

H·S·L

HOWELL'S SCHOOL

Llandaff

A GDST SCHOOL

Nursery, Infant and Junior School Newsletter



7th February 2014

Dear Parents,

Open Afternoon

We were delighted to welcome lots of prospective families who braved the weather to attend our open afternoon on Wednesday. Thank you to the Year 6 tour guides who were complimented on how polite and articulate they were. Well done girls!

Art Club

Art Club is **cancelled next Wednesday 12th February** as Mrs Thomas has a meeting after school. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

Nursery



'5, 4, 3, 2, 1....blast off!' This week using the nursery rhyme 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' we have begun a new adventure into space. We have put on our spacesuits and entered into our very own Nursery space rocket to fly into space. It has been quite an adventure. We have toured around the planets and the stars and we have been learning their names. We have also read about some aliens who like to come to earth to take our underpants! We have painted our own aliens - my goodness, one has even got a set of five eyes and six legs; what a strange creature!

Our Nursery News Report:

"We live on Earth, but we have been to Saturn and then we went to Mars and then to Mercury, but it's very hot because it is next to the sun. We went in a space rocket to get there and it was far, far, far away. I said to my mummy, 'I want to go into space, but I can't go into space because I still have my chicken pox!'"

It has been quite an adventure and one which will continue next week. Look up at the night sky this weekend - what do you see? Can you see any constellations? Next week we shall be learning the sounds 'j' and 'v' and we shall be weighing moon rocks from Mars - are the biggest rocks always the heaviest? We shall investigate....!

Themed Out of Term (TOOT) Holiday Care Club – February Half Term



A reminder that we are now taking bookings in our Holiday Care Club (TOOT) for the February Half Term week. This runs from Monday 24th – Friday 28th February 2014 (5 days). The Holiday Club is open for 3 – 7 year olds in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and Year 2 as well as their siblings, boys and girls. If you would like book a place for the Half term week please email TOOT@how.gdst.net to express your interest and details will be forwarded to you.

The cost of the week will be £165 per child and this includes breakfast, lunch, all snacks and visits. Tea can also be ordered at an extra cost of £2.

'Stepping Stones' – Meeting for Year 4 Parents

Year 4 parents are invited to attend a meeting on Wednesday, 5th March at 3.30pm in 4S classroom. A short presentation will be given about a new initiative we are introducing in the Junior School, based upon the principles of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. The scheme is called 'Stepping Stones' and the Year 4 girls are going to be given the opportunity to complete the Bronze award during this academic year.

Mrs Holley

Curriculum Afternoon



A reminder that our curriculum afternoon this year will focus on maths and parents are invited to school from **1.30pm – 3pm on Wednesday, 19th February**. The afternoon will begin with an introduction in the Junior School Hall and then you will have the opportunity to visit the classrooms to observe lessons and speak to members of staff

To help with arrangements, I would be grateful if you would complete and return the slip at the end of this newsletter if you will be attending. Alternatively, you may email me directly at judith.ashill@how.gdst.net
Thank you.

Hockey Results

On Sunday, our Year 4 hockey players took part in the latest round of the South Wales U9 Mixed Hockey League. This meeting took place in Pontypridd in weather that was, to say the least, challenging, with high winds and intermittent heavy rain and hail showers. The girls showed tremendous spirit in all nine matches played. Team 4A played 5 matches, defeating Gwent 1 and Whitchurch 2, drawing with Swansea and Whitchurch 1 and losing to Canton. Team 4B started the day without a full team but, despite failing to win a game, played tremendous hockey throughout. A special mention should go to Grace M and Tirion J who were playing their first Sunday league games, to Jasmine W who came to play despite feeling less than 100% fit and to Sommer B who scored 6 goals on the day. Many thanks to all the parents who give such fantastic support during these Sunday fixtures!

Mrs Baker

School Uniform

I have noticed that a number of girls are not wearing regulation school coats. The uniform shop is open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 5pm if you need to purchase a replacement for your daughter. If there is a problem with stock of a particular size in the uniform shop, please do let me know.

Hywelian, Gwen, on University Challenge!

We are delighted that Hywelian, Gwen Cartwright, will be appearing on BBC 2's University Challenge as part of Brasenose College, Oxford's team. Her first appearance will be aired on Monday 3rd March. Good luck, Gwen!

Junior School Eisteddfod



The Junior School Eisteddfod will take place on Friday, 7th March. The girls will celebrate many aspects of Welsh culture throughout the day, participating in creative activities, handwriting competitions and performances. Your daughter may wear traditional Welsh costume, a rugby shirt, her own national costume or dress in her house colour to show support for her house. A letter outlining the arrangements can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Eisteddfod Individual Instrumental Competition

This competition is open to girls in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. Each girl may only enter once. Any orchestral instrument, guitar or piano may be entered (not recorder), and the competition will be judged during the week beginning Monday, 3rd March. The winners of each section will perform in the Junior School Eisteddfod on Friday, 7th March and the Instrumental Concert on the evening of Wednesday, 2nd April. The sections are organised as follows:

Howell's Junior School Eisteddfod 2014 Individual Instrumental Competition	
Section	Standard
A	Working towards Grade 1
B	Grade 1 and working towards Grade 2
C	Grade 2 and working towards Grade 3
D	Grade 3 and working towards Grade 4
E	Grade 4 and above

If your daughter would like to enter, she will be able to sign up next week with Mr Beckett.

Swimming Hats and Goggles

A reminder that **all** girls should have a swimming hat for their lessons and goggles if they require them. A name tape sewn into a circle around goggles helps to keep them permanently marked (permanent marker pen does come off in the chlorinated water) and names written on the outside of hats does help us identify the girls and repatriate hats!

A number of parents have asked for advice on purchasing swimming goggles:

- Try on the goggles by pressing the goggles (without using the straps) onto your child's eyes – the goggles should suck onto the sockets for a couple of seconds before losing suction – if you can see gaps at the sides of the eyes water will get in all the time.
Myth: Tightening the strap will ensure your goggles give a good fit.
Fact: The goggle strap's sole purpose is to hold the goggle in position, not to provide the seal. Adjustment of the strap may be necessary, however avoid the temptation to pull the strap too tight, this will simply create uncomfortable pressure on the delicate eye area, not to mention an unsightly panda eye effect!
- Clear goggles make it easier for your child to see and all goggles have different sizing across the nose piece – if you buy goggles where the nose piece cannot be adjusted please ensure that the nose piece is the correct size for your child.

Mrs Jarvis

A Day of Bird Activities in Year 1



On Monday, Year 1 had a special visitor, Tim Worth, from the RSPB who talked to the girls about the birds that they might see in their gardens. The girls turned the art room into a kitchen for bird food and made apple and sunflower seed hanging feeders, cheerio feeders and pine cone feeders stuffed with lard and bird food. The feeders were hung in the Green Garden and in the playground to try and encourage more birds into our school environment.

In the afternoon we took part in the RSPB's 'Big Schools' Bird Watch'. We were supposed to be doing this in Thompson Park but because the weather was quite unpredictable we decided to stay in the school grounds, just in case of a torrential downpour! Despite our excitement we still managed to spot a few birds and one of our girls was very lucky as she was delivered a special present from a high flying gull; hopefully she will now have seven years of good luck! The RSPB would love for more people to report bird sightings to them through their website <http://www.rspb.org.uk/schoolswatch/> and they encourage everyone to feed the birds in their gardens regularly.



Welsh Phrase of the Week



This week's phrase of the week is '*Dwi wedi gorffen*' (I've finished).

Fundraising Fun @ Howell's

We have always been delighted to support local, national and international charities as well as raise funds for our own projects. To find out more about the charities we have supported since September 2013 [click here.](#)

Pitch In Update



Tickets are selling fast for our [Mumbai Magic](#) evening on Saturday 22nd March at 7.30pm in the Senior School Sports Hall. Tickets cost £25 (adults) or £20 (College students) per person and include dinner, music and a magical evening. You can reserve a table of 10 or

12 (by buying the number of tickets you require), or book individual tickets and join a table. You can buy them at the Senior and Junior School offices or contact Hannah Roberts on 029 2026 1825 or email

hannah.roberts@howdst.net.

We very much hope you will be able to join us for all the events coming up before the end of the summer term.

- [Mumbai Magic](#), Saturday 22nd March
- [Plant and Cake Sale](#) on Wednesday 9th April
- [Charity Golf Day and Gala Dinner](#) on Friday 9th May
- [Family Champagne Cycle Challenge and Barbecue](#) on Sunday 22nd June

You can reserve your places now for the *Charity Golf Day and Gala Dinner* and *Family Champagne Cycle Challenge and Barbecue*. Booking forms can be found by clicking the links above. For further information on all the events [click here](#).

It was lovely to welcome so many people to the second hand uniform sale today. Thank you so much to our fantastic Parents' Association for organising the sale in aid of [Pitch In](#).

Healthy Snacks

We would like to remind you that we promote healthy snacks at school and therefore would appreciate if you could provide your daughter with a snack from the list below for both break times and after school clubs. Crisps, chocolate and nuts are not permitted. There is a snack shop available for girls in Years 3 to 6 on Hazelwood playground which sells fruit for 20p per item.

- Any kind of fruit
- Breadsticks
- Cheese and biscuits
- Fig rolls
- Fruit bars
- Garibaldi biscuits
- Hot Cross Buns
- Malt Loaf
- Oatmeal Type Biscuits
- Oat Based Cereal Bars (some others can be high in sugar)
- Plain Rice Cakes
- Raw Veg (e.g. olives, sweetcorn, cucumber)
- Yoghurt Drink/sachets

I hope you have a lovely weekend,

Judith Ashill (Mrs)
Head of Junior School

Curriculum Afternoon Reply Slip - Wednesday 19th February

Name of Daughter _____ Class _____

Number of people who will be attending _____

Signed _____

Junior School Eisteddfod 2014

Dear Parents,

Our annual Junior School Eisteddfod will take place on Friday 7th March. The girls will celebrate many aspects of Welsh culture throughout the day, participating in creative activities, handwriting competitions and performances. Each girl will also have the opportunity to participate by performing a Welsh item with their year group, for the rest of the school to enjoy.

The girls may choose to wear the traditional Welsh costume, rugby shirts, their own national costume or to dress in their house colour to show support for their house. As in previous years, the tradition of the chairing of the bard continues for Year 6 girls with details to follow in due course from class teachers.

As in previous years, the home competition is an open homework and all girls may participate should they wish to collect house points.

Key Stage One girls (Reception to Year 2) are asked to create a medal on a Welsh theme to be worn on the day.

In Key Stage Two (Years 3 to 6) the girls are asked to create a piece of jewellery to celebrate St David's day, again to be worn on the day.

These items can be made from a variety of materials and will be judged for design, ingenuity and creativity.

Please submit only one entry; which should be brought to school on Wednesday 5th March for judging.

There will also be an individual instrumental competition open to girls in Years 3 to 6 and further details are included in the newsletter.

It will be a joy to see every girl taking part in this day of celebration, developing confidence, self-esteem and above all sharing in a very special cultural experience. We are all looking forward to a most enjoyable day. If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Llinos Randall
Eisteddfod Co-ordinator

Judith Ashill
Head of Junior School