



# Newnham News

Friday 11 December 2020

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone for making today so festive with all the Christmas and seasonal jumpers being worn, it's been a welcome reminder of the happy season ahead. We also raised £166 for Save the Children, which is a fantastic effort, following on so quickly after other fundraisers, thank you.

It's approaching the end of a very unusual term, and all being well we will hopefully get through next week with no new cases and no bubbles needing to self-isolate during the festive period. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone concerned with the school for all their hard work and dedication in helping us through this incredibly difficult time so safely, happily and positively. Everyone working throughout the school has dealt magnificently with some really awkward alterations to their roles. The teachers, TAs and nursery nurses have gone above and beyond in reshaping the learning experience for the children in the classrooms, following all the new Covid-safe procedures, looking after the wellbeing of the children, supporting the complex arrangement of delivering meals, developing and delivering remote education and still engaging in professional development and moving the school forwards. Much of this has involved working in a very different professional manner to that they are used to, and their flexibility and commitment should be roundly applauded. I won't name them all, but you know who they all are. The children really have received as normal an education as has been possible this term and this is all due to this great staff team and their professionalism.

I'd like to also recognise the excellent work of Anna, Lubin and David (our cleaners) for following all the new cleaning guidance so well and playing their part in limiting the possibility of virus transmission within the school building. Their work has clearly been essential and enormously valuable. To Mr Jach, huge thanks for his maintenance of the site, creation of walkways, one-way systems, directions and resourcing of sanitiser stations. Mrs Bracey and Mrs Scott in the office have been outstanding in managing all the varying pressures placed on school administration, from daily reporting to the DfE, managing parental Covid enquiries, keeping on top of difficult attendance issues and keeping the normal operation of the school running at times when I've been buried under paperwork. To Mrs Blake special thanks for her work in making sure that classes have had the correct First Aid materials at all times during the term. Thanks also to Mrs Onatskaia for working tirelessly to ensure that there was a Christmas show this year for KS1 and Reception children.

To Michelle, Gillian, Mounia and Lisa in the school kitchen, a huge thanks for their commitment to delivering hot meals every day throughout the pandemic, and coping with the changing nature of meal delivery as the term has progressed. Your flexibility has been very much appreciated. To our lunchtime supervisors (Cecilia, Emma, Mei, Kate and Ellen) recognition too for the pragmatic and supportive way they have assisted us in the complexity of delivering playtimes and lunches in a Covid-safe manner to all our children.

Finally, thanks to our Governing Body for supporting the school and the staff so well during this period. They have played an important part in supporting the school in the formulation of our risk reduction measures and in supporting the wellbeing of all the school staff too.

I also can't end the thanks without a word about the fabulous PTA. When you get their section of this newsletter you will see the incredible amount of money they have raised for the school this term (£4,150). This is truly astonishing at a time when so many of our normal fundraising activities have been impossible to do. Thanks to Emily and the rest of the PTA for all their support at this time too.

I sincerely hope that once Christmas passes we will start to feel as though we are on the road to returning to normal school provision. In the meantime the continued excellent work of all these dedicated staff can be relied upon in the months ahead. Thank you all once again for all you have done and will continue to do for the community of Newnham.

## Applying for Primary School September 2021

The Parents' School Preference Adviser has made a You Tube video summary available on the County Council website which covers the main points parents need to be aware of when making an application for a Reception place for September 2021. This supplements the information on the Admissions Team page about applying for a primary school place. The deadline for submitting applications is 15 January 2021.

Here is a link to the website –

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/schools-learning/apply-for-a-school-place/support-with-choosing-a-school>

Here is a link to the You Tube video only –

<https://tinyurl.com/Applyingforprimaryschool2021>

### **Donation from the Co-op**

As in previous years we are incredibly grateful for the ongoing support from the Co-op, and recently received a donation of £1133 towards the work of the school. Thank you so much to Mark and his team there.

### **LATEST Information for those travelling abroad over Christmas and regarding the new self-isolation periods**

You may well have picked up the news this afternoon that the self-isolation period is being reduced from 14 to 10 days from Monday. This will mean that any bubbles closing will now only close for 10 days rather than 14. This will also apply to those quarantining after travel abroad. I'm aware that some of you are taking holiday abroad during the Christmas holiday, and this will relate to you. I've previously mentioned the Test to release for international travel; the scheme whereby people can take a test after 5 days from leaving their travel destination and then return to work/school if that test is negative. This change would now reduce the quarantine period from 10 days to around 7 days once the results arrive. It remains the case that these tests still need to be privately arranged tests and cannot be NHS Track and Trace tests (which are not permitted to be used for this purpose). The cost of these tests is over £100 each in almost all cases, and many are not allowed to be used on children. If you do follow the procedures (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel>) to take these tests then please inform the school on your arrival back into the UK of this, so we can arrange for your children coming back in on the correct day. If you are needing to quarantine your children for any period that falls in term time please notify us and we will authorise that absence.

### **News from Classes:**

#### **Reception**

We have now got to the end of teaching Phase 2 in our phonics programme and we will continue to consolidate this in the new year, before moving onto Phase 3, which includes more digraphs (two letters that make one sound, such as th). The phonemes learnt in Phase 2 are: s, a, t, p, l, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss and the tricky words I, no, to, into, go, the. It would be helpful if you could support your child to recognise these phonemes within simple words and apply the recognition of their key words not just on their key word sheets but in books as well. The big news for the class this week is that they achieved 100 smiley faces on their class reward chart. This means there were 100 times that the entire class worked well together as a group. To celebrate the chosen treat was popcorn, which was enjoyed by all of our hard workers. Well done, Reception!

#### **Reception/Year 1**

This week in R/1 the children have been very busy working on filming and recording audio for the Christmas play. In Maths, Year 1 have been looking at measure and length and estimating how many cubes long various objects in the class

room will be and then testing their ideas. Reception have been recapping number bonds to 5 and 6 using Numicon, cubes and beads. We have discussed in class how Maths can be done at home using almost any objects, so please feel free to email me any photos if your child decides to create any Maths based learning so we can share this as a class. Reception have now learned the full set of phase 2 phonemes (s, a, t, p, l, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss) and have been applying these to create sentences. Again, please feel free to share any work done at home on Tapestry so I can share this work with the class. Have a lovely weekend!

#### **Year 1**

This week Year 1 have been working hard on writing their Arctic stories. In Maths we have been using the whole-part models and recapping on 1 more and 1 less, and 2 more and 2 less. The children have really enjoyed practising the songs and dances for the Christmas production. Year 1 have also found time to make a glittery surprise that will be brought home next week.

#### **Year 2**

Year 2 have had another busy week rehearsing and recording their Christmas production. In addition to this, we have also worked hard on the following areas. English – Year 2 finished the week by writing their own pirate stories using some of the language and ideas they have been inspired by over the term. They used the story mountain to plan the start of their stories and thought about various problems that might occur. Maths – we looked back at some of the areas we have found tricky this term. We looked at fractions, what they mean and how we can find fractions of quantities. We looked at how to recognise whether or not numbers are even or odd by looking at the ones and seeing if they are divisible by 2. We also worked on number sentences with the < and > signs in them. Art – many children managed to finish off their collages of Longstone Lighthouse (Grace Darling's home). I have included two examples below - I'm sure you'll agree they look fantastic. Reading – We finally finished reading 'My Brother's Hot Cross Bottom' by Jeremy Strong. The class recommended it to the rest of the school in Thursday's reading assembly describing it as being 'funny and full of mayhem and having lots of great characters'.



Christmas Production – The plan is to finish recording our play at the start of next week and then edit it and merge our part with the Reception and Year 1 contributions. Next Thursday afternoon we plan to have a pirate party. We will be making pirate hats and eyepatches but your child may want to put together a pirate outfit (although this of course is optional as I completely understand how busy this time of year is).

### Year 3

Another very busy week in Year 3. The class have continued to work very hard as we come to the end of our very exciting 'Invaders' topic. As part of the construction of our Anglo-Saxon villages, in English we have been exploring more non-fiction writing and we wrote some instructions on how to make an Anglo-Saxon village. The class had to remember to include a list of equipment and a set of instructions with adverbs and imperative verbs. As part of our SPAG sessions this week, we learnt how to correctly use paragraphs and we looked at the suffix -ation. Year 3 learnt about the different spelling rules associated with this suffix, including when to take the e off and when the root word remains unchanged, such as the word 'formation.' In Maths, we have been working on multiplying and dividing by 4 and 8. The class were able to identify the link between the 8 and the 4 times tables and between the fractions; quarters and eighths. We finished the week by adding fractions together and working out fractions on a number line. In History, we had our final session on Vikings. The class learnt about the different roles of a typical Viking family and Viking raids. Year 3 enjoyed learning about how the Vikings travelled across the sea in longships. They also learnt how the ships were streamlined and could carry between 50-60 Vikings, enabling the Vikings to travel quickly, explore and attack parts of Britain and Europe. In Science, we have continued to explore how sound travels and the class were given straws as part of a test to investigate the pitch of sound. We have also continued to work on our Anglo-Saxon villages as part of our DT sessions this term, by constructing the remainder of the Anglo-Saxon homes and decorating them with poster paint and glue to give a thatched roof effect. Another very hardworking week, well done Year 3. Our topic this term has been enjoyed by all and to further celebrate it we will have an 'Invaders Day' on Monday 14th December. If possible, your child is welcome to dress up as one of their favourite historical figures from our topic - a Celt, Roman, Anglo-Saxon or Viking. They can either bring their clothes to school to change into or come to school already dressed up.

### Year 4

In Maths, we practised 'mega multiplication' which is using the facts from our times tables up to 12 to help us with multiplying bigger numbers, for example  $5 \times 30$  or  $4 \times 60$ . We also recapped the grid method to multiply numbers and learned about equivalent fractions and decimals. In Science, we experimented with how to adjust pitch using our own instruments. We wrote an action dragon fighting scene in English, inspired by our reading of How to Train Your Dragon and have written an email to the author of the story,



Cressida Cowell, to be sent with our writing. We are looking forward to receiving her comments in the new year.

We also practised choosing specific nouns to add detail and interest to our writing. In Topic, we wrote a report about some of the similarities and differences between the societies we have been learning about this term. In P.E, we practised the centre throw to start play in High 5 netball and played our first mini matches.

### Year 5

This week we started off with a flurry of assessments, to see how Year 5's learning has been progressing, and to find out what areas we need to focus on in 2021. In Science, we designed and carried out an enquiry into what affects our pulse rate, and by how much. We have also been looking at word problems in Maths, interpreting the information and choosing the best method for solving. In English we have continued with our Anne Frank diary entries and in RE we found out about how Hindus view the end of life, exploring the idea of Samsara, reincarnation and Moksha.

### Year 6

On Monday, we had a history assessment and we planned our DT project, which is making clocks. On Tuesday, we started making our clocks and we did a maths reasoning test. Almost the same things happened on Wednesday however we had two maths tests (reasoning and arithmetic) and worked on our clocks. On Thursday, we had MasterChef Round Two - we all made different types of bread. In the afternoon, we had PE and a short music lesson then got to try everyone's focaccia, loaves, rolls or pizza. On Friday, which is when we are writing this, we are doing an English assessment and adding our hands to our clocks. *By Gabriel and Paolo on behalf of Year 6*

### School Meals

The school lunch menu is week 4 of the new 4 week cycle. The cost of a school meal is £2.40 per day. Wednesday is our Christmas lunch, so we are all looking forward to that. On the same day we are also hoping to get the school together outside to share some Christmas songs.

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

### A big thank you to everyone who bought Christmas trees, tea towels and mugs

Thank you very much to everyone who supported these three very successful fundraisers this term. The mug and puzzle sales raised an impressive £660, the tea towels and tote bags £1,140 and the Christmas trees an astonishing £2,350, bringing the total for these three initiatives to £4,150. Thank you to everyone who helped with these projects, and especially those who helped with Christmas tree deliveries!

### It's not too late

If you would still like a mug, coasters or a puzzle, all featuring the beautiful 'island' playground, it is not too late to place your order. Full details are here [www.bit.ly/NewnhamMugs](http://www.bit.ly/NewnhamMugs)

### Activities coming up this term

Activities and updates are announced via Classlist. If you have yet to sign up, use this link:

<https://classlist.page.link/fNHrsPAEqQEwpbqJA>

### Winter raffle – ticket sales end on Monday!

Tickets are available until Monday for purchase for the PTA winter raffle.

<https://go.rallyup.com/newnhamwinterraffle/H6YFSU>

#### Prizes:

- £50 voucher for home delivery from The Pint Shop
- Christmas afternoon tea for two at Parker's Tavern
- wonderful art inspiration box from Dot Kids
- £50 voucher for a meal at Stazione Italian restaurant
- fantastic hamper full of luxury items
- Google Home Mini x 2

All sales and prize draw will happen online.

We are so grateful for the generosity of all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes, especially in such a difficult time for many businesses due to COVID.

### End of term virtual hot chocolate – Monday 14 December, 6pm on Zoom

The PTA invites everyone in the school community to get together for a virtual hot chocolate. We'll draw the raffle prizes, read a wintery story and the children can show each other their hot chocolate, or drawing of a hot chocolate. You can access the event on Monday at 6pm here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86849749556?pwd=eGlvY3FQdEZLMnNXUWIGZlUvU2c2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 868 4974 9556

Passcode: 134096

## Donations for school when you shop online

The PTA has accounts with Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising. As you're doing your shopping, retailers will add – at no extra cost to you – a donation to the PTA for each purchase made via the link.

Easyfundraising: [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/newnhamcroftpta/?invite=OGP3O1&referral-campaign=s2s&utm\\_source=refmailshare](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/newnhamcroftpta/?invite=OGP3O1&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_source=refmailshare)

Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1102427-0>

### Booklet of things to do before you leave Newnham Croft

Thank you to everyone who has already put their ideas for 'things to do before you leave Newnham Croft' into our post box. Please keep the ideas coming. (The post box has moved inside to the office in the wet weather!).