



# Headteacher News



Term : Christmas 2019

Whole School Topic: Colours

As we head towards the Christmas holidays we reflect on all the wonderful learning and experiences that have taken place over the past few weeks.

Our incredible choir, brilliantly led by Charles Allison, performed at the annual St Nic's Save The Children Carol Service. They were brilliant and as always received the most wonderful applause and cheers from the congregation. They were beautifully behaved as they sang and signed through 'Silent Night'. We are all very proud of them and very thankful to the staff who gave up their time to support. We have also had some lovely Christmas events and productions for and by our students, which have been wonderful, as well as a visiting pantomime.

Of course, a real highlight was our Christmas Fair. A huge thank you to all the staff and parents who supported the event – it was so well attended. We have raised at least £1500 from the evening, which is remarkable!

And remember, James Whybra and Kieran Fisher will be running the London Marathon next year for The Castle School on 26<sup>th</sup> April. Keep the date in your diaries – more details will be out in the New Year. Lots more has happened so please visit our website at [www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk](http://www.thecastleschoolnewbury.org.uk) for more news.

Some photos of our learning



Our amazing choir singing At St Nic's Carol Concert



We had a fantastic Christmas Fair



Picking out a tree for Primary House Hall



Lots of fun clubs including Boxercise have taken place

I would like to wish all of our students, staff and parents a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The last day of term is **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019** and pupils return to school on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Many thanks, Jon Hewitt (Headteacher)

## Governors' News

As a co-opted governor it's hard to believe that a little over 12 months ago I attended my first governors meeting with some apprehension, which was quickly put at ease with the support fellow governors and staff who were very inclusive and made me feel very welcome.

It's timely that as we gear-up for pre-Christmas excitement with the very recent well attended Christmas fair as well as the various nativity plays taking place (the 12 days of sensory Christmas from Conway and Swansea classes in Year 2 was a personal favourite) to reflect on some of the numerous achievements over the last year.

Castle School deservedly maintained its Ofsted Outstanding status which is no easy achievement, but confidently mirrors the very hard work from all teaching and support staff to provide a great rounded education for all our pupils through their schooling journey.

Our school is very much part of our community, which pulls together to help from various personal fundraising initiatives, generous individual donations as well as match-funding from Greenham Trust Dragons some of which will provide an all-weather sports track for 2020.

Finally a further mention to Castle Post 16 team who through their World of Work initiatives working with a wide variety of local employers supporting students with suitable bespoke placements with a strong success rate into longer term employment, truly inspirational.

On behalf of all the governors, whatever your plans are for the festive season have a great Christmas and New Year.

Charlie Kowalski – Co-opted Governor