



Message from the Federation Principal

Dear Families,

My focus this month is on getting safely to and from school, especially as the darker mornings and evenings of winter are upon us.

Both of our school sites are in busy areas of town and minimising the use of cars is important to us for both environmental and safety reasons. If you and/or your children are using bikes or scooters (which is commendable) we do urge that this is done safely with suitable helmets, gloves, lights where necessary and bright or fluorescent outer clothing. Similarly, we are grateful for your support in ensuring that where children are walking to school and are old enough to do so independently they are given regular reminders about going straight home, walking with a friend or two and behaving with caution when crossing roads. Where coming to school by car is essential we are grateful to the majority of families for driving and parking considerately near the school sites. I am frequently asked by neighbours to the school sites to mention parking or waiting in particular as a major problem to them in being able to safely access their own homes and driveways. See the item on School Streets below as an example of a great initiative in this area.

We are very aware that parking on our sites is very limited and should be for staff only (we currently have nowhere near the amount of parking bays necessary for the school staff), although we do also keep a couple of disabled parking bays free for parents or other visitors. Otherwise, **there is no parking or stopping on the sites at all** for unauthorised vehicles as this presents a risk at times when children and young people are arriving at or leaving the school.

We are very grateful to our school community for helping us to ensure safety, neighbourliness and environmental protection when considering the journey to and from school.

With best wishes

Ruth Wilkes
Federation Principal





School Streets

Our own governor **Lucy Bywater** (also a Castle Ward local councillor) has been spearheading the **School Streets campaign** outside our South Site. Lucy reports:

This campaign, preventing vehicle movements during drop off and pick up times, is going really well; we've had lots of positive comments from children who seem to really enjoy the sense of (supervised) 'ownership' of the street and parents who are reporting it makes the journey to school much less stressful as the school is quiet and safe. (No more 3-point turns, road rage incidents or parking across double yellows on the pavement).

The aims of the campaign are highlighted in the article here:

<https://www.bedfordindependent.co.uk/bedford-school-trials-project-to-improve-child-safety-and-health/> and can really be summarised as

1. making active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling) to school the norm by making it safer and more pleasant around the area of the York Street school gate.
2. stopping dangerous and illegal parking/engine idling near the school gates.
3. helping to disperse parents' vehicles so that they're not all in one place causing a nuisance to neighbours, and harming local air quality.



The House System

Total points across Primary and Secondary

Stirling

80,085

Conwy

74,832

Kenilworth

74,289



Children in Need

Thank you to all pupils who got involved in the Children in Need fundraiser. It was great to see so many pupils in yellow and blue! We raised over £800 which will now be split between the JLC and Children in Need.



Together, we can
MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Primary Open Events

We have hosted 4 open events for prospective Reception families over the past few weeks during the school day. These have been incredibly well attended and those visiting have commented on how engaged the children have been throughout the school and were particularly impressed with what they saw and the children they spoke to in Reception. For any parents applying for Reception places for September 2024, don't forget that the deadline for applications is 15th January 2024.

Open Classrooms

On Monday 13th and Thursday 16th November, we opened our Primary classrooms after school for families and it was fantastic to see so many in attendance. This event was planned as a direct result of, and response to, feedback we received following the virtual consultation evenings and it was great to see how well received it was.





KITMAS is back!

Kitmas hopes to brighten the Christmas of many children in the UK, distributing football shirts to children who may not otherwise receive presents this year. More families than ever before will struggle to afford gifts this Christmas due to increased financial worries caused by the cost of living crisis and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any football fan has childhood memories of the joy and excitement of pulling on a new kit, and Kitmas aims to spread that happiness around the country. Last year Miss Hussain (PE and Science Teacher) was able to deliver shirts to pupils at Castle Newnham School through her strong community links with Bedford Free School.

The reaction from the children and the excitement was so rewarding we want to ensure more children can receive shirts this year.

This is the donation link:

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/kitmas>



SAVE THE DATE!

Christmas Lunch for all pupils is
Thursday 14th December

Last day of term
Tuesday 19th December
2023

Return to school
Thursday 4th January
2024



Secondary Musicians Evening

This year's Secondary Musicians Evening was a great success with a record number of 25 different performances over the night. Primary Musicians Evening will take place in the Spring Term.



Young Carers Cinema Trip

20 of our Primary Young Carers, enjoyed a trip to Cineworld to watch Lyle Lyle Crocodile. Fabulous film with lots of laughter! Thank you to our 3 volunteers; Mrs Seaton (parent), Tizi from Carers in Bedfordshire and Jack Cain, who supported us on the trip.



Catering Competition - Young Chef

Year 10 Hospitality & Catering pupils participated in a competition funded by The Rotary Club of Bedford- Young Chef. The competition supports young people in learning the life skill of cooking. Pupils had to cook a main meal or a dessert in 1 hour 30 mins. 12 pupils were selected as winners who will go on to cook again at the next stage of the competition.

A huge well done to all the pupils who were involved!

Year 5 World War II Day

World War II Day in Year 5 helped the pupils bring to life some of the knowledge they have learnt in the history lessons.

Futsal Success!



Our year 5 and 6 girls displayed multiple outstanding performances in their futsal league, finishing 3rd out of fourteen teams. They only lost two matches in total against Bromham and Scott, who finished in 1st and 2nd overall.

A very impressive result girls - well done!

Year 2 Multi Sports Day



CN Year 5 and 6
**ART & DT
SHOWCASE**
Tuesday 12th December 3.30-5.00pm
Primary Practical Room, North Site



Year 2 Fire Brigade visit



Pineapple Dance Studios Workshops

Find out about our performing arts activities in more detail in the next edition of the Performing Arts newsletter coming soon!



The Lion King Theatre Trip GCSE Drama, Music and Dance



Year 5 and 6 STEM Club

Thank you to the Dyson foundation who lent us one of their engineering boxes. Pupils got hands-on disassembling and reassembling the tangle-free turbine.



GCSE Music Workshop led by the Royal Philharmonia





Odd Socks Day



This is a national event that recognises the start of Anti-Bullying Week and it was lovely to see numerous pupils engaging with this and wearing odd socks to celebrate being different from each other.

This year all pupils in the Federation had an assembly on Anti-Bullying Week and the theme this year was to 'Make A Noise About Bullying'. To that end please see below...

Primary pupils are encouraged to speak to an adult in school or they may speak to an adult at home who can notify the school, via a note in their planner or an email to the office (for the attention of the class teacher).

Secondary pupils now have three ways they can report an incident they experience or witness as bullying. This is new and supported by our work with EqualITeach.

1. Tell an adult in school - they will listen and investigate the report with pastoral colleagues
2. Email antibullying@castlenewnham.school - this will alert the pastoral team who will investigate the report
3. Complete an online bullying report form - this will alert the pastoral team who will investigate the report

It is worth saying that we take all bullying reports very seriously, including as part of our PSHE curriculum.

Please also see the Anti-Bullying Policy which is available on our school website.

SAFEGUARDING SPOTLIGHT

Triple P – Positive Parenting Programme

Triple P is a free of charge, online, programme aimed at parents through Bedford Borough's Local Offer and helps you to:

- encourage your child's development
- manage your children's behaviour in a useful and caring way
- recognise causes of common behaviour problems
- encourage desirable behaviour in your children
- increase your self confidence.

For more information and to book onto any of the Triple P courses please follow the link below:

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/site.page?id=C2GR2yCVm1c&localofferchannel=0>

HAF - Holiday and Food voucher scheme

HAF is now available for families who receive Free School Meals or receive certain benefits. This is available through Bedford Borough's Local Offer. Please follow the link below for more information and to see if your family are eligible:

<https://localoffer.bedford.gov.uk/kb5/bedford/directory/site.page?id=321OWcrtr7g&localofferchannel=0>

QUICK QUESTIONS

The school promotes equality and inclusion

95%

agree or strongly agree

The school supports the emotional needs of my child

92%

agree or strongly agree

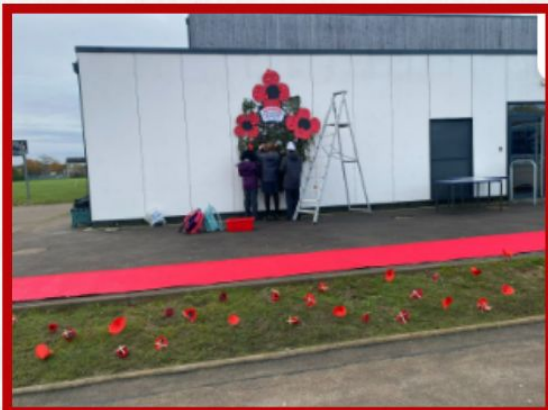


Remembrance

Pupils and staff at Castle Newnham came together for the Remembrance Day ceremony across both sites.



Year 5 and 6 Art club members helped to make and paint poppies for our Remembrance assembly over a number of weeks. Year 8 pupils helped plant the poppies and put up the eye-catching display.





Excellence

CN CORE Values

GOOD LUCK TO YEAR 11 IN THEIR MOCK EXAMS



JLC Conference



On Monday 13th November we had our first JLC Conference of the academic year. Pupils from Primary and Secondary came together on South Site to discuss what projects the JLC should work on for this academic year. Mr Skeel talked about the proposed MAT changes and pupils asked insightful questions about the impact that this will have on them and discussed the possibility of visiting other schools within the MAT to find out more about them. We then broke into groups where pupils from across the Federation looked at various projects that JLC can work on including school catering and eating environments, the environment and fundraising. Throughout the two hours, pupils demonstrated our CORE values and were a credit to their year groups.



SCAN ME



Moules et frites

Fish in School Hero seeks to give pupils a chance to prepare, cook and eat fish, aiming to develop more positive attitudes towards eating fresh fish sourced in the UK.

Castle Newnham were 1 of 250 schools receiving a delivery of rope-grown mussels from Offshore Shellfish.

The GCSE H&C pupils prepared, cooked and ate the mussels for the national #FishHeroes programme. During lunchtime, they served 'moules et frites' to secondary staff and pupils

View the Instagram Reel through the QR code.



No waste at Castle Newnham! Even the Art department have made use of the mussels donated from Fish Heros to create this beautiful piece. This unique art work will be displayed soon.