

# Headteacher News



Term : May 2016

Whole School Topic: Olympics and Paralympics

Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of this academic year – the time has flown by.

As always our staff and pupils have been extremely busy with their learning and personal development. This term has been particularly special as it has seen a very big achievement for a group of choir members. On 1<sup>st</sup> May 19 pupils and 11 staff performed in a massed choir at the Royal Albert Hall in front of about 5000 people! It was simply amazing. I will let Tracey tell you more from a parent and governor's perspective below. Suffice to say, our pupils can do anything.

This term has also seen several residential trips. Tintagel Class spent 3 days at PGL in Liddington. After a very, very wet start we all had a brilliant time enjoying a great variety of activities including quad biking, archery, giant swing, raft building, zip wire, fencing and canoeing. As always, the pupils were brilliant and got stuck in to everything that was asked of them. We also saw our first key stage 3 trip to Fairthorne Manor in Southampton. Luckily, they had better weather as they were all camping. Our pupils did us proud by getting involved in everything and all had a thoroughly enjoyable week. Lancaster Class also enjoyed their annual residential trip to Poole with Kayaking, sailing and climbing enjoyed by all. It is fantastic that so many of our pupils get these opportunities to learn new skills and work together as a team. Through these experiences they will develop invaluable skills for the rest of their lives.

## Some photos of our learning



The Choir at The Albert Hall



Key Stage 2 pupils very happy with their new play equipment



Gearing up for the Olympics and Paralympic Games



Tintagel raft building at PGL

Please remember that there is much more to see on our website news section. Just visit [www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk](http://www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk) and click on the Castle News bits on the right hand of the page.

Please note that the last day of term is **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016** and we return to school on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2016**. I hope you all have a great half term.

Thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)

## Governors' News

Well where does one start? As a Parent Governor on the Curriculum & Staff committee I am so delighted in updating Parents, Staff and the Governors, that Castle School Choir were AMAZING!!! Castle School Choir, that my son was 1 of 20 in, were wonderful. They performed at The Royal Albert Hall (in London) on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016, which must have been a huge challenge for them, and It was for 'A Celebration of Music in Berkshire'. There were so many other participants too: over 1,000 pupils of various ages. Including: Berkshire Youth Guitar, Berkshire Steel Pan Orchestra and Berkshire Youth Symphony Orchestra to name but a few. Castle school Choir performed in the second half and sang accompanied as part of the massed schools choir with two orchestras including the BBC Concert Orchestra. It was enthralling and very emotional to hear their beautiful voices sing complex songs like: Dies Irae, March of the Toreadors and the Hallelujah Chorus. Such very difficult pieces to sing.... But they did it! Castle School did us proud in their smart, professional and black uniform and with the huge amount of effort and pride all the children put in. As a Parent and Governor I thank all these people with my heart: teachers/staff/volunteers and everyone else who assisted in the practices and for the rehearsals, and the journeys to and from the performance. YOU ARE ALL SIMPLY WONDERFUL! The time, effort and your dedication certainly showed. A BIG THANK YOU. I will never forget this evening.

Tracey Warwick, Parent Governor