



Headteacher News



Term : Christmas 2016

Whole School Topic: My Wonderful Self

Welcome to the Christmas newsletter for 2016.

As most of you will know, we had the very sad news at the end of November that Ellie Wood, a pupil in Richmond Class, passed away at home. Ellie was such an amazing person, always with a smile which was infectious as you can see in the picture to the right. She touched so many hearts and this was evident from the incredible turnout at her funeral on Wednesday. We have such amazing memories of her wonderful spirit. Our thoughts are with her family, especially over the Christmas period.

Some of our pupils performed Midsummer Night's Dream to a packed house at The Corn Exchange. Those who saw it reported how brilliant the acting was and how well the pupils remembered their lines – Shakespeare being quite complicated! Well done all.

This year we have started a very exciting venture with Growing2gether and The RENEWAL Project in Newbury to run a Forest School for our young primary pupils. Each week pupils from Cardiff and Pembroke Classes walk down to the woodlands in Shaw to experience the different aspects of forest work including bushcraft along with experiencing nature first hand. Our pupils benefit massively from this, not only in terms of increasing their understanding of the natural environment, but also in terms of working together and developing their social skills.

Some photos of our learning



Remembering the wonderful Ellie



Pupils 4 Positive Change conference



Singing their hearts out at St Nics



KS1 enjoying forest fun

There is always so much more I want to tell you about the wonderful things our pupils and staff have done. Please do visit www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk where many more exciting things can be seen in the Castle News section.

Please note that the last day of term is **Friday 16th December 2016** and we return to school on **Tuesday 3rd January 2017**. Have a really wonderful Christmas.

Thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)

Governors' News

It was a great privilege to have been able to attend the Shakespeare Schools Festival at the Corn Exchange in Newbury. Three local Schools were taking part on November 7th. The Castle was first on stage performing A Midsummer Night's Dream. And what a performance! It was most inspiring to see the confidence of our young actors, performing Shakespeare on stage in front of a full theatre. Brilliant casting, perfect timing, excellent costumes and as always with wonderful musical accompaniment. Best of all was that everyone on stage was enjoying themselves in front of a very receptive audience who were loving it. So huge congratulations to Dover, Colchester and Tiverton and to those staff whose hard work made it all possible. I felt so proud to be a Governor! Now I look forward to the Christmas productions and the Carol Services. Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2017 to everyone.

Georgie Woods