



Newnham News

Friday 19 July 2019

Headteacher: Mrs S Williams

Attachments

- Road Safety Education
- Cambridgeshire CC Way 2 Go newsletter
- Cocks and Hens tennis camps
- Chypps playdaze info
- Blue Sky Kids Camp

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

This is the final newsletter for this term. Term finishes next Wednesday, 24 July, and the Autumn term begins for the children on Wednesday 4 September.

The last week of the school year is always an emotional time with many members of our school community to say goodbye and thank you to. Thank you to all the staff whatever their role, who have worked so hard this year to make Newnham Croft such a wonderful school to be part of. Thank you also to the governors for their support and to all the parents who not only support their own children's learning but also contribute so much to school life. The PTA have raised an enormous amount for us this year through their varied and enjoyable events. This has enabled us to do lots of extra things such as the whole school Traveling by Tuba workshop, anti bullying play, buy a new piano and we look forward to the music room refurbishment over the summer – thank you to the PTA and to all the people who have attended the events and supported them.

Thank you also to everyone who has volunteered in school this year – accompanying children on trips, sporting fixtures, helping in the library or in class and our gardening club volunteers.

Next week we say goodbye and good luck to all of our Year 6 pupils. They have been a pleasure to have in school and we will miss them and their parents who have done so much for Newnham Croft over the years.

We hope everyone across the school has a lovely summer break and we wish all the families who are leaving us this summer the very best for their move. We have enjoyed having you in school and all the diversity of cultures you bring to our community.

Staffing

Sadly Sarah Walsh will be leaving Newnham Croft at the end of this term due to the fact that the child she was supporting 1:1 has moved. Sarah has done a fantastic job both in her role as a 1:1 TA and as a member of the staff team; she will be greatly missed.

Goodbye from me and wishing you all much happiness

Last Friday's leaving assembly for me was so lovely; the Reception children recited the story they had made up about A Kind Headteacher modelled on The Little Red Hen, KS1 sang *It's a Sunny Day* and, KS2 *This is Me* from the Greatest

Showman and *Don't Stop Me Now* (they had found out that I like Queen!), a number of children read out thank yous for particular aspects of school life and Year 6 showed a PowerPoint presentation they created of all the changes around school over the last 7 years. Thank you to all the children and staff; I felt really appreciated. The leaving tea that followed was amazing – so many people took the time to come. Many thanks to all the parents and Ms Noble and team in the kitchen for such a delicious spread; to all the staff who did so much extra work on top of everything else at this time of year; the PTA for all their help with the tea; Mr Ferguson for his kind words and to Mrs Baalham for sharing the governors' reflections.

A huge thank you to all the parents for the lovely card and gifts – chocolates, beautiful flowers, the home sewn bag which is a great reminder of both the schools where I have been headteacher, afternoon tea at Claridges which I will really enjoy, and the incredibly generous John Lewis gift card.

As I said last week I feel very lucky to have been part of such an amazing school with a wonderful staff team, the most delightful children, supportive parents, governors and wider community. My time at Newnham Croft has and will always be a very special part of my life. Thank you to everyone for making Newnham Croft such a special place and for all the hard work and support over the last seven years.

Assemblies This Week

This week we have had some interesting and varied assemblies. On Monday Stuart from Thameslink and Great Northern railways came into talk to the children about safety on the railway (please send in any train pictures by Monday). On Wednesday Year 5 performed the dances they had created in PE to the school and their parents. The final dance was for me and the children, parents and staff put on high-vis jackets as the dance was all about health and safety, which was very amusing and fun to watch! Well done to Year 5 and Mr Pinnock – the dances were incredibly creative and had a huge variety of moves!



On Thursday Rosie from the Back Up charity came into assembly to tell the children about the charity and the support she has had over the last six years which has enabled her to do all sorts of amazing things in a wheel chair e.g. climb Mount Snowden! All our gardening volunteers came in to assembly – Alan, Veronica, Gill, Ros and Boz so we were able to thank them for all the time they have given to school this year. Our grounds look fantastic, thanks to their hard work and creativity. As well as this we have taken part in the National Garden Scheme, entered competitions as part of the Town and County show on Parker's Piece and completed incredible art projects! We have a lot to be grateful for.

Sports Day

We had perfect weather for our sports day and the children and adults really enjoyed the event. All the athletes put in a huge effort and showed excellent support for each other. Thank you to all the parents who came along and supported the children and to the staff, particularly Ms Wakelen our PE leader, for such a well organised and fun day. In the morning Water came out top with the most house team points, and in the afternoon it was Fire. Thank you to Mrs Onatskaia who taught 1/2 N and C the maypole dances that opened the Rec/KS1 sports day. Thanks also to the PTA for providing the ice lollies that the children enjoyed at the end of the day.



Lost Property, Lunch Boxes and Library Books

Please **claim all lost property and lunch boxes by the end of term on Wednesday 24 July**; anything remaining will be recycled. Please also remember to **return library books** so that we can tidy and organise the library.

Charity Afternoon

Today the fun activities organised by the children raised money for the Children's Air Ambulance

<https://www.childrensairambulance.org.uk/>

and Back Up, the charity transforming lives after spinal injury
<https://www.backuptrust.org.uk/>.

Well done everyone and thank you for your support. The final amount will be confirmed next week.

School Funding

Mike, an intern at the Cambridge Evening News is writing an article about school funding and would like some comments about parents' concerns and how they see the funding cuts affecting their children's education. If you would like to contribute please email your comments to Mike

Miguel.Roca-Terry@outlook.com

Swimming Gala

On Monday 15 July 4 members of each KS2 class went to a swimming gala at Parkside Pools. We did really well as we came first overall. We all really enjoyed it and we hope we do as well next year. *Alex, Year 6*

Sheep's Green Eco Sculpture

Year 3 and Year 4 will be visiting Sheep's Green on Monday morning to enjoy the unveiling of their gorgeous eco sculpture and to sing 'There are no sheep on Sheep's Green' one last time! Parents and carers welcome to come along for 10.30am at the Learner Pool. Year 3 are encouraged to wear their green 'Sheep' t-shirts.

Applying for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

The local authority has redesigned the online form for families wishing to check their free school meal (FSM) and Pupil Premium eligibility. Significant improvements made to the online application process enable parents/carers (in most cases) to get an **instant result** of the outcome of their application. With recent changes to the benefit system due to the phased roll-out of Universal Credit, families may not necessarily realise that they qualify. So if you have not applied or qualified in the past you might like to check if you are eligible. It is not necessary for parents of children who currently receive FSM to reapply as this entitlement is protected until the end of March 2022. However, applications do need to be made for younger siblings who are starting school. The form is quick and simple to complete. Once an application has been submitted for a child, if you do not qualify at that point, the LA will continue to check for future entitlement throughout that child's school life, informing parents if they become eligible. It is vital, therefore, that schools/families inform the LA of any changes to their name or address. Families can access the online application at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

The EWB Team are happy to answer any queries on 01223 703200 or ewb.fsm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Summer Maintenance Work

Over the summer Mr Jach will be busy with lots of jobs we can only do when the children are not here, including overseeing the music room's refurbishment and some decorating. He also plans to create a seating area in front of the stage.

Summer Home Learning

The summer holidays are an ideal time for children to relax and follow their own interests. We know the benefits of 'boredom' for the brain; how a bit of idleness can lead to greater productivity and creativity! We are all very busy all of the time and the children are no exception; the long break over the summer gives them the chance to plan their days, play and think what they would like to do without the structure of school. As you know learning does not just happen in school and there are so many opportunities at home and in Cambridge. You can find a few suggestions on our Home Learning page under the Parents tab on the school website.

School Meals

The school lunch menu for the next week will be Week 1.
Please remember to pay for school meals in advance.

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

Sharon Williams, Headteacher

Diary Dates

Autumn term opens for children.....4 Sep
Reception children home visits4-6 Sep
Information meeting for all parents in classrooms 9am...6 Sep
Extra curricular clubs start.....9 Sep
Welcome meeting for Rec children/parents 1.45pm.....10 Sep
Y6 swimming 10.30am.....16 Sep
KS2 orienteering.....17 Sep

Community News

National Book Tokens Draw for School Libraries

Whether you work in a school or have school-aged children yourself, you'll know the importance of a good school library – and not just for learning. Studies show that reading for pleasure doesn't just give children an advantage academically; it can improve their wellbeing too. Nominate a school to win below, and if your entry is picked, not only will your chosen school be able to refresh their library for generations of children to come with our massive **£5,000/€5,000 National Book Tokens prize**, you'll also take home **£100/€120 of National Book Tokens just for you**. The more nominations your school receives, the higher their chances of winning – so don't forget to share on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)! <https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools>

ChYpPs

The Children and Young People's Participation Service (ChYpPS) 'PlayDaze' booklet is attached. The booklet is full of free activities for primary school aged children and families to take part in over the summer holidays.

Blue Sky Kids Holiday Camps

We are running a kids holiday camp quite close to Newnham Croft this year and we are offering children who are in the area a 10% discount when you book with us. We are an established theatre company specialising in producing off West End theatre and Shakespeare Workshops in schools nationwide. The holiday workshop week at St Lukes Barn will be under a different theme each day (from Harry Potter to Toy Story) and filled with drama games, activities and crafts and so is open to all abilities aged 8-12 and an affordable option for parents this summer holidays. (All our tutors are of course DBS checked). See flyer attached or further information.