

Headteacher News



Term : Spring 2 2018

Whole School Topic: To Infinity and Beyond

Here we are at Easter already. The year has raced by! There has been some very exciting learning going on at The Castle School this term. We continue our exciting "To Infinity and Beyond" topic investigating all things space-related.

Our delayed World Book Day event was great fun and saw lots of pupils and staff dressing up as their favourite book character. There were some incredibly creative costumes. During the week we had lots of wonderful reading events as well which were enjoyed by all our pupils.

Parents got creative as well at The Pastoral Team Easter Crafts Day. This saw parents making food and learning new recipes to try out with their children. Lots of fun was had by all. Science week was a great success with activities throughout the school to focus on science investigation, including making slime, creating invisible ink and investigating chemical changes with volcanoes! Of course, this month saw our annual World of Work (WOW) Celebration event. The event was attended by Richard Benyon, MP, the Mayor and Mayoress of Newbury and of Thatcham, as well as staff from many of the companies who work with us. Guests were treated to a delicious buffet lunch, provided by Post-16's recently launched catering business – Castle Catering and Hospitality, with food prepared and served by the students.

For more news, please visit us at www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk

Some photos of our learning



WOW event at Post-16



World Book Day fun



Making moon prints



Easter Craft Event

I wish everyone a happy Easter break. Please note that the last day of term is **Thursday 29th March 2018** and pupils return to school on **Monday 16th April 2018**.

Many thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)

Governors' News

Data, data, data

Having sat in many governing board meetings reviewing data showing pupil progress I was recently invited into school to get the low down from Shannon on exactly how this data is compiled and how it is used. It was interesting to hear how each and every classroom teacher plays a huge part in assessing and recording each pupil's individual achievements – so many criteria to consider and what a fabulous variety of methods of assessment. I can imagine the looming assessment deadlines faced by each teacher and the juggling that has to be done to meet these deadlines. Then it's over to Shannon to read, check, tick and enter the data to come up with the wonderful clear and concise one pager that is presented to the governing board (that does not do justice to the amount of effort that has gone on behind the scenes). And this data doesn't stop there – this data feeds into the SAP (Support and Achievement Plan) to ensure success is recognised and each pupil's next targets are individual and appropriate. Also, it was great to finally understand who WALT and WILF are!

Katherine Wilkes (Governor)