



## Message from the Federation Principal

Dear Families,

This is a lovely time of year in school with all that happens to brighten up the winter months as Christmas approaches. My highlights this month were my visit to the pantomime with our primary pupils, Christmas lunch, and festive stories on the playground to name a few!

Normal school life also continued, however, with Year 11 embarking on two weeks of mock exams. We hope their hard work so far will pay off but one of the advantages of early mocks is that there is plenty of time to address any gaps in learning once we return in January.

I wish all of our families a lovely holiday with plenty of rest and relaxation among the festivities.

With best wishes

**Ruth Wilkes**  
Federation Principal



## THANK YOU!

We would like to wish Mrs Celia Holmes, Miss Amanda Alexander and Ms Rosie Cataldo a fond farewell and good luck as they move onto new opportunities in the new year. Thank you to these colleagues for their commitment to Castle Newnham.



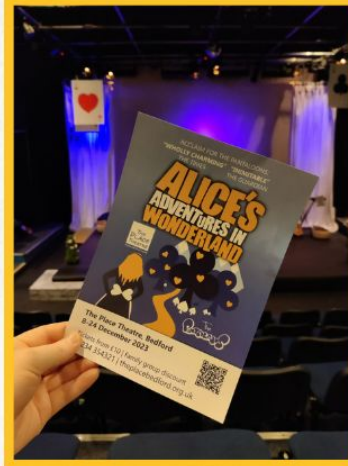
## Pantomime Trips



YEAR 7 - MK THEATRE

**110**

PUPILS & STAFF



THE ARK - THE PLACE

**27**

PUPILS & STAFF



YEAR 1 TO 6 - ROYAL & DERNGATE

**515**

PUPILS & STAFF

## Festive Stories

We were delighted to welcome over **1,200** family members to the Festive Stories this month. Thank you to all those who came to support - the children performed brilliantly and brought lots of festive cheer! A special thanks to all the teachers and staff involved in putting the events together.



## SECONDARY CHRISTMAS DOOR COMPETITION



## Christmas Lunch

The pupils and staff really got into the festive community spirit at the annual Christmas Lunch last week! Special mention and thanks to **Sonia Robson** and her fantastic **Catering Team** for their hard work with cooking such a fantastic meal! The logistics of cooking a Christmas meal for **over 780 pupils and staff** across two sites is no mean feat!



# Monthly Matters

December 2023



## Textiles Club

The primary textiles club who have done a fantastic job of making macramé wreaths.

Well done to all the performers for their efforts in performing at the

## Secondary Christmas Concert

### Staff Christmas Cake Decorating



Primary and secondary pupils loved performing at the

## Christmas Lights Switch On in Bedford Town Centre Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's Church, Bedford



# THANK YOU TO THE PTA

for organising a fantastic Christmas Fair! The event was attended by many in the community and lots of money was raised for the primary phase.

Thank you to the PTA for also organising the Christmas Cards!





## End of Term Activities

- Celebration Assemblies for all!
- Primary Christmas Parties in classrooms
- Primary PTA Break the Rules Day
- Secondary Christmas Jumper Day
- The Secondary Christmas Quiz
- Year 10 Santa Fun Run
- Year 7 and Year 9 Bingo
- Year 8 Christmas Cards for the Community
- Year 11 Christmas Challenge



## Present Donations

Thank you to all the families who donated presents to our drop off points this festive season. We donated over **200 presents!**




**THANK YOU**  
**£800**  
**RASIED**

## QUICK QUESTIONS

I find the Primary Weekly Update informative

**97%**

agree or strongly agree

I find the Secondary Weekly Update informative

**98%**

agree or strongly agree

The Monthly Matters is a good platform to celebrate the school's achievements

Primary

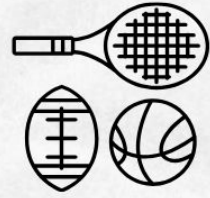
Secondary

**95%** **99%**

agree or strongly agree



## Sports Update



### Year 8 Girls' Dodgeball

On Monday 27th November, a group of Year 7 and 8 girls participated in a Dodgeball competition at the Bunyan Centre. Our Year 7 team came 6th and our Year 8 team came 4th out of 14 teams!

### Year 5 and 6 boys' Football

On Tuesday 28th November, our Year 5 and 6 boys took part in a football tournament that took place at the Bedford Hockey Centre. The boys played superbly and ended up winning the entire competition, receiving their medals and certificates during their assembly on Friday 1st December.

### Year 5 and 6 Girls' Dodgeball

On Wednesday 29th November, a group of 13 Year 5 and 6 girls headed over to the Bunyan Centre to play dodgeball. Against some very tough competition, the girls held their own and there were many compliments from other staff members surrounding the girls ability and honesty!

### Year 5 and 6 Boys' Dodgeball

On Wednesday 6th December, it was the Year 5 and 6 boys turn at dodgeball. They made the decision that they wanted to split into a Year 5 and a Year 6 team, both playing some fantastic dodgeball - with the Year 5 team (who only had 5 players instead of 6, due to an absence) coming top of their group!



### Year 9 Girls' Dodgeball

On Thursday 7th December, Year 9 girls headed over to Bedford Academy to compete in dodgeball. The girls played phenomenally, with numerous comments around the power of their throws and catching ability. They were undefeated and **became the District Champions!**