies of the Romans and Urdd activities in Welsh.



Parents were impressed by the confidence and welcoming nature of the pupils, both tour guides as well as pupils in the classrooms. They also commented on the variety of teaching strategies and knowledge and the stimulating environment. Some parents, from our younger years, enjoyed seeing how their children would be taught in the Upper Juniors. The pupils should be very proud of their ideas and efforts. Many pupils asked if they could do this every day!



Thank you to pupils, staff and parents.
Mrs Thompson

Junior School Eisteddfod



Llongyfarchiadau mawr i Bute!

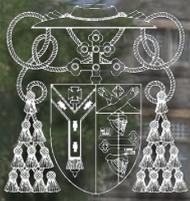
Congratulations to Bute, the winning house of the St John's College Junior Eisteddfod 2019. A great day full of music, dance and recitation. The competitions were all of an extremely high standard and provided an excellent opportunity for the pupils to demonstrate their talents both on stage and in the homework competitions.

Anya was crowned this year's Bard – ardderchog! Selina was second and Steen third. Mrs Thompson and Mr Howard had the difficult task of judging the House Choir competition. In a closely fought contest, Bute were the winners.

Congratulations once again to all of our competitors! Da iawn chi!

Mrs Burleton





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World Book Day



Junior School pupils and staff all enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters on World Book Day. Pupils took on unusual reading star challenges and achieved a very good number, including “read to your pet”, “read aloud in a funny voice” and “put down your tablet and read instead!” Some classes produced attractive bunting displaying their drawings of favourite characters and books, while in lessons on the day a bumper quiz also proved popular. The best part of celebrating the day was using the theme of “Share a story” as many parents had shared traditional stories and books from childhood with their children who then in turn shared these with their peers.

Mrs Clint

R10 Visit to Tredegar House

Despite being a wet and dismal day, the R10s had a fantastic time in Tredegar House! They all looked amazing dressed as Victorian children and tried to be seen and not heard! Indeed, they were complimented throughout the day for their lovely manners and excellent behaviour.

They learnt about the Morgan family and Tredegar House's history. The pupils loved hearing anecdotes that brought the family to life. They were also able to sample some of the 'below stairs' chores and hear about life as a servant in the Morgan household. Some of the pupils agreed that their favourite experience was watching their friends create a shadow puppet show in the parlour! Others loved crushing the spices in the kitchen. A great day that will be extremely helpful when we study Tredegar House in greater depth.

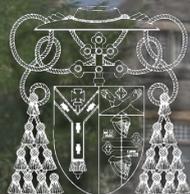


Our visit was blessed by sunshine and blue skies so we were able to take a lovely picture and stroll through the Sensory Gardens.

Da iawn R10!

Mrs Burleton





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Achievers' Lunch

Mr Moody and Mrs Thompson would like to express their thanks to the delightful Junior School pupils who attended the recent Achievers Lunch. They are congratulated for either their academic achievements, their application to their studies or for being excellent role models in the Junior School. They were eager to contribute to discussions about our F1 success and their experiences when they supported the prelims in our school hall – I am sure we have some budding engineers among this group. The highlight of the lunch was the trip out onto the balcony, despite the cold weather. Well done all!



Mrs Thompson.

Book Club

The Fox and the Ghost King Junior Book Club

Michael Morpurgo's tale of ghostly royalty, unlikely sporting victories and football frenzied foxes chasing an impossible dream, proved a real hit with our younger Book Club members.

It was anybody's game, with very little separating the three teams at the top of the table, however, St David's 1 snatched victory in our **closest ever** Book Club, coming top of the league!



Mr R Dennis

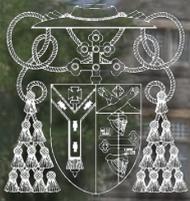
The Graveyard Book Junior Book Club

World Book Day was the perfect backdrop to our latest Book Club quizzes. Many pupils attended dressed as their favourite literary characters and some even took inspiration from the chosen text, Neil Gaiman's *Graveyard Book*. Congratulations to team Bute for narrowly winning a closely contested quiz.



Mrs J Cooney





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Next Junior Book Club

The next book Club texts are fantasy adventures:

Lionboy by Zizou Corder (aimed at older pupils) or *Nim's Island* by Wendy Orr (suitable for all)

Review for *Lion Boy*: "Sparkles with wisdom and wisecracks... startlingly original in characters, setting and plot." (The Independent)

Review for *Nim's Island*: "A fantasy tale as welcome as a breath of fresh, tropical air." (Publishers Weekly)

The next Junior Book Club will be held, in Period 4, on Wednesday 8th May. As always, those who have read the text, had it read to them or have listened to the audio book are welcome to attend.

Happy reading,

Mrs J Cooney & Mr R Dennis

Chess



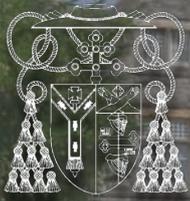
Many congratulations to Ayush S, Kritthik B, Ethan C, Ben J and Ashika P who won the area qualifier of the English Primary School Chess Association tournament. They beat the top 12 teams in our area! The next round will be held in either Bristol or North Wales.



The Welsh Primary Schools Championships took place at Merthyr Tydfil on 9th March. The Championship attracted 24 teams and was won comfortably by Team A of St John's College, congratulations!



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A further chess competition at Llandaff Cathedral School saw Sanwi and Ashika come 1st & 3rd place respectively in the under 11 Welsh Championship. In the same tournament, Ethan C came joint first with Hiya R in the under 16 Championship.

Our pupils are excited to share with you their recent achievements:

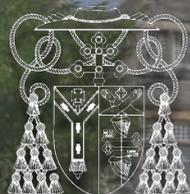
Musical achievements:

James A achieved Grade 1 Piano; Shuchen X was awarded a trophy in the Abertawe Festival for Young Musicians; Lara O achieved Grade 4 Flute; Selina L achieved grade 2 Piano; Joanne S achieved Grade 1 Piano; Alfie J is taking part in an opera with the WNO; Niamh H-B was achieved Grade 2 Violin; Ashmit achieved Grade 4 Piano; Anya S achieved Grade 2 Piano;

Sporting achievements:

Brandon D was awarded trainer of the week in Rugby; Kyran H has been 'Man of the Match' twice in a row for his football team; Ben H has moved to level 5 in swimming; Maya H has moved up to level 6 in swimming and achieved her red belt in karate; Henry J has swam butterfly for 10m and is now wave 6 in swimming; Lowri J has moved up to stage 5 swimming; Sophia M has been awarded a certificate for Gymnastics; Prajna M ran 2Km in running club; Emma K achieved level 3 in Horse riding and orange 2 in tennis; Aimee R moved up to Grade 3 in Horse riding; Arya B moved up to stage 8 swimming; Charlotte S achieved her 400m swimming; Johnny S achieved his yellow belt in Taekwando; Max E was awarded a red stripe in Taekwando; Gabriella G went up a lane in swimming; Sharanya M passed her Grade 1 Dance; Annabelle G was awarded 'Best Player' by Lisvane football team; Joe M was awarded spirit of the game in Ice Hockey; Reece M won a medal in a Judo competition; Joshua O was awarded silver and bronze medals in Taekwando; Gala S came 1st in a skiing competition; Joanne S and Mahathi N have gone up to the next wave in swimming;; Kritthik B and Aryan M have been selected for U11 Glamorgan cricket; Aryan M has gone up to the next stage in tennis; Harri P is the U11 and U13 Welsh Table Tennis champion; Finlay B was awarded his red belt in Aikido; Kundi M is now at stage 10 in swimming and a tennis masters; Ved N was awarded two tags in Judo.





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Other achievements:

Michael O'F came 17th All Ireland Dancing Championships; William H was invested into Cubs; Olivia E and Leila J passed their ballet exams; Annabella D passed the test day for her Hip Hop dance class; Ayush S is in a chess final; Kritthik B is in a chess final; Ethan C is the U16 and U12 Welsh chess champion; Ashika P came 3rd in U11 chess competition; Lilah's dance group have won 5 competitions; Sanwi is U11 chess champion; Anya S won a chess competition.

Future Dates

- Mon 1st Apr Junior Council Meeting (lunchtime)
Tues 2nd Apr R9 Llancaiach Fawr
Tues 2nd Apr R11 Reading Group (After tomorrow, Gillian Cross)
Tues 2nd Apr Merit Assembly
Thu 4th Apr Techniquet visit school (Materials Magic)
Thu 4th Apr Disco (DJ Sterling) 5.30 – 7pm (School Hall)
- Fri 5th Apr End of Term
- Mon 29th Apr Start of Term for staff
Tues 30th Apr Start of Term for pupils
Mon 6th May Bank Holiday (school closed)
Wed 8th May Prefect meeting (lunchtime)
Wed 8th May Book Club (pd 4) Lion Boy and Nim's Island
Fri 10th May House meeting (pd 1)
Fri 10th May R9 Cog Waterworks (African village workshop, water efficiency)

