



Newnham News

Friday 20 March 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Every day in school, we have examples of the challenges of being a parent and of parenting.

How to set firm boundaries with kindness, how to reassure while building resilience, how to guide and protect while allowing agency.

One of the biggest conundrums is the disparate balance of short term vs long term. Yielding in the short term for peace and quiet, but in so doing embedding an inability to regulate, to hear “no” and to deal with setbacks.

I make no criticism with this - my experiences with my own children have put me firmly in a glass house. But having seen hundreds of examples of children’s behaviour and the links to parenting styles, it is a helpful generalisation to observe that parents who mistake giving their children what they want for what is best for them, have the far, far harder journey through parenthood. More importantly, the children have a far, far harder journey through childhood.

Those hard yards through the sulking and stamping pay golden dividends in the long run. If one doesn’t go through the initial tears and tantrums, if the child’s sense of agency exceeds their emotional development, it becomes more and more difficult for that child to manage disappointment and regulate themselves - to the detriment of all involved.

As I said in a previous message - hard work, this parenting lark!

However, the sun is shining and spring is in the air, so have a very lovely weekend.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y5/6 science lecture		Mon 23 Mar
Y3/4 performance	5.30pm	Mon 23 Mar
Y2 Botanic trip		Tues 24 Mar
Year 5 swimming		Tues 24 Mar
Y3/4 performance	1.30pm	Tues 24 Mar
Reception forest school		Fri 27 Mar
Y1 forest school		Fri 27 Mar
Last day of term		Fri 27 Mar

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

Whole school news

Science morning

British Science Week ran from 8–15 March, and schools across the UK took part in activities exploring this year’s theme: *Curiosity – What is your question?* At Newnham Croft, two scientist parents delivered inspiring assemblies.

Professor Marta Correia, an MR physicist and Head of the MRI Facility, shared data collected from each class about the children’s scientific interests, showing that space was the most popular topic. She explained how she organised the data to draw conclusions and answered many of the children’s questions, which were later shared with teachers.

Professor Jeanne Salje, Assistant Professor in Pathology and Biochemistry, presented her latest research on fluorescent cell markings and similar features in sea creatures. Newnham Croft pupils were the first to see this exciting discovery, which they greatly enjoyed.

On Monday 16 March, the whole school took part in a morning of science challenges. Working in house groups, children designed boats from foil or card to test how much weight they could hold, and created parachutes to protect a playdough “egg” when dropped from a height. Throughout the activities, children were encouraged to

stay curious and reflect on the idea that great scientists ask great questions.



School Meals

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

Classroom news

Reception

This week, the children have been making the most of the beautiful sunshine while exploring 3D shapes. They thoroughly enjoyed going on a shape hunt around the school grounds, as well as creating their own models and confidently naming the shapes they used. In English, the children have been writing thoughtful letters to the cats from the story *Is There a Dog in This Book?*, offering advice on how to care for their dog and keep it happy and healthy. In PE, we have been focusing on developing core and upper body strength through a range of activities, including climbing and balancing, which the children approached with great enthusiasm.

Year 1

In Year 1 this week, we have been exploring the exciting world of performance poetry! Using Julia Donaldson's *Food Train* poem as our inspiration, the children created their own imaginative poems. We focused on rhythm, helping us to read our poems with expression and flow, just like a train chugging along the tracks. We also explored alliteration, choosing words with the same starting sounds to make our poems fun and memorable. The children loved performing their poems aloud, using their voices and actions to bring their ideas to life.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 has been working hard completing their assessments. In English, they used commas in a list and practised writing questions and exclamations with correct

punctuation. In science, they investigated how light affects plant growth and learned about plant life cycles through labelled diagrams. In history, we researched Amelia Earhart and wrote eyewitness accounts of her landing in Northern Ireland. In DT, the children carefully stitched the two pieces of their pouches together and began cutting out their chosen decorations, showing great focus and creativity. The children also enjoyed circuit training, giving it their all.

Reminder: our trip to the Botanical Gardens Tuesday 24 March. Please ensure your child arrives on time wearing suitable trainers. Showers are forecast, so a waterproof may be needed, though we're hoping for sunshine! Please also remember to make a payment of £5 on SchoolGateway, if you have not already done so.

Year 3

This week in maths, we have been weighing stuff and measuring. We've been learning how to measure things properly and read the measurements. In English, we have been writing instructions. We wrote story instructions, like "cross the busy road" or "go under the dark bridge". We started with shorter instructions and then made them bigger to get our final piece. We have also been very busy practising the play. We've done lots of practising and lots of singing, singing, singing! In PE, we played blind football and practised moving around safely while we play - except I walked into the cage fence! (*Charlie*)

By Jaein and Charlie

Year 4

In maths we tried out different addition and subtraction strategies. We have now planned our chocolate design and packaging in DT and are looking forward to making it next week. In English, we practised organising text into subsections with appropriate subheadings and learned why this is useful. We have also been very busy with our play rehearsals. Spellings this week are words ending in -tion.

Year 5

We've had a beautifully sunny penultimate week, enjoying our science morning and beginning to think about ideas for next term's play. In English, Year 5 has been busy finalising their arguments for their persuasive letters to Mr Ferguson, using parenthesis and relative clauses to expand on their ideas. In maths, we have been learning how to work with fractions involving tenths and hundredths, and how to convert these into decimals. In science, Year 5 compared the life cycles of birds and mammals, exploring the different stages such as juvenile and adult. We also looked at the life cycle of an amphibian and considered how climate change has impacted the population of a particular species of frog due to rising temperatures. In geography, Year 5 explored the impact that climate change

can have on the global population. Next week is our final swimming session, so please ensure that all Year 5 children bring their swimming kit and goggles if needed. Well done for a hard-working week, Year 5!

Year 6



Year 6 are currently on their residential trip at Hilltop Outdoor Centre.

PTA news

PTA Update

The PTA met on Tuesday, 17 March and discussed options for a Bonfire Night celebration and next steps for the playground renovation. We are looking for parents to volunteer with the playground renovation project; please see the attached letter.

The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday, 28 April at 6pm in the Y6 classroom.

Community news

School music festival

The Easter music festival will take place on March 27th in the school hall (4:30 - 5:30pm). It will feature a performance from the Newnham Croft orchestra followed by solo performances by the school budding musicians. Any child is welcome to perform. Please fill the following

form if your child would like to be included in the list of performers: <https://forms.gle/6C2ZfRDfecyE2PK76>

Cambridge Lawn Tennis Club Easter courses

See the attached file for information on Easter tennis courses.

Easter activities at Sandringham

See the attached leaflets for Easter fun at Sandringham.