



Newnham News

Friday 4 March 2022

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Lunch menu

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday saw our school Poetry Festival happen in support of World Book Day. Children from each class performed a poem of their choice; there is more about this later in the newsletter. It has been great to start to return to face-to-face assemblies this week and our assembly music has been from Prokofiev, as a Russian composer with Ukrainian roots.

This leads me on to thank many of you for the fantastic response to the Classlist request from Ms Daly for donations in aid of Ukrainian refugees. I know there is so much more that we would all love to do, but this is a wonderful act of support. One additional thing we could all do is turn down our thermostats to help the country reduce its reliance on Russian oil and gas. There is a campaign promoting everyone doing this, and to this end we have turned down the thermostat in school by a degree. If you would like to join this campaign (also a good idea with the imminent fuel price rises) then the more the better, for both this issue and ecologically.

I'm also very conscious that many families will be having discussions with their children about the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and below are some links to materials that parents might find useful in explaining this issue to children.

- [British Psychological Society - Supporting children to manage anxiety over war, conflict and crises](#)
- [KQED - War, Crisis, Tragedy: How to talk with kids when the news is scary](#)
- [Newsround - Advice if you're upset by the news](#)
- [Mental Health Foundation - Talking to your children scary world news](#)

If you'd like a clear, well-written news coverage of the story for children to access, please look at the link below.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60508750>

As we return to a much more normal set of school conditions, I'd like to remind parents about the importance of a couple of school policies. Firstly, the wearing of active wear across the school. At Newnham we endeavour to keep the children as active as possible during the day, and children wearing active clothing all through the day is essential to this. Please ensure that your children are wearing trainers, not shoes, soft flexible trousers/skirts and a flexible t-shirt/top/jumper every day. There are a number of children currently wearing boots, and these are not helpful.

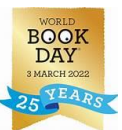
A reminder also that the morning playtime snacks that the children should be bringing in in KS2 should be of a healthy snack variety. KS1 children are provided with daily fruit by the school, so no additional snacks are required. KS2 children should also be bringing in a healthy snack such as fruit, vegetables, raisins or a non-chocolate cereal bar, and not crisps, biscuits, chocolate bars etc. On a final issue about appropriate food, can parents ensure that children having packed lunches eat a balanced and nutritious diet for their lunch, as this help with their energy levels for the afternoon and thus their capacity to learn.

I'd also like to let the parents of Year 2 children know that there will be a talk about the KS1 SATs, in school at 9am on Tuesday 22 March. This will be a face-to-face meeting in the school hall where we will get to see each other properly and discuss these assessments in person. It will also be a great opportunity to see parents back in school again. A similar meeting will be scheduled very soon for Year 1 parents to learn about the process for the Year 1 Phonics Check.

Finally, I'm aware that there is ongoing unhappiness from families about the poor and inconsiderate parking at the top of Chedworth Street. As I've said many times in this newsletter, it is the responsibility of every parent to act and park responsibly when bringing their children to school, and there are consistent offenders who need to park in the streets a little further away and walk the last part of the journey to school. Parents who need to drive should factor in the additional time this takes and leave in good time to be on the playground before 8.50am. It is equally unacceptable to simply arrive later than 8.50am and therefore feel it is ok to drive down Chedworth Street and park by the school gates. I'll remind all of you who do this that it would be tragic if it took a serious accident before people take this issue seriously.

World Book Day

We celebrated this year's World Book Day with Newnham Croft's first ever Poetry Festival. It was wonderful to be together as a whole school once again, with the festival taking place in the school hall with all children attending. Each class recited a poem they had learnt, ranging from Reception to Year 6. A particular shout out goes to Miss Wakelen's class who wrote and recited their own acrostic poem about Tigers. Don't forget to use your book tokens that were sent home this week as there are so many wonderful books waiting to be discovered.



Classroom News:

Reception

This week, we continued with our learning linked to our class book, 'Whatever Next?'. At the end of the story after Baby Bear recounts to his mum his adventure about flying to the moon. She replied, 'Whatever next? You and your stories!'. So, we wrote our own ideas for Baby Bear's next adventure. These included Venia's idea of going to Unicorn Land and Alexander's idea of travelling back in to see the dinosaurs. We have started Phase 4 in our phonics programme. This phase does not introduce any new phonemes but instead looks at reading longer words, sometimes containing more than one syllable. In Maths, we have been looking at 'more than' a given number. We have also looked again at 'subitising', recognising a small number of objects, without the need to count, such as the dots on a dice.

Year 1

In Year 1 Maths this week we have been working on counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. Please continue to help your child with this at home. In English we have been looking at the features of non-fiction books and learning how to write about the characteristics of what we like and don't like about animals, for example: the big orange scary beast; in the jungle he growls; gone in a flash just see his stripes; eyes glowing in the dark; running to catch me. In Geography we have used compass direction to locate continents. In Science we have been classifying animals in to groups. In assembly yesterday, the class also did a wonderful job of performing their class acrostic poem.

Class 1/2N and 1/2C

In Maths, Year 1 have been practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and comparing the weights of different objects. Year 2 have been learning how to subtract 2-digit numbers and answer word problems involving subtraction. In English, we have been reading an entertaining and fascinating book (*Funny Bums, Freaky Beaks and Other Incredible Creature Features*) and learning about the difference between fiction and non-fiction books. We also enjoyed our celebration of poetry with our performances in front of the whole school in a special World Book Day assembly (1/2N The Squirrel (Anon) and 1/2C The Ning Nang Nong (Spike Milligan)). Well done to everyone for their enthusiasm! In phonics, Year 1 practised reading and spelling words using the alternative 'ou' (oo, o sound) - could, would, shoulder. Year 2 practised spelling words ending in 'ey' (valley/journey) and have been learning how to write sentences containing subordinate clauses and the conjunction 'because'. In Art and DT, we have been printing using objects and designing an animal finger puppet. Thank you for your continued support with your child's daily reading at home and spelling and number facts practise. Please remember to send your child's reading record log book and reading books in every Friday.

Year 3 and Year 4

We've had a very busy, yet fun week. The classes really enjoyed World Book Day and thanks to Ms Mangera and Ms Holliday who organised a very exciting and informative assembly, where Years 3 and 4, along with the rest of the school, memorised their class poems beautifully. Year 4 read 'I want to be an Explorer' by Brenda Williams and Year 3 read 'The Tyger' by William Blake. Well done to both classes. In English, the classes have spent the week building on newspaper report writing and they finished the week creating a report about Italy or Afghanistan, in connection with our topic Explorers. In Maths, Year 3 have been working on money - adding amounts together and working out the cost of items if they were increased by 10 or 100. Year 4 have been working on money as well, using partitioning to add amounts of money together. In SPAG both classes have worked on the prefixes, super- and auto-. Our favourite word this week has been 'superhero'. In Geography, Year 3 have explored the country Canada and have been looking at how waterfalls are formed. In Science, we have all been exploring lots of different ecosystems and looked at the animals that can be found and how they are adapted to those specific ecosystems and the dangers to those ecosystems from human or natural interferences. Year 3 ended the week with a Forest School session around the topic of *Explorers*. Well done Year 3 and 4 for a brilliant second week back.

Year 5

In Maths at the start of the week, we looked at polygons, classifying quadrilaterals based on their properties and exploring the patterns found when measuring the interior angles of regular polygons. In English we finished reading 'Cloud Tea Monkeys' and explored the Fair Trade movement. In our topic, we used evidence from an archaeological dig in Xiaotun to draw conclusions about the Shang dynasty. We then wrote a news report as if reporting from the site of the dig. In PE, we have been learning and practising our tag rugby skills and in computing we have begun writing algorithms for a maze game using Scratch.

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been working on many fun topics. This includes an exciting world book quiz, which had 4 winners (Fin, James, Ioan and Felix). In English, we've learnt about play scripts, as well as the famous play 'Macbeth'. In Maths, we looked at division and solving division questions. We've also continued our topic of the Shang Dynasty, as well as starting to make mazes in Scratch. *By Hannah and Farouq*

School Meals

Next week will be the week 3 menu of the three week cycle (attached). The cost of a school meal is £2.40.

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

Yours faithfully, Andy Matthews, Headteacher

COMMUNITY NEWS

Easter Athletics and Netball Camps for Y3-Y9

Athletics

Monday and Tuesday 4 & 5 April – 10am to 3.30pm

At Cambridge University Athletics Track, CB3 9AD

Netball

Wednesday and Thursday 6 & 7 April – 10am to 3.30pm

At Impington Sports Centre, CB24 9LX

£25 per child per day; £22 per child per day each for families, or children attending multiple days of netball & athletics.

Booking www.scambs.gov.uk/sportscamps for children in school year 3 to 9.