



# Newnham News

Friday 18 December 2020

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

- Letter from Liz Robin
- 12 Tips for a Waste Free Christmas
- School menu
- Clubs list for Spring term

Dear Parents and Carers

Well, we've made it this far relatively unscathed. Thank you to all of you for supporting the school so brilliantly by following our Covid measures and simply just being there for your children to give them the emotional support they deserve at this unsettling time. We can now start to look forward to what will hopefully be a downhill journey back to normality from here on in. We've coped really well as a community with all that has been thrown at us so far and I'm confident that we'll see this through now successfully.

Attached to this newsletter is a letter to you all from Liz Robin (Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough) reminding everyone of the need to stay protective and safe during the Christmas break.

Hopefully those of you who are in receipt of Free School Meals should have by now been sent your vouchers for over the holiday season. If you've not been sent them then please let me know as soon as you can.

I also hope that all of you Reception and KS1 parents received the link to the KS1 Christmas production yesterday. We hope that you enjoy the children's performance, although it remains such a shame that this could not be done in front of a live audience (one day soon this will again be a thing we can do).

I'll just wish you all a merry Christmas, a happy holiday, but above all a safe time with your families and those you care about. We will see you in the New Year, where we'll continue to strive to keep your children happy, safe and well educated in this crazy, crazy world. Here's looking towards a great 2021.

## **LATEST Information for those travelling abroad over Christmas and regarding the new self-isolation periods**

You may well have picked up the news this afternoon that the self-isolation period is being reduced from 14 to 10 days from Monday. This will mean that any bubbles closing will now only close for 10 days rather than 14. This will also apply to those quarantining after travel abroad. I'm aware that some of you are taking holiday abroad during the Christmas holiday, and this will relate to you. I've previously mentioned the Test to release for international travel; the scheme whereby people can take a test after 5 days from leaving their travel destination and then return to work/school if that test is negative. This change would now reduce the quarantine period from 10 days to around 7 days once the results arrive. It remains the case that these tests still need to be privately arranged tests and cannot be NHS Track and Trace tests (which are not permitted to be used for this purpose). The cost of these tests is over £100 each in almost all cases, and

many are not allowed to be used on children. If you do follow the procedures (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel>) to take these tests then please inform the school on your arrival back into the UK of this, so we can arrange for your children coming back in on the correct day. If you are needing to quarantine your children for any period that falls in term time please notify us and we will authorise that absence.

## **News from Classes:**

### **Reception**

What a fantastic first term it has been. All the staff in Reception are so impressed with the class in every way; the team work, the focus and the fun and enjoyment. We are continuously amazed by their attitude toward school. Thank you to all of the parents and carers for your ongoing support and we wish you all the best for the holidays and look forward to seeing you again in the new year.

### **Reception/Year 1**

It has been a fun and festive last week in Reception/1. We have been making Christmas decorations, cards and focusing our writing around Christmas themes. Y1 completed some fantastic writing based on 'The Snowman' and reception used their growing phonic knowledge to complete some Christmas lists. We have been recapping various topics in Maths as well as keeping it fun with games of bingo and snakes and ladders as we are all tired in this last week, no doubt. I would just like to say a big thank you on behalf of all staff in Reception/1 for your kind words, cards and gifts at the end of this term. It has been an unprecedented, difficult term with lots of changes but your children have dealt with it extremely well and have worked really hard despite these changes. Please enjoy a wonderful Christmas break and New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back in January!

Mr Ellimouni, Mrs Cullen, Mrs Burke and Ms Jermyn

### **Year 1**

This week we watched 'The Snowman' and the children then re-wrote the story in their own words. They have been enjoying reading their stories in assemblies and to other staff members. We have also been learning about adding 's' or 'es' when making a word plural. In Maths we have been consolidating counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and looking at pictographs. The children have been busy painting and glittering their salt dough tree decorations. We also used chalks to draw polar bears for our Christmas cards, which all look amazing. Have a wonderful break, see you in 2021!

## Year 2

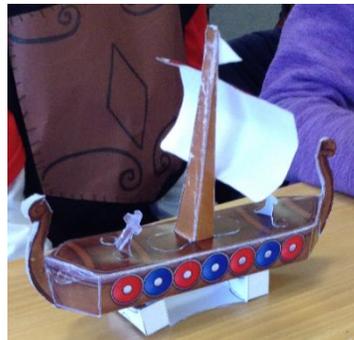
Year 2 have had a really busy final week and are sad to be saying goodbye to their pirate topic. This week's learning focus has been as follows: English - The children have worked really hard on completing their own pirate stories remembering to think about the structure of the story mountain (introduction, problems, resolutions and ending).

Maths - Children have enjoyed playing pirate games that involve coordinates. DT - All week the children have been busy finishing off constructing their pirate ships. This has involved the children using cutting, measuring and teamwork skills. I'm sure you'll agree that the results of all their hard work are really impressive. Below is a picture of the fleet for you to look at before it sails off to the Caribbean with Captain Goller for a Christmas break. Reading - This week we have enjoyed listening to 'Jolly Rodger' by Collin Naughton. Thank you for all your support with the children's learning over the term. Have a safe and relaxing break.



## Year 3

Year 3 have had another hardworking week, filled with lots of festive and topical activities to celebrate and mark the end of the autumn term. On Monday, Years 3 and 4 had 'Invaders Day' and everyone from both classes, including teachers dressed up as Celts, Romans, Anglo-Saxons or Vikings. Year 3 spent the day creating 3-D Longships (see picture below), axes and shields. The class also learnt some Viking songs and famous sagas. We ended the day by weaving using a variety of different coloured wool. The day was enjoyed by both year groups and Mrs Palmer and I were very impressed with the huge effort that had gone into the children's costumes and their enthusiasm around this topic.



We have also spent the week recapping fractions and learning how to work out fractions of amounts, including money. We concluded Maths this week by learning about right angles. The class had to work out which 2-D shapes contained right angles and which did not.

On Wednesday, Year 3 enjoyed singing *Jingle Bells* in front of the whole school, in the playground as part of the winter music assembly organised by Mrs Onatskaia. They also enjoyed listening to Reception, Year 1 and 2 singing songs from their filmed winter production and Years 5 and 6 singing *Jingle Bell Rock*. After the singing, the class really enjoyed their Christmas lunch, particularly the chocolate yule log. We ended the week by completing our Anglo-Saxon villages. The class worked in groups of 3 or 4 and used additional cardboard to create a base for their villages which was then painted green, some included a bit of blue to represent a nearby river. Year 3 placed their previously decorated houses onto the villages and used playdough, pipe cleaners, tissue paper, feathers and lolly pop sticks to create people, animals, vegetation and fences (see attached pictures). Overall, Mrs D'Oyly and I have been very impressed with the Year 3s hard work, perseverance and resilience this term. Well done all of you! Have an excellent and restful Christmas break Year 3.

## Year 4

We celebrated the end of our Invaders topic with some dressing up and the attention to detail in the children's costumes was amazing. Thank you for supporting your children with this important part of their education. We enjoyed practising for our class singing performance (with Year 3) of *Jingle Bells*, with some of us enjoying singing in small groups in front of the class. Well done to those people who took the challenge! Wishing all Year 4 families a happy, healthy and restful holiday.

## Year 5

In Maths, Year 5 have been looking at co-ordinates and plotting points in the first quadrant and then presenting the data from our science investigation in a bar chart. We had a last round of netball matches in PE, and presented a summary of our learning about WW2 in a variety of forms (poems, drawings, graphic novels, etc). Later this week we celebrated VE day together with Year 6 in the hall. We listened to Winston Churchill's speech marking Victory in Europe, heard poems and speeches, watched a short skit and finished off by dancing to 1940s music and eating Spam and jam sandwiches.

## Have an Eco Christmas!

Did you know that there are many ways that you can make Christmas greener? For example, if you always wrap your presents, then why don't you try putting them in a re-usable gift bag or wrapping them with tissue paper, which could then be used for paper mache. If you always dump your Christmas tree then why don't you give it to a company that could turn it into something useful. You could buy a gift voucher so people can buy their own gifts, because if you buy them a present they do not like then they might just throw it in the bin. The last thing you could do is make edible gifts; this is because people tend to throw away the packaging from toy gifts. Hope you use these tips to make your Christmas greener! *By Lola*

## Year 6

Year 6 have had a busy week again. In Science, we planned and carried out investigations to look at the effect of different types of exercise on our pulse rates. In Maths, we have been plotting coordinates (including fractions and for some children in all four quadrants) and solving problems. We have also been finishing the clocks we made in DT (below). In History, we have been learning about Christmas during WWII and made some of our own decorations using recycled toilet rolls. We also had our VE Day party to celebrate the end of the WWII project. We were impressed with the number of children from Year 5 and 6 who dressed up with a special mention to Mrs Cummins and her fantastic costume. There was some excellent dancing and lots of children enjoyed their Spam sandwiches. Some of Year 6 were rather disgruntled that they could not have their Christmas lunch in the hall as usual so everyone worked as a team to turn our classroom into a candle lit, festive, private dining room instead.



## School Meals

Attached to this newsletter is a menu for the first week back. At the moment we are uncertain of the impact of Brexit on our supply and delivery of foodstuffs. We will send out a three week menu once we know what is possible in the New Year. We have been told to expect shortages and supply issues and we will need to adjust our menus accordingly. We will still be adhering to the current food standards from January and beyond. Please be understanding if we need to change menus at short notice during this period. The cost of a school meal remains £2.40 per day.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, a copy of which can be found on our school website:

[www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk)

PTA website: <http://www.newnhamcroftpta.btck.co.uk/>

Yours faithfully,  
Andy Matthews,  
Headteacher

## PTA update

### THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising and virtual social events this term. You have helped us raise an enormous total to support learning at school. In total this term, **we raised almost £11,000!!!!**

With that, we were able to buy new interactive whiteboards for Years 4 and 5, as well as funding a History Off the Page day, and new water table resources for Early Years. We are now in a position to fund substantial new resources for next term too!

We couldn't have done it without all the parents and children who've bought from us and taken part in our events. We also couldn't have done it without the amazing support from businesses local to us in Cambridge - Maison Clement, The Meadows, The Pint Shop, Stazione, Parker's Tavern, and Cambridge Art. A huge thank you to the individual donors who gave very generously to the new screens in Years 4 and 5.

Last but definitely not least, our fundraising efforts simply wouldn't happen without all the people who give up their time to help run events and fundraising initiatives, and keep the PTA running. This also includes school staff such as Mr Matthews, Mr Ferguson, Mrs Bracey, Mrs Scott and Mr Jach, all of whom give up additional time and energy to help make our fundraising ideas possible. Thank you all!

Christmas card project - £402.50

Individual donations towards Y4 and 5 screens - £5,500

Parent social - quiz - £110 (including donation from The Meadows)

Tea towels - £1,140

Mugs and coasters - £660

Christmas trees - £2,350

Raffle - £885

Don't forget that you can **help raise a little more** (at no extra cost to you!) with your last minute festive shopping:

Easyfundraising: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/newnhamcroftpta/?invite=>

[OGP301&referral-campaign=s2s&utm\\_source=refmailshare](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/newnhamcroftpta/?invite=OGP301&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_source=refmailshare)

Amazon Smile: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1102427-0>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - we're looking forward to lots of PTA fun next term too!

If you're not getting our updates on Classlist and want to sign up, here's the link: <https://classlist.page.link/fNHrsPAEqQEwpbqJA>

The PTA Committee

## Community News

### Over & In Tennis Coaching

We have been appointed by the Cambridgeshire Lawn Tennis Association to deliver a performance tennis coaching program in Cambridge. Our first objective is to give more local children the opportunity to try the sport. Cambridgeshire has very few indoor tennis facilities and we feel that for young children to play tennis all year round, being indoors during the colder months will prove to be very popular. We are therefore starting two new sessions specifically for children in KS1. From the 13th January Over&In will be running Mini Tennis Sessions from 15:45 - 16:30 every Wednesday & Friday for children aged 4 - 7 years old (KS1) at Hills Road Sports Centre, CB2 8PF. The 10 week term up until Easter is available to book via the link below. There is no experience required and all equipment can be provided. [Introduction To Tennis Program](#)