



## Celebrations of our learning this term:

At the Castle School, we work really hard in PSHE, and have some celebrations to share with you:

There have been lots of special visits to the fire station this term, as lots of classes have been learning about jobs in the community. Windsor, Tiverton and Post 16 have all been to the Fire station. Thank you to white watch for all of your help.

Lots of classes have been visited by Pam and Jan from Newbury Showground. Pupils have been learning about where their food comes from and have made sausages and met her wooden pig, cow and goat! Students have had a go at milking the cow and trying goats' cheese.

Chepstow class have been exploring different fruit, including mangoes and pineapples, which they were very engaged with. We have been learning about PSHE through seasonal events, including Harvest, Remembrance and bonfire night. Lots of classes learned about staying safe on bonfire night. Many classes joined together for a silence on Remembrance Day and made a beautiful display of poppies.

Staff have now had two training sessions on how to use the Chailey Heritage RSHE programme, which is designed to support our learners with severe and profound learning difficulties, to be able to access RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education,) using sensory stories, props, and anatomically correct dolls. The third and final training session will take part in the Spring term. Lots of classes are using the dolls to support their understanding of RSHE.

School Council project to improve the sensory garden is still being planned. They have chosen paint colours and plants. The site team have already restored the raised beds, fences and other structures. The rest of the work can be completed by a local company, once the weather is better. We are very proud of how considerate the school council have been to their peers, ensuring everyone is included and has something that they will enjoy, at playtime. Well done and thank you to all involved. We are very excited about our sensory garden and will keep you updated on its progress!

Post 16 School council representatives have also been also be meeting this year, to

## Some photos of our learning



discuss specific Post 16 issues, that they want to work on, including lunchtime activities. All of school council met recently to discuss what they wanted to have in their playground. Thanks to their brilliant ideas, Terri and Averil are now working hard with Opal education, to get some of their chosen equipment into the playground, including more balls.



School Council had a food bank collection again, which was delivered by Oxford class. Oxford class also had

a tour of the warehouse.

The West Berkshire food bank said: "the donations have been weighed in, and they totalled 135.6kgs. This is the approximate weight of a gorilla and they are big! But more importantly, it is the equivalent of 284 meals that the Castle School community has provided for local people who are currently having an extremely difficult time. What a very kind and thoughtful thing to have done. Can you please pass on our thanks and gratitude to everyone involved with your collection."

**Just a reminder that everyone with an EHCP, age 14 plus, is eligible for an annual health check.**

**Here is some information from Dr Heather Howells, who is the GP Clinical Lead for Mental Health and Learning Disabilities, for Berkshire West:**

**You may be aware that from the age of 14, everyone in a special needs school, is eligible for an Annual Health Check at their GP surgery. All people with a Learning Disability aged 14 and over should receive a check every year. The Annual Health check covers all aspects of health and wellbeing, you can learn more**

**about Annual Health Checks here:**

<https://www.mencap.org.uk/advice-and-support/health/annual-health-checks>



**The Castle School is a National Online Safety certified school again this year (2024-25). Well done to all involved. We are also well on the way to achieving our accreditation for 25-26. We need a parent to compete a course, so please contact Hayley if you can help.**

You can see our plaque in reception, along with some internet safety guides, which you can also download from the National Online Safety workshop, or pick up from the display in the pastoral room. There are also some guides on our school website, in We have National Online Safety logins for all staff, so that everyone can help keep our pupils safe. All teachers, Tas and safeguarding leads have completed their annual certificate for online safety this year, so that we can help keep our pupils safe online. Many staff have also accessed other courses and seminars. Teachers are able to use the resources and planning to ensure that we are giving our students relevant and up to date online safety lessons, throughout the year. Some parents and carers have signed up, and have completed courses have accessed important internet safety guides for their child. We are hoping that more parents will sign up soon. If you would like to sign up to help your child stay safe online, please do. We have put some useful courses in the watch list, once you log on.

We are sure that you will agree that online safety is so important to keep everyone safe, which is why we are committed to training our staff and giving our pupils the best possible lessons and care. We are looking forward to more parents joining us with our National Online safety journey. We will now be working on our 25-26 certification. Teachers, Tas and leadership will all be having their annual, online safety training, after half term.

**If you would like a parent login, for National Online safety, (now called Wake up Wednesdays) to make use of the brilliant training and resources, please contact Hayley. [Hodonnell@castle.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:Hodonnell@castle.w-berks.sch.uk)**