# Newnham News

**Friday 6 November 2026**

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:
Online safety
Topic overviews
Home learning ideas
NET donation link

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are definitely approaching the end of the building and roofing works. There are just a few final snags to sort out, and we are hopeful that the scaffolding will be removed next week, or very soon after.

This seems a good time to reflect on our new morning drop-off arrangements. From the school's perspective, they have been really positive. Staff have noticed that children are coming into the classroom more calmly, settling quickly and getting started with their learning much sooner.

We have always been conscious of losing the community feel at morning drop-off. Once the builders' compound has gone and the playground is fully open, I hope parents will feel more able to mingle and catch up.

Just to reassure everyone, parents of children in Years 2–6 are very welcome to come into the playground and chat. We simply ask that children go straight to class and that parents leave when the bell rings at 8:45am.

The two parent coffee mornings have also been popular, so we will continue with those over the year.

Once the compound has been removed, Reception will continue lining up as usual, with Year 1 joining them alongside, as before. We recognise how valuable this is to allow newer parents to build relationships with one another.

As always, we would really welcome any feedback about the new morning arrangements. Either drop us an email or speak to staff on the gate. We'd appreciate any thoughts you have.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Reception forest school | | Wed 11 Nov |
| Y6 swimming | | Wed 11 Nov |
| Year 1 forest school | *morning* | Fri 13 Nov |
| Year 4 forest school | *afternoon* | Fri 13 Nov |
| Children in Need dance | 3.05pm | Fri 13 Nov |

Please check the school calendar on our website, which is updated regularly.

### Whole school news

**Remembrance Day**
We have paper poppies for sale in school, with all proceeds going to the Royal British Legion. Y6 will visit each class on Wednesday 11 November and children will have a chance to buy a poppy, so if you would like to donate, please send your child in with a coin on that day.

**Dance for Children in Need**
We are learning a dance for Children in Need - see here for more details: https://www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/schools/strictly/
Come to school for 3.05pm on Friday 13 November to see the children perform the dance in the playground. Donations can be made here or by using the QR code:

**Reception and KS1 festive performance**
The festive performance for Reception and KS1 will be on Tuesday 15 December at 2pm and Wednesday 16 December at 9.30am. Each family will be given 2 free

tickets, and you can collect from the office from Tuesday 10 November, selecting your preferred performance.

**School Meals**

The menu is attached and online. The menu after half term is Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.90.

**Classroom news**

**Reception**

This week in Reception, we enjoyed our very first Forest School session, and the children were absolutely amazing! We had a wonderful time exploring the outdoor environment, measuring giant footsteps and searching for sticks for the fairies to use to build their magical houses. The children carefully compared the sticks and worked together to put them in size order. This linked beautifully




with our maths learning in the classroom, where we have been exploring measuring length. We also had lots of fun measuring the lengths of different animals in the playground. We even tried to stretch the whole class out to see if we could measure the length of a blue whale – but we discovered that even with all of us together, we weren't quite long enough! It has been wonderful to see the children exploring, comparing and putting their mathematical skills into practice through fun, hands-on activities. What a fantastic start to our Forest School adventures!

**Year 1**

Year 1 has been getting to know their coins in maths. We have been learning to recognise 1p, 2p, 5p and 10p coins and understanding how many pennies each is worth. The children have enjoyed handling and sorting the different coins, as well as practising adding two coins together to work out their total value. We are becoming more confident at recognising coins and counting our money. Now it's time to sort coins in purses, wallets and money boxes at home or even use them in the shops to pay for the shopping.

**Year 2**

This week in Year 2, we have been exploring non-fiction texts in English, identifying their features and comparing different non-fiction books. We began reading about the Big Blue Whale, gathering key information and exploring new vocabulary before creating our own glossaries for our class book. In maths, we used number facts and number bonds to 10 to solve addition and subtraction calculations, before beginning to explore bridging through 10 using number lines. In science, we explored the characteristics of living things. In history, we started investigating how schools have changed over time and, as a class, wrote questions we would like to answer by the end of our unit. In art, we explored different drawing techniques using a range of materials. In computing, we used digital devices to take photographs and enjoyed playing Photography Bingo. In gymnastics, we revisited our previous skills and began practising teddy bear rolls and forward rolls. Well done, Year 2, for a fantastic first week back!

**Year 3**

Year 3 has returned from the half-term break full of enthusiasm and ready for another exciting week of learning! In maths, we began the week by exploring how to use the inverse operation to solve missing number problems. Later in the week, the children put their knowledge of number bonds to 10 to good use, using this to help them find complements to 100. In English, we enjoyed listening to a range of poems by Michael Rosen, as well as *The Magic Box* by Kit Wright. The children began thinking about the autumnal objects they might like to include in their own magical boxes and explored how to bring their ideas to life through descriptive language, using all five senses. There was plenty of excitement in science as the children investigated forces through some hands-on experiments. They explored how different forces could be used to move a ping-pong ball, with lots of fun, curiosity and scientific thinking along the way!

**Year 4**

Year 4 launched into the term with a Maths Museum where they worked in pairs to create an exhibit that showed various ways to represent multiplication facts. They then were guides and visitors that explained their representations and reasoning and asked questions about each exhibit. There was a great buzz in the classroom as the interactive displays came alive with the children's mathematical understanding! We also jumped back in time as rumours spread that the Romans are coming! We had a tribal council to debate the best course of action and we began to think about how life might change after the Roman invasion. In maths, we learned how to present data in bar charts and pictograms. In English, we

finished writing and editing our Grimwood short stories which concludes our Grimwood topic. In science, we learned about the human digestive system and what each component is responsible for. We also really enjoyed our first forest school session of the year.

**Year 5**

It has been lovely welcoming Year 5 back and hearing all about their half term. We have been introduced to our new topic, The Alps. This week, we spent time thinking about what we would like to find out and sharing what we already know about the Alps. We also used atlases to locate the Alps and identify the surrounding countries. In science, we have been investigating hardness by using nails to scratch different surfaces. In English, we have started our new module on biographical writing and have been learning about the life of Mary Anning. In maths, we have been learning how to divide numbers where the answers include remainders. We have also learnt how to convert remainders into fractions. Well done, Year 5, for a brilliant first week back!

**Year 6**

In Year 6 we are learning about the Alps, which is really interesting. There are 8 different countries which the Alps go through such as France, Italy, Austria and more. In English we've been reading a new book called *Clockwork* which also has to do with the Alps. In maths we have been converting fractions into decimal. In PE we have started playing tag rugby which is an amazing sport.

*By Noa and Janhvi*

**PTA news**

Saturday 7th November 1700-1900
Bonfire Night Barn Dance and Disco

The PTA is delighted to be offering an energetic Bonfire event this year, in lieu of our usual fireworks display.
The Magogs Ceilidh Band will be in the hall, instructing adults and children in the art of the Barn Dance (much easier and less scary than it sounds!). Meanwhile, our resident DJ Yvette will be in the community room, serving up some absolute bangers (there had to be some nod to the fireworks) for just the kids (sorry!), who will be given year group slots to attend. The playground will cater to all your mulled wine and hot chocolate needs, with sausages and burgers from Clark and Son's as well as vegetarian and vegan options. We are also excited to offer two LED fire dancers, who can be found from 1800 in the playground area, as well as a series of bin fire bonfires, to warm your hands and your marshmallows.

All welcome, excited to see you there.
The PTA

The PTA AGM is on Thursday 19 November at 17.30.

**Community news**

**Fossils Galore Museum in March**
Tickets here:
https://shop.fossilsgalore.com/nigel-marven-event-early-bird/



Martial Arts and Cheerleading Classes

