

# Headteacher News



Term : Easter 2020

Dear Parents and Carers, A year has now passed since the first lockdown began in March 2020. It has been a challenging year for everyone, but we are hopefully approaching a time when we can return to some kind of normality.

We have kept going throughout lockdown, with staff working hard to ensure that learning is still taking place, and you, as parents, have supported your pupils at home. It has been a huge effort from everyone in the Castle Community, from parents, staff, drivers, escorts, therapists, specialists and, of course, the children.

I am sure you would join me in thanking all our staff, who have worked tirelessly during the lockdowns and during the return to full re-opening; going above and beyond to ensure that all of our pupils are safe and learning. Many of our pupils, as you will know, had spent a considerable amount of time away from the classroom and I hope that you will agree that the Castle Team have done an amazing job in getting everyone back into school and learning in a happy and safe environment.

I would also to say a huge **thank you** to you, our parents and carers. During this difficult time you have enabled your children to continue learning throughout.

So, onward to next term and I very much look forward to seeing all the wonderful learning that will take place.

## Some photos of our learning



WOW+ Students talking to Key Stage 4 about work



Chillingham pupils back into the swing of things



Red Bubble Learning and having fun



Working together

For more information and news please visit us at [www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk](http://www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk)

I wish all our pupils, staff and parents a lovely Easter break. Please note that the last day of term is **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021** and pupils return to school on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

Many thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)

Looking back over the last year, it has been one of many challenges. Just over 12 months ago the whole country went into lock down and we would not have predicted that restrictions would still be in place now. Many families have faced particular hardship and loss. Throughout this time, the Castle School has adapted and innovated. From PPE to lateral flow tests and Bubbles to Zoom calls, pupils, staff and parents have learnt how to do things in a new way. It has been a big achievement.

As well as leading classroom and remote learning, the senior leadership team and staff have been working on a new curriculum and new assessment tools. The roof of the Primary building has been repaired and improvements have been made to the outside areas. Our fantastic pastoral staff have also been busy supporting our school community.

On behalf of the governors, I would like to warmly thank all pupils, staff and parents for their commitment and adaptability this year. It is wonderful to have had everyone back in person for a few weeks and to see the school buzzing with energy. Let's hope this continues and we can all enjoy and make the most of the summer term.

Wendy Batchelor (Chair of Governors)