



# Newnham News

Friday 23 October 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear Parents/Carers,

A little request for parents.

For many families, there has been an understandable move away from allowing too much screen time for children.

Teachers have reported that this seems to be leading to a noticeable reduction in the basic computing skills that we expect children to have.

Many children in KS2 are really struggling with logging on, opening new tabs or saving a document, for example. This means computer lessons are much slower and less productive than they used to be.

Unfortunately, like with spellings and telling the time (for example), although we can teach these things, it is regular practice that embeds them in a child's memory.

So, please could I add one more thing to the parental list. If possible, could you give your child opportunities to practice those basic computing skills.

As with all the foundations of learning (reading, writing, basic calculation) they form the building blocks without which, progress is greatly hindered.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and the week's break.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

|                       |           |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Back to school        |           | Mon 2 Nov |
| Y6 swimming           |           | Wed 4 Nov |
| Parent coffee morning | 8.45am    | Fri 6 Nov |
| Year 6 forest school  | morning   | Fri 6 Nov |
| Year 4 forest school  | afternoon | Fri 6 Nov |
| PTA bonfire night     |           | Sat 7 Nov |

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly.

## Whole school news

### Amazon wish list

The school has created an [Amazon wish list](#) of items that we were hoping some parents might be happy to purchase. Some are requests from the children's Eco committee (bulbs and litter picking) and some are for Reception and Year 1 (audio stories stuff).

### Reception and KS1 festive performance

Just a heads up that the festive performance for Reception and KS1 will be on Tuesday 15 December in the afternoon, and Wednesday 16 December in the morning. Each family will be given 2 free tickets, and you can collect from the office from Tuesday 10 November, selecting your preferred performance.

### School Meals

The menu is attached and [online](#). The menu after half term is Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.90.

## Classroom news

### Reception

What a busy and exciting week we have had in Reception! In maths, we have been exploring number bonds to 6, 7 and 8, learning different ways to make these numbers and practising how to record our number sentences. In English, we have been learning the fun poem *Five Little Pumpkins*. We worked hard to learn the words and actions and were very proud to perform it in assembly! In PE, we enjoyed a fantastic gymnastics lesson, focusing on balance. We practised different ways to balance our bodies and developed our coordination and control on lots of different equipment.

### Year 1

In English, we have been exploring poetry, including the anonymous poem *Purple Is*. Inspired by the poem's use of colour and descriptive language, the children created their own colour-themed poems based on their house colours. They began by brainstorming objects that matched their colour and collecting interesting adjectives to describe them.

Here is the poem that Earth created:

Green is...  
Wavy swishy grass  
Big pointy leaves  
Hollow plastic box  
Long hairy stems  
Cold yummy ice-cream  
That's what green is to me.

### **Year 2**

This week in Year 2, we have been exploring and comparing capacity and weight, measuring in millilitres and litres and weighing objects using grams and kilograms. In English, we wrote a range of list poems inspired by autumn, our recent experiences and questions we have been asking. We finished by publishing our poems to create a class book! We practised using commas in a list and adding -ing to root words, applying the rules of doubling the final consonant and dropping the final e. In DT, we evaluated our moving monsters and reflected on the design and making process. In gymnastics, we combined our skills to perform balances and jumps on equipment. We ended the week with our fun-filled Traditional Tales Day! Well done, Year 2, for all your hard work this half term!

### **Year 3**

Despite feeling a little weary, Year 3 has had another impressive week of learning! In maths, we have used doubling, halving and number lines to help us multiply and divide numbers within and beyond our times tables. In English, the children have worked incredibly hard on writing their own alternative versions of *Stone Age Boy*, showing great creativity and imagination. In science, we explored the important role earthworms play in supporting plants, animals and healthy soils. We also investigated particle sizes and how they relate to sedimentation. In history, we discovered the motives behind the Roman conquest of Britain, developing our understanding of this fascinating period. Well done, Year 3, for another fantastic week of learning and perseverance!

### **Year 4**

Year 4 has had an amazing half term and we are so proud of how they have been kind, responsible members of the class and taken on new school responsibilities. Year 4 has demonstrated impressive effort and enjoyed a range of learning across the curriculum. Miss Genochio was particularly impressed by the determination, engagement and quality of the work, when publishing their writing this week. Every child did their best and showed excellent

progress. In maths, we did a practical activity on train timetables where we practised getting on and off at different stations and trying to make sure we got the right train. In English, we planned and wrote our short stories inspired by *Grimwood*.

### **Year 5**

Year 5 has had a very active week, from taking part in Bikeability to celebrating this term's topic, World War II, with a VE afternoon of sandwiches and dancing. To begin the week, in maths, the class explored factors and multiples before moving on to division word problems. In English, the children finalised their work on cinquain poetry and drafted their own poems inspired by the book *Where the Poppies Now Grow*. In art, the class looked at the artist LS Lowry and practised sketching in the style of his drawings before using oil pastels to add colour. In DT, the children made their cereal bars using the plans they had created the previous week, taking texture and taste into account. Our VE afternoon celebration was thoroughly enjoyed by both Year 5 and Year 6. The children had great fun dancing and tucking into their jam or Spam sandwiches! Well done, Year 5, for a fantastic half term!

### **Year 6**

This week we were designing cereal bars and making them. We ate them on Friday after our cross-country run at Grantchester Meadows. On Friday we are doing VE-day celebrations. In maths we have been doing multiplication. We are multiplying 3-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers. In English we have been writing an adventure story on the people who have come in and talked about what they did. In history we have been looking at VE-day and a little bit of D-Day. Also some people are making scrapbooks on WW2. In art we have been making pictures inspired by a famous person called Henry Moore.

*By Theo*

Remember to make your application for secondary school by 31 October 2026. Also, Y6 will have a one-off forest school session on Friday 6 November, so please ensure they have suitable clothing.

### **PTA news**

Saturday 7th November 1700-1900  
Bonfire Night Barn Dance and Disco

The PTA is delighted to be offering an energetic Bonfire event this year, in lieu of our usual fireworks display. The Magogs Ceilidh Band will be in the hall, instructing adults and children in the art of the Barn Dance (much easier and less scary than it sounds!). Meanwhile, our

resident DJ Yvette will be in the community room, serving up some absolute bangers (there had to be some nod to the fireworks) for just the kids (sorry!), who will be given year group slots to attend. The playground will cater to all your mulled wine and hot chocolate needs, with sausages and burgers from Clark and Son's as well as vegetarian and vegan options. We are also excited to offer two LED fire dancers, who can be found from 1800 in the playground area, as well as a series of bin fire bonfires, to warm your hands and your marshmallows.

All welcome, excited to see you there.  
The PTA

### Community news



**The Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants**

**Cambourne and Trumpington Meadows Family Events Oct-Dec 2026**

**Community volunteering sessions**

- For adults, and families with children aged 7+
- Practical tasks to help wildlife and people
- All sessions are FREE and run 9.30am-12.30
  - Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, Cambourne Church Community Garden
  - Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Oct, Nightingale Community Garden, Cambridge
  - Sat 28<sup>th</sup> Nov, Clay Farm Community Garden, Trumpington
  - Sat 12<sup>th</sup> Dec, Cambourne Nature Reserve

**Families around the fire, 5.30-7.30pm**

- Wildlife Trust BCN members £5+ booking fee, non-members £7.50+
- For families with children aged 7+
  - Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Oct, Cambourne Nature Reserve
  - Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Oct, Trumpington Meadows Nature Reserve

**Booking is essential, visit [wildlifetrustbcn.org/events](http://wildlifetrustbcn.org/events)**

The Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire, The Manor House, Broad Street, Cambourne, CB23 6DH Tel: 01954 755500 Email: [cambridgeshire@wildlifetrustbcn.org](mailto:cambridgeshire@wildlifetrustbcn.org) Registered charity No. 1000410

### Scouts food drive

For Halloween this year, the Newnham Scout group will be spending the evening collecting food donations for the homeless and those in need (Jimmy's Cambridge and the Cambridge FoodBank). Due to Halloween being in Half term, we will be collecting on the first Monday after. Please make sure any donations are 2 months in date or more.

If you would like to donate, please be ready for collection by attaching the attached leaflet to your door/window, leave a bag on your door step with this leaflet attached or drop your donation at Newnham Scout and Guide HQ, Chedworth Street. Please note we will be open for drop off until 20:30. Donations will be collected between 18:00 and 20:00 on 2nd November.

### Museum of Technology half term events

See the attached poster for fun things to do at the Museum of Technology.

### 🎵 Flute and recorder lessons with Paulo - Taster lessons after half-term

Paulo is now taking applications for taster lessons. Open to everyone from Y2 and above, regular in school lessons last 30 minutes or 20 minutes. Two slots available! Get in touch at [pauloghi@gmail.com](mailto:pauloghi@gmail.com) or [ghigliaflutestudio.com](http://ghigliaflutestudio.com)