



Newnham News

April Fools Edition*

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

*content may be the complete opposite of the truth

Website links:

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Phew! Thank goodness that's over. Every week's a long week, but believe me when I say this one has been a loooooong week!

It's absolutely incredible to think anyone would want to work in a primary school. The levels of naive wonder in children's eyes as they stare out the window at a passing swirl of dust - I mean, come on, get with the program!

And this is while the teacher has given 72 minutes of their life, delivering high quality teaching on why full stops are so important, and the children have the cheek to say, "I weally, weally need a wee" (for the fourth time)! I mean, for goodness sake child, you're four years old, hold it in and GROW UP!!!!

Not that it's just the children. The staff have been dragging their feet more than usual as well. At one point, I found a group of KS1 children singing gently in a circle. Upon closer inspection, both class teachers were asleep in the middle of the circle and had commanded the children to sing them softly to sleep. And our Year 3 teacher continues to refuse to come to work until he is allowed a pipe and slippers in the classroom.

Even the governors have been getting in on the action, refusing my reasonable request for funds to pay a barber to be at my disposal to maintain my new coiffure.

In light of this, it would be disingenuous of me to wish you a happy weekend or anything else. So I will merely say, with two weeks ahead of you with your *delightful* children NOT doing anything you ask... good luck! 🙄

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Last day of term

Fri 27 Mar

Start of Summer term

Mon 13 Apr

****Please note - children not in on the last or first day will be transferred to our [sister school](#) in St Helena.***

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

Whole school news

Worry Workshop

Thank you to the parents who responded to the questionnaire around possible timings for a workshop on worry. The session will be on Friday 24th April from 2:30 and will aim to look at how to support children, especially those who struggle to come to school. See the flyer for more details.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu after half term will be Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

It's been quite the week in Reception! The police were nearly called after a shocking amount of class money went "missing." The children were meant to be learning about coins... not how to steal them! PE was unfortunately cancelled this week due to a very inconvenient stage being in the way. In English, we explored our feelings about the class book *Is There a Dog in This Book?*—with a strong focus on what we *didn't* like. Safe to say, the reviews were not glowing. We also spent lots of time in PSHE discussing how to handle conflict. The children learned the *importance* of always hitting back when upset and absolutely never using words to solve problems... a truly groundbreaking approach! Another wonderfully chaotic week—well done, Reception!

Year 1

This week, the class has been exploring odd and even numbers—and making some *very unusual discoveries!* While practising counting, the children began questioning whether numbers can change sides. One group tried to turn odd numbers into even ones, while another claimed 7 is “even on weekends.” We briefly had to stop a group from sorting the teachers into the “odd” category (rude, but mathematically debatable). We’re pleased to report lots of enthusiasm... though the maths may need a little *untangling!*

Year 2

We have had a fun-filled week in Year 2! We may have accidentally left two pupils behind in the greenhouse at the Botanical Gardens. Don’t worry, we are very optimistic about their return after the Easter break. We are expecting them to come back slightly taller, greener, and perhaps even with a few leaves. Fingers crossed they’ve been well watered! In maths, things didn’t get any easier. The children were introduced to RUCSAC (Reading, Understanding, Choosing a calculation, Solving, Answering, and Checking), which meant guessing was no longer an option. We hope you all have a fantastic Easter break. Please keep an eye on your gardens just in case any extra Year 2 pupils appear.

Year 3

The week started with an underwhelming performance of *Oliver with a Twist*. The children gave a half hearted attempt at entertaining the audience with their out of tune singing and mediocre dancing. Maths this week was verging on dull as we investigated capacity and volume through practical, hands-on measuring. The children didn't really try to read a variety of scales and weren't encouraged to ask questions to deepen their knowledge of the subject. A lot of water was spilled and Mr Yak was unimpressed by the minor flood created in the classroom. In English the children published their own instructions. None of the work was particularly imaginative and no one tried to use the features of instructions to tell a story of an adventure or fairy tale. Blah, blah, blah... The children all fell asleep in history and RE as they said the Mayans are boring and discussing freewill was a waste of time. The teachers had an "OK" week but mostly wanted to eat Easter eggs and have a nap.

Year 4

In maths, we spent time awkwardly trying to order decimals on a hundred square from 1–10, which didn't really make much sense and just felt repetitive. Each square was supposed to represent one tenth, but it was more confusing than helpful. We then dragged ourselves through the end of the fractions and decimals topic by

doing more multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100, which was pretty dull and uninspiring. In English, we had to plan persuasive travel leaflets about Antarctica, even though it was hard to stay interested. We tried to use persuasive devices we've been going over for weeks, but it all felt a bit forced and repetitive. As for the play, although it eventually came together, it was quite chaotic. People had to step in for others at the last minute, which made everything feel rushed and disorganised, even if it somehow worked out in the end.

Year 5

Year 5 has had a thoroughly unproductive and rather dull end to the spring term. They began the week with a chemistry lecture in the BMS Lecture Theatre at the Department of Chemistry on Lensfield Road, which, disappointingly, involved no explosions at all. The children were completely uninterested and unimpressed by the lack of exciting experiments. On Tuesday, Year 5 skipped their swimming session entirely. They avoided going on a geography field trip and made no effort to collect any data about the environment on Eltisley Avenue. The children ignored the traffic, overlooked any litter, and decided not to make any judgements about the attractiveness of the area. In science, Year 5 made no comparisons between the life cycles of amphibians and insects. In English, none of the children completed their persuasive writing pieces to Mr Ferguson, and no requests were made for the school. In maths, Year 5 avoided converting fractions to decimals altogether. Oh dear—better luck next term, Year 5!

Year 6

This week in Year 6 we had a horrid time. We were completely obliterated in the netball and although we played well we were torn apart. In our tests this week, we all tried our hardest but haven't set our hopes too high for the results. In WOYC (Work Of Your Choice) we have been zooming in and out of photos and printing off funny ones for our Hilltop brochure.

By Francis and Alex

Community news

Wildlife Trust events

See the attached poster for Easter events hosted by the Wildlife Trust.

Strawberry Fair decor

If you're feeling crafty over the holidays, you might like to make decorations for the Strawberry Fair. See the attached leaflet for more information.

Easter Paw-ty at National Horseracing Museum

See the attached poster for a fun day out with your dog.

Study into sibling relationships

Please see the attached information on how to participate in a study on siblings and neurodiversity from the University of York.

Smartphone Free Childhood

Have you spotted our stall near the Chedworth Street entrance lately? We're a group of Newnham Croft parents interested in the 'Smartphone Free Childhood' campaign. Our goal is simple: to support one another in protecting the magic of a phone-free childhood for as long as possible. We'd love to know your thoughts! Please take a moment to fill out this quick survey so we can see where our community stands:

<https://forms.gle/X89Zh5ird6zvbGU47>