



Newnham News

Friday 19 April 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear parents/carers,

As always, it has been lovely to see all the children and hear their tales and adventures. It is the very essence of why the staff choose to work in a primary school.

This week, there was an assembly announcing an upcoming fundraising event called the Speed Kick Challenge. A couple of parents have been in touch to express their concern about the unfairness that individual prizes are being offered for children who raise set amounts of money, and how this might exclude families who are struggling financially.

I have spoken to the company organising the challenge, Premier Sport, who have run the event successfully in over 25 other primary schools. They were very sympathetic to the concern but said that, as it had already been announced to the children and because several of the prizes had been pre-purchased, they wouldn't be able to change the format.

The agreement that was reached was that the individual prizes for what children raise will be distributed discreetly within the classroom. In the awards assembly, we will announce the total amount raised and give the trophies to the children who won at the speed kick challenge.

We have re-emphasised that the event is an opportunity to have some fun and raise some money for the school and a charity. As with all aspects of school life, it is about trying your best, no matter your confidence levels in that skill. Also, as with all learning in school, the event will be adapted to ensure that all children, irrespective of ability or development, can enjoy it and that it engenders resilience and perseverance in our young people.

I hope you all enjoy your weekends.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Year 2 swimming	Tues 23 Apr
Year 3 swimming	Wed 24 Apr
Year 4 swimming	Wed 24 Apr
KS1 speed kick challenge	Mon 29 Apr
Eat lunch with your Year 1/2 child	Mon 29 Apr, 12.05pm
Bag2school clothing collection	Tue 30 Apr
KS2 speed kick challenge	Tue 30 Apr
Year 5 Thorpe Woodland trip	Wed 1 May

Eat lunch with your Year 1/2 child
PTA Coffee and Chat

Wed 1 May, 12.05pm
Fri 3 May

Please check the school calendar on our website, which is updated regularly.

BAG2SCHOOL textile fundraiser

Bag2School will be collecting from Newnham Croft on 30th April. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to the playground on the morning.

We are after your unwanted textiles – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, (please refer to <https://bag2school.com> for full details).

Classroom news

Reception

We had a very exciting event take place in Reception this week. Before the Spring break, the class were watching the development of caterpillars. We watched them grow and then climb to the top of their container until they changed into chrysalises.

Unfortunately one of the chrysalises fell from the top of the container but we carefully transferred the

others to a butterfly net. These emerged from their cocoons as butterflies over the spring break and the children in holiday club looked after them and released them onto the field. When we returned to school, we found the unsuccessful chrysalis where we had left it, in its container, in the classroom. That very day, a beautiful Painted Lady butterfly emerged from that doomed chrysalis. It was a wonderful spectacle, almost as if the butterfly was waiting for the children to witness its development. We think this was a true happy ending and also a reminder that everything develops at its own rate, just like our children at Newnham Croft.



KS1

This week has been exciting introducing the children to our new topic 'Beside the Seaside'. In maths this week, Year 1 has been counting in twos and recognising odd and even numbers. Year 2 has been subtracting two-digit numbers using number lines for subtraction. We have also been counting up to find the difference from the smallest number or back to work out the subtraction. In English this week the children looked at victory stories and had a go at writing their own. In DT this week we explored healthy eating and designed a healthy lunch for a character from our topic book. In science we have started to explore seasonal changes. We want to remind you that assessments will be coming home with the children today, just so that you are aware. Well done for a great working week KS1.

Year 3

Year 3 has made a really good start to the new term. In our history sessions, the children have shown lots of enthusiasm for our new topic 'Crime and Punishment Through The Ages'. Our maths sessions this week have focused on using place value to help order 3- and 4-digit numbers. In our English sessions we have started reading *Fantastic Mr Fox* by Roald Dahl. The children enjoyed coming up with their own questions to ask Mr Fox and the 3 Farmers. In PE the children had the first of their swimming sessions. It was good to see how many of them had already started to make progress in their strokes and confidence in the water.

Year 4

Well done year 4 for a great start back for the summer term. This week in maths we have been looking at lines of symmetry, symmetrical shapes and patterns, different types of angle and different types of triangles. In English we have started looking at, and comparing explanations. We decided that diagrams are very useful! We've found out lots of interesting facts about how different things work. In our new crime and punishment topic, we've learnt lots of useful vocabulary and investigated Roman laws and punishments. We have also started our swimming sessions at the Leys pool. Well done for being so organised with your kit, for listening carefully, and for showing such great attitudes to improving your swimming. We were very impressed. Please look out for information about Grafham Water coming by email and for the attached spellings – this week we have words with the prefix 'inter-'.

Year 5

We have had a brilliant week back, launching into work on our play. We have had lots of brilliant ideas and have worked excellently as a team to decide how the story will work. In maths, we looked at the place value of 6-digit numbers and practised reading them aloud and placing them on number lines. In science, we discussed similarities and differences between now and when we were babies and also imagined what changes to expect as we become teenagers, adults and then elderly. We also explored the human gestation period and what happens inside the womb as a foetus develops. In PSHE, we talked about recognising our emotions and how to identify when we are feeling mixed emotions.

Year 6

This is Year 6's first week back, as we start the summer term. There was a teacher training day on Monday meaning that we started on Tuesday. In mathematics, we have been working on revision practice. We revised: factors, prime numbers and common multiples. In English, we have been learning about Macbeth, and how his characteristics change over time in the story/play. In history, we learnt about Charles Darwin and how he found out about evolution. How birds with smaller or weaker beaks would evolve over time. In computing, we have been making spreadsheets and showing how long and how expensive it is to travel to places using the computer to answer.

by Sam and Noam

School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week's menu will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, a copy of which can be found on our school website:

www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk.

Community News

Newnham Nursery Job Vacancy

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed individual to join Newnham Pre-School Nursery in Cambridge CB3.

The applicant MUST be qualified to NVQ level 3, equivalent or higher, have relevant experience working with 2½ - 5 year olds with good knowledge of Early Years Education, work well in a team and have excellent communication skills with both adults and children. Suitable DBS, reference and health check required for successful candidate.

We are recruiting for a full time position for 5 days per week (8.30am - 3pm) and for term time only.

For further information, please email Susan at office@newnhamnursery.co.uk.