



Newnham News

Friday 15 May 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As always with this week, the Year 6 SATS have rather dominated the ether and flavour of the school.

It is the first, proper external test that a child sits and, much as we minimise pressure and maximise the positives of the experience, it is definitely one of the key areas of focus for the children when they start the year.

The current cohort have been wonderful. Even shedding the ever-positive, glass half-fullness of a primary school newsletter, that fact remains solidly true.

They were calm, focused and supportive. In fact, as we discussed in our Thursday assembly, they ticked off each element of our Newnham Code with flourish.

They were **kind** and **respectful**, both to themselves and to each other, acting as a team, sharing their experiences (especially during the breakfasts) and supporting each other.

They were definitely **thinkers** - you could hear the cogs whirring and grinding as the test pages were turned, as they mined the learning of the last six and a half years (sometimes, no doubt, having to dig deep to find it!)

And they **never gave up**, working hard right to the end of the tests. For the reading paper, this meant staying focused for 75 minutes for some of the children - no mean feat for adults, let alone an 11 year old.

So well done Year 6. You have displayed the skills that will get you a long way in life, irrespective of your results in the assessments. We are very proud of you all.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Reception farm visit	Mon 18 May
Y3 swimming	Tues 19 May
Y4 swimming	Tues 19 May
Y5 performance	5pm Wed 20 May
Y6 netball club	8am Thur 21 May
Y5 running club	8am Thur 21 May
Eat lunch with your Y2 child	12.15pm Thur 21 May
International afternoon	2.30 - 3.45pm Fri 22 May
End of half term	Fri 22 May

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

Whole school news



Paul Sturges visit

Today we welcomed Paul Sturges, a towering 7ft 7in former professional basketball player, who shared his inspiring life story. Paul spoke about embracing what makes you different and how he has used his unique height to build a successful career, first in basketball and now as an actor. He has

appeared in productions such as Doctor Who, The Lord of the Rings series, and the Avatar films.

Paul also led workshops with each class, getting the children active, engaged, and enjoying basketball. It was a fantastic experience for everyone. Thank you, Paul, for such a brilliant and memorable day!

International afternoon

Not long now until our International afternoon on Friday 22 May at 2.30pm. Our theme, as you know, is South Korea and there will be musical performances, Korean food to buy (bring some cash!) and you will be able to see our displays showing you everything we have learned about South Korea. We plan to entertain you until 3.45pm, so don't rush off!

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. *Please note, there is a small change to Tuesday's vegetarian meal - it is now pesto pasta.*

Classroom news

Reception

This week, the children have been learning about doubling and halving and exploring how the two concepts are linked. In English, they have been thinking about the characters at the end of *The Enormous Carrot* story and discussing how they might have been feeling. The children have also enjoyed watching our carrot plants grow and taking turns to water them.

Year 1

Year 1 have been designing and making their own smoothies as part of their learning. The children first learned how to classify fruits and discovered where



different fruits grow, including on trees, bushes and on the

ground. They then chose their ingredients carefully and enjoyed preparing and tasting their smoothies. The class showed great enthusiasm and really enjoyed this hands-on learning experience. Thank you to our Year 1 parents for contributing the ingredients.

Year 2

It's been another busy and exciting week in Year 2! In art, the children created their fantastic fruit-inspired clay tiles using the designs they planned last week. They carefully considered whether to add clay using slip and cross-hatching joining techniques or subtract clay to create detail, resulting in some wonderful tiles full of texture and creativity. In English, we completed our alternative victory stories for *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*, and the children impressed us with their fantastic vocabulary and imaginative ideas. The highlight of the week was our visit to Reception, where the children partnered with a Reception pupil to share the writing they have worked so hard on. It was lovely to see how proud they were of their stories, while also showing excellent listening skills as they listened to the Reception children's writing. Well done to everyone for another excellent week!



Year 3

Year 3 has had a busy week. Lots of the class gave really impressive speeches about a person who they believe to be significant in historical terms. In maths, the children started to learn how to count up and down in fractions and learnt how to add and subtract fractions with the same denominators. In our English lessons the children worked really hard on their personal narratives. In geography the children thought about why certain human features are located in certain places within their locality.

Year 4

In maths, we started learning about 2-place decimals and identifying equivalent numbers of tenths and hundredths. We also practised converting tenths and hundredths into decimals and also adding and subtracting with them. In

English, we read our new class book, *Malala's Magic Pencil*, which introduced our new topic on writing persuasive letters. In science, we began a new topic, looking at animals and their habitats. During this lesson, we sorted vertebrates and invertebrates by different characteristics, using both Carroll and Venn diagrams. In PSHE, we discussed how to identify a good time to talk about a worry with a trusted adult and how we can start that conversation.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy week practising for their Year 5 production, building on their lines, dance routines and songs, which takes place next Wednesday 20 May at 5pm. In maths, Year 5 have been working on Roman numerals, identifying numbers from 10 to 1000 and converting them back into numerals. In English, we have been looking at a new story called *Birdsong* by Katya Balen. The class wrote about what they thought the story might be about based on the front cover. On Monday, Year 5 will be making DT projects with Year 6. If you have any spare cardboard or cereal boxes at home that you would be willing to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

Year 6

This week in Year 6 we have been doing SATS. We have been the best year ever at SATS and are great overall. In English, we are doing non-linear stories. In maths, we have been over revising for the SATS. In history, we have been doing local history, exploring the suburb of Newnham. In science, we have been doing sunglasses, learning about how UV rays are the things that come out of the sun and damage your skin. Also in art we have been doing pop art with Ms D'Oyly. Also Ms Noble and Mrs Harper have made us the most amazing breakfast. They made:

Monday - French toast

Tuesday - was pancakes

Wednesday - was full English

Thursday - was croissants

On Friday, we had a brilliant time in forest school and playing basketball in the afternoon. Shout out to Ms Holliday, Mrs Elbourne, Mrs Turner, Mrs Laughlin, Mrs Wood and Ms D'Oyly for helping with breakfast.

By Francis



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