



Newnham News

Friday 26 March 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- School clubs for Summer term
- School meals menu for next term
- Active Camps Easter flyer

Dear Parents and Carers,

I suppose we've reached another milestone today, and are a step closer to normal schooling returning for the children. As things stand there are no immediate guidance changes anticipated for the Summer term, but I'll inform you all immediately should that change. Numbers of cases in local schools are still being seen, so it is probably a little too soon to start to relax measures just yet, despite a recent drop in local cases in the general public. Earlier this week we did observe the minutes silence along with the nation, with the children being asked to reflect not only on those who have died, but also all that they have been through and done to play their part in this number not being a lot higher. The children were beautifully respectful, mature and thoughtful, and hopefully got a sense that all their efforts were being recognised in some small way.

Next term we are looking forward to more clubs being available (please see the attached clubs sheet for the Summer term), swimming resuming for Year 5s initially and some school trips being enjoyed. We are obviously also looking forward to further proportionate relaxation of the measures in school in line with the national road map.

The children have been brilliant this week in their assessments and we will be targeting support for those who need it from early next term. I guess part of their achievement should be rightly credited to all the work you've done during lockdown to ensure that they've not fallen behind, so well done for all your effective support and teaching.

Thank you also for raising nearly £400 for Comic Relief last week, it will go to a very worthy cause at a time when charities are financially struggling.

I'm afraid I do need to yet again hold a spotlight over the parking and driving around Chedworth Street in the mornings and afternoons. Please don't attempt to drive into Chedworth Street itself at these times, as you cannot turn without doing a three point turn around children on bikes and on foot. We have had a few close calls lately, and I'd hate it to require a serious accident for people to take notice. This also includes those people who stop to drop on the raised road at the mouth of Chedworth Street. There is plenty of parking in the streets nearby, and with the current staggered start, there will be enough spaces for everyone.

I also need to share with you that after many years of running the Gardening Club, Veronica, Boz, Allen and Gillian are going to be looking to hand over the reins to some new and enthusiastic volunteers. During the past year, they've all taken on different responsibilities and they now feel that this natural break presents a good time to hand over the reins to some new people to keep the grounds developing and looking as magnificent as they always have. I want to take a moment to thank all of them on behalf of all the children, staff and everyone else who have enjoyed the school grounds over the years. They've all provided truly inspirational experiences for the children they've worked with and in-so-doing created a vibrant feel to the school that many have enjoyed. I certainly remember the wonderful impression the flower beds made on me when I arrived and discovered that they were being entered into the Cambridge Open Gardens that year. We wish them all well in their new ventures, in the knowledge that we will still be seeing some of them from time-to-time helping out where they can. At the moment we are still unable to have volunteers working in school with the children, but it would be good to get the ball rolling now in finding a team of people happy to take on maintaining the great work that has been done by the current team. Veronica and the others are more than happy to spend some time handing over the mantle and talking people through what they've done over the years. If you would be interested in getting involved with running the gardening club then please let me know and I can put you in touch with them.

Have a great Easter break everyone, and enjoy the improving weather.

Classroom Round-up

Reception

This week we learnt to sew. Using our newly learnt skill we created beautiful flower patterns which your child will have brought home to you in the form of a card. We hope you like them! This is a great fine motor skill that you could continue to enjoy at home. In phonics we have continued to consolidate our knowledge of phase 2/3 phonemes and also have been working on the instant recall of high frequency words. Also, we were fortunate enough to have received our new stilts (thank you Miss Wakelen), which we have loved using outdoors in the warmer weather.

Reception/Year 1

It has been a busy last week in R/1. We have been writing up our own adaptations of the '3 little pigs' story which now involves springboks, robins, peacocks and lions. The children have also been exploring materials and their properties with a particular focus on straw, sticks and bricks to tie in with our 3 little pigs theme. It has been our week in the ICT suite and we have been practicing our logging on/off of the computers independently, as well as being able to use the Google Chrome search engine to access Google Earth and Top Marks maths games. Thank you again for your support this past term and all of us in R/1 wish you a very relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.

Year 1

In Year 1 we have been looking at materials in Science and identifying what things are made of. We have also been learning to apply the suffixes -ing, -er, -est and -ed and looking at how they change the meaning of the word. We have been learning to skip with our new skipping ropes and doing a great job. Wishing you all a happy Easter break.

Year 2

Year 2 have continued to impress with their hard work and effort this week. In English the children wrote their own endings to Fantastic Mr Fox. We looked at the story language that Roald Dahl had included in the original version and noted how in a lot of cases he started his sentences by referencing different scenes (Up on the hill..., Down in the valley..., Beneath the oak tree...). I was really impressed with how many children had tried to use this type of language in their own story endings. In Maths the children worked really hard on their end of spring term assessments. In Reading the children thought about all of the different scenes in Fantastic Mr Fox and drew maps of the different locations. In Outdoor learning the children had great fun recreating the different locations in Fantastic Mr Fox using natural materials found in our wildlife area. This week in Dance the children focused on Fantastic Mr Fox. They thought about some of his characteristics and tried to include them in a simple dance sequence. In RE the class enjoyed designing their Easter Cards with Mr Matthews. I've been really impressed with the progress so many of the children have made this term, in what has been an extremely challenging time for them. Thank you for all of your time and support over the term and have a safe and relaxing Easter break.

Year 3

Year 3 have had a very hardworking final week. As our history on the Ancient Maya comes to an end, we had a mini-Mayan day. The class learnt about a famous Mayan King called King K'ahk' Tiliw chan Yopaat from a Zoom session presented to them by a historian from the University of Cambridge. They learnt about how the king's headdress contained a frightening looking God as a way to intimidate enemies and how he wore jade jewellery and had a staff to show his nobility. Year 3 also learnt about the Mayan's religion and rituals, including some of the gods. We also finished our Mayan masks. In English,

Year 3 continued to explore the BFG by retelling a part of the story using compound sentences. In addition to this, we have been exploring the -ly suffix and the rules associated with this suffix. Year 3 learnt how most words containing this suffix are adverbs. In Maths, we've been recapping multiplication using the grid method and division, drawing a number line or creating groups of tens and ones to share. Lastly, in Science, we explored the impacts of sugar on teeth, by placing a tooth into a glass of full fat Coca-Cola. We plan to observe this after the Spring break to see the impact of the sugar on the tooth. Well done Year 3 for a week of amazing work. Have a very restful Spring break!

Year 4

Year 4's effort with their independent English and maths work this week has been amazing. Well done for your determination to achieve your best. We enjoyed some exciting mini- matches of High Five netball in PE with some good teamwork, intercepting and goal scoring. It's been great to see the children relishing being part of a team in their PE lessons. In Science we learnt about interpreting food chains. On Monday, we enjoyed a superb talk and guided activity over Zoom with Rob Law, the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology's Education Outreach Worker. We learnt how to look in detail at a sculpture of a Maya king with a very long name (King K'ahk' Tiliw chan Yopaat - Fire-burning Sky Lightning Go) which gave us lots of clues about the culture of the ancient Maya people. We learned about the quetzal bird, whose feathers were used in the masks of noble people and about how the materials jade and obsidian would have been used to make jewellery and sharp tools. To round off our mini-Maya topic, we enjoyed designing and painting some eye-catching Maya masks. Our class motto for this week was 'Practice makes progress'. Wishing you all a happy and restful holiday.

Year 5

Year 5 have been working hard on assessments this week and have shown some excellent progress in their learning; a pat-on-the-back to all those personal tutors that have been working so hard with them at home since January. After finishing the story of Kensuke's Kingdom, they have written a new chapter based on the postscript. There was more Boot Camp in PE and their gymnastic routines have been performed, with entries to the competition sent off. We've also had a surprisingly popular dip into the world of Paddington Bear, reading 'A Bear Called Paddington' for the last few days of term.

Year 6

We have been very impressed with Year 6's focus and perseverance this week. They have worked together brilliantly in groups and focused well on their tests. As well as completing all six tests, we also found time to have a DT/Science morning building alarms using our knowledge of electrical circuits. In English, we finished reading War Horse, have practised writing using different levels of formality and learnt how to use the subjunctive form. In PE, we had our own

Six Nations rugby tournament and played games of hockey. In Music, we have been learning to use musical notation and recognise beats. A lot of our time this week, has been spent on our Computing/English/Art project: making films for our film festival. We also had a mini-disco today to say goodbye to a member of our class who is leaving and who we will all miss so much!

School Meals

The school lunch menu for after Easter is attached and the first week back will be week 1 of the 3 week cycle. The cost of a school meal is £2.40 per day.

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

PTA website: <http://www.newnhamcroftpta.btck.co.uk/>

Yours faithfully,
Andy Matthews, Headteacher

PTA News

Just a quick reminder from your PTA to fill out our anonymous survey if you haven't already done so - follow this link to let us know what you think:

[Parent Survey](#)

Thank you to all who have already given us feedback - it is very helpful and informative. The survey will remain open until the end of the first week next term.

In the meantime, have an enjoyable Easter break and we hope to see you at the next PTA meeting on Wednesday 21st April, 8pm on Zoom.

Earth Optimism Cambridge Festival

Earth Optimism Cambridge (which is happening in conjunction with the Cambridge Festival) is part of a global movement that recognises how important hope and optimism are in our efforts to restore the natural world. Given the crisis facing nature, it is all too easy to give up hope. Yet around the globe we are winning the fight to protect the natural world. Wetlands are being rebuilt. In some places, deforestation is slowing down. Numbers of some of our rarest creatures are on the rise. People are making this change happen. In these unprecedented and difficult times, we need optimism more than ever - to uplift us, inspire us, and help us build a new path forward. The #EarthOptimism movement brings people together to talk about what's working to protect the future of our planet. Through Earth Optimism, we invite you to learn what is working in conservation and why. Discover how every one of us can become more involved in the fight to protect the natural world. Join hands with people around the world in a global movement of #EarthOptimism.

We have a fantastic and diverse line-up for this year's Earth Optimism Cambridge festival, ranging from a film festival to a solutions fair in which you can find out what steps you can take to make a difference for the planet. There are also a series of live, and pre-recorded, talks and Q&As, including [Sir David Attenborough in conservation with Liz Bonnin](#), [Chris Packham talking about the importance of the natural world](#), and a [personal message from Steve Backshall](#), as well as a host of other dedicated and optimistic individuals.

The festival runs from Friday 26 March-4 April. All events are free, though some require registration beforehand. You can find the whole line-up here:

<https://www.earthoptimism.cambridgeconservation.org/>.

Community News

Active Camps - an Ofsted Registered holiday camp for 3-14 year olds is running at the Leys School over Easter for more information go to www.active-camps.com and see leaflet attached.

Newnham Football - Fun, welcoming and open to all football sessions return from 11am to 1.30pm on Saturdays next term to Newnham Croft Primary School. Parent run but professionally coached, these are a great and friendly way to get your kids into football. Currently aimed at Reception and KS1 but we will consider running classes for KS2 if there is enough interest there. Please email newhamsportsfootball@gmail.com by the end of this week or speak to Beth Child or Ece Kizil around school or on Classlist.