



St John's College



Junior School

Advent Newsletter 2012

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Junior School Advent term newsletter. It seems so long ago that we were enjoying the summer break and yet here we are well into our first term of this academic year.

We have been joined by many new faces not only in R8 but across all year groups. The new pupils have settled so well that they have already become as familiar as our existing pupils. Here are a couple of comments from new pupils:

'I have really enjoyed my first few weeks at St John's. It is very different from my old school. At St John's I do PE with just the boys and we get to move around classrooms and meet different teachers. The best thing so far is Book Club. At St John's everyone is allowed to go and join in. I have met lots of nice teachers and pupils.' Ioan

'My first few weeks have been excellent and St John's is better than my old school. I have made loads of new friends in my class and the other class too. There are lots of differences. There are more lessons and homework every day. We are allowed to play with balls at all lunchtimes. I really like the Dining Room with the variety of choices and sometimes I can buy crisps or a chocolate bar.' Neil

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. We have some exciting events coming up this term such as the R11 Enterprise Week, R10 trip to Cog Waterworks, R9's noisy trip to Wastesavers and I am looking forward to the R8 Parents' Assembly.

With best wishes,
Mrs Rebecca Thompson (Head of Juniors)



Sports Day July 2012

Sports Day at the National Indoor Athletics Centre was an exciting event towards the end of the summer term. All



pupils participated in events such as discus and 300m sprints as well as the more traditional, fun sack race, egg and spoon race and for the first time we had a team tug of war. The PE department commended the Juniors for some impressive performances. Thank you to all our parents who were able to come along and cheer the houses on.

The final results were:

- 1st Mostyn 486 points
- 2nd Bute 443 points
- 3rd DLS 406 points
- 4th St David's 397 points



'Sports day was perfect. I was nervous as I thought I would come last and let my team down. My legs were shaking. My first event was 100m sprint. I came roughly 6th and got a medal. My most tiring event was the 300m sprint. We lost the race but it was fun. My house came third.' Oliver

'I've only been at St John's for a year and I enjoyed Sports Day. In my previous school we did egg and spoon or bean bag races and got stickers. This time we had proper races and events. There were medals and a real podium.' Shahana

R8 & R9 Trip to Longleat

To end yet another exciting school year it was decided that a trip to Longleat, the UK's number one Safari Park was just what R8 and R9 deserved. Despite the somewhat changeable weather we were determined it was not going to spoil our fun. After a long bus journey we were all anxious to stretch our legs, and where better to begin than the adventure playground, with its swings, bridges and tunnels.



The next part of our trip was to go on the Safari bus. We all clambered on, glad of the rest, and anxiously waited to see the lions, tigers and elephants in their own habitats. This

was an amazing experience for the pupils and many a photo was taken.

After lunch we headed to the maze - all one and three quarter miles waiting to be explored. Right way or left way it all seemed the same, around and around the pupils ventured until finally arriving at the observation tower. To end a memorable day we were treated to a boat trip and enjoyed some quiet time feeding the sea lions. What an adventure Longleat had been and a wonderful end to the school year.

'For our end of year trip we went to Longleat. We took part in a very difficult and exciting maze. We went on a boat trip and we saw two hippos and lots of otters. We were allowed to feed the otters with fish. I enjoyed the gift shop and I bought a seal and a meerkat pencil. I found Longleat Park very fun.' Ella

R10 visit to the National Bird of Prey Centre at Newent

R10 enjoyed a guided tour of the Centre where we learnt about many different types of birds, including eagles, vultures, owls and kestrels. We were lucky to see two flying demonstrations and learnt about how the birds are trained and how sometimes the birds decide to fly off – fortunately they are tracked by radio controlled tags. Annalisa summed up the views of R10 by saying it was a really fun trip!



R10 Cycling Proficiency

In June R10 had the opportunity to improve their cycling skills. The session began with our bikes being inspected and we

learnt about the gears and the best gear to use in different situations. Once we had mastered riding correctly we had a race but the winner was the person who arrived at the line last – it was really difficult. It showed who had the best control. All the pupils had to use hand signals and change gear at the same time as they cycled around the playground. Morgan said that he found some of the work difficult but it was enjoyable. Everyone said that they felt they would be better cyclists in future. All the class received a certificate as they did so well.



R10 Pirate Day

Towards the end of term R10 went on a pirate adventure in the old haunts of Captain John Lucas on Port Eynon beach. We learnt all about how he used the caves to smuggle products such as tobacco and brandy onto the coast of Britain.

We also did some compass work and looked at maps and grid references. We then had to use our skills to find the treasure that was hidden on the beach and in the caves themselves. Georgia says 'We had so much fun and it was the best trip ever!'

R9 Trip to Cardiff Central Library



On Monday 8th October R9 visited Cardiff Central Library for a fun-packed experience. The afternoon started in the children's section with a general talk about the library, how it works and the basic rules. Ella and Sohini were surprised to find out that you can take fifteen books out in one go and that they can be returned to any Cardiff library. After this we

visited each floor of the building finding out about all the different sections including a whole floor dedicated to music. There was even a white grand piano that you could book time to play on. Estee remembers floor 5 where you had to be silent - a hard task for many of R9!

We also learnt all about the eco side of the building and its sustainability. Alex asks 'Did you know that the library has no light switches?' They are operated by movement and turn themselves off when there is no one around. The windows are made of special glass that keeps heat in during the winter and keeps it out during the summer. Ben and Akash were particularly intrigued to learn that there is grass growing on the roof of the building and that a hawk comes every few weeks to keep the other birds away.

Finally all of R9 were able to search through the wonderful books that the library has to offer and even had a chance to listen to audio books on MP3 players. Everyone was overjoyed to return to school with a borrowed book after their experience. I hope that they will all continue to use Central Library and local libraries, as they can help to shape learning and encourage a pleasure for reading which is so vital to all aspects of the curriculum.

Welsh Storyteller Visit

On Friday 5th October a Welsh storyteller visited each Junior year group (R8-R11) and told a variety of traditional Welsh stories. All pupils really enjoyed the experience and R8 pupils wrote about it in their IT lesson:

Theo: *'She told us a dragon story and an animal story. It was perfect.'*
Harshita: *'She told the dragon story with a lot of expression. I loved the stories.'*

Crina: *'She did actions and did different voices. I felt very happy when she came.'*

Katie: *'My favourite bit was when the hyena was laughing. It made me laugh.'*



R11 Gas Masks

R11 pupils have made gas masks and boxes in Art and DT to coincide with their History topic: The Second World War.

What is R11 Enterprise Week?

On the 5th November, R11 will be freed from the normal timetable for a week, to experience the world of work. They will use their English, Maths, ICT and creative skills to run their own businesses. The teams will be making exciting products and providing services which will be available at the Trade Fair on Friday 9th November. Watch out for further news nearer the event.

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. We are grateful for your support in all matters.

Key Dates

November:

- 5th-9th Nov** R11 Enterprise
- 6th Nov** Cathedral Choristers' trip to Christ Church Oxford
- 7th Nov** Book Club
- 9th Nov** Remembrance Day Assembly
- 12th Nov** R11 Victorian Day
- 13th Nov** R9 Wastesavers
- TBA** R10/R11 Primary Maths Challenge
- 27th Nov** Cathedral Choir St David's Hall Concert, 1pm (*all parents very welcome*)

December:

- 3rd-10th Dec** Internal Exams (R9-R11)
- 14th Dec** R8 Assembly
- 19th Dec** Peter Pan, Sherman Theatre
- 19th Dec** End of term

January:

- 8th Jan** Term starts
- 16th Jan** Book Club

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 Period 4, room 0.2

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 Extra Curricular Timetable

Monday Lunchtime	R8-R11 Mixed Netball/Hockey
Monday After School	R11 Football Practice (4-5pm) Chess Club (4-6pm) Italian (4.25-5pm) R11/R12 Science Club (4-4.45pm)
Tuesday After School	Cathedral Choir Practice
Wednesday Period 1	Cathedral Choir Practice Junior Girls' Choir
Wednesday Lunchtime	R11 Latin Club (11.45-12.05pm)
Wednesday After school	R8-R10 Mixed Football (4-5pm) (please bring trainers & football boots)
Thursday After school	Cathedral Choir Practice
Friday Period 1	Cathedral Choir Practice
Friday Period 4	Training Orchestra
Friday After school	R8-R11 Mixed Multi-Sport (4-5pm)

Individual Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to the following pupils who have recently passed the following music / acting grade exams:

Gwennan Shewring (piano), Niamh Field (guitar), Ben Wieser (piano), Dior Wood (piano), Sohini Guha (piano), Joseff Morris (piano), Jacob Macario (guitar), Neil Mehta (piano), Catrin Dimond (piano), Madeleine Constable (flute), Jasmine Son (violin).

Jack Aldridge passed his Acting exam.

Finn Mitchell sang in Llandaff Cathedral for the British Heart Foundation.

Well done to the following pupils for their sporting achievements:

Rijul Joseph, Siddarth Mohnaty, Oliver Bell, Akash Nakirikanti, Kavin Durai, Varun Goel achieved the next stage in their swimming; Niamh Field swam in her first gala for City of Cardiff Swimming Club; Christina and Matthew Logan performed well in the David Lloyd Swimming Gala, Stephanie Monti moved up a squad in City of Cardiff Swimming Club.

Karan Mohanty, Harshita Agarwal and Sinead Hennelly-Bridges ran in the 2km charity run in Cardiff.

Lloyd Franklin, Charles Williams and Joseff Morris were selected for Cardiff Development squad in football; Georgia Wink went to Italy for a Gymnastics training camp; Catrin Dimond was successful in Netball Trials

Dior Wood won a Netball Competition playing for a school in Spain; Alex Widnall gained his green belt in Taekwondo; Neil Mehta has been selected for U10's Cardiff County and the Vale Cricket Team.

Kelly Yip has successfully trialled for Gwent Badminton Club. Good luck to Shahana Yusuf who will be attending a chess training camp in India and then she will be attending the World Chess Championships with her sister in Slovenia.

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