



Newnham News

Friday 21 October 2022

Interim Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

Autumn half term is always accompanied by the wonderful colours of the trees in the playground, and this year is proving to be a vintage one. As we head towards the winter months, I'd like to say thank you to the children, staff, parents, PTA and governors for all their hard work so far this term. I'd also like to congratulate the children for all the successes they've already achieved over the first seven weeks.

As we go into the next half term, I would like to ask parents to really try and be punctual when dropping off and picking up their children. Now that we have all got used to the slightly earlier drop-off time of 8.45am, the expectation is that children come in a few minutes **before** the bell rings so they have time to line up in readiness for the start of the school day. In numerous studies, a clear correlation is evident between lateness, absence and lower achievement.

As well as this, the school also comes under scrutiny for our attendance from the local authority, as do parents. As stated under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996, "it is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure that their child attends the school at which they are registered, regularly and punctually". Being punctual is polite; regular lateness is easily construed as a disregard for the time of others - not a good message for our children to receive.

If I could ask that this robust approach to punctuality can be extended to the afternoon, that would be much appreciated. Numerous hours of staff time have been wasted due to waiting with children for parents to pick them up. We do understand that being delayed is sometimes unavoidable but often it's just a matter of leaving a little earlier.

I hope you all have lovely half terms and we look forward to seeing you back at school at 8.45am **sharp** on 31st October.

Kind regards,
Eddie Ferguson

Daffodil Festival

The Gardening Club have kindly offered to plant lots of daffodil bulbs around the school, with the help of the children. Thank you to the Gardening Club team, and to Darrell at Coton Orchard Garden Centre who has given the school a fantastic discount on the bulbs. We look forward to a wonderful Spring display!

Classroom News:

Reception

The class found out about Diwali, the festival of light, which is celebrated by millions of Hindus around the world. The children found out how families prepare for the celebration and talked about some of the delicious foods that are eaten during the festival. The children then created their own rangoli patterns, which are traditionally created using colourful powder or paste. Happy Diwali to all who will be celebrating next week.

Years 1 and 2

In Key Stage One, we've had a busy week finalising our topic, Traditional Tales. We've been working on our DT projects; progressing our gymnastics routines and completing a big write based on the traditional tale, Little Red Riding Hood. As part of our DT project, we've been working on moving stories. This week, Years 1 and 2 created their backgrounds by drawing them on card, based on The Three Little Pigs story. They then drew and cut out characters from the story and added leavers or lollipop sticks to make sliders. In English, Years 1 and 2 retold the story of The Three Little Pigs using their villainous character that they created last week. Year 1 used their phonics and conjunctions to extend their sentences, while Year 2 used conjunctions and adjectives to make their sentences even more interesting. In Phonics, Year 1 have been working on Phase 5, exploring longer words, such as 'farmyard' and Year 2 have also been exploring Phase 5, and looking at more alternative sounds. All ebooks have been uploaded to your child Big Cat Ebook portals ready for your child to read with you over the half term. In Maths, Year 1 have been working on addition and subtraction number sentences and consolidating their number bonds to 10 and up to 20 using a part-part whole model. Year 2s have been working on investigating numbers and working on multiples of ten. Well done for a very hardworking half term. Have a wonderful and restful break!

Year 3

Another busy and productive week in Year 3. In Maths, we started the week by continuing to look at 3D shapes. The children used Carroll diagrams to sort them according to their various properties (faces, edges, and vertices). We then moved onto looking at creating multiplication and division sentences based on the 2 and 5 times tables. In English lessons the children enjoyed thinking about arguments for and against having a school uniform and used this to write a persuasive letter. In our Computing sessions the children enjoyed learning about how messages are sent via a network.

In our History sessions the children enjoyed learning about Boudicca's rebellion against the Roman army.

Year 4

This week, in English, we practised arguing for our viewpoints using debate and then progressed onto writing formal letters, explaining and supporting our own points of view. In Maths, we have been representing data using bar charts and pictograms and have collected our own data within the class, including topics such as favourite animal, favourite ice cream flavour and method of transport to school. During this half term we have practised our teamwork skills in many different ways and these were put to the test this week as Year 4 tackled a spaceship-themed escape room challenge in small groups.

Year 5

Year 5 enjoyed making their cereal bars earlier on this week, and showed great group working skills as they shared roles when following their recipes. Tuesday morning's cross country running was a great success, with everyone completing the circuit and enjoying eating their nutritious creations at the end. In Maths, they have looked at different ways to subtract, choosing methods depending on the numbers; these included column subtraction, counting on using 'frog' and mental methods such as rounding. In Science they finished the unit on Living Things and their Habitats by comparing lifecycles of living things, including plants, mammals, birds, amphibians and insects.



Year 6

Our week in Y6 by Theo and Diogo:

- Monday: cereal bars
- Tuesday: cross country
- Wednesday: swimming and bio-posters
- Thursday: new PE topic, our Black History Month assembly and biography planning
- Friday: finishing RE and History
- Future: Halloween, half-term, three parent talks and the restaurant

School Meals

This week, the children enjoyed a delicious schnitzel for school dinners on Wednesday. This was all thanks to Marianna in Year 6, who wrote an entertaining and persuasive letter to Ms Noble asking her to include them on the school menu. Her excellent letter is attached. Remember you can write a letter to Ms Noble to request your favourite meal is added to our school dinner menu and post it in the box in the hall.

After half term the menu will be week 2 of the menu cycle (attached). 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.

Diary Dates

Half term week	24-28 Oct
Y6 swimming.....	26 Oct
Y5&6 to Bletchley Park.....	7 Nov
Y6 swimming.....	9 Nov
Y6 WWII restaurant.....	11 Nov
Y5 Bikeability training.....	14-18 Nov
Y6 swimming.....	23 Nov
Y6 swimming.....	30 Nov



Year 5 & 6 cereal bars