



Newnham News

Friday 17 April 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Online safety](#)

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

I wanted to share a little of our everyday classroom practice, based on a very simple guiding principle: we value all and every, all of the time.

We focus less on labels and more on the child in front of us and what they need at that moment. This means that, at different times, children may need extra help, reassurance or challenge, and that support naturally changes as children grow and circumstances shift.

Each class teacher meets with me and Jo Turner, our SENCo, at the start of each term for pupil progress meetings. During these meetings we talk through every child in the class, discussing what is going well, where there may be concerns and what adjustments or support might help.

Support is part of everyday classroom life. Teachers and LSAs move around lessons offering guidance and challenge, whether one-to-one, in small groups or through timely in-class support. Children are encouraged to collaborate, ask for help and talk about their learning.

As a staff, we meet twice weekly in morning briefings to discuss children who may need extra pastoral or social support, and teachers and LSAs are in constant communication throughout the week within classes.

Some children have diagnosed needs; others do not. Our commitment is the same for all: children are known, valued and cared for as individuals, with responsive, ongoing support. They are at the heart of everything we do, and supporting all of them is the most meaningful and rewarding part of our work.

I hope you all had enjoyable breaks and that you have lovely weekends.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y5 Bikeability		Mon 20 Apr
Y5 Bikeability		Tues 21 Apr
Y3 swimming		Tues 21 Apr
Y4 swimming		Tues 21 Apr
Y5 Bikeability		Wed 22 Apr
Reception garden tidy-up	2pm	Wed 22 Apr
Y6 netball club	8am	Thurs 23 Apr
Y5 running club	8am	Thurs 23 Apr
Y5 Bikeability		Thurs 23 Apr
Reception garden tidy-up	2pm	Thur 23 Apr
Reception forest school		Fri 24 Apr
Y1 forest school		Fri 24 Apr
Worry workshop for parents	2pm	Fri 24 Apr
Reception garden tidy-up	2pm	Fri 24 Apr

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

Whole school news

Worry Workshop

Thank you to those who responded about the Worry Workshop. This will be on **Friday 24th April at 2:30pm**. It will be an informal session (led by Mrs Turner) to talk through different ways worry may look, strategies to support and how school can help. Anyone is welcome!

Another date for your diary is **Friday 8th May at 2:30**, when there will be an opportunity to learn more about our Relationship and Sex Education as part of our wider PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum. The session will aim to cover the areas that are taught and teaching methods. There will be letters sent out in advance of your child's lessons with content for their RSE sessions, but this will be an opportunity for parents to ask questions and find out more about the topics covered.

EIFA workshops

Please see the Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter attached for parenting tips.

Wish list for Reception

If you're having a spring clean and come across any of the following items, please consider donating them to Reception:

Small metal toy cars

Farm animals

Shells

Small figurines

Plastic jugs and toys for water play

Magnet sets

Baby dolls, clothes and accessories

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

What a fantastic first week back we have had in Reception! The children have been working hard on developing their teamwork skills and are already doing a wonderful job supporting and encouraging one another. In PE, we used balloons to help improve our hand-eye coordination. The children had lots of fun while practising their control and coordination, and I was very impressed with how well they listened and followed instructions. We have also begun learning the story of *The Enormous Turnip*. The children have really enjoyed creating masks of the different characters and acting out the story together. In maths, we have been focusing on teen numbers and exploring how to partition them. Our role-play Farm Shop has been a big hit this week! The children have been using fantastic vocabulary while communicating with one another during their play. If anyone has any artificial flowers or other items that might work well in our shop and would like to donate them, we would be very grateful.



Now that the sun is shining, we would love to smarten up our outdoor area. To help with this, we are inviting Reception parents to join us in the garden to support the

children with some weeding, digging, and a general tidy-up.

If you are able to help, please feel free to bring along any gardening tools you may have. Donations of compost, seeds, and low-maintenance perennial plants would also be greatly appreciated.

There will be a sign-up sheet available at drop-off, with limited spaces for each day. Our chosen days are the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th April from 2–3pm.

Thank you for your support – we're looking forward to working together to make the outdoor space a lovely place for the children to enjoy!

Year 1

Year 1 has been very excited to welcome some caterpillars into the classroom! The children have enjoyed observing them closely and talking about what they notice. Over the next few weeks, we will be monitoring the caterpillars as they grow and change. This will help the children learn about the life cycle of a butterfly and understand how living things develop over time. We are really looking forward to seeing the caterpillars form their chrysalises and, eventually, transform into beautiful butterflies!

Year 2

This week has been a fantastic start to the summer term. In science, Year 2 identified and classified minibeasts, answering classification questions using tables and even finding some outside during choosing learning time. In geography, we explored the seas and oceans surrounding the UK. In art, we evaluated the pottery work of Rachel Dormor. In computing, we listened to Gustav Holst and discussed how different pieces made us feel. In maths, we worked on finding halves, quarters and thirds of shapes and amounts, as well as challenging ourselves with mixed fractions. In PE, we practised our bowling skills, focusing on aiming and control. In English, we began our new book *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch*, where we discussed victory stories, explored new vocabulary and looked at similar story structures.

Year 3

Year 3 has made a great start to the new term. In our maths lessons, the children have been learning to count forwards and backwards in tenths using both decimals and fractions. In geography, the children started to understand what is meant by the term 'settlement' and started to recognise some of the things that you might find in a village, town and city. In science, the children recapped what is essential for plants to survive and think up testable questions to investigate. In our RE session, the children

enjoyed learning about the practical and symbolic importance of water.

Year 4

In maths, we began a new topic on shape, looking at lines of symmetry. We practised reflecting different patterns and shapes in horizontal, vertical and diagonal lines of symmetry (in some cases with two lines). In English, we began planning and writing our persuasive travel leaflets for Antarctica. In history, we began our new topic, *How have children's lives changed?*, by looking at continuity and change in children's lives over time. In science, we learned about how sound can be measured in decibels and practised measuring the volume of different musical instruments. In PSHE, we discussed comfortable and uncomfortable emotions and what is meant by the term 'mental health'.

Please remember to pay the last installment for the Grafham Water trip - due by Friday 24 April.

Year 5

It has been lovely welcoming back Year 5 and hearing all about their Easter holidays. This week, Year 5 have been introduced to their new topic, *Local History*, where they learned about what a census is and what it means. Mrs Burke kindly brought in a few censuses from her family history. The class were able to see the occupations of Mrs Burke's grandparents, where they lived and migrated to, their surname, and how many children they had. In science, we have started a new module: Forces and Space – Unbalanced Forces. Year 5 spent their first lesson learning about gravity. In English, we have begun a new unit on poetry. We are studying the poem *Cloud Busting* by Malorie Blackman. The class has started exploring the first two chapters and have been discussing the language and intonation. In maths, Year 5 has been learning to multiply 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using the short multiplication method and the grid method. Well done for a great week, Year 5!

Year 6

This week in Year 6 has been our first week back from the Easter break. In English, we have started our new topic, *Macbeth*. In PE, with Ms Holliday, we have started doing netball, and with Mrs Roberts we have been doing rounders. Our new history topic is all about local history, basically the history of Newnham. We have had a great week back and have enjoyed it all.

By Ava and Kamille

Community news

Thorpe Woodland Fun Day



Join us for
Thorpe Woodland's Family Fun Day
£20pp
for a morning or afternoon of unlimited activities!

please feel free to bring a picnic or there is a cafe located at Forest Holidays

- *Archery
- *Zip Wire
- *High Ropes
- *Canoe Hire
- *Rock Climbing
- *Tree Trekking
- *Caving

scan me to book!
(please select the date then click "family adventure day")

29.05.26

Thorpe Woodlands Adventure Centre
Shadwell, The2ford
IP24 2RX

9:30am – 12:30pm
OR
1:30pm – 4:30pm