



Newnham News

Friday 6 March 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Whole school news

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, I've been enjoying the gentle signs of spring appearing in the front garden outside my office window.

There's no doubt that the children have been enjoying these signs too, judging from the gambolling around the field and rolling in the mud (apologies for the state of some of the knees and clothes by the end of the day!) Although some children have not yet grasped that picking these 'signs-of-spring' rather ruins the effect, the joy has been palpable, which is lovely.

For next week, I offer a gentle reminder to be prompt to your parent/teacher consultations and to try and be aware of your 10 minute slot so that everything runs smoothly.

Good luck to all of you aiming to run, jog, walk or hobble around the Cambridge half marathon course. And for everyone, I hope you have lovely weekends.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Year 5 orchestra concert trip		Mon 9 Mar
Parent consultations	3.30 - 6pm	Mon 9 Mar
Year 5 swimming		Tues 10 Mar
Parent consultations	1.30 - 5pm	Tues 10 Mar
Class photos		Thurs 12 Mar
Y4 Bikeability		Fri 13 Mar
Reception forest school		Fri 13 Mar
Y5 swimming		Fri 13 Mar
Y1 forest school		Fri 13 Mar

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

World Book Day

On Thursday, we marked World Book Day in a meaningful and joyful way across the school, celebrating our shared love of reading. The day began with a special assembly led



by Ms Holliday, who spoke to the children about the importance of reading and how the love of books is something we celebrate each and every day in our school.

Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of fun activities. They enjoyed creating headbands representing their chosen books, which their classmates then tried to guess. It was wonderful to see such a wide range of favourite stories and characters proudly on display.

Classes also took part in a book quiz, putting their knowledge of well-loved stories to the test. One of the highlights of the day was our mystery readers, where adults from across the school visited classrooms to surprise the children with a special story, sharing their own favourite books and bringing the joy of reading to life.

Year 3 and 4 performance

Year 3 & 4 will be performing *Oliver with a Twist* for their families on Monday 23 March at 5.30pm and Tuesday 24 March at 1.30pm. As space in our hall is limited, entrance will be strictly by ticket. Each family will be allocated 2 tickets only. The evening performance is now full but there are plenty of tickets for Tuesday afternoon.

EIFA newsletter

Please see the attached documents from our Education and Inclusion Family Advisor regarding upcoming parenting workshops.

School Meals

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

Classroom news

Reception

This week in Reception, the children have been using number lines to help them count on and practise addition. They are beginning to record their learning by writing the corresponding number sentences independently.

In English, we have continued reading *Is There a Dog in This Book?*, which the children are thoroughly enjoying. They have been writing speech bubbles to show what the characters might be saying, developing both their imagination and writing skills. We have also been learning how to stay safe around dogs and how to care for them responsibly. To share their knowledge, the children have been creating information books to teach others what they have learned.

Year 1

This week, Year 1 has been learning how to use a compass to help them understand direction. The children explored the four main compass points — north, south, east and west — and learned that a compass always points north.

We practised turning to face different directions and followed simple instructions such as “walk north” or “move east” during fun outdoor activities. The children also began using directional language to describe routes and positions. Well done Year 1 navigators!

Year 2

In English, the children continued reading their class story and began planning their own descriptions of a mysterious island. Using a five-senses mind map, they thought about what they might see, hear, smell, taste, and feel on the island. They then used expanded noun phrases to write detailed setting descriptions and learned how to use an apostrophe to show possession. In science, pupils learned about seeds and bulbs. They discovered that seeds and

bulbs contain everything they need to grow into plants. The children also practised working scientifically by measuring with rulers. During history, the class explored the question: *When was the first flight?* They discussed why the first successful flight was historically significant and how it changed travel and technology forever. In design and technology, the children designed their explorers’ pouches.

Year 3

In maths we’ve been doing cryptarithms, which are special puzzles where letters stand for numbers. We’ve been solving them using column addition and column subtraction, which made our brains work super hard—but in a fun (and tricky) way! In English, we’ve been learning how to write instructions. We talked about how instructions don’t mean saying please but telling someone exactly what to do— not saying “please can you...”, but orders like put or get. We started a child-led project and looked for facts about skeletons, and then we wrote the information down on scrap paper to help plan our project. Get well soon, Mr Goller.

By Aphra and Zac

Please be aware that Y3 parent consultations have been rescheduled to 25th and 26th March.

Year 4

In maths, we learned to multiply decimals by 10 to turn them into whole numbers, focusing on how the digits move up one column on the place value grid. In English, we explored and compared different extracts from three travel books: *India, Incredible India*; *Africa, Amazing Africa*; and *The Big Book of the UK*. We enjoyed making book headbands for World Book Day and were very excited about beginning rehearsals for our play. This week in English we have written the next part of our story, meeting a new character and using punctuation for speech. In maths we have been adding amounts of money, using a decimal place. In PSHE we have started looking at ways to keep safe as part of our e-safety work. A technology diary to fill in is coming home today. We will use this in Tuesday's lesson next week. Spelling this week is words from the Y3/4 list. No list attached - please choose words you need to practise from the list.

Year 5

Year 5 has been very active this week. Some attended the Women in Computing event, and others tried out for the football tournament taking place next week. In science, we explored the different stages of the mammal life cycle and researched how long a whale or a hedgehog spends at each stage of the life cycle, such as the newborn or adolescent stages, and why this might be. In English, in preparation for writing their persuasive letters, everyone

put together a plan outlining what they would like to ask Mr Ferguson for. Whether it is an extended lunch break, a coffee shop, a pet, or an amusement park, all children needed to consider the pros and cons of their ideas and think of counter-arguments to support their reasoning. In maths, we have been exploring 2D shapes, such as polygons and quadrilaterals, and the class practised measuring and working out missing angles. In geography, the class explored the factors which affect birth and death rates.

Just a reminder that we have an Orchestra trip on the afternoon of Monday 9th March, so please ensure that your child has a packed lunch with them on that day and you have paid £3.10 on SchoolGateway. We also have two swimming sessions, so please make sure that your child has their swimming kit with them on Tuesday 10th and Friday 13th March.

Year 6

This week in Y6, 7 girls went to the computing museum on Tuesday. They had a great time playing old games and learning about the “fabric of computing”. We played drums with Mrs Onatskaia and in PE, we learnt the forehand throw in frisbee. In maths, we’re learning about multiplication and division. In English, we finished the WW1 topic, in which we read War Horse and War Game. On Thursday, World Book Day, we made headbands for our favourite book and had a mystery reader, Ms Noble, who read *It Was The Cat’s Fault* in French. We also got a World Book Day token each which we can use to buy a £1 book or we can buy a book and take away £1 from it. We also requested our groups for Hilltop in 2 weeks time.

By Spica and Matilda

PTA News

Readathon Reminder

If your child took part in the Readathon, please remind your child(ren)’s sponsors to send any sponsorship money through the fundraising platform ([School Playground Renovation](#)) as soon as possible.

If your child would like to receive a certificate, please return their completed reading log to school by Monday, 9 March. Thank you for helping to support our readers!

Community news

Chess club

Our A-team made history on Sunday by becoming the first ever state primary school to gain promotion to the top division in the chess league, and we will become only the second to compete in it since the league’s inception in 2013!

Our A-team have been in a promotion dogfight all season and dropped down to 4th place with one game left, despite beating the league leaders, and it looked like we were set to narrowly miss out. However, our A-team, captained by Evan, also comprising Bertie, Jinyan, Spica, Jonah and Alice, pulled off a stunning 6-0 win in the final match. With other results going our way, we secured the last promotion spot in 3rd place out of the 16 teams in the division, having won 13 matches, drawn one and lost one.

Next season will be tough as we will be competing with independent and/or secondary schools, or chess clubs comprising top players from multiple schools, but it will be a fantastic experience. Well done also to Oliver, Ariana and Saxon who represented the A-team in previous matches and contributed to this success.

Wildlife Trust family activities at Trumpington

Follow the link below for further information on fun family activities in Trumpington Meadows. <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/explore/activity-centres/trumpington-meadows-community-engagement>

St John Ambulance Badger group



We're on a mission to teach young people across the country how to save lives. And that starts with our Badger programme, **for 5 to 10-year-olds.**

It's a chance for them to learn important first aid skills in a fun, friendly, and safe environment.

We work towards super badger by collecting badger paws!



Active Badger

Global Badger



All about me Badger

First aid Badger



- We help our Badgers to develop
 - o self-esteem and confidence
 - o first aid knowledge
 - o life skills

They'll get to learn about lots of different topics like first aid, communication skills, and healthy living.

email: robyn.scott-palmer@sja.org.uk
Cherry Hinton, Cambridge



Want to see, Scan me!