



Newnham News

Friday 9 October 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Sometimes, I wake up and the world is not sitting right on its axis. This morning was such a morning.

My immediate reaction - whose fault is this? My unfair solution - to blame those closest to me!

I find this projection of my mood instructive. And once I recognised the impulse to blame, it can be seen everywhere, not least with the children in school.

Our instinct to find solutions/apportion blame when things aren't right is usually an effective strategy; but sometimes it is important to accept that no one is to blame; that it is just how one is feeling for the moment.

For children it is a great thing to learn that sometimes the best (and only) strategy for a dark cloud is acceptance, and to be reassured that it will pass (the silver lining). And not to take it out on others!

For me, today's world reseated itself with the joyful singing in the Harvest Assembly. Thank you to the parents, Mrs Onatskaia, the staff and all the children who made it such a brilliant start to the day and end to the week.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Open afternoon	3.15pm - 4pm	Mon 12 Oct
Book fair	3.15pm - 4pm	Mon 12 Oct
Book fair	3.15pm - 3.45pm	Tues 13 Oct
PTA meeting	5.30pm	Tues 13 Oct
Y6 swimming		Wed 14 Oct

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

Whole school news

Open afternoon

On Monday 12 October from 3.15-4pm, the classrooms will be open for you and your child to come and look through your child's workbooks.

Parent consultations

You should have received an invitation to book your parent consultation with the class teacher from eSchools. If you are struggling to book, please contact the office.

Language of the term

We are learning Albanian this term - have a look at the attached key words.

Scholastic Book Fair – 8th–13th October

The book fair will be on until Tuesday afternoon - have a look and see if you can find your next read.

School Meals

The menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week is Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.90.

Classroom news

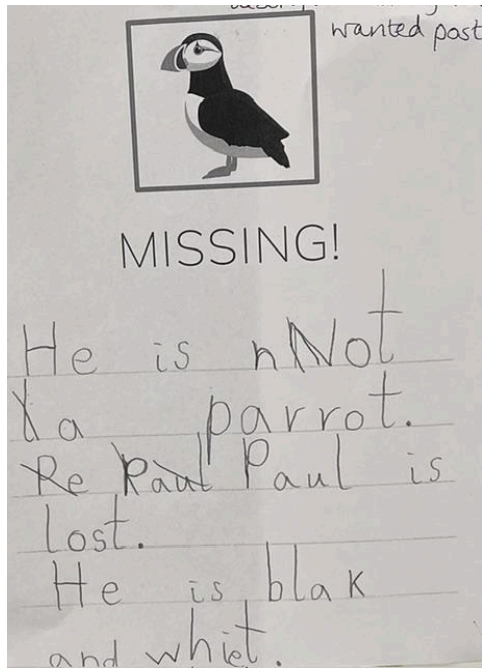
Reception

It has been another busy and exciting week in Reception! In maths, we have been exploring repeating patterns using shapes, colours and sounds. The children have enjoyed creating their own patterns and spotting what comes next. In English, we have been reading *Find Our Happy* and talking about the things that make us happy. We have shared lots of lovely ideas and enjoyed thinking about what brings happiness to ourselves and others. We have also been very excited practising for our Harvest Assembly. The children have worked so hard and have been fantastic performers! We hope you enjoyed watching the assembly as much as we enjoyed preparing for it.

Year 1

This week, we have continued our learning through *Puffin Peter*. After Peter gets lost, we thought carefully about how we could help find him. The children created their

own missing posters, including important details and



descriptions to help people recognise Peter. They then proudly placed their posters around the school in the hope that someone might spot our missing puffin!

Year 2

It has been another busy and exciting week of learning! In computing, we

have been learning how information technology helps us in our everyday lives. We recognised different types of technology, explored how IT devices work together and discussed why we use IT. We had lots of fun role-playing at supermarket tills, which helped us understand how technology can save us time. In maths, we have been practising adding and subtracting 10, 11, 20 and 21, and we have also started our *Measure* unit, learning how to accurately measure objects in centimetres. In English, we began planning our own alternative endings to *The Three Little Pigs*. In science, we designed and tested bridges and discovered that the strength of some materials can be changed. In gymnastics, we developed our jumping skills by jumping safely from equipment. In geography, we investigated our local weather conditions, while in DT, we designed our moving monsters and explored different design ideas. What a fantastic week of learning!

Year 3

We started the week by making predictions about what might happen in our new class book, *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura. The children then put their imaginations to work, using adventurous and descriptive vocabulary to bring one of the settings from the story to life. In maths, we have been developing our measuring skills. The children learned how to measure, compare and order different lengths using centimetres and millimetres. They worked hard and enjoyed putting their new skills into practice. History was great fun this week as we explored how people in the Iron Age might have traded and bartered. The children had the opportunity to experience this for themselves, negotiating and exchanging items just as people may have done

thousands of years ago! To finish the week on a high note, everybody was treated to a wonderful performance of *A Harvest Tango*. It sounded fantastic and it was lovely to see the children enjoying the music and performing with such enthusiasm. Well done, Year 3, on another fantastic week!

Year 4

In maths, we co-created the Rules of Rounding, investigating how to round 4-digit numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 while using our understanding of place value and multiples to explain our thinking. We also continued developing our time-telling skills by converting between 12- and 24-hour clocks. In English, we consolidated our writing skills through descriptions of prehistoric animals, revised inverted commas, finished reading Grimwood and began planning our own stories inspired by the book. In art, we explored how drawings can communicate ideas and brought the Bronze Age to life through role-play. Working as archaeologists, we analysed evidence from daily life in a Bronze Age settlement and felt as though we had stepped back in time on the school field. In science, we created models of the water cycle to demonstrate evaporation, condensation and precipitation. In PSHE, we explored respect and the importance of good manners in everyday interactions. Thank you to families for continuing to support time-telling practice at home.

Year 5

Year 5 has had another busy yet productive week. We completed our final write up of a chosen scene from *Cloud Tea Monkeys* and the class have been practising their songs in preparation for today's Harvest Assembly. In maths, the class has been exploring column addition and subtraction with 4 and 5 digit numbers. In English, the class completed their write ups of *Cloud Tea Monkeys*, remembering to include figurative language, prepositional phrases and expanded noun phrases. They also focused on organising their writing into paragraphs. In science, we had a go at dissolving a sugar cube and explored what happens when the temperature of the water is increased. Finally, in history, the class looked at the roles of women during World War Two. They also wrote diary entries, pretending to be evacuees and describing their new lives away from their family members in the countryside. Well done for a hardworking week, Year 5!

Year 6

Swimming is a big part of Y2 and up. Every Wednesday this term Y6 do it at the Leys swimming pool. There are three groups and it's for 60 mins. The first session you have to swim 25 metres to show what level you should be

in. The next few are just building on your technique, the 2nd to last you bring some clothes in to prove you can swim in them. The final session could be playtime. On 7 October, we had a rugby tournament with 12 different schools (2 didn't arrive) and we came 3rd! We played schools like Milton Road and St Matthews.

By Oscar and Evan

PTA news

The next PTA meeting will take place at 1730 on Tuesday 13th October.

We will be electing a committee on this date.

Positions up for election:

Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

If anyone would like to stand for one of these positions please email:

Newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com

Community news

Family orienteering day

Family orienteering

Saturday 17th Oct 1-3pm,
Lammas Land & Coe Fen, Cambridge



An easy, fun way for juniors and families to try orienteering. Three different courses and friendly advice to get you started. Family groups £5; U21s £3

More info at www.waoc.org.uk

Indian dance workshop

Indian Community Waterbeach
cordially invite you and your family to the

ICW Garbhotsav 2026

Date and Time
17.10.2026 | 4:30-8:30PM

Place:
The Studio, Waterbeach Barracks, CB25 9PA

Live DJ! Dandiya Dance Workshop by SNC | Henna Tatoo! Indian Street Food Stall

Illustrations of people in traditional Indian attire dancing and playing musical instruments are at the bottom.

Indian Community Waterbeach
Celebrate the festive spirit of Navratri with rhythm, devotion, dance, and joy. Bring your family and friends for an unforgettable evening of traditional music and dance.

Ticket Price
Adults & children (13 yrs +) : £8
Children 5-12 years : £5
Children under 5 : Free

Registration

<https://www.ticketsource.com/icw>

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Illustrations of people in traditional Indian attire dancing and playing musical instruments are at the bottom.

Scouts community food drive

For Halloween this year, the Newnham Scout group will be spending the evening collecting food donations for the homeless and those in need (for both Jimmy's Cambridge and the Cambridge Food Bank), rather than getting sweets for themselves. We are seeking donations from the Newnham community. Please note that we can only accept non-perishable, ambient food that is in-date. In mid-October, orange leaflets will be placed through the letterbox in our collection zone (roughly described as Barton Road, the area south of Barton Road, Barton Close, and the Gough Way area).

We will collect donations between 18:00 and 20:00 on 2nd November. Please attach the leaflet to your donation and leave it visible from the road, or attach the leaflet to your door or window if you prefer us to knock to collect donations. Between 18:00 and 20:30, we will accept donations dropped off at Newnham Scout and Guide HQ, Chedworth Street, CB3 9JF.

For more information, please see <https://www.newnhamscouts.org.uk/community-service/trick-or-eat> or contact trick-or-eat@newnhamscouts.org.uk.