



# Newnham News

Friday 11 October 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear parents/carers,

I'm sure many of you are looking forward to coming in after school on Monday for the open afternoon. I always think it is such a lovely thing, to spend time with your child(ren), looking through their work, finding out what they're proud of and what they've enjoyed.

Due to the developments in pedagogy and guidance, feedback and marking in books looks very different to how many of us would have experienced it. It now involves a lot more 'live' marking, where teacher and child discuss the child's work during the lesson, giving immediate feedback, which is so much more useful and relevant in most cases than marks in a book a day or more later.

This 'live' approach also helps with teacher workload. The more traditional approach to marking, which is still useful in some instances, takes a lot of time. For example, if a teacher takes just five minutes per book (the bare minimum to effectively mark the contents) then the teacher is marking for close to three hours.

I hope you find your children enthused about what they've been working on. Although some facts are always a little dry, we work hard to ensure lessons are fun, collaborative and interesting. Always an ongoing pursuit.

Finally, congratulations to the PTA for their successful Barn Dance last Friday. It sounded like brilliant fun and everyone who attended spoke highly of the event.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Open afternoon	3.15 - 4.00pm	Mon 14 Oct
Y6 swimming	(and every Tues)	Tues 15 Oct
Y5/6 cross country		Thurs 17 Oct
Year 6 forest school	morning	Fri 18 Oct
Year 1 forest school	afternoon	Fri 18 Oct
Eat lunch with your Year 6 child	12.15pm	Mon 21 Oct
Parent consultations		Mon 21 Oct
School photographs		Tues 22 Oct
Eat lunch with your Year 6 child	12.15pm	Wed 23 Oct
Parent consultations		Wed 23 Oct

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

## Whole school news

### Active wear reminder

Please remember that your child should be wearing active wear everyday - this includes trainers and comfortable clothes that are easy to move around in. Winter boots and jeans can limit movement and make it difficult for children to take part in PE.

### School photographs

The school photography team, Pret-a-Portrait, are coming to us on Tuesday 22 October, to take individual portraits of the children. Siblings who are in school will automatically have photos taken together, however if you have younger siblings that would like to come and join, please come to the school at 8.30am on that morning.

### World Mental Health Day

Yesterday was World Mental Health Day, which is celebrated every year on 10th October. At school, we're always trying to support the children in finding ways to manage their



well-being, through identifying uncomfortable or overwhelming emotions and talking about strategies to help manage these. One of our main priorities, supported through our PSHE curriculum, is to talk to someone when things are difficult. The children have been reminding themselves

about who their trusted adults are in school and at home. In school, providing time for children to talk is made on Friday lunchtimes and there is a 'worry box' where children can write or draw any worries they have or ask for a time to talk to an adult.

Please let your child's teacher know if you have any concerns about your child's well-being. We can help to support in school or signpost to other organisations.

As adults, we also need to take care of our mental health. If you ever feel like it would be helpful for school to know

about any difficulties you're going through that might be impacting your child, please do get in touch with school.

### **Chess club tournament**

Please see the attached update on the Chess Club's performance at a tournament over the weekend.

### **School Meals**

The weekly menu is attached. The menu next week will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

## **Classroom news**

### **Reception**

Reception started reading this week and all of the Early Years team have been so impressed with how well the children have begun their reading sessions. Thank you, to all our wonderful parents for remembering to bring in their child's book bag so that we could send home reading books. Within the home reading folders, we've also included Phase 2 Tricky words that we have started looking at this week. All home reading books have also been uploaded to the Big Cat Collins Hub, which parents can access by logging in. The logins will be included within the home reading folders next week. In Phonics, we looked at the phonemes; g, o, c and k and all children practised writing out these graphemes. During active learning, Reception has enjoyed using more of the junk modelling, contributed by our lovely Reception parents. Well done for a brilliant week Reception!

### **Year 1**

Over the last few weeks, Year 1 has been looking at what history means to them. The class created personal timelines from when they were born, to the present day. They interviewed Mrs Burke, asking her what her childhood was like in terms of the clothes she wore, the toys she played with and how she celebrated her birthday as a child. We found out that there are similarities and differences between what happened in the past and now, in the present. For example, music was played on record players in the past (and in the present for groovy vinyl fans) but now many people use devices such as phones to play music via wireless speakers. The similarities between the past and present were concepts such as giving presents on birthdays and eating birthday cake, which we continue to enjoy today.

### **Year 2**

A fantastic week in Year 2. We have started to adapt and improve the story of *The Three Little Pigs* by adding in adjectives and creating a wolf character description. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting 10, 11, 20 and 21 from two-digit numbers and have started using a ruler to measure in centimetres. In geography, we have been keeping a weather diary by recording the temperature and wind direction everyday. In gymnastics, we have been consolidating and improving our balances.

### **Year 3**

Year 3 has had another busy week. In maths, the children started the week by using number facts to help them add up several numbers ( $5 + 7 + 14 + 5 + 6 = 37$ ). Later on in the

week, the children used counting up to solve subtraction problems ( $92 - 78 = 14$ ). In English lessons, the children learnt how to add adverbials for time and place to their sentences. In our history session, the children learnt about how bronze transformed the lives of people living in prehistoric Britain. In our science sessions, the children continued to think about what makes up soil and investigate ways of finding out how much water is contained in it.

### **Year 4**

Well done Year 4 for another hard working week. In English, we have started looking at the novel *The Stolen Spear* by Saviour Pirotta. We have collected and tried out our favourite words and phrases. In maths, we have looked at using the four times table to make the eight times tables. Keep practising the 8s at home to make sure you have quick recall. We have also been finding the difference between two numbers using a numberline. In science, we have been tallying the invertebrates in the habitats around our school and drawing bar charts of the results. We had a wonderful time in forest schools, putting all our recent science work into practice. For spelling this week we have been looking at words beginning with the prefix inter- as well as revising words from Year 1/2. Please see the attached list of spelling words.

### **Year 5**

In maths, we practised column addition and subtraction and had a go at creating our own word problems to challenge each other with. In English, we learned how to categorise and use modal verbs and explored the difference this can make to the meaning of our sentences. In science, we investigated different ways that light can appear to be 'bent' and explained what was happening to the light. In PSHE, we designed our own board games based on our learning about welcoming new people. We were also lucky enough to have a Y5 grandparent come in to share her stories about being evacuated as a child during World War Two.

### **Year 6**

This week we did MasterChef. We did planning, cooking and judging. We also did BODMAS in maths and a mini test. In English, we started the unit with biographies. Finally in history, we made (out of collage) a propaganda poster from World War 2.

*By Nora, Meena and Jinchen*

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).

## **Community news**

### **Chamber music concert**

Paulo Ghiglia and Ellie Kendal (our flute teacher and orchestra leader) are performing in a concert on 2 November. Under 12s go free. See attached poster for more information.