



Newnham News

Friday 13 February 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, Mrs Laughlin and I held our termly attendance meetings and reviewed the latest data for our pupils. We paid particular attention to children whose attendance is below 90%. To put this into perspective, 90% attendance means a child is missing roughly one day of school every two weeks. Over a year, that amounts to 20 days—an entire month of learning lost. The long-term impact of this becomes increasingly evident as children move towards secondary school and GCSEs.

Our intention in monitoring attendance is never to penalise families. While some schools issue fines, we prefer a supportive approach. We work closely with parents to help them understand what constitutes a genuine illness and the broader implications of absence. In our wonderfully international community, we know many families need to travel to visit relatives abroad. However, we must all balance these important family commitments with our shared duty to prioritise children's education.

We send letters—not fines—to keep families informed and to meet our legal responsibility to address attendance concerns. Beyond academics, regular attendance supports friendships, independence, wellbeing, and the routines children need for a successful transition to secondary school. Patterns of staying at home can become difficult to change later, so early support is essential.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Back to school	Mon 23 Feb
Year 2 forest school	Tues 24 Feb
Year 5 swimming	Tues 24 Feb
Eat lunch with your Y4 child	12.15 Thurs 26 Feb

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

Whole school news

British Science Week

I would be very grateful for any donations of egg cartons, plastic containers, plastic bags, tin foil, cardboard such as cereal boxes, and string. These materials will be used for fun science activities as part of British Science Morning on 12th March. If possible, please could items be brought into school during the week before British Science Morning. Thank you. Mrs Markham (science lead).

PINS

As you may know, we have been part of a PINS project this year, and your views were gathered before it began. We have been asked to get feedback again so that they can monitor the impact, from a parent/carer perspective.

The link is here: [PINS Survey Spring 2026 – Fill out form](#)

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu after half term will be Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

What a busy and exciting week we've had in Reception! The children have finished writing and illustrating their very own book, *The Naughty Night Bus*. We're so proud of their hard work and creativity, and you'll be able to read their wonderful story at the open afternoon next half term. In maths, we have been exploring weight. The children have been learning to use the language *heavier*, *lighter*, *heaviest*, and *lightest*, as well as investigating what these terms mean when using weighing scales. We also had great fun on Pirate Day! The children took part in a treasure hunt and made some fantastic discoveries. They are very excited to show you what they found — please help them practise learning their treasure at home.

Year 1

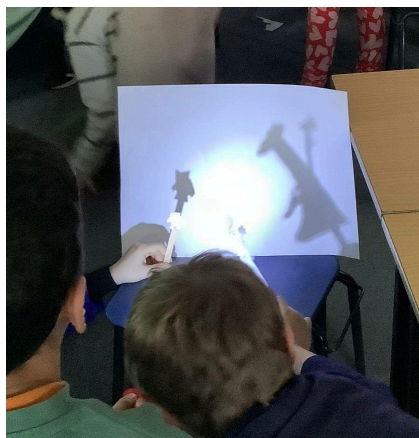
Year 1 had great fun taking part in a barn dance lesson as part of their *Hooray for Harvest* theme. The children explored simple movements, worked with a partner and moved in time to the music, helping to develop their coordination, balance and teamwork. Everyone joined in with great enthusiasm, showing great listening skills and teamwork. It was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they performed their dances, and they had lots of fun celebrating the theme through movement.

Year 2

What a fantastic last week Year 2 has had! They have continued to amaze me with their excellent poetry, writing poems in the style of *Hamster, Hamster* by Joseph Coelho. The children used wonderful similes in their writing, and some even used apostrophes for contractions correctly. In maths this week, we have continued learning to order times using digital and analogue clocks. We have also been exploring past and to the quarter hour. In science, we looked at the importance of exercise and personal hygiene. We had lots of fun using glitter to represent germs, which helped us see just how easily germs can spread! In geography, we took part in fieldwork, exploring which animals and plants we could find inside a hoop and recording our findings using a tally chart. I hope everyone has a well-deserved and restful half-term break. Great work this half term, Year 2!

Year 3

Despite feeling tired, Year 3 has had a really good final week. In maths, the children used bar models to find fractions of amounts. Later on, they used fraction walls to help them compare, order and add unit and non-unit fractions. In English lessons, the children really enjoyed compiling lists of adjectives and verbs for a chosen animal and turning them into calligrams. Lots of fun was had in science creating shadow puppet stories. In our final geography session, the children learnt how to set a compass and follow 8-point compass directions. Thank you to Chandy who came in to speak to us about Antarctica and also to parents who bought our topic books.



Year 4

This week we had an exciting visit from a scientist who has been to the Antarctic. It was so interesting to hear about

her research and the children asked great questions. In maths we have looked at multiples and factors and also learned to identify the properties of different types of triangle and 3D shapes. In English, we tried out using conversations and adding extra detail to interest the reader. In science, we compared which materials are electrical conductors and insulators. In geography, we learned to use compasses and created treasure hunts for each other using maps and compass points. In RE we found out about different things people may sacrifice for their beliefs. No spellings this week. Keep up the times tables practise.

Year 5

To end our final week of this half term, Year 5 finalised their mystery stories in English, had their fifth swimming session, and joined forces with the Year 6s to complete their unit on bridges in DT. In maths, Year 5 revised and built on adding and subtracting 4- and 5-digit numbers using their preferred column method (compact or expanded). In science, Year 5 explored sundials and satellites. In history, all children compared the achievements of Ranjit Singh and Sophia Duleep Singh. Well done on a very hardworking half term, Year 5!

Year 6

This week, Year 6 has had some brilliant last days to end the half term, including several Y6 girls attending the football tournament and a Lunar New Year assembly. Mr Ferguson said "I've been here for 15 years and never have I seen such a great assembly on the lunar new year". A training teacher working with Y6 is unfortunately leaving this week. We wish her an amazing career ahead. In music we have been exploring traditional songs from around the world. In maths, we are currently learning about multiplying and dividing fractions. In English, we have been reading a book called *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo and studying formal and informal sentence structures. In DT, we have been experimenting with different types of bridges such as a spaghetti truss bridge and some others.

By Joylin and Ziyuan

PTA news

Readathon

Please see further information and a flyer from the PTA regarding their upcoming Readathon.

Community news

Smartphone free speaker event

Please see the attached flyer for more information.