



# Newnham News

Friday 11 June 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

- Lunch menu

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well what a lovely warm week it's been here (please read the message about sun cream and hats as it's only going to get warmer). Our Year 6s are now on their residential trip at Hilltop on the North Norfolk coast and the Year 4s will be setting off on Monday morning for their residential to Grafham Water. It's been so lovely to see such normal school events return, and we know it will mean so much to the children to take part in these.

Next week we also welcome back our first inter-school sporting fixtures, with more opportunities for this in the weeks ahead for different groups of children.

Some of you may have noticed that the school website has been updated and revamped to better reflect the school and also to hopefully provide some clearer signposting to key documents. The website can be read in any language now and all documentation should be more clearly arranged for you to access. It also incorporates the school's Google calendar, so dates will be available for parents to see as soon as they are set by school. The school's Twitter feed is also integrated into the site, so everyone will be able to receive these updates via the website even if you don't have a Twitter account (please follow me if you would like to ([Head@NewnhamCroft](mailto:Head@NewnhamCroft))). Hopefully you'll appreciate these changes and find the site more useful. We will be developing the site further before September and hoping to make it an even better resource. If you have any feedback or suggestions then please let me know.

### Sun cream, sun hats and water bottles

Now that the weather is warmer, please ensure that your child has a water bottle and sun hat and that suntan lotion, if required, is applied before school. Thank you.

### Year 5 Maths Challenge

On Thursday afternoon, 4 children from Year 5 took part in the first heat of a County-wide Maths Challenge over Zoom. There were three rounds which included a range of problem solving and estimation questions. They had to work as a team to calculate and agree on answers before submitting them online. We were thrilled to find out at the end that we came second place! There is a chance we might make the final as one of the highest runner-up scores. "That was mentally exhausting", said Nadav, on finishing the challenge.

## Classroom Round-up:

### Reception

We have started our new topic for the next few weeks based on the theme of 'Minibeasts'. The topic has been introduced through the story book 'Aaaarrgh Spider!' by Lydia Monks. This very funny book tells the story of a spider who wants to belong to a family. The trouble is, she scares everyone too much! Through this we have been discussing the difference between pets and wild animals. For the sake of observation (and not as a pet) we have placed a spider we found in a teganarium (spider tank) and will be watching it carefully.



On the next two Mondays our class will be having forest school sessions with Mrs Bicknell. Please ensure your child comes to school on those days wearing closed toed shoes and long trousers, as there may be nettles in the area. Also, sun cream and a sun hat will be necessary if the weather remains warm or rain gear if it changes.

### Reception/Year 1

This week in Rec/Y1 we have completed some independent holiday recount writing. Reception children chose their favorite moment to write about and Year 1 children challenged themselves to write about events across the whole half term week, using linking words such as 'first', 'after that' and 'finally'. We also looked at features of non-fiction books this week, with a focus on atlases. As the European football championships are beginning today, we used the contents page of an atlas to find the continent of Europe and then locate one of the 24 countries in the tournament. With a European country allocated to each child, we then used Google to retrieve a piece of information about that country and find an image of its flag. As the weather warms up, please can I ask that all children come into school with a sunhat, water bottle and sun cream applied at home if necessary. Have great weekend!

### Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been learning how to apply the pre-fix 'un' and have been consolidating our dictionary skills. We have been in the computer room, using Google to find our favourite animals and then learning how to copy and paste a picture. In Maths we have been comparing numbers to 100 using the <> symbols.

### Year 2

Year 2 have had a great week. In Maths we have spent the week focusing on time. The children started to count in 5 minute intervals and used this to say how many minutes past or to the hour it is. They also calculated the duration of journeys and compared times using the <> and = signs. In English the children wrote about what they had done over the half term break. In Reading the children have focused on 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' by Ogden Nash. They worked on comprehension questions and started to learn the poem off by heart. I have sent a copy home so they can practise their verses in preparation for next week's performances. In Spelling we focused on words where the 'a' makes an 'o' sound (want, wash, squash, quantity). In Science we observed how the bulbs we had planted under different conditions before the break looked. In RE we looked at some Sikh stories and reflected on what is valuable in our lives and what is valuable to Sikhs. In History we started to look at the life of Joan of Arc.

### Year 3

It's been a beautifully sunny start to the final summer term and Year 3 have spent some of this week outside practising athletic sports, such as running and throwing using the foam javelins, ahead of this year's Sports Day. In English, Year 3 wrote their own narrative pieces using an image from *The BFG*. The class had to come up with their own story and were given the option to include their own choice of grammar or set punctuation, such as speech marks. One child decided to add open noun phrases and wrote: "Jumping in amazement, my mum was wearing a golden, antique crown and a red, royal dress. She was indeed the queen." In Reading, we've been working on our inference skills, and we explored the beginning of *The BFG* story and discussed and wrote about what we would do if we could see the BFG taking Sophie from her dormitory. In SPAG, Year 3 have been working on words containing the different ue vowel diagraph and discovered words such as 'beautiful' and 'balloon.' In Maths, the class have been exploring different calculations found in word problems, converting minutes to seconds and exploring the 12- and 24-hour clock. In Art, Year 3 have been exploring the work of Claude Monet and they used watercolours to create one of his very famous pieces taken from one of his gardens at Giverny, *Bridge Over a Pond of Waterlilies*. Lastly, In Topic, Year 3 have been exploring European trade and we had a look at the kind of things that are made, created, collected or grown in Europe, such as fruit, fish, other foods and even cars and how these items are then traded with other parts of Europe and why this happens. Well done for a hardworking week Year 3!

### Year 4

Welcome back. This week Year 4 have been practising their spelling of homophones and near homophones such as gait/gate and accept/except. We have been learning the meaning of new words and thinking of tricks to help us remember which one to use. In English we have been continuing to extend our editing skills to help us check and improve our own writing. We have also looked at the use of the possessive apostrophe for plural nouns and how to use different forms of the past tense to show whether an action is in the past or ongoing. For example 'the aliens invaded the planet 100 years ago' or 'the aliens have invaded the planet and don't seem to be leaving!'. In Maths, we looked at turns, such as a half turn anti-clockwise, on the compass and in patterns. We recapped types of angle such as acute and reflex and also estimated the size of angles and turns using our knowledge that a right angle is 90 degrees. For number work we practised expanded multiplication. In Science, we have been classifying animals and tried organising them in lots of different ways using a variety of sorting diagrams.

### Year 5

In Year 5 this week, we have started to design and write our play scripts in English; these are going to be based upon the surreal dialogue and stories found in the Alice in Wonderland books. We have also started our persuasion unit in English, looking at common features between various forms of persuasive text. In maths, we have looked at long division and have linked some of our sessions to our topic of water, calculating (on average) how much water each of our households uses on a weekly basis and thinking about how this could be reduced. In DT, we have been researching cereal bars - how they look, packaging, ingredients etc. - and next week we will be designing and making our own, healthier versions.

### Year 6

This week, Year 6 have had an exciting week building up to Hilltop and have enjoyed a variety of different subjects. In English, we started writing our detective stories based on our current English topic about detectives. This week Year 6 did forest schools and we made dens, climbed trees, sang campfire songs and cooked bread on our small campfire. In RE, we have been looking at the similarities and differences of reincarnation within Hinduism, Sikhism and Buddhism. In Maths, we worked out a code using letters to represent numbers. We would have to find out which times table it was and what each letter represented. In PSHE, we had a think about the upcoming changes for when we go to secondary school and how we can cope with the differences. In PE, we did sprinting to collect cones and racing to get back to our teams. We also played a relay at the end. In our other PE lesson, we practised our skills playing rounders and some of us got a full rounder. We are writing this on Thursday as on Friday we are going to have an exciting trip to Hilltop. *By Nhial*

**School Meals**

The school lunch menu is attached. Next week will be week 2 of the 3 weekly 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk)

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

Yours faithfully, Andy Matthews, Headteacher

**PTA NEWS****PTA meeting postponed**

We have decided to postpone the PTA meeting that was scheduled for next week as we want to wait and hear what is happening with regards to the lifting of Covid restrictions on 21st June.

Once we know exactly what is happening, we can hopefully meet in person and possibly (and very quickly!) plan a summer event for us all. Keep your eyes peeled on Classlist for more information.

**Cello Taster Lesson from Cambridgeshire Music**

If anyone in Year 3 upwards would like a cello taster lesson, the CM teacher is offering a taster lesson on a Wednesday morning. Please register your interest with the school office.