

# Headteacher News



Term : February 2016

Whole School Topic: Inventions

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2016. This term has certainly flown by and lots of wonderful events and activities have taken place since the start of January. Here is a sample of what we have been doing:

During our Spanish Week, pupils and staff alike got to experience all things Spanish from preparing and eating Paella and Tortilla, debating bullfighting, learning words and phrases, hearing Spanish stories and taking part in traditional Flamenco Dancing. A great week had by all.

As part of their Guided Options, a group of KS4 students have been attending Donnington Bupa Nursing Home on a fortnightly basis. The residents have enjoyed our student's company so much that they were invited to join them at their "Dignity-Tea" party to help celebrate Dignity Action Day. This is an annual event to uphold people's rights to dignity and provide a truly memorable day for people who use care services.

Pupils and staff were very excited when the renowned pianist Derek Paravicini visited us. Derek is completely blind and has autism and severe learning difficulties. He has proven that this is no barrier at all and he is an amazing musician. He delighted all at The Castle by playing a very varied array of tunes and taking requests.

Tintagel Class have been reading the book "Stone Cold" which explores the life of someone who becomes homeless. The pupils have been exploring what it would be like to be homeless and how hard it must be for those who are.

## Some photos of our learning



Pupils at Donnington Bupa Care Home



Pupils learning what it might be like to be homeless



Derek Paravicini and pupils enjoying music



Learning Flamenco during Spanish Week

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](http://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 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016** and we return to school on **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2016**. I hope you all have a great half term.

Thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)

## Governors' News

I was delighted to become a Parent Governor in October 2015 and it has been a fascinating opportunity to see 'behind the scenes' of The Castle School. My admiration and respect for the staff has only increased and it's incredibly reassuring to know the children are in such safe hands.

As Governors, we have been very fortunate to be kept up to date with how the students are improving within the school. Shannon Booth (Assistant Headteacher) recently gave us a very interesting training session on Pupil Progress. We were shown by Shannon how the teachers strive to challenge the students to reach their full potential by constantly monitoring and changing targets. However, it was incredibly eye-opening to see how much analysis and discussion actually takes place by the teachers in order for this to happen. As a parent of a child at the school, I left with a very positive attitude that the reporting process is constantly under review and improved wherever possible.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very enjoyable half term holiday.

Alison Eade - Parent Governor