



Newnham News

Friday 16 July 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Lunch menu
- Summer Tech Club

Dear Parents and Carers

We've nearly made it to the end of this 'rather unusual' year, and fingers crossed that we can keep the virus from our door for another week. As this is the final newsletter of the year, can I take this opportunity to thank you for all you've done in supporting the school during all the difficulties of the past year, whether that be with home learning, or simply in supporting our Covid controls. We can now set our sights on a fresh year from September where we will be able to operate as normally as possible.

I'd also like to take a moment to thank the incredible staff team here, who have risen (once again) to every challenge the school has faced in delivering a great year for the children amid all that has been going on around them. They have delivered the children a supportive and engaging curriculum, and done so in such a positive and enthusiastic manner, trying where possible to provide a truly broad experience for them too. Not many children across the country will be able to say that they've enjoyed schools trips, residential trips, school plays, after-school clubs, inter-school sports, forest schools etc during the last year.

I'd also like to thank both the school governors and the members of the PTA, all of whom add so much to what the school is able to achieve. Their commitment and support has been so helpful this year, and will remain so in the year ahead.

This week we have continued to be able to provide some fantastic experiences for the children, from the wonderful and mysterious Year 6 play to the wildlife park trips for Year Rec/1 and Year 1. Next week we will see some celebrations for our departing Year 6 cohort and also an opportunity for your children to enjoy a sports day and meet their new teachers for the forthcoming year.

Also next week our sports teams (Year 6 football, Year 4 football and Year 6 netball) will be playing in a finals competition against Colville Primary here on Monday after school. We wish them all well in their matches.

From next year we will be adjusting the format of the school newsletter. We know that many of you have appreciated the class updates in the current newsletter format and that others among you will appreciate the return of the more familiar pre-Covid style newsletter. With this in mind, from September we will alternate the formats, one week sharing

whole school news stories, celebrating school events and sharing important messages. The following week will be an update from class teachers on the work in class during the past fortnight. We hope that this arrangement will meet the needs of everyone, keep everyone fully informed without impacting too much on school staff.

As the year draws to a close, we are sadly saying goodbye to some wonderful people. We are very sad to see Mr Ellimouni leave us. We wish him well in his move to London and for the start of his teaching career. We are all convinced that he will become a truly remarkable teacher, and that countless children will be able to enjoy his boundless enthusiasm, positive energy and remarkable skillset. He will be missed. With equal sadness we are saying goodbye to Veronica and Alan and all that they have done for the beautiful gardens around the school for a very long time. Over the years they've provided truly tremendous experiences for the children throughout the school. The outdoor feel of the school owes a great deal to them, and everyone who arrives here will be able to enjoy the vibrant environment they have created all around our site. They will both be greatly missed, but we all wish them well for a happy future. The school is arranging for a suitable tribute to all that they have done, which you will hear more about soon. This does leave a huge hole to fill in the running of the lunchtime gardening club. I know a couple of people have offered their services to help out, but if anyone else would like to contribute some time to work within a team of volunteers supporting the children in the development of their gardening skills, we'd love to hear from you. Please email me if you are interested.

We are also wishing Miss Wilson well for her upcoming marriage. We all hope that she has a truly memorable day.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful summer break. To the families moving on to pastures new, we'd just like to state how much we've enjoyed you being a part of the school during your time here. We wish you all the best for your travels and futures.

Reading Books

As we are approaching the end of the school year, reading books will not be sent home next week. Please return all reading books you have at home, including books that may have been sent home during the period of home learning.

Classroom Round-up:

Reception

We have been really challenging ourselves in Maths this week, with the children taking turns to be 'Maths Machines'. The children were able to choose the maths operation they wanted to carry out and answer questions. So, for example, one child told the class that they were a doubling machine and then the class could ask them doubling questions. Some were halving machines, others could count in 10s and yet others could count backwards and forwards. No batteries were needed to operate the machines! We have also been continuing to write our own minibeast stories and will be finishing this next week so you can enjoy them at home.

Reception/Year 1

It has been a very enjoyable week in R/1 which started with forest school. The class went on an investigation to find out how many different creatures live in the forest school area, and created some inviting shelters for any passing hedgehogs. In English, we have been thinking ahead to next year with our future teachers. Each of us wrote a letter to next year's teacher asking them a question about their class and detailing something that they would like to learn about next year. In Maths we have been learning about a variety of time words (now, later, before, after, first, etc) and how we can use them accurately. Keep an eye out to see if you notice any time words during your weekend. Finally, as a reward for achieving all of our 'smiley faces', the class have requested that we dress up on our final day, so R/1 will be having a dress-up day on Thursday. Have a fantastic weekend!

Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been finishing off our fact sheets on animals and trying to apply our neatest handwriting, as we are going to turn them into a class book. We have been doing investigations in Maths using coins. We are still working on plurals and the prefix 'un' in Phonics. In Art we have used pastels to draw a portrait of a male lion. On Thursday we had a fabulous trip to Shepreth Wildlife Park and the children amazed the staff with their knowledge of animals.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a great week and had lots of fun dressing up as dragons, knights and princesses on Thursday. In History the children learnt about what a Medieval banquet might have looked like. They designed their own menus based on the foods that might have been served at the time and compared them to a children's party menu in 2021. In English the children have continued to really impress with the story language they have used when writing their own dragon stories. In Maths the class have focused on problem solving and investigations involving number. In PHSE the children learnt about the names of different parts of the body for both boys and girls. In PE we continued to work on the activities that will be part of our Sports Day on Monday.

Year 3

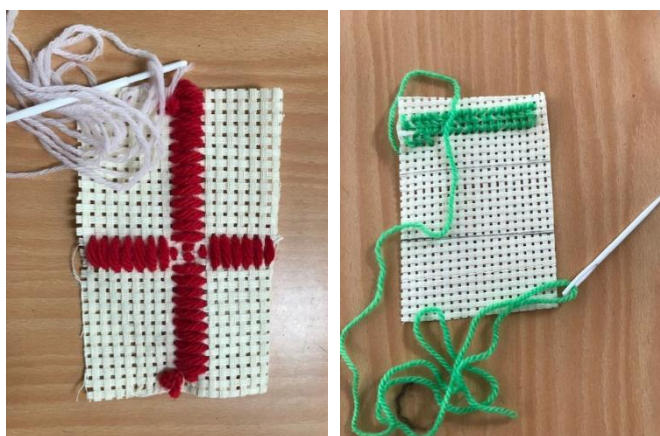
Well done Year 3 for a great penultimate week at school. On Monday, the class had Forest Schools and we spent the day building dens and roasting marshmallows over a fire. Mrs Bicknell, Ms D'Oyly and I were really impressed with how well the class worked together to build their dens. Each group worked as a team to collect sticks and branches and then place a tarpaulin over the top to construct their own personalised dens. Thank you Mrs Bicknell for a wonderful session. In English this week, we have been reading Roald Dahl's, *George's Marvellous Medicine* and the class wrote their own narratives based on a picture inspired by the book. One child wrote about how they had been transformed into a magical cat. In SPAG, we have been exploring the -ure suffix and the class discovered words such as 'pressure' and 'leisure.' In Maths, Year 3 have been revising time and they were exploring word problems and a few challenges which included start and end times of trains. In Computing, the class have been working on Scratch to create a story and some even turned their research of a European country into a PowerPoint presentation. In Design and Technology, Year 3 have painted and decorated their Norfolk Coast models.



In PE, the class have been practising their sporting activities for Sport's Day. Well done for a fantastic week Year 3!

Year 4

In Science, we researched information on habitat loss and environmental impact for a report we are writing. In Maths, we completed a coordinates challenge and learnt about different kinds of triangles (scalene, equilateral and isosceles). In English, we practised using paragraphs in fiction (new speaker, new line, new paragraph) and continued reading and discussing *The Iron Man*. In PSHE, we talked about why some basic personal hygiene routines are relevant. We have been working on a DT project (sewing flags of European countries on binca canvas) connected to our Topic. Everyone is concentrating very hard on improving their sewing skills. We have also been busy with P.E this week including rounders with Mr Pinnock and athletics with Mr West.



Year 5

It has been a week of percentages in Maths, finding ten percent (and therefore any other multiple of 10%). In Geography, we had a discussion about boundaries and borders (which encompassed finding out a little about communism), and then worked together to divide up a landmass, deciding whether the borders should run between religious groups, language regions or the geology of the land. Towards the end of the week, we looked at modal verbs and how they're used in advertising. In PSHE we looked at the physical and emotional changes girls and boys go through during puberty.

Year 6

This week has been dominated by editing scripts, preparing props, working on dances, speaking more slowly, speaking more clearly, speaking more loudly and practicing, practicing, practicing. Luckily, all the work came together on the Thursday evening, and we put together a very enjoyable evening's entertainment. Our Friday has been spent designing and implementing a business project, which has been brilliant.

Brass instrument lessons from Cambridgeshire Music

Our brass teacher, Janet Wyndham-Hall has space to recruit some new BEGINNER brass players in the autumn term September 2021, this includes cornets, trumpets, baritones, euphoniums, trombones, tenor horns and French horns and maybe tuba! All fun blowing instruments! If you want to learn to read music and gain the skills needed to play a brass instrument please contact the music service, all details are on our website our email : cm@cambridgeshire.gov.uk and sign up for lessons on our website on a first come first serve basis, so don't delay! www.cambridgeshiremusic.org.uk

Violin Lessons

The violin teacher, Helen Gibbens, also has space for anyone interested in learning the violin. Please email her for further information helengibbens@gmail.com.

School Meals

The school lunch menu is attached. Next week will be week 4 of the 4 weekly cycle. The cost of a school meal is £2.40.

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

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

Yours faithfully,

Andy Matthews, Headteacher

Community News

Summer Tech Camp at the Heritage School – see flyer attached.

Newnham Football

Your parent-led local Saturday football group is due to return next term. To register interest please email Beth and Ece at newnhamssportsfootball@gmail.com by the end of July so we can work through group sizes and splits. All training is held at Newnham Primary School from 11.30am with professional coaches. Everyone welcome - perfect for kids wanting to play for the first time through to those keen to finely hone their skills! "