



Newnham News

Friday 21 November 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

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[NET donation link](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

To start with, a huge thank you once again to the PTA. Thanks to their fundraising and generosity, our Year 3 and 4 children enjoyed an incredible virtual tour of Ancient Egypt using VR goggles. The children were full of enthusiasm afterwards, and it added a whole new dimension to this fascinating area of history.

I'd also like to highlight another fundraising effort—Newnham Scouts are holding a bingo event (details below) to raise money for a replacement minibus. The school regularly relies on these minibuses for trips and especially for sporting events, so we are keen to support their efforts.

On the subject of travel, Cambridgeshire County Council recently observed the school run at Newnham Croft and praised our community for making positive, sustainable travel choices, even in poor weather. They noted that most families who needed to drive parked further away and walked the final stretch, helping to keep sight lines safe for pupils. Only two cars attempted to use Chedworth Street, which was very encouraging to hear.

Thank you for all your continued support in helping make our school such a wonderful place for pupils to learn and for staff to work.

Have a very lovely weekend.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y6 swimming - last session	Tues 25 Nov
Y1 trip to Cambridge Science Centre	Wed 26 Nov
Y2 trip to Cambridge Museum	Thurs 27 Nov

Coming up.....	
PTA Xmas tree pick up	5 & 6 Dec
Y3/4 trip to Fitzwilliam Museum	Tues 9 Dec
Christmas Jumper Day	Thu 11 Dec
Rec & KS1 festive show	16 & 17 Dec

Festive Singalong for all families

3pm Thu 18 Dec

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

Whole school news

Maths week

This week we've been celebrating Maths Week with a range of fun activities across the school. The children have enjoyed puzzles, games, challenges and real-life problem-solving, all designed to show that maths is creative and enjoyable.

There is also a competition to create a maths song. To enter - upload it to YouTube then send a link for your song to the 'Maths Week England' team. This is the link to enter your song https://mathsweekengland.co.uk/?page_id=9986

Reception and KS1 festive performance

There will be 2 performances of the Reception and KS1 Christmas production - Tuesday 16 December at 2pm and Wednesday 17 December at 9.30am. Each family will be allocated 2 tickets - you can now collect from the office.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

This week in Reception, the children have enjoyed exploring more of our Autumn topic. We learned a poem about falling leaves (check Class Dojo if you'd like to hear it) and we performed it in assembly, created hedgehogs using real autumn leaves, and listened to a variety of seasonal stories. In maths, we have been learning about measure and using comparative language such as *biggest*, *smallest*, *longest*, *tallest*, and *shortest*. Our phonemes this week are v, w, x, and y.

Year 1

This week in science, we continued our learning about materials by investigating how strong different everyday objects are. The children were excited to explore a variety of items, including rubber gloves, a sheet of paper, a wax crayon, a plastic wallet, cotton wool, and a canvas shopping bag. Before testing them, the class discussed each object carefully and made predictions about which materials they thought would be strong, and which might break or tear easily. We talked about words like *stretchy*,

bendable, soft, and tough, and how these properties can help us decide what materials are useful for different jobs. Six brave volunteers then tried to destroy the objects using only their arm strength. Can you predict which materials managed to stay strong and which ones didn't survive the test?

Please note in the calendar that Year 1 is visiting the Science Centre on Wednesday 26 November. Please make a payment of £8.75 on the SchoolGateway app and bring a booster seat on that day.

Year 2

This week in Year 2, we used spider diagrams to plan our non-fiction writing, helping us organise our ideas into subheadings. In maths, we have been bridging ten in addition and subtraction. We have also used our knowledge of number facts and number bonds to explain our reasoning. In science, we were introduced to different habitats and identified the plants and animals that live in them. In history, we investigated what schools were like in the 1900s, while in art we developed our tonal shading skills by practising control and pressure. In PSHE, we discussed when we might need to give basic personal information, such as our name and address. In computing, we explored what makes a good photograph and experimented with taking pictures in both landscape and portrait. In gymnastics, we began learning key parts of a Year 2 routine, including rolls, balances and jumps. Well done, Year 2! What a fantastic week of learning!

Please note in the calendar that Year 2 is visiting the Museum of Cambridge on Thursday 27 November. Please make a payment of £5.00 on SchoolGateway.

Year 3

Year 3 has had a really great week that started off with the children being transported back to Ancient Egypt. One child, at the end of their virtual reality workshop, described the experience as being 'literally epic!' In maths, we have focused on adding and subtracting 2 and 3-digit numbers (with and without carrying) using the column method. In our English lessons, the children enjoyed recapping the events that were repeated in *The Owl that was Afraid of the Dark* and planning a new chapter of their own. In computing, lots of fun was had creating simple animations using iMotion. In our RE session, the children looked at how different religions remember moral guidance.

Please note in the calendar that Y3 and Y4 will be visiting the Fitzwilliam Museum on Tuesday 9 December. Please ensure your child is dressed suitably for the weather and has a packed lunch and water bottle on that day. Email to follow soon.

Year 4

Year 4 started the week exploring Ancient Egypt through Virtual Reality - it was amazing. This week is also 'Maths Week!' We enjoyed an investigation using dice and rounding and tried out an adventure game which involved solving maths puzzles to continue the mission. We also looked at the relationship between different measurements of time (seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months and years) and tried some different

word problems on this topic. In English, we read a poem called *The Jumblies* by Edward Lear. We investigated his use of adverbials and wrote our own verses for the poem. In RE, we looked at similarities and differences in artworks that show different beliefs. In science, we learned about the different types of teeth that humans have and the different jobs that they do. Spellings this week are adverbs ending in -ly.

Please note in the calendar that Y3 and Y4 will be visiting the Fitzwilliam Museum on Tuesday 9 December. Please ensure your child is dressed suitably for the weather and has a packed lunch and water bottle on that day. Email to follow soon.

Year 5

Year 5 has had another very active and very wet week, from running club to gymnastics taught by Miss Wakelen. In geography, Year 5 has been exploring the different physical features of a desert, such as sand dunes, mushroom rocks and salt flats. In English, we have started a new topic: biographical writing. Year 5 has been looking at the key components of a biography and has begun writing one based on the life of Mary Anning. In science, Year 5 explored filtering and tested three different substances — soil, coffee and vinegar — each mixed with water to see whether they could be separated using gauze or filter paper. In maths, we have been exploring multiplication and division by identifying factors and common factors of numbers under 100, before moving on to multiplication and division word problems. To finish the week, Year 5 was very fortunate to have Miss Wakelen teach them for one day as part of the teacher swap. Everyone loved having her!

Year 6

Y6 has had a busy week. On Thursday we did cross-country in Grantchester meadows. Despite all the slippy ice, no one got hurt and everyone crossed the finish line. We were treated with hot chocolate from Ms Noble and the kitchen staff. We have a book club every Friday in the spare room, the club is for Y5 and Y6: we are reading the heart-pumping *Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman. In addition, we had a teacher swap on Friday. The teacher we got was none other than Mr Goller. On Monday we will have Ms Mangera.

By Lyra and Ariana

A reminder that the deposit for the Hilltop residential is due by the end of the month. Please make a payment of £82.00 on SchoolGateway to secure your child's place.

PTA news

Get your Christmas tree from Newnham Croft this year!

Buy your freshly cut Christmas tree from Newnham Croft this year to support the PTA (and a local farm!). Order your tree via Classlist by 26 November for collection from the school from 3:15-3:30 on 5 Dec, or 9:00-12:30 on 6 Dec. Please share the link with your neighbours and local friends and family - the more trees we sell, the more funds we raise for our school!

<https://bit.ly/NewnhamCroftXmasTree>

Community news

School music festival

The Christmas music festival will take place on 12th December in the school hall (4:30 - 5:30pm). It will feature a performance from the Newnham Croft orchestra followed by solo performances by the school budding musicians. Any child is welcome to perform independently of their level. Please fill the following form if your child would like to be included in the list of performers: <https://forms.gle/uq41LJFjLB5Aoh77A>

Scouts fundraising

In two weeks time on 4th December it's Bingo night in Newnham, hosted by the fantastic Scouts in the lodge. Everyone is welcome, and we're collecting for a very good cause, namely our minibus, which went kaput earlier this year. This is not only used by the Scouts but by the school too, and plays a huge part in our community programmes. Tickets are on sale now for £7.50, which includes a hot dog and your first six games. It'd be super to have parent's support to help us get back on the road. <https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/bingo-43>

Winter Wildlife Event

Please see the attached poster for details on a wildlife event led by the Wildlife Trust for Beds, Cambs and Northants.

Christmas holiday clubs

See the attached poster for more details on holiday camps led by The Outdoors Project.