



# ST ROSE'S SCHOOL

Stratford Lawn, Stroud,  
Gloucestershire, GL5 4AP

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## NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2011

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*Emily Phillips*  
10 on 10 Nov

*Joseph Michael*  
10 on 25 Nov

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#### INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to the first newsletter of the 2011-12 academic year and the first of mine as headteacher at St Rose's.

I must begin by thanking all those involved in the St Rose's community for making me so welcome in these first 5 weeks. As I said in the article that has appeared in the local press it is a privilege to be a part of this remarkable school. During these first weeks I am taking the time to meet each member of staff individually so that I can get to know them and understand the role that they play in this team. What has impressed me is the extent to which the staff know and understand each young person at St Rose's. This is the (perhaps rather obvious, but often overlooked) key factor in enabling a strong and trusting relationship to form between staff and student. These relationships are at the very heart of what St Rose's is about.

Recently we hosted a number of trainee teachers from the Gloucestershire Initial Teacher Education Partnership (GITEP). The following day we received one of the most encouraging letters that I've ever had in my 27 years in education. Part of the letter reads: *"After visiting I would like to express my thanks for being made to feel so welcome at St Rose's. As soon as I arrived I was greeted by lots of happy faces and instantly felt at ease. It is clear to see that at St Rose's the staff and students have a fantastic relationship and that the school is genuinely an enjoyable place to be for everyone. The staff all share a huge passion for the work that they do and the students bring such a refreshing positive attitude to school."* This serves to suggest that the welcome that I received is not reserved for new headteachers but is given to anyone who visits the school!

In my letter to parents early in September I mentioned the comments and judgments made by the Ofsted inspection team who visited the school in July...just to say that the full inspection report can be viewed at [www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports).

#### Hydrotherapy

The team of physiotherapists at St Rose's has been working hard to ensure that each student has the opportunity to benefit from the use of our new pool. It really is a joy to see the positive effect that time in the pool has. We are working hard behind the scenes to make the pool available at other times, including to the wider community, and I hope soon to be able to give you news of these opportunities.

#### Maternity leave

Quite soon after you read this Heather Penney will be taking maternity leave. We wish Heather and her family the very best during this period and look forward to hearing news of the new addition to their family. We will cover for Heather's absence by making arrangements from within existing staffing at school.

#### Post-19 developments

Many parents may be interested to know that we have begun the process of registering Jean-Paul house (one of the bungalows) with the Care Quality Commission to enable us to provide residential accommodation for young adults (aged 19-25). I am very grateful to Sheila Talwar who is leading this development. The process requires us to modify the building somewhat in order to provide an environment that will be 'home' for those who are resident. We hope that this will increase the range of available options for young people as they approach the end of their formal education. This will enable us to provide a carefully managed transition to more independent living for students who are not quite ready to. If you would like to find out more about our proposals please contact Sheila at the school.

Finally, on behalf of the staff I would like to wish you an enjoyable mid-term holiday and we look forward to seeing you again on Monday 31st October 2011. With every blessing.



Jan Daines, Headteacher



## Fundraising

Helen Kay

*Marathon Man*

*Josh's Step Dad, Rob Easthope ran the Virgin London Marathon (in a very respectable time) and raised a magnificent £1,755.00 for St Rose's School!*

*On behalf of all of us a huge thank you Rob*

**BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE INTERVIEW MR DAINES.**

News of my past seems to have escaped because I have recently been asked to give a couple of interviews (one for the diocesan web site <http://www.cliftdiocese.com/new-headteachers-support>, and one for Radio Gloucestershire <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p008blfw>)! As you can see from the photos, presenter Richard Atkins and I had a really good conversation about my time at St Peter's; my work last year in Malawi; my own faith and interests (as a Portsmouth supporter he was dismayed to learn that I follow their arch rivals, and superior footballing side, Southampton). If you listen to the interview you'll find that we did talk about St Rose's too! Despite the superb work that Helen Kay does to promote the school I don't expect that this current level of media exposure will continue so there is little danger of my life being put under siege by the paparazzi! However, it has been a pleasure to be able to represent the pupils and staff of St Rose's in this way.



**A SURPRISE VISIT FOR ST HUGH'S CLASS AS CHILDREN'S LAUREATE JULIA DONALDSON DROPS IN ON HER WAY TO COLLECT HER MBE!**

St Hugh class had a wonderful surprise when Julia Donaldson, author of The Gruffalo and 156 other fantastic children's books dropped into their class to sing an song and see their work inspired by her most popular book.

Our famous visitor was interested to hear that earlier in the year, the children had been to the Forest of Dean on a Gruffalo Hunt. St Hugh really enjoyed the Gruffalo with it's wonderful illustrations and story told with rhythms and rhymes.



Everyone had made a mask of their favourite Gruffalo character and Mrs Donaldson kindly signed these as memento's for the School

Earlier in the day, Dylan Nobes had hand delivered an invitation to Mrs Donaldson at Stroud Library.

You can imagine everyone's delight when she took Dylan up on the offer and made time for us her in busy schedule.



**INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY—MATTERS**

This term began on a high note when thanks to Specialist School Status money we were been able to purchase two new plasma screens so that every class in St Jo's and school have easy access to a plasma and the EYD have their own plasma too. These computer touch screens are a great asset to our pupils and students in lessons where the large screen really helps them to focus and work together as a group. They also have great potential for social times when they can be used to play games, listen to music and watch DVDs.



We continue to add to our computer hardware and software and keep up to date with the new technology as well as offering training opportunities to our staff. There is a good culture at St Rose's of informal training where instances of one member of staff showing another how to do something happen regularly. Every year we update our pupil access forms so that everyone is aware of how different pupils access alternative and augmentative communication, the computer, switch toys or household gadgets. We have also recently introduced ICT targets which focus staff on specific areas that each pupil or student can work on across the curriculum.

ICT is a fast moving area and one that is exciting to be involved in as it holds great potential for improving the lives of our pupils and students.

Jean Bankhead



Chas Doughty



## Stoke Mandeville National Junior Games

19th- 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept 2011

A team of six athletes spent the week competing & having a go at different sports. A very enjoyable time was had by all. Special congratulations to Robbie Gardiner who won a **Gold** Medal in the Boccia Competition



**LUCY, SOPHIE, SAM, JOSH, ROBBIE AND RYAN**

## FUTURE EVENTS

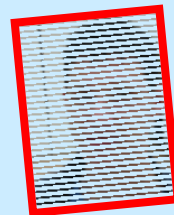
The 30th Rotary Disabled Sports

Team Championship,

Xcel Leisure Centre,

Coventry, Sat/Sun

12th/13th Nov 2011

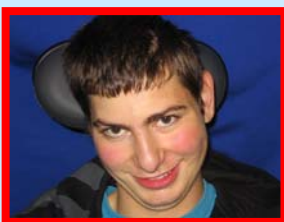


**Ryan**



**Robbie**

Joshua



Lucy



Avon Swifts  
Annual Swimming Gala  
Saturday Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 2011  
Kingswood, Bristol

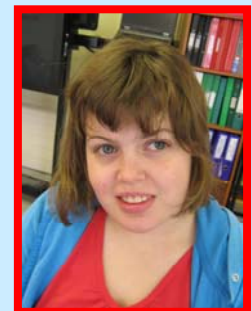


Jenny



Sam

Joseph



Hanah

**Good Luck !**

**By Jackie Vowles**

### Scouts/Explorer Scouts September 2011

Scouts and Explorer Scouts are back and up and running again thanks to popular demand. Already we have managed to pack a lot into our programme and we have only been running again for 2 weeks.

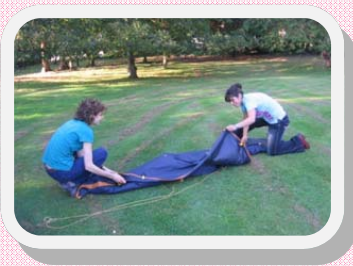
#### Well-done Robbie!

Robbie one of our Explorer Scouts did us all proud again by organising and presenting an assembly showing what we did at our Scout/Explorer camp held just before the end of July, before we finished for the summer break. Robbie organised all the Scouts and Explorers, who all contributed to the assembly in some way. We even managed to perform our version of ging gang goolie which was the Scouts and Explorers contribution to the St Roses Prom also held in July to end our Assembly.



#### Tents

We have also been making the most of the warm weather. Thursday the 29<sup>th</sup> September was a perfect opportunity to put up a tent in the School grounds. Cerys and Bradley were a big part of this as they had to instruct the staff how to put up the tent. Thank you as always to all who help and support our Scout/Explorer Scout Troop.



Eye pointing charts

Nicki Elkins (Troop Leader).

### NEWS FROM THE RE DEPARTMENT

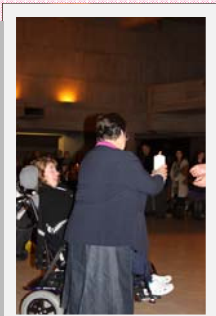
On the 21<sup>st</sup> September, Bishop Declan celebrated Mass in the Cathedral for everyone involved in Catholic Education. The theme of the Mass was "Unfolding wisdom."

More than 500 people and representatives of 52 Schools were at the Mass to celebrate and give thanks for Catholic Education. Laura was our student representative. The Mass began with a procession of banners....Laura, Mrs Thurbon and Claire Nulty carried ours.

In his Sermon Bishop Declan spoke about St Matthew, whose Feast day it was, and he reminded us that Jesus saw beyond what Matthew was, recognising the potential within and that we are called to do this for others..... our common purpose is to bring good news to all.

At the end of Mass Bishop Declan invited representatives from each School to come forward to receive a lit candle. Laura came forward with Claire and Sr Julie to receive our candle from Bishop Declan. The candle symbolised, that as Schools, we are united in our desire, to bring life in all its fullness to those within our Schools. We then led the procession out through the darkened Cathedral each School carrying their candle. After Half Term Laura will bring the lit candle into our Assembly and from then it will be lit each time we come to pray and celebrate together.

Sr Julie op



SJ4 trip to Slimbridge as part of our healthy living learning. We all really enjoyed feeding the geese and swans in the sunshine.



**HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS ARE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM CAROL GOVERD.**

## **HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS**

**PLEASE BE AWARE THEY DO CONTAIN ALCOHOL BUT NO NUTS!**

**LARGE £7.00, SMALL £3.50.**

**ORDER PLEASE BY MONDAY 14TH NOVEMBER TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.**



**PARENTS EMAIL GROUP:** We are setting up a parents email group so that we can e-mail documents to parents. As well as enabling parents to more easily access web links this will also save on costs as we will be able to send newsletters, letters regarding events, and reminders to you. Please let us have your email address if you would like to be included. Thank you. School Office



## EARLY YEARS DEPARTMENT

Heather Penney

This term we have welcomed some new children to the Early Years department, after so many leaving to go to school last term. Welcome to: **Alice, Lewis and William.**



This term the children have been learning around the topic of **food**. They have enjoyed stories such as The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Handa's surprise, and we have been thinking about what is healthy and what is unhealthy.

We have been learning about the story of **Jesus feeding the five thousand** and have investigated the feel and taste of fish after buying them from Tesco together. (We have been acting out this story in practise for our harvest festival).



We are also pleased that the Early Years children have had the opportunity to begin to use the hydro pool this term.



## Music

Our school year has got off to a wonderful musical start with a visit to St Stephen's from Autoharp player Sue Edwards, and with a rendition of the Scouts' fantastic version of Ging Gang Goolie at a recent assembly! This term we hope to achieve our Silver Sing Up Award! Sing Up is a government sponsored initiative to support singing in schools. Schools can work from Silver through to Platinum Award by increasing the opportunities for singing in their community. We already use song in a variety of ways throughout the school day so the award will be an excellent recognition of this.

Earlier this year you might remember that we celebrated National Sing Up Day with a special assembly. This was great fun and the start of our pledge to work towards the Silver Award.

As part of this we would like to increase parental involvement in our singing. As you are aware, we have termly Mass and assemblies to which parents are invited and **we would like to extend this to welcome you to our regular singing assembly on Wednesday mornings. This starts at 9.00am and lasts 15-20 minutes.** It is a fun and relaxed opportunity to enjoy being together and experiencing song and signing! We look forward to seeing you on Wednesdays and hearing later this term whether we have been successful in gaining Silver!

Rachel Moody, Music Coordinator



## TERM DATES AND HOLIDAYS

### Academic Year 2011-2012

#### AUTUMN TERM 2011

<i>Staff only (In Service Days)</i>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2nd September 2011</b>
Children return :	<b>5<sup>th</sup> September 2011 at 9.30am</b>
Children finish:	<b>21st October 2011 at 3.30pm</b>
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> October 2011 to 28th October 2011</b>
<b>Children return:</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 at 9.30a.m.</b>
Children finish for	<b>16<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at 3.30p.m.</b>

#### SPRING TERM 2012

<i>Staff only (In Service Days)</i>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4th January 2012</b>
Children return:	<b>5th January 2012 at 9.00a.m</b>
Children finish:	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 3.30p.m.</b>
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2012</b>
Children return:	<b>20<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 9.30a.m.</b>
Children finish for	<b>30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at 3.30p.m.</b>
<b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b>	

#### SUMMER TERM 2012

<i>Staff only (In Service Day)</i>	<b>16th April 2012</b>
Children return:	<b>17th April 2012 at 9.00a.m.</b>
May Bank Holiday:	<b>7th May 2012</b>
Children finish:	<b>1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 at 3.30p.m.</b>
<b>HALF TERM</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> June 2012 to 8th June 2012</b>
Children return:	<b>11th June 2012 at 9.30a.m.</b>
<b>END OF TERM</b>	<b>20th July 2012 at 3.30p.m.</b>

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## Sainsbury's Active Kids Vouchers

Thank you to all parents and carers who collected the Sainsbury's Active Kids

Vouchers earlier this year. We have been able to purchase a digital camera, HEAD radical tennis-rackets, Play Boccia set, SDX school stopwatch and Squistle (squeeze whistle/hygienic whistle). All these items are for use during the evenings and weekends by students in the Residential House.

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

CHILDREN RETURN 31ST OCTOBER 2011 AT 9.30A.M.

**ROTARY GAMES, COVENTRY 12TH & 13TH NOVEMBER**

AVON SWIFT SWIMMING GALA 19TH NOVEMBER

SCHOOL MASS THURSDAY 24TH NOV AT 10.50

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING 3RD DECEMBER 2011

CAROL SINGING AT TESCO 15TH DECEMBER 2011 AT 6.00PM

**END OF TERM FRIDAY 16th December AT 3.30PM**

3RD & 4TH JANUARY IN-SERVICE DAYS

CHILDREN RETURN THURSDAY 5TH JANUARY 2012

MOTOR SHOW 29TH APRIL 2012

SUMMER GARDEN FETE 16TH JUNE 2012

PIED PIPER BALL 29th June 2012

PARISH MASS 8th July 2012

Centenary Ball 14th July 2012

Awards Evening 18th July 2012