



Newnham News

Friday 12 June 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I attended the Cambridgeshire Primary Heads summer conference on Thursday. Amongst the updates and data, there was a very uplifting speaker who shared many interesting thoughts about positivity and, crucially, how to use and apply those ideas to everyday life.

I will definitely be sharing them with the staff and children, as it is a wonderfully valuable skill to be able to pull yourself from the sometime-tyrannies of everyday life.

As a starting point, he showed us this, and asked us what we notice:

$$1 \times 1 = 1$$

$$2 \times 2 = 4$$

$$3 \times 3 = 9$$

$$4 \times 4 = 15$$

It is obvious, isn't it - the **15**? And he pointed out that this was generally always the answer. In all the many years that he has been speaking, no one in his audience has ever started with:

“Three of the calculations are correct.”

I found this quite powerful.

In light of this, I am not going to bemoan the rain - rather I am grateful that the plants and animals got the top up they needed!

I am also, though, going to hope you all enjoy the dry and occasionally sunny weekend ahead.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Open afternoon	3.15 - 4.00pm	Mon 15 June
Y3 swimming		Tues 16 June
Y4 swimming		Tues 16 June
Eat lunch with your Y1 child	12pm	Thurs 18 June
Reception forest school		Fri 19 June
Y2 swimming		Fri 19 June
Y4 trip to MAA		Fri 19 June
Y5 forest school		Fri 19 June

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

Whole school news

Chess club

Last Sunday, nine of our talented chess players who go to Mr Mitchell's chess club (Ariana B, Bertie U, Jinyan M, Jonah M, Max M, Max S, Oliver H, Philippos S and Uriel L) went to Perse Upper School to take part in the chess Megafinal. They played six matches against players from other schools in their age categories. All our players acquitted themselves well, but particular congratulations must go to Ariana, Bertie, Jinyan, Oliver and Uriel, who achieved the incredible feat of gathering enough points to progress to the Gigafinals in Surrey in July. This smashes the school's previous record of three Gigafinal qualifiers. We wish them the best of luck!

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

This week, Reception has been learning about sea creatures, labelling different animals and exploring why our oceans are so important. They have also discussed ways that we can help to protect our oceans and marine life. In maths, the children have been identifying and using both 2D and 3D shapes in a variety of activities. In PE,

Reception has been developing their coordination skills by learning how to skip with a rope.

Year 1

This half term in art, Year 1 is exploring watercolour paints. This week the children have been encouraged to play, experiment, and discover how the paints move and change as they work. We have focused on giving them time to explore freely, helping them to build confidence and curiosity as they begin to understand how colours behave. The children have enjoyed expressing their ideas in their own ways, making thoughtful choices and developing a sense of pride in their creative work.

Year 2

This week in English, Year 2 completed their poetry unit by creating poems inspired by *Everyday Wonders*. Working collaboratively in groups, the children generated phrases using adverbs and alliteration before bringing their ideas together to compose their final poems. We have also begun exploring our new superhero-themed book, focusing on reading and sequencing key events. In history, the children learned about the significance of special objects used during a coronation. In design and technology, they applied their knowledge of the different food groups to create a healthy, balanced menu. In science, we investigated natural and human-made materials and explored the process of paper making. In maths, the children have been practising their 3 times tables and using their multiplication facts to identify inverse number fact families. We have also started working with money, adding amounts to make exact totals and beginning to explore how to calculate change. Well done, Year 2, for another week of enthusiastic learning and hard work!

Year 3

It has been another busy week for Year 3. In maths, the children used number lines to add and subtract money and find change. In our English lessons the children really enjoyed writing Kennings poems about themselves and objects they are familiar with using a mixture of nouns and verbs. In our history session the children learnt about what life as an apprentice might have been like during the Tudor period.

Year 4

In maths, we converted between grams and kilograms and had a go at weighing various items around the classroom. We also practised representing data about weight on bar charts. In English, we compared and contrasted Malala Yousafzai and Greta Thunberg. We then practised using subordinating and coordinating conjunctions and began

planning our ideas for our persuasive letters on something we feel strongly about.

Year 5

Year 5 has had a very busy second week back. In maths, Year 5 has been exploring multi-step word problems and working out which operation is needed to solve each one. In English, we continued with the story *Birdsong*, and the class experimented with expanded noun phrases to describe some of the objects and elements of nature found in the story. They also recapped speech marks and considered what the dialogue in the story shows us. In geography, the class were introduced to our Local Area topic and began thinking about an inquiry they would like to investigate, such as: *Can traffic outside the school be a problem?* Lastly, Year 5 really enjoyed being back in the forest school area with Ms Bicknell, and we were lucky enough to have Ms Roberts join us too. Well done Year 5!

Year 6

This week, Y6 has been very busy working on their play and making their costumes. As Y6 are amazing, their play will be wonderful and they were magnificent at helping with the breakfast cafe on Friday morning. We are all very excited to see one of the longest plays in Y6 history! Also a group of children have been making the backdrop for our play. There were a few lucky Y6 members who went to the county netball tournament. We also managed to fit in a Michael Rosen poetry workshop about the Holocaust.

By Ava and Matilda

PTA news

PTA School Summer Fete - Sunday 5 July 2026 1pm - 4pm

Come one and all to the summer event of the year! Join our wonderful school community for this year's Summer Fete and enjoy good food, fun activities, and exciting raffle prizes.

To beat the queues, we're trying something a bit new this year to encourage as many of you as possible to book in advance. If you book online, tickets are £4 adult and £2 child. On the day it will be £5 adult and £3 child. As always, if there are any families needing support with buying tickets, please don't hesitate to contact the school office.

Raffle

Our ever popular raffle will be back. If anyone can offer any exciting raffle prizes, please do send an email to the PTA (newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com).

Many hands make a school summer fete

The success of the Summer Fete always depends on many helping hands, so please do put yourself forward to help with either setting up, scooping yummy ice cream, serving

food, playing bar tender, keeping an eye on the inflatable, or welcoming one and all at the gate. It is incredibly helpful to know in advance who can help out, so please do put your name down [here](#) as a volunteer.

Community news

Sheep's Green Learner Pool is there for you!

With the weather improving, why not head down to Sheep's Green Learner Pool after school one day? This lovely hidden gem, just a short walk from school, is often quiet during the week, making it a wonderful place to relax, cool off, and enjoy a swim. Perfect for children who have outgrown the paddling pool, the pool is 90 cm deep, making it an ideal place to build water confidence and start practising swimming strokes in a safe environment. The pool is open every day after school from 3.30pm–6.30pm and from 10am–6pm at weekends. Best of all, adults can have a dip too and entry is completely free! Find out more <https://sheepsgreen.wordpress.com/>

St Catherine's College Girls Choir

Have a look [here](#) for more information on auditions for Y3 and 4 girls for St Catherine's choir.

Korean Summer School



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Activities Kids For
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Cambridge 
Summer School
At Korean Church

 **21-23
AUG 2026**

www.cambridgekoreanchurch.com
For more info : please contact
cambridgekoreanchurch.uk@gmail.com

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