



Newnham News

Friday 2 February 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear Parents/carers,

Whilst walking to the maths challenge last week, I was given a near continuous monologue from a Year 4 child about physics - from the Bose-Einstein condensate, to the seven states of matter. They were able to give an impressively detailed explanation of what these were and happily continued with various other elements of deeply complex physics.

This was such a good example of how important it is to encourage our children to be interested in the world - one of the most important traits we can encourage. The world is fascinating, but only if one is prepared to be fascinated. This child had discovered all the information that streamed out of them just because they wanted to - their joy in their knowledge was infectious.



In other news, I wanted to focus a little on school lunches and our approach to providing them.

Apart from the fish fingers, pasta and chips, ALL elements of the menu are



made fresh in school, including pizza bases, meaning we can add sneaky goodness into unusual places (beetroot in the brownie, for example) and avoid additives and preservatives. Below is a picture of our daily salad bar, which all children are expected to take at least two items from.

To support the community, we buy as much produce as possible from local shops and the majority of our meat comes from our friendly butcher at the top of Chedworth Street. All this in an effort to provide as balanced a diet as possible, whilst catering for the myriad tastes and needs of the children. A complicated business!

As we approach the weekend, if you're a rugby fan, I hope you enjoy the start of the Six Nations. If not, I hope you enjoy the weekend itself.

Kind regards
Eddie Ferguson

Diary Dates

Open afternoon 3.15 – 4pm	5 Feb
Year 5 swimming (every Wed this half term)	7 Feb
NCMP Weighing & Measuring (Rec & Y6 only)	7 Feb
Year 1/2 trip to Woburn	8 Feb
Co-op Breakfast Cafe run by Y6 8.30 - 9am	9 Feb
Year 6 assessment meeting 9 - 9.30am	9 Feb
Forest school Year 1	9 Feb, morning
Forest school Year 2	9 Feb, afternoon
Parent consultations	12 - 14 Feb
Year 2 trip to Woburn	15 Feb

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

Our language of the month is Hindi.

Charity Afternoon

Many thanks for your generosity in donations for the [Samboja Lestari Orangutan Volunteer Project](#). The children had lots of fun and raised over £312!

Open afternoon

On **Monday 5th February, 3.15 – 4pm**, all parents and carers are invited into the classrooms to allow your child to share their learning with you. Please be aware that class teachers will be in a training session during this time.

Parent consultations

Booking for parent consultations is now open. Please [log into eSchools](#) via the school website or eSchools app and select a suitable time to meet with your child's teacher. Please note, children on the SEN register should make a separate appointment.

Classroom news:

Reception

Each day in Reception and KS1, the children are provided with a healthy snack. In Reception this week, we have been

thinking about where our snack comes from. We weren't just thinking about which shop the snack was bought from, but more about the country that the snack was grown in. On Monday, we had grapes from Namibia in Africa, on Tuesday we had red and yellow peppers from Spain, on Wednesday we had tomatoes from Morocco in north Africa, on Thursday we had carrots grown in the UK and on Friday we had raisins from Turkey. We agreed that our snack makes a long journey to get to us and that is why it is even more important to not waste it.

KS1

This week we have been researching facts about animals in English, linking to our topic of *Amazing Animals*. In science this week we have been investigating whether animals are carnivores, omnivores or herbivores. In PE, KS1 has completed a circuit of different activities. In geography, we have been looking at China, identifying human and physical features.

In maths, year 2 has been looking at fractions of amounts $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$. Using half and half again, as well as grouping. Year 1 has been doubling numbers and adding three single digit numbers together using their number bonds to ten and number facts.

Year 1 had a fantastic trip to Woburn linking in perfectly to our topic of *Amazing Animals*.



Please continue to read with your child! Well done for a great week KS1. Just a quick reminder Year 1 (Miss Wakelen) and Year 2 (Miss Harvey) have forest schools on Friday the 9th.

Year 3

Year 3 have continued to enjoy learning about who lives in Antarctica. In this week's geography session, the children learnt about Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the continent. The children recounted facts about what they had discovered about him and used 4 figure grid reference numbers to plot his journey. In maths the children added up pairs of 3-digit numbers using the expanded column method. In our English sessions the children started the week by looking at and answering questions on *Amulet* by Ted Hughes. Later on in the week the children really enjoyed listening to *The Wolf's Secret* by Myriam Dahman and Nicolas Digard.

Year 4

This week we have been having great fun designing experiments to melt chocolate. We were surprised to find

out that a chunk of chocolate melts much better than a chocolate button! In English we have been looking at a poem called *Amulet* by Ted Hughes and a beautiful picture book called *The Wolf's Secret*. The children were really challenged by thinking about the connections in the poem. In maths we have been finding fractions of amounts by looking at pizzas and more chocolate bars! We have also investigated the properties of 3D shapes. The attached spellings this week include some words that will be useful for our topic as well as some more words with the pattern -ation. On Wednesday everyone brought home an updated, highlighted list of all the year 3/4 spelling words following our recent test.

Year 5

In maths, we learned how to translate and reflect polygons on two quadrants of a grid. We then started a new unit on decimals and fractions, recapping equivalent fractions and how to use lowest common multiples to compare fractions which are trickier to convert. In English, we revised parenthesis and the three different ways to punctuate it, and practised punctuating dialogue correctly. In science, we carried out an investigation into water resistance by dropping different shapes into water and timing their fall to the bottom. In PSHE, we discussed the factors that influence our decisions and the impact that the media, especially advertising, can have on this. We had a great time running different events with year 6 at our charity afternoon.

Year 6

This week in Year 6 we did pie charts in maths which was very fun. In science, we have been learning about air and water resistance - air resistance is when an object falls with gravity but the air is pushing the object back up, therefore the object falls slower. In English, we wrote a story based on Alma, a short film that we have been analysing. Alma is a scary film with a doll in it. In PE, we have been doing inclusive sports like frisbee and throwing a bean bag into a hoop. These are inclusive sports because disabled people can also play. In history, we have been doing the Benin era and wrote a report about facts of the Kingdom of Benin.

Maguire and Diego

School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week's menu will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

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.

Online Parenting Workshops

Cambridgeshire County Council is hosting a series of free parenting workshops on a variety of topics, including child anxiety and online safety. Please see the attached poster for more information.