



# Newnham News

Friday 12 December 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Online safety](#)

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

A web-based theme to today's message.

I attended online safety training last week. There was a lot that was familiar from previous training sessions, although the growing impact of Artificial Intelligence was noteworthy, both in terms of opportunities and concerns.

A couple of things have remained true from the first time I took the training in 2019.

Firstly, we must all teach children to think critically. This is even more relevant in the virtual world, where normal cues such as expression, tone of voice and feelings of vulnerability, are much less obvious.

Children are the best protectors of themselves. In school, one can almost guarantee by Year 6 that children will be able to answer safety questions correctly ("Should you share personal information online?") But getting them to apply that knowledge in practice, to think critically about the current situation, is the real challenge.

Secondly, it is so important that we, the trusted adults, are available and approachable. The training was filled with stories where the child had felt too embarrassed to talk to someone; or feared that adults would be cross if they told them what they did.

So they ended up not speaking to anyone and trying to deal with a problem that they were far too inexperienced to deal with, on their own. This presents a difficult balancing act - to set clear and reassuring boundaries without those boundaries becoming barriers.

On a brighter note, the BBC have updated some of their educational offerings. There are a range of curriculum areas that are covered, broken up into year groups, and all easily accessible and followed. Click on this link or search for BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary>.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

PTA Winter Fair	2pm	Sun 14 Dec
Rec & KS1 festive show		16 & 17 Dec
Festive Singalong for all families	3pm	Thu 18 Dec
Last day of term		Fri 19 Dec

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

## Whole school news

### Lost property

Please have a look through the lost property before the end of term - we will be laying it out to make it easier to spot your child's items. Any remaining items will be donated to charity over the holidays.

### Free books from Morgan Sindall

The builders next door came in on Friday morning to hand out prizes for their Christmas bauble competition and they also gave us some children's books about timber manufacture. If you have a construction-mad child who might like to read this, please come to the office and collect a free copy.

### Extra curricular clubs - amendment

Please see the amended clubs list [here](#) - we have made a small change to the chess club contact details.

### School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 3 - please note the change to Monday's lunch. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

## Classroom news

### Reception

Apart from all the fun we've been having in Santa's workshop this week and our rehearsals for next week's performances, we have also completed Phase 2 phonics. The children should now be practising all the tricky words at home; these were placed in their home folders at the beginning of term (they have red lines down the sides and are words we learn to read without sounding out). In maths, we have been learning about 2D shapes, exploring their similarities and differences, and using them to create our own shape pictures.

### **Year 1**

Over the past few weeks, Year 1 has had lots of fun exploring lines and shapes in our art lessons. We tried out all kinds of lines—wiggly, straight, zigzag and even “musical lines” that matched different sounds. We then looked at how shapes can be used in art and made our own pictures using circles, squares and triangles. Our final step will be to create Paul Klee-style portraits, using bright colours and bold shapes. We'll try and share some of these with you soon.

### **Year 2**

Year 2 has had a wonderfully busy week preparing for our Christmas show! The children have been enthusiastically rehearsing their lines and learning a range of festive songs, and they simply cannot wait to perform. In art, the children created fantastic observational drawings, applying the skills they have developed throughout the term. Our science lessons focused on producers, prey, and predators, and the class enjoyed building their own food chains to show how these living things depend on one another. In English, we began exploring instruction writing, with the highlight being following a set of steps to make an origami ice cream! We also learned about bossy (imperative) verbs and time conjunctions to help us write clear and effective instructions.

### **Year 3**

Year 3 has had another busy week. It was lovely to see the children being so enthusiastic during our visit to The Fitzwilliam Museum on Tuesday and for really impressing the museum staff with their knowledge. In our maths lessons, we revisited calculating fractions of amounts using bar models. In our English sessions, the children really enjoyed writing an additional chapter for *The Owl Who Was Afraid of The Dark*. In science, the children investigated whether or not poles repelled or attracted one another. In computing, the children had lots of fun creating a short animation based on Ancient Egypt using iMotion.

### **Year 4**

We have had a very exciting week. On Tuesday, we went on our class trip to the Ancient Egyptian displays and exhibition at the Fitzwilliam Museum. A museum guide helped us look for clues on the artefacts. In maths, we continued our work on multiplication and in RE we found out how some scripture was written. We also had our end of term assessments and finished up our topics. We worked in groups, creating podcasts in computing. We're looking at Y3/4 tricky words.

### **Year 5**

Year 5 has had a great penultimate week. They have been consolidating their learning based on this term's topic, *Deserts*, including all of their work in English and maths by completing several assessments (which will be sent home after the Christmas break). As part of our final science session, we looked at evaporation, and the class discussed what happens when salt and water are heated, thinking about why the salt remains and crystallises. In geography, we explored the similarities and differences between the local area and the Mojave Desert, and the class completed an assessment based on their learning in

this subject. In English, Year 5 has been creating drafts of their biographies about famous women from history who have made substantial contributions to science, using relative clauses, fronted adverbials and ensuring that their writing follows chronological order.

### **Year 6**

This week in Year 6 we have been doing tests to prepare for SATs. A group of our class went to a dodgeball tournament on Wednesday and had many brilliant catches which led to brilliant results. We have also taken votes for Hilltop activities and food which has been a very exciting subject. In music we have been practising Christmas carols for going around Newnham on Wednesday. In science, we designed Christmas cards that light up which was certainly one of our highlights. Thank you for reading and have a good day.

*By Phoebe and Kiana*

### **PTA news**

#### **PTA Winter Fair - Sunday 14 December**

Come along at 1400 and join in some Christmas crafts, sing a song, drink a hot chocolate and throw a snowball. The PTA is not ticketing this event, but asks parents to 'bring a dish' to sell on our behalf (usual rules apply about highlighting allergens please). Volunteers to help setting up, running activities and clearing up most welcomed. Let your class rep know if you are happy to be involved in any way.

### **Community news**

#### **Local swap and sell event**

Please see the attached poster for a local swap and sell event on Monday 15 December.

#### **Free children's clothes**

Trumpington Kid's Clothes Hub is running an event on Saturday 17 January - see attached poster for more information.

#### **Hearing aid testing**

There's a hearing aid clinic at the Red Bull on Thursday 18 December - details in the attached poster.