



# Newnham News

Friday 27 November 2020

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

- Letter to parents re Covid
- Alert Level Information sheet
- Pret-a-Portrait photo orders

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a great week here in school, with the children completely deflected from the matters of the outside world with some enjoyable learning across all the classes. Obviously things will be changing a little from next week as we return to Tier 2 of the tiered model. Rather than take up too much space here on Covid related matters, I'll address all of those changes in a separate letter (attached).

Our week started on Monday with a Zoom assembly with the Cam Sight charity, where the children heard about the wonderful work they do for the blind and partially sighted people of Cambridge. To support them we will be having a simple fundraiser next week on Tuesday 1 December. We are asking children to come into school wearing something purple (purple is the colour of the Cam Sight charity); this could just be one thing or a whole outfit and donate £1 to this worthwhile cause.

Families also enjoyed the Zoom music festival on Wednesday where many children performed pieces they have been learning on a variety of instruments. Others of you sent me video clips of your children playing musical instruments which will be shared in assemblies next week. Please note the clips will be deleted after the assemblies have taken place.

Your children might also have come home talking about the '50 things to do at Newnham before you leave' project. This is a PTA project but we are asking for ideas and contributions from the children at the school. There is now a post box on the school gate to collect ideas that the children have. If they have written any out at home please use this box to send them in rather than pass them to teachers.

Alongside everything else, the children have been busy designing posters to support the United Against Bullying campaign. These have now been submitted to Cambridge United who will judge the competition and hopefully some of our excellent posters will win some prizes. It did highlight to me just what a supportive and caring group of children we have all the way through the school. It is clear that everyone at Newnham remains united against bullying all the time.

As we start to enter the Advent season the children will be wanting to send each other Christmas cards or other seasonal greetings cards. Obviously this will need to be done slightly differently to normal this year, and the measures we will be using are explained in the attached letter. We are all now looking forward to focusing on a wonderfully festive end of term period.

## Rec/KS1 Christmas Production

Please see the attached letter for details of how this will be delivered this year.

## Flu Vaccinations

A reminder that the NHS school immunisation team will be in on Monday 30 November to administer flu vaccinations to those children who signed up but were not in school when the team came earlier in the month.

## Pupil Photographs

Pupil photos can still be ordered from Pret-a-Portrait. Please see the flyer attached to the newsletter.

## News from Classes:

### Reception

In Maths this week we have been counting in two's, which we call 'clever counting'. We counted pairs of socks, hands, pairs of eyes and 2p coins. In fact, anything that comes in twos! We really liked this song which helped us practise: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JyCr0lgbYcl>.

We also looked at odd and even numbers. In phonics we have learnt the new phonemes 'ck', 'e', 'u', and 'r'. 'ck' is a digraph, which is two letters that makes one sound and this particular digraph is never used at the beginning of a word. The other phonemes we already know are: s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, and k. We have also been learning to recognise the tricky words 'I', 'no', 'go', 'to' and 'into'. Can you spot these phonemes and words in your reading books? In writing we have started to write simple sentences, emphasising the importance of finger spaces between words.

### Reception/Year 1

This week in R/1 we have been busy creating our own imaginative stories. Reception used storyboards to create theirs and Year 1 composed theirs through drawings and then adapted these drawings into sentences: Lots of dragons, unicorns and monster stories. If you would like to keep practicing and reinforcing the phonics we have been doing at school, Reception have learned the digraph 'ck', 'u', 'e' and 'r'. They have also been learning the tricky words 'to', 'got', 'get' and 'the' and creating fantastic sentences. Year 1 have been learning the alternative sounds for 'er' and 'ch' and applying them into their reading and writing. Maths has been fun and very practical this week with Reception focusing on shapes and Year 1 on measure. Reception had the chance to create some shape aliens whereas Year 1 got to make and use spring scales using elastic bands.

**A note on Google Classroom:** All Year 1 accounts are functional and you should have access via the address sent out last week, so please at some point log in and familiarise yourself with the layout (touch wood, we won't need it). Reception will not need to access Google Classroom; In the event of a closure of our bubble we will be using Tapestry to upload work, send zoom links and communicate. You have all accessed this so far so this saves any additional hassle. Have a great weekend!

### **Year 1**

This week Year 1 have been learning about multiplication, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and looking at counting arrays. In History we have been looking at timelines and when our explorers were alive. A reminder that Year 1 have outdoor PE every Wednesday so please ensure your child is appropriately dressed for the cold weather.

### **Year 2**

It's been lovely being back in school this week. The children have settled back in well and I have been really impressed with their attitude to their learning. In Maths we have represented data in Tally Charts and Bar Charts and answered questions about them. In English we have worked on identifying proper nouns and editing and improving sentences containing them. In Phonics the class have again been recapping and working on all of the phase 3 phase 4 and phase 5 phonemes using Phonics Play and identifying and writing sentences with words containing them. Spellings – we have worked on words beginning with 'kn'. We also looked at the rules for adding -es to verbs ending in 'y' – cry – cries. We completed reading the story of Pirate Grace and also used 'Treasure Island' by Robert Louis Stevenson to look at proper nouns. I have been really impressed in Art with the cutting skills and creativity shown in the children's collages of Longstone Lighthouse (Grace Darling's home). In History/PE we looked at the footballing life of Diego Maradona. I particularly loved the comment, "wow, he's really good". We also had lots of fun playing pirate games and working on our team working skills.

### **Year 3**

We've had a very busy week which has been nicely rounded with our first session of Forest School. In English, Year 3 have continued with their work on forms of narrative writing by learning more about the format, common themes and characters found within fairytale stories. To this end, we read *Hansel and Gretel* and talked about how this story compares to last week's fairytale *Little Red Riding Hood*. The class noticed how both stories included child protagonists who are sent on a journey and then tricked by the antagonist character, and also that both stories are set in the woods. We finished the week with the class writing their own version of *Hansel and Gretel*, including one where the children are elephants and instead of finding a gingerbread house, the elephants find a trunk of gold. We have also been looking at the prefixes "im-" and "ill-" in our SPAG sessions. The children

enjoyed the "im-" prefix, especially learning the interesting new word "immoveable." In Maths, we have spent the week learning about time and converting analogue to digital time. We then moved on to explore time word problems. In History, our work on the Anglo-Saxons has continued to excite and intrigue the children. This week we have been exploring Anglo-Saxon occupations, including farming, blacksmithing and pottery making. We then explored the early Anglo-Saxons Pagan beliefs. The children were fascinated with how superstitious the Anglo-Saxons were and where interested to hear about that their spells and charms. In Science, as part of the Sound topic, we have been exploring how sound travels in waves and that loud sounds create larger amplitudes and smaller sounds create smaller amplitudes. In P.E, we have continued with hockey and the class have begun playing small games. Lastly, we have begun designing and creating an Anglo-Saxon village as part of our Design and Technology sessions this term. An interesting and productive week! I want to remind Year 3 that next Friday morning Cross Country Club will begin.

### **Year 4**

In English, we edited and improved our writing on characters using a WAGOLL - What A Good One Looks Like, (in this case, good examples from the class's work). We also wrote funny dialogue between characters including riddles, making sure that we used the right rules and punctuation for writing direct speech and practised writing with suspense using adverbs. In Maths, we focused on two ways of dividing (sharing and grouping) and explored different ways of representing division. This will help towards the children developing their own strategies for dividing larger numbers. In our fractions work, we learned about 1/10s and decimals. In Science, we investigated which animals' ears are best and why. In Topic, we learned about the Anglo Saxon king, Ethelred II, who paid the Vikings (Danegeld) in an attempt to stop them from raiding Britain. The Vikings quickly realised they would be paid more coins every time they attempted to invade Britain. We read Rudyard Kipling's 1911 poem about Danegeld and thoroughly enjoyed acting out the poem to the class in small groups and writing new verses for the poem.

"They took and stole  
And swung their axes  
And though the Brits disagreed  
They were forced to pay taxes!" (Nefeli and Aya)

In Art and DT, we finished our dragon collages and enjoyed an outdoor craft session with Mrs Bicknell, making felt balls out of sheep's wool.

### **Year 5**

Year 5 started the week by producing leaflets on the World War 2 research they carried out in the ICT suite, before moving onto researching and designing a board game based on their knowledge about the circulatory system. In Maths we looked at choosing between mental and written methods of

addition and subtraction, including working with decimal numbers. Later in the week Year 5 have been doing some letter writing linked to their story, spending time editing their work. For our work on Hinduism, Year 5 have looked at how Hindu's worship.

## Year 6

*Written by Nelly and Ya'ara on behalf of Year 6:*

Year 6 are back at school - YAY! This week, we mostly had ICT and dance. In ICT, we were working on scratch projects and learning new code. We also chose our own area of WW2 to research. Meanwhile, in dance, we've been learning dance routines to the song 'Good Times' to enter in a virtual Schools Sports Partnership Dance Competition. We also managed to fit in some Maths and have been practising subtraction and investigating problems.

## School Meals

The school lunch menu is week 2 of the new 4 week cycle. The cost of a school meal is £2.40 per day.

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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk)

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

Yours faithfully,  
Andy Matthews, Headteacher

## PTA Update

### Booklet of things to do before you leave Newnham Croft

Your child may have talked to you about the new PTA project to create a booklet of 'Things to do before you leave Newnham Croft', which they were told about in assembly this week. The idea is to create a booklet like the National Trust '50 things to do before you're 11 ¾', but for Newnham Croft children. We want your children's ideas about fun cheap or free ideas, ideally enjoying the outdoors or the local area. Children can draw their idea, write it down, send a picture of themselves doing the activity, or draw a map, then post their contribution in the special post box that will be on the gate from Monday. Classlist Emily Cleevely if you have any questions. We hope to make the booklet for purchase in the Spring.

### Activities coming up this term

Activities and updates are announced via Classlist. If you have yet to sign up, use this link:

<https://classlist.page.link/fNHrsPAEqQEwpbqJA>

### Last chance to order Christmas Trees and Wreaths

If you haven't yet ordered your Christmas tree, please do so by **10pm tonight** [www.bit.ly/NewnhamTree](http://www.bit.ly/NewnhamTree). Unfortunately late orders cannot be accepted. Thank you to everyone who has ordered so far.

### Tea towels & tote bags now in

If you ordered any tea towels or bags, please look out for them coming home over the next few days. We hope you love them as much as we do! We were sent a **few extras**, so if you missed out first time and would like to get your hands on one, please drop Dani ([dani@meephone.com](mailto:dani@meephone.com)) an email.

## Extended deadline:

### Gorgeous Mugs, Coasters and Puzzles

The deadline has been extended! Please place orders by Monday 30th November for delivery before the end of term.

[www.bit.ly/NewnhamMugs](http://www.bit.ly/NewnhamMugs).

### Videos of music performances for assembly

Next week (w/c 30th Nov)

there will be opportunities

for videos of children playing an instrument to be shown in assembly. If your child would like to have their video shown in their class assembly, please send the video to the office at [office@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk) by Monday.

### End of term raffle

Tickets are available for purchase for the PTA end of term raffle. <https://go.rallyup.com/newnhamwinterraffle/H6YFSU>

Prizes:

- £50 voucher for home delivery from The Pint Shop
- Christmas afternoon tea for two at Parker's Tavern
- wonderful art inspiration box from Dot Kids
- vouchers for our local shops
- fantastic hamper full of luxury items

Please encourage family and friends to buy as many tickets as possible to support school. The raffle will be drawn in the last week of term, at a virtual hot chocolate and winter-themed event for the whole school. Tickets are priced slightly differently this year, starting at £5 for 10 entries (but you may buy as many as you want!!). This is because we are using the free RallyUp platform and have to work within the restrictions they place on minimum number of entries per purchase. All sales and prize draw will happen online.

### End of term virtual hot chocolate [date TBC]

In the last week of term, the PTA invites everyone in the school community to get together for a virtual hot chocolate. We'll draw the raffle prizes, read a wintery story and share a hot drink.

### Donations for school when you shop online

The PTA now has an account with Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising. As you're doing your shopping, retailers will add - at no extra cost to you - a donation to the PTA for each purchase made via the link.

Easyfundraising:

[https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/newnhamcrofptpta/?invite=OGP3O1&referral-campaign=s2s&utm\\_source=refmailshare](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/newnhamcrofptpta/?invite=OGP3O1&referral-campaign=s2s&utm_source=refmailshare)

Amazon: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1102427-0>

