



Castle Newnham

Monthly Matters



December 2024





Message from the Headteachers

Dear Families,

As we draw the curtain on December and the Autumn Term, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past few months. It has been a busy and productive period, filled with a wide range of academic, social, and extracurricular activities.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for their hard work, dedication, and positive attitudes. They have embraced challenges, achieved personal bests, and contributed to the vibrant community we have here at Castle Newnham.

We would also like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our dedicated staff for their tireless efforts.

As we say goodbye to this term, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge and thank members of staff who are leaving us:

Julia Smith, Lead Administrator on South Site, has been an integral part of our school community, both as a parent and then staff member, for over 30 years. Her dedication and hard work will be deeply missed and we wish her all the very best in her very much deserved retirement. Thank you to all the parents who have taken time to pass on their best wishes and contribute to her retirement gift - she was incredibly touched! **Mr Alex Robinson-Welsh**, our Secondary SENDCo, has made a significant impact on the lives of many pupils. We wish him the best as he takes up another SENDCo post. **Mr Sean Carter**, Secondary Science Teacher and Careers Lead, has inspired countless pupils with his passion for science and his commitment to guiding young people towards their future goals. We wish him well as he moves closer to family in the Midlands. **Miss Jess Martin**, Pastoral Support Manager in secondary, has provided invaluable support to our pupils and their families. We wish her well as she begins her journey to teacher training at another school.

Joining us in January, **Mr Richard Francis** will be the Secondary SENDCo, and **Mrs Hannah Lee** who will be covering Miss Emily Allen's maternity cover as the Primary SENDCo - Mrs Lee joins us half term earlier to work alongside Miss Allen.

As we look forward to the Spring Term, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that are ahead. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Christmas season.

Best wishes

Kat Edwards
Headteacher - Primary

Sara Levesley
Headteacher - Secondary





Theatre Trips



GUYS AND DOLLS CAST
LONDON'S PRODUCTION

65

staff and pupils



THE ARK
THE PLACE

30

staff and pupils

*Reception Classes
have also begun
visiting The Place
for Storytelling -
more Reception
classes to visit in the
new year!*



RECEPTION TO YEAR 7
ROYAL & DERNGATE

715

staff and pupils



*Congratulations to Iris (Year 8) who
is performing in the Royal &
Derngate pantomime this
Christmas in the youth ensemble.*



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 750 pupils and staff** across two sites is no mean feat!



Well done Year 11 for completing their Mock Exams!

Candy Canes!

To help Year 11 with fundraising for the Year 11 Prom, all year groups could purchase a candy cane! Year 11 (and Father Christmas himself) enjoyed delivering the candy canes across Reception to Year 11 over the past week! Thanks to all who got involved!



Christmas Gifting Tree

Thank you to all the families who donated presents as part of our Gifting Tree Project. We were donated over 80 gifts for our most vulnerable pupils !

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!





Stirling House - IMPAKT Housing Support
Conwy House - FACES
Kenilworth House - Bedford Foodbank

THANK YOU

£900

RAISED THIS MONTH

Christmas Cheer: A Festive Season of Music & Performance

Our school has been filled with the sounds of Christmas cheer this year! From the youngest to the oldest, our pupils have showcased their musical talents in a variety of performances.

Our Secondary Christmas Music Concert was a highlight, featuring a dazzling array of musical numbers from a variety of instruments to excellent vocals. Younger pupils in Years 1 to 4 performed at Christ Church, while Reception classes held their performances in the school hall. Year 5 and 6 took their singing outdoors on the playground!

We were also delighted to share our musical talents with the wider community. Our pupils performed at the Christmas Tree Festival and the Music Hub stage in the town centre, spreading joy and festive spirit throughout the town!



End of Term Activities

- Celebration Assemblies for all!
- Primary Christmas Parties in classrooms
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Year 10 Santa Fun Run
- Year 7 and Year 9 Bingo
- Year 8 Christmas Games
- Year 11 Christmas Challenge





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We're thrilled to announce that our Year 11 boys football team proudly gave a framed shirt to Signature Lettings, the generous sponsor of our team this season!

A massive thank you to Signature Lettings for their support – helping our young athletes chase their dreams both on and off the pitch! Your commitment to our community truly makes a difference.

**Happy Retirement,
Mrs Smith**



Thank you!