



Newnham News

Friday 30 April 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Letter from Jon Lewis
- School lunch menu
- Net leaflet

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sorry if aspects of my message this week sound a little like a broken record, but I really do need to remind parents of a couple of important issues.

Firstly, I need to remind everyone of the need to remain protective in all of our behaviours in relation to Covid. There has been a big increase in the local Covid data in the Cambridge area and the Local Authority are asking everyone to stay as protective as possible at the current time. I know that we are all looking forward to being able to relax restrictions, but we are not quite at that point yet. As a school we have been successful at keeping cases away from school and unlike many other local schools we have not needed to close bubbles recently. Attached to this newsletter is a letter from Jonathan Lewis from the Local Authority regarding this issue and I advise that you read what he has to say.

I'd simply like to remind parents to please keep social mixing to the government's guidance limits. To illustrate why this is important, a local school told me this week that one pupil's birthday party resulted in four bubble closures and over 100 children and families returning to remote education for two weeks. I'd genuinely hate to put both children and parents back in that position, but we do need your support in keeping all your children in school for the remainder of this term.

My second point regards the continuing issues with parking and dropping off at the top of Chedworth Street. We've had a few near misses over the past few weeks and it would be dreadful if it needed an actual casualty to make people think about keeping that space safe. Please do not drive into Chedworth Street in the mornings, as this is particularly disruptive. Equally, please don't park by the junction at the top of the road, as this creates a very dangerous situation where pedestrians, children on bikes and other drivers cannot see around this very busy junction. There is always lots of free parking a couple of roads away, so please use these spaces to park up or drop off if you need to.

I'd also like to let you know that we've had three applications for our vacant parent governor position, so an election will be held with ballot papers going out next Tuesday.

Sorry that this week's message sounds so negative. Have a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Classroom Round-up

Reception

This week we made turnip and carrot soup based on our Gigantic Turnip story sequence. We peeled, grated, boiled and blended the soup before we enjoyed it with a piece of fresh bread. Over the last two weeks, we have been creating observational paintings of fruit and vegetables, using water colour paints and here you can see Maja's wonderful pineapple. In Maths we have been 'estimating', which is a clever and close guess. The class are becoming really confident with finding missing numbers on the hundred square and reasoning why they think the missing number belongs in that space. In Phonics we recapped phase 3 and will be moving on to phase 4 from next week.



Reception/Year 1

This week in R/1 we have started familiarising ourselves with the traditional story of Jack and The Beanstalk. We have been performing this story using talk for writing which helps us to learn the necessary story language. In Maths we have been exploring the meaning of the word 'equal' and the corresponding symbol (=). Using this knowledge we have been looking at adding equal groups. Alongside our Jack and The Beanstalk learning, we have planted some beans of our own which we plan to study the growth of over time, as well as experiment with how different conditions may impact growth.

Could I please remind parents to check the school dinner menu in advance to ensure children are aware of the meals that will be being served that day.

Year 1

In Year 1 we have been learning the story of Jack and the Beanstalk using actions and story maps. We have set up an experiment to see how important light and water are to

growing plants and each child is hoping their bean will grow the tallest for our competition! In Maths we have been looking at equals (=) and what it means. On Wednesday the children took part in a Perform workshop where great fun was had by all. In PE we put our throwing and catching skills into a game of Three Tees Cricket.

Year 2

Year 2 have really impressed with their knowledge of castles this week. In English the children have completed writing their reports on different parts of a castle. In Spelling we focused on turning adjectives into adverbs by adding the suffix -ly (graceful to gracefully). In Grammar lessons the children looked at using the conjunction 'if' and explored what might happen if something else occurs. In Handwriting we have continued to focus on horizontal joins. In Maths the children have continued to count money in both pounds and pence and started to think about what coins they might need to pay for certain items. In Science the children thought about materials and their properties and what makes them suitable for certain uses. In Art the children continued to work on their drawings of the 'Castle and the Sun'. We started to think about how Paul Klee used colour and what is meant by the term 'contrasting'. In PE we continued to work on our tactical awareness when playing 'capture the flag' and our technical skills in cricket sessions with Mr Matthews. I hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy the glorious weather (hopefully!).

Year 3

Year 3 have had another very hardworking week. The class have continued working on *The Lion King*, practising singing the songs from the play and their dance routines as one of the animals. In English, we have finished reading *The Lion King* play and the class explored features of a play script. The class then went on to write part of play based on the BFG story. In SPAG (Spelling Punctuation and Grammar) the class worked on the u sound spelt 'ou.' They discovered words, such as 'enough' and 'courage.' In Maths, Year 3 have been adding and subtracting 2 and 3 digits, measuring the perimeter of 2-D shapes and working on the properties of regular 2-D shapes. In Art, Year 3 have continued working on printmaking. They used their polystyrene squares, containing their carved patterns and applied print screening paint to them and then printed the squares onto an A4 piece of paper. They look incredible! In Geography, we spent this week exploring the major rivers and mountains in Europe. The class learnt how the Volga River is the longest flowing river in Europe and the Danube River is the second longest river. Lastly in Science, Year 3 have been working on electricity and exploring electrical appliances. Well done for a brilliant week Year 3!

Year 4

In English, as well as practising the scenes for our play, we looked at how to use punctuation for writing dialogue and started work on information texts about musical

instruments. Science this week focused on reflecting what we learned about electrical conductors and insulators. Using our notes, we wrote our investigations up fully. In Maths, we practised multiplication and division facts and continued to learn about decimals. We looked at place value in decimal numbers, especially where to use zero as a place holder, and how to divide 1 or 2-digit numbers by 10 and 100. In R.E, we discussed pilgrimage and the reasons people might visit certain places. In Topic, we learned about the rivers and mountains in Europe.

Year 5

In Year 5 English, we have been looking at word classes (nouns, verbs etc.) and adverbials to help improve our sentence construction and ability to convey atmosphere and meaning. In Maths, we have been practicing using the column method of addition and subtraction, as well as adding fractions with related denominators. In Art, we've created watercolour backgrounds for our Monet-inspired water pictures and in geography/computing we have been designing presentations on interesting rivers from around the world.

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have learnt about rivers. They made detailed maps of the journey of a river from source to sea. In Maths, we have been doing division because the SATs are coming up. They are unofficial this year because of government rules but our teachers will mark them. We have also started tennis and cricket in PE. Hopefully, there will be interschool competitions soon. In Art, we looked at Monet's water paintings. In English, we read, discussed and picked apart sea poems. *By Adam YP, Alia and Gabriel on behalf of Year 6*

Perform Drama Workshop

Reception and KS1 classes enjoyed a drama workshop by Perform on the theme of Under the Sea. Your child should have brought a leaflet home explaining the drama workshops that the organisation offers.

School Meals

The school lunch menu for 4-28 May is attached; next week will be week 1 of the new 4 weekly 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

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

Yours faithfully,

Andy Matthews
Headteacher

PTA NEWS

The PTA is asking for your support to help fund new iPads for the school. Several years ago, the PTA bought the current iPads, and now these are very slow and practically unusable - we would love to help the school replace half of them (16 iPads) this term.

New iPads will benefit all age groups in the school, enabling day to day online research, allowing access to times tables and spelling apps plus supporting the more creative side of the curriculum such as photography, programming and music. The total cost to replace and install 16 iPads is approximately £5500.

For the next 4 weeks, we are asking you for donations of any size to put towards this cause. If you can donate *any* money at all, then please transfer an amount to the Newnham Education Trust and fill out the attached NET form, returning it to the school office. The form ensures the money is allocated to the correct cause and enables us to claim Gift Aid where possible (an extra 25p for every £1 on UK taxpayers' donations).

The details are: Account name: Newnham Education Trust A/C

Account number: 65836853

Sort Code: 08-92-99

More information is available on the attached NET form or you can get in touch with us at

newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com.

Every little amount helps and no donation is too small. We will keep you updated on how much we have raised on Classlist and the PTA board outside the school. Many thanks in advance for your support.

Community News

THE CHORISTER EXPERIENCE *for Families*

Ely Cathedral | Saturday 22 May 2021 | 1.00 – 5.00pm

Enjoy musical games, fun activities and the highlight:

singing Evensong with the Cathedral Choir under the famous Octagon Tower. Contact Edmund Aldhouse (01353 660336)

or Glen Dempsey (01353 660311) or

music@elycathedral.org to register before **Wednesday**

19 May.