



# Headteacher News



Term : Christmas 2017

Whole School Topic: Our Island Home

As always, this has been a very busy and exciting term. There have been lots of wonderful events, especially towards the end of term involving Christmas. Our school choir have proudly performed not only at The St Nicholas Carol Concert, but also at Newbury Hospital and at Swings and Smiles. We have also had a delightful Christmas service at St Mary's with lots of amazing singing and reading from our students telling the story of the nativity.

During the term we have been raising money for Children in Need. After an incredible effort from our staff, students and parents we managed to raise a remarkable £1906.52. This is an extraordinary amount, particularly for a school of our size. Everyone should be rightly proud of what we have achieved.

An achievement that is also worth noting is the fact that the Castle School World of Work Team have been named as BASE (British Association of Supported Employment) Team of the Year. We are the first ever school to win this prestigious national award. It has been awarded for an innovative and creative focus on ways into employment. In terms of developing employability skills, we have launched our Castle Hospitality and Catering Service. You can read much more about this exciting venture on our website. Please visit us at [www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk](http://www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk)

Some photos of our learning



Children in Need - we Raised £1906.52



Castle School Catering going into business!



Non-Fiction Bingo in November got us reading



BASE Team of The Year!

I wish all our students, staff and parents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please note that the last day of term is **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017** and pupils return to school on **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

Many thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)

## Governors' News

As a Link Governor for Personal Development, Welfare and Behaviour, it has been very exciting to see the pupils shine in areas beyond the classroom. Over the past year the children have been involved with World of Work, Pupils 4 Positive Change, Post-16 Cafe and helped the school gain the prestigious Rights Respecting Schools award. All of these opportunities, plus countless others, give the pupils the chance to really make their opinions heard, increase their confidence and shape the direction of the school. The Christmas plays and carol service have brought everyone together to showcase even more of the pupils' enthusiasm and talents...singing, playing instruments, reading and all in front of large audiences. Seeing the progress the children are making is inspiring and at times very humbling. Knowing how hard the staff work with the pupils, I'm certain 2018 will be another hugely successful year.

Wishing you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Alison Eade (Parent Governor)