



# Newnham News

Friday 13 March 2020

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

- New school lunch menu
- Pret-a-Portrait
- Cocks & Hens Easter camps

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

As we all continue to try to manage and respond to the ever-evolving reality of this unprecedented national event, there are a few things that I need to make you aware of. On Wednesday I sent out a detailed letter regarding the Coronavirus and this information is in addition to that letter. If you've not received it please contact the school office for a copy.

Firstly, a couple of voluntary groups who regularly work with the children have suspended their involvement in school until further notice. Both of these groups (St. Marks Church and the Gardening Club leaders) contain older members of the public, who quite understandably need to think about their own protection. We completely agree with the decision they have made and look forward to working with them again once the dust settles on this situation.

The other things that we need to inform you of involve the cancelling of some events. The Year 6 Chemistry lecture next week has been cancelled by the University, and we have also decided to cancel the Year 1/2 trip to London next Tuesday too. I hope you understand that although this is not in line with the new levels of advice issued last night, we simply cannot arrive at a conclusion that the benefits of the trip are worth the increased risk. I hope you understand that we have not arrived at this decision lightly and without detailed consideration.

Doubtless you will have all seen or heard the Government's announcement yesterday evening, moving to the Delay Phase of their action plan. Although I do appreciate almost all of the reasoning behind the current strategy, I am also acutely aware of the more vulnerable community members linked to the school. Due to this, I am asking anyone (staff member, volunteer or family member) who are older and have underlying health conditions to consider staying away from the school and reduce their risk of infection. For some this might be an immediate decision and for others an option to be taken when the time is right. We will completely support anyone taking this personal decision about their health protection.

The advice issued yesterday also stated that anyone displaying a persistent cough or fever should self-isolate for 7 days. Please respect this advice and keep your children off school if they show these symptoms. If you also choose to keep any siblings off school too, we will respect this decision and authorise those absences as well. We hope you agree that this is a sensible interpretation of the advice.

Amidst it all, we've still been trying to carry on with delivering an enjoyable education for your children. There are several lovely events for you to read about in this newsletter, and these will continue to be delivered for as long as we need to. If you use Twitter please follow me ([Head@NewnhamCroft](mailto:Head@NewnhamCroft)).

## Cambridge Half Marathon

Congratulations to Mr Ellimouni and Mr Ferguson who both completed the half marathon on Sunday. Thank you to all the parents who sponsored Mr Ferguson, raising £1348 for the school. Many, many thanks to a family who gave £1000 sponsorship.

## Science Week in School

This week has been Science Week in school, and as part of this we have been planning some interesting activities for the children, with the support of the University, as part of their Science Festival. Although the Chemistry lecture for our older pupils was cancelled, the University have lent us an excellent digital microscope for us to borrow for two weeks. Some of the children have been using this to explore natural objects, gathered around the school, in close up and taking magnified pictures of what they have found. Some of these pictures will be entered into a competition that could win the school a digital microscope of our own.

Thank you too, for all of your donated items to help the children create biomes and bug hotels as part of our science afternoon today. Below you can see some groups of children from across the school working together brilliantly building their biomes and bug hotels together.



### Science in Reception

As part of Science Week Reception were visited by real-life scientists. Olivier Binier and Jessica Petri work at MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit where they are looking to understand mitochondrial diseases and find treatments for them. However, this is not why they came into school. They came into school to encourage young people to enjoy science through their outreach programmes. The children wore mini lab-coats and goggles and participated in several experiments including finding out about how different substances mix (or not) and witnessing chemical reactions through the launch of a rocket. Thank you to our trainee teacher Miss Von Niederhausen for arranging this visit.



### Year 5 and 6 Trip to the Zoology Museum

During Wednesday and Thursday this week our older children took part in visits to the Zoology Museum as part of their learning about the science of evolution. Staff from the museum were fantastic in helping our pupils engage with this topic and introduced them to a series of artefacts to explain the process. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the trip and learnt a lot.

### Table Tennis Competition

On 9 March eight Year 6's went to Coleridge Secondary School to participate in a table tennis tournament. At the start they did individual competitions including skills such as balancing and rebounds. Then they did set rallies. Finally they played 6 games against different players from opposing teams. Newnham Croft played extremely well and came 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. It was great fun and we all enjoyed ourselves. *By Camilla, Y6*  
Coleridge School run a free table tennis club on Thursday 5-6pm run by an ex-Olympian player. All welcome.

### Tag Rugby

Yesterday some of our Year 6s took part in the interschool Tag Rugby event at a windswept Shelford Rugby Club. The children competed well and tried their best. They were also very supportive of each other when results didn't go their way.

### Parent Questionnaire

Time is running out for you to complete the Parent questionnaire. This is an online survey, please follow this link <https://forms.gle/qENT94wFI2HXFVLJA>.

### Bat Walk

We are very excited to announce an Eco event happening next term, which is being organised along with the Friends of Paradise. On Friday 15 May there will be a bat walk around Sheeps' Green and Paradise Nature Reserve at dusk, with the hope of identifying various bat species.

The plan will be to meet at the sculpture (created by last year's Year 3 class) near Sheeps' Green Learner's Pool at 7:45pm and to explore the local spaces using bat detectors. We will be led by Ani from Friends of Paradise, who has all the equipment and expertise to get the most out of the experience. We will be charging £5 per family, with all funds being donated to the school to buy resources linked to biodiversity, such as bat boxes.

The walk will aim to finish at around 9pm, so may not be suitable for younger children. All children will need to be with a responsible adult.

Put the date in your diary and look out for more information about booking a place. In the event of poor weather, families will be fully refunded.

### Class Photo Orders

Pret-a-Portrait are offering a 25% discount on all orders placed before 17 March. Please see the flyer attached.

### School Meals

The school lunch menu after half term will be week 1 of the latest three week cycle (attached). 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

### School diary dates coming up soon

Reception Zoology Museum trip .....	18 Mar
Year 3/4 Production 5pm .....	31 Mar
Year 3/4 Production 2pm .....	1 Apr

### Community News

#### Chesterton Eagles U6 – Goal Keeper wanted

We are looking for a goalkeeper to add to our squad (aimed at the current year 1). We are a talented team, with a strong team spirit and have lots of fun, but we need a goalkeeper and potentially one capable outfield player. We train locally on Fridays after school and we are starting to play regular games on Saturdays. If you are interested please contact Ian Dixon on [ridixon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ridixon@hotmail.co.uk)

#### Cox and Hens Easter Tennis Camps

Please see the attached poster.

## **PTA NEWS**

### **Quiz – thank you!**

Thank you to everyone who came to the quiz on Friday and made it such a fun event. We made over £350 in total, which will all go to helping school. Thank you especially to Andy for running the bar and John for setting the questions, as well as everyone who helped tidy up.

### **Disco – cancelled (3<sup>rd</sup> April)**

We have taken the decision to cancel the disco on the last day of term, due to the likelihood of school being closed. We will re-schedule for another time once we know more about what's going on.

### **Easyfundraising**

When we're all locked in our houses and unable to get to a real shop, don't forget that every time you shop online with Easyfundraising, you can raise a little bit of money for school at no extra cost!! To sign up and find out how it works go to: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/newnhamcroftpta/?invite=OGP3OI&referral-campaign=s2s>

### **This term's important dates:**

#### **March**

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> - PTA AGM. 9am in school hall. All parents welcome