



Message from the Federation Principal

We've had a lovely start to the school year with new children in **reception** and **Year 7** settling in really well and we've welcomed a number of excellent new staff to our teams.

I've really enjoyed and appreciated working with **Mrs Edwards** and **Mrs Levesley** in their new roles as **Heads of School** and the additional capacity they bring, along with the appointment of new senior leaders **Mr Dawson** in primary and **Mr Stevens** in secondary has been very noticeable. We have some important and exciting developments to be getting on with and the right team in place to achieve everything we are planning.

This is the term when we welcome families on day-time tours and to our **Open Evening** for prospective Year 7 pupils and **Open Events** for reception children in 2024. Along with other colleagues I've taken great pride in showing families around the school during the day. Open Evening is always extremely busy and it's important to remind our own Year 6 families that, although their place in Year 7 is guaranteed with us, they must make an application stating that CNS is their first choice in order not to be disappointed later as some families unfortunately were last year. We easily filled our 150 places with first-choice applicants and so a child who changes his or her mind after transfer day in July will inevitably find that all places in Year 7 have been allocated.

This term we have also been out and about visiting other local schools exploring the potential advantages to our pupils of being part of a multi-academy trust. The governing body will be hearing from three potential local trusts at an event later in October and, if a decision is made to proceed further along the road of joining a trust with a preferred partner then a community consultation will be launched in the second half of this term. More information to follow.

One of the education-related stories in the news recently has been the possible presence of RAAC or reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete in schools. We have worked hard with teams of structural engineers across our sites and our Estates Manager Mr Hambley is happy to report that there appears to be no RAAC present in any of our school buildings according to the surveys completed so far.

As the half-term holiday comes into view I wish all of our families a very happy holiday. I shall be in Nice with two colleagues and 24 of our older pupils on a language course and visit. This may not be so restful but hopefully should provide the last glimpse of sun before the Autumn sets in. With thanks as always for your support.

Ruth Wilkes
Federation Principal





Coffee Morning

A massive thank you to all the pupils, parents and staff who took their time to create some amazing cake creations. We raised £787.33 across the federation.

Congratulations to Stirling House who managed to raise £273.22



Individual winners will be announced soon!

WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

The House System

Total points across Primary and Secondary

Stirling

31,258

Conwy

29,843

Kenilworth

29,234



Duke of Edinburgh

A group of pupils visited the Peak District to complete their Silver Award. Some pupils were in the qualifying group and the others were practising for the qualifying which will take place later in the year.



Sports

Sport has started enthusiastically this academic year with a wide range of sporting activities available for pupils across primary and secondary.

Highlights of the month include:

- Football practice for all year groups across primary and opportunities to join a team in secondary too
- Gymnastics through our partnership with Falcons Gymnastics group for Year 1 to 4
- Rowing Club has commenced in the mornings for secondary pupils - this is a new sporting initiative and we are looking forward to how this develops in the months to come
- Other clubs and sporting activities including Table Tennis, Rugby, Netball and Dodgeball have also started with high attendance.





Six: Teen Edition

4SIXTEEN Theatre Company's production of SIX returned for a week of sell-out performances. It was joyous production and highlighted the dedication, commitment and talent of pupils (and staff) through the high quality performance presented.

Audition success

Over 150 pupils are participating in the latest production following auditions this month. GHOST (Year 8 to 11) and Goldilocks (Year 3 and 4) are now in rehearsals ahead of their performance weeks in the Spring term. Tickets on sale soon!



Victorian Day

Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to take part in Victorian Day led by the theatre group Past Productions - this was kindly funded by the PTA



Museum for the day

In the summer term a small group of secondary pupils took part in a borough wide project which shared the stories of people living in Bedford. Each pupil shared an object that linked to a cultural aspect of their heritage, to a moment in their life, to a person/place/situation or experience. Some of this was then exhibited at The Higgins museum



Home School Communcition Charter

Our Home-School Communications Charter which can be found on our school website and outlines who in school is best for you to contact.



School Street

The School Street pilot around Castle Newnham primary is the fourth for the town, and means during drop off and pick up times during the school term – 8.15am to 9am and 3pm to 3.45pm – motor vehicles will not be allowed in York Street between Rosamond Road and Denmark Street. Kat Edwards, Castle Newnham Head of School - Primary said: “As a school in the heart of our community, we have always been proud of the number of children who already walk, scoot and cycle to school. The new School Street now makes it safer and more pleasant for both children and their parents on the journey to school, so we hope this encourages even more families to travel to school actively where possible.”

Line up

To start the secondary school day together (teachers, support staff and pupils) we have introduced line up, this has ensured that pupils are ready to learn and be prepared for the school day ahead. Line up is where all CORE groups stand in the playground in single file and are greeted by their Head of Year and CORE tutors, as well as senior leaders. Pupils have welcomed this new approach to the start to the day.

Did you know...

The North Site used to be an apple orchard with some of the apple trees still thriving in our Outdoor Education area today! At our latest Secondary Open Evening the Hospitality and Catering department decided to give focus to this and created, baked and cooked a variety of small treats for our families, staff and pupils





Reward Store

In secondary, pupils have the opportunity to spend their house points earned through Class Charts. With rewards spanning across multiple departments pupils can choose from cookery classes to sports opportunities. Stay tuned for more information on the Rewards Store.

Superstar Certificate for Excellence

In primary, when pupils complete an outstanding piece of work, they are asked to visit a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will praise them and write them a Superstar Certificate for Excellence. This will be given to the Phase Lead to hand out in the Celebration Assembly that week. Teachers will then give the pupil on Track-It Lights 'Green Superstar for Excellence' which gives them 3 green points.



Assemblies to promote CORE values

Community
Opportunity
Respect
Excellence



Castle Newnhan pupils have taken part in a series of assemblies where their teachers and senior leaders have spoken to them about our CORE values - **Community, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence**. These assemblies have given everyone the opportunity to explore our values, celebrate where they are presented well in school life and find new ways of championing them too!



Our Wider Community

Castle Newnham School
Community - Opportunity - Respect - Excellence

RECEPTION OPEN EVENTS

BOOK A TOUR
TO SEE THE SCHOOL IN ACTION
GO TO OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.castlenewnham.school

Would you be interested in promoting your community group or project in a later edition of the Monthly Matters? To be featured please contact the school office for further information.

Please note that we will only feature articles from within our direct local area

The Place Bedford

The Place Bedford on Bradgate Road (which is very close to both school sites) is a fully equipped 130-seat theatre. A premier venue for professional theatre work, Bedford theatre groups and other community groups. Castle Newnham proud of their partnership with The Place with many visits already planned including a theatre trip with Year 8 and continuing our visits to Jackastory with reception classes throughout the year.

For more information on what's on at The Place, visit their website <https://www.theplacebedford.org.uk>



Castle Newnham PTA

The Castle Newnham School PTA will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 11th October, 7.30pm at school (South Site). Everyone is welcome to attend.

The AGM is an opportunity to:

- Vote in trustees - Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary
- Hear a Treasurer's Report of the last school year - how much was raised and where it went
- Discuss ideas for this year
- Ask questions and meet new people!

We hope to see you there, please enter via the Goldington Road entrance and we will have the hall door open to welcome you.