



Newnham News

Friday 29 September 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Maths/calc policy](#)

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Dear parents/carers,

This week has been a lot about you lot (some would say it's ALWAYS about you lot!).

The PTA had their first meeting of the year, distributing their hard-earned munificence to fund an easel, speakers and music subscription, as well as supporting other areas of the curriculum.

Discussions at the meeting also included the plans for the annual Newnham Croft PTA Fireworks Night. The date has been set for Saturday 4th November and the PTA will let parents know more details nearer the time. Volunteers are always needed to help set-up during the day, or during the event, and you can find contact details attached to this newsletter or speak to your PTA class reps.

Parents/carers of the children in the younger years have also been raising funds to purchase physical reading books, to supplement the ebooks that we already use for home-reading. As always, the generosity of so many of you is amazing to see.

From generosity of finance to generosity of time. Thank you to the families who came in yesterday afternoon and gave a clean and spruce to the library area; even with the best will in the world, there are always nooks and corners that escape the regular cleaner. Also, thank you to our parent volunteer who takes time each week to work in the library, sorting books that children have "put back in their right place"(!!!). If any of you could offer half-an-hour each week to come and help out with this Sisyphean task, you would be warmly welcomed.

To show our appreciation, let me invite you to our Harvest Festival Assembly on Friday, October 6th. Years 1-6 (Reception aren't yet joining assemblies) will be belting out some autumn classics, which always warms the heart. We will also be having a collection for Jimmy's Night Shelter (click [here](#) for suggestions). Donations can be brought in on Thursday or Friday.

Finally, the Office Administrator post has become available. Please see the [advert](#) on our website, and spread the word!

Thank you for all your support and have lovely weekends,

Kind regards, Eddie Ferguson

Morning Club

Morning Club is up and running and proving to be a fun and relaxing space for the children. For enquiries and registration, please visit www.newnhamnursery.co.uk, whether it is for weekly, daily or ad hoc requirements. This is what our children say:

"Lots of fun things to do, never get bored." Christian Y5

"Lots of fun activities!" Mollie Y5

"Lots of fun playdough. So relaxing." Ava Y6

"Rare Lego." Benedict Y6

"My favourite is the playdough." Evelyn Y2

"Lots of creativity." Natty Y4

"I love it when I play at Morning Club." Matilda YR

"I like the cars at Morning Club." Jonah Y1/2

Eco Committee



We are very excited that our Eco Committee has made a return! Newnham Croft have taken part in the Eco Schools Programme for a long time, and have gained Green Flag Status on multiple occasions. The Eco-Schools

programme provides a framework and allows children to make a difference in the school, local community and beyond. We will link our activities to three or more of the Ten Eco-Schools Topics such as biodiversity, energy and global citizenship. This week our committee, made up of children from every class in the school (with reception joining when they're settled) met to go through the Environmental Review and start to create our action plan for the year. Our meetings will be held half-termly during a Monday lunchtime. If any adults are keen to get involved, please email jturner@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk as we'd love to involve as many in our community as possible.

House Afternoon

It was great to see so many children dressed in their house colours for our first House Afternoon. Year 6 led their houses with an introductory speech and a range of social games to get to know each other better. We hope this will support and develop relationships across the whole school and that House Days can become a more regular event at school.

Classroom news:

Reception

One of our current class books in Reception is Owl Babies by Martin Waddell and Patrick Benson. We have been focusing on many elements of the story but this week have been

looking at interesting vocabulary that is used in the book. We discussed the following vocabulary, thinking about what each word actually means: twigs, hunting ivy, silent, swooped and fuss. We have also been learning a poem called Breezy Weather and once again focused on the meaning of some of the words: breezy and huddled.

Breezy Weather

Breezy Weather. Freezy weather.

When the leaves fall, we all fall together.

Breezy weather. Freezy weather.

When the wind blows, we huddle together.

Years 1 and 2

This week, KS1 continued with their DT project, cutting and assembling their structure of the windmill they designed. In English, the children have been exploring poetry and practising performing a class poem with actions and prosody. As an extension to this, Year 2 have been starting to consider different rhymes for the poem Walking Around the Zoo. In Maths, Year 1s have been counting in 1s to 100 and working out missing numbers. They also finished the week by working out 1 more and 1 less with numbers to 100. In Year 2, the children have been working on using their knowledge of pairs to ten, to find the next multiple of ten. They continued to work on place value of 2-digit numbers, by working out the value of tens and ones in numbers. This progressed to children looking at 10 more and 10 less. In Geography, all classes created a map locating the key features of our playground. In Science, all children experimented with a selection of different socks to see how much they stretched. Subsequently they made a bar chart to show their results. Lastly, in PE all children continued practising doing a variety of jumps using equipment. They learnt how to safely take off and land. We'd like to remind all parents that your child's book from their Reading sessions this week have been uploaded to the Big Cat Collins e-book portal, so please ensure you're reading with them and if you have any issues logging in, please let us know. Well done for this week KS1!

Year 3

Year 3 have had another busy week. In Maths, the children have worked on addition problems involving known number facts. In English lessons, we have started a new poetry unit based on animals and the weather. The children enjoyed reciting The Bug Chant by Tony Mitton and thinking up actions to enhance their performances. In Geography the children enjoyed learning about Mount Etna and thinking about the positive and negative sides to living close to a volcano. In our Science lesson the children enjoyed using magnifying lenses to look closely at what things they could find in soil.

Year 4

In English, the children showed off their writing skills and vivid imaginations when they wrote their own opening to a suspenseful story in the style of The Iron Man. In Maths, we continued to work on securing our understanding of place value to 10,000 and began to focus on collecting and

interpreting data. It would be good if you could support your child to practise counting in steps of 25s (and 250s). Please find attached the Year 4 spellings and some information about the spelling strategies that we are learning to help us with spelling practise. **Don't forget that on Monday 2 October we are going to the Natural History Museum in London so your child will need to be in school by 8:40 on Monday for registration and will need to bring a packed lunch and drink with them.**

Year 5

We have continued to explore two-place decimals in Maths this week, this time focusing on counting from zero to one in hundredths and subtracting decimals using the counting on method. In English, we have started work on our travel writing about an imagined trip to Ancient Greece, including our transport method, which part of Ancient Greece we will visit and what we will do and see there. In History, we explored different versions of the same myth and discussed why and how different versions may have developed over time.

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been looking into algebra in Maths, including word problems. In English, they have writing in role as characters from the famous poem The Highwayman. In Science, Year 6 have been preparing and performing experiments by measuring shadows at different times of the day. So far this week it has not been sunny so we have started today. We have continued with cross-country in PE, but with some games too, e.g. dodgeball, home invasion and capture the flag. In History, Ancient Greece has carried on as the main topic, and now we are looking into the differences between Athens and Sparta. *By Sammy and Lucas*

Parkside Community College Y6 Open Evening 12 October

Please see poster attached.

In R.E. lessons this half term, Year 5 and Year 6 are thinking about the question, 'Why do people have to stand up for what they believe in?' This learning has allowed them to think about religious freedom and learn people in historical and modern times who have fought for their beliefs. One of their responses was to write poetry, or verses from songs, inspired by the song by Nina Simone, I wish I knew how it would feel to be free. Here is Benny in Year 6's work:

*I wish I could see all the freedom for belief,
Remove all the unfair treatment so we can express
ourselves with peace,
I wish around the world, we could all talk free
There'd be harmony, there'd be respect and everyone
is free to believe.*

School Meals

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

Diary Dates

Y3/4 to Natural History Museum	2 Oct
Open afternoon for parents 3.15-4.15pm.....	9 Oct
Pret a Portrait pupil photos.....	10 Oct
Y6 cross country run.....	12 Oct
Y6 evening event for parents and children	13 Oct
Parent teacher consultations	17-19 Oct
Y6 breakfast cafe	20 Oct
Half term	23-27 Oct
Flu vaccinations whole school	21 Nov
Rec and KS1 performance 2pm	12 Dec
Rec and KS1 performance 9.30am	13 Dec
Last day of term.....	20 Dec

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 NEWS

Thank you to all of you who came to the PTA meeting on Wednesday. It was lovely to see some new and enthusiastic faces, so we have definitely hit the ground running! Minutes from the meeting will be on Classlist in the near future, if you wish to catch up.

We have also published the PTA event calendar on Classlist and the school calendar - have a look, add dates to your diary and get involved.

Wine & Crisps Pairing

Our first PTA event of the year is a fun one - an evening of wine and crisps! On **Saturday 7th October, 7pm - 9pm**, we will be sampling 6 delicious wines and pairing them with 6 different kinds of crisps, using the principles of food and wine matching. Do Skips pair with rose wine or white wine best? Will Wotsits taste good with a full bodied red? Do Pickled Onion Monster Munch go with everything or nothing?! This is a fun and casual evening, for adults only. Tickets are £20 each and we can also offer a non-alcoholic beverage pairing for £15 each. Available on [Classlist](#).

Fireworks Night

We are really excited to announce that Fireworks Night will be on Saturday 4th November this year, with a back-up date of Sunday 5th November (in case of bad weather). Tickets will go on sale at the end of next week. As you know, this event cannot go ahead without volunteers, so we ask you to sign up as soon as possible for your slot - your adult ticket is free if you are volunteering! Please see the sign-up sheet here <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18279346>

Community News

**Over & In October Half Term Football Workshops/
Camps.** See poster attached for further details.