

Headteacher News



Term : Spring 1 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Since Christmas, you will have been aware in the press and media that it would appear that Covid-19 has been reducing and things have been getting better. This is, of course, great news. However, in schools up and down the country, there have been significant challenges in terms of Covid-19 infections and staffing levels as a result. This has been particularly problematic in special schools, due to the specialist staffing needed to keep everyone safe. We are no exception. I would like to thank you, as parents and carers, for your understanding and support through this difficult period. We have had to close a few classes at times and we very much appreciate how all parents have been understanding in the face of these closures. I would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our staff team. They have been simply amazing. It is so typical of the Castle family that everyone has pulled together to support each other, cover staffing absence where possible and ensure that we can keep going and make the school a safe and happy place for all. I really do hope that we are now over the worst and that after half term we can start seeing a reduction in cases and a reduction in the remaining restrictions. However, we will continue with our current protective measures to begin with after half term and assess during the first week.

The current protocols can be found here:

[The Castle School - Castle School Parent/Pupil covid-19 protocols \(thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk\)](https://www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk/parent-pupil-covid-19-protocols)

As always, it has been a packed term with lots of amazing learning taking place throughout the school. And, despite Covid-19, we have managed to keep everything

Some photos of our learning



Enjoying hydrotherapy



Horseriding at RDA



Cooking together



Working on the farm

as normal as possible and pupils have been able to experience a great variety of different things throughout the last term. You can read all about what individual classes have done by going to the Class Newsletter page of the website [The Castle School - Class Newsletters \(thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk\)](https://www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk/class-newsletters)

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

I wish all our pupils, staff and parents a lovely half term break. Please note that the last day of term is **Friday 18th February 2022** and pupils return to school on **Monday 28th February 2022**

Many thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)