



Newnham News

Friday 6 October 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear parents/carers,

A wonderful start to Friday with our Harvest assembly. The hall was full to the brim with families; the families were soon full to the brim with autumn singing; and our donation boxes were full to the brim with your generous gifts for [Jimmy's Night Shelter](#).

As a variation on the theme of harvest and sustenance, please could we ask parents/carers to make sure that any snacks/lunches that are brought into school are as healthy as possible. I do understand that some children can be fussy (and demanding!) but we are a healthy school and it's in the interests of all the children to learn to eat a nutritious, balanced diet. **Also, please be very careful that snacks are nut free.** We have had a couple of incidents this week with snacks containing peanut butter and pistachios and there are children in school with nut allergies.

Finally, congratulations and welcome to Emma Smith, mum of a Year 1 child, who has become the latest addition to the governing body and has already been working extremely hard for the school with the Owlstone Croft appeal. I've said it before and I'll say it again, the dedication of our governors to the welfare of the children and school is absolutely amazing.

Next week, the school will be releasing time slots for the parent consultations, so keep an eye on your inbox.

Have a wonderful, weirdly warm weekend.

Kind regards,
Eddie Ferguson

World Mental Health Day

Next week in school we will be holding an assembly to mark World Mental Health Day, which is on 10th October. The focus will be on exploring what mental health is, how we can look after our mental health and how we can get help and offer support to others during trickier times. ITV's Britain Get Talking and YoungMinds' are collaborating to help children across the country open up, as sharing worries can help ease stress and reduce anxiety. They've created a piece of homework, which is a conversation starter designed to help children talk about the hardest subjects on their minds with their trusted adults at home. We've included the optional homework task as an attachment if you'd like to use it. We've also attached the presentation that will be used as

a basis for the assembly if you'd like to see what language is being used with the children and the strategies, they're learning in school to help cope with uncomfortable feelings.

Inline skating workshops and demonstration

We were very lucky on Thursday to have Danny Aldridge join us. He is 4x UK inline skating champion. He held workshops for Years 5 and 6 and worked on confidence building. He finished the day with a whole school assembly and showed the children tricks and even jumped over 8 teachers!

Classroom news:

Reception

In Reception for the past few years, we have been reading a very useful and relevant book for our youngest learners. The book, Ruby's Worry by Tom Percival, tells the story of how Ruby, a usually happy child, develops a worry. We read in the book that the worst thing you can do with a worry, is to worry about it! Instead, we learnt how Ruby finds out that the best way to deal with a worry is to talk about it with someone you know. As a class, we discussed any worries we might have had and how sharing these with someone you know really does help.

Years 1 and 2

This week, KS1 have been very busy with their practical sessions of Science and DT. In Science, the children were testing more materials using squashing to explore the impact of air being forced together. The children were given large milk cartons and card mice, which were placed on the opened caps of the milk cartons. The children then had to clap their hands in the middle of the milk cartons to see what the impact of squashing the milk cartons would have on the mice. The children enjoyed watching the mice zoom into the air. In DT, all classes assembled axels and turbines to be added to their windmills. The challenge in this session was to ensure that the turbine moved round when blown. In English, the children rewrote parts of the poem, When I'm Walking Round the Zoo and some of the children even moved on to create their own riddle. In Maths, Year 1 have been working on adding numbers to 10 and creating addition number sentences. In Year 2, the children have been adding 10, 11, 20 and 21 and have started using money to add different amounts together. 1/2 had their first Forest School session this term and really enjoyed going down to the forest to take part in lots of outdoor activities. Well done for a hardworking week KS1!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a great week. Lots of fun was had during our trip to the Natural History Museum in London. The children really impressed me with their knowledge of volcanoes during our workshop session and enjoyed the opportunity of finding out more about them in the Red Zone afterwards. In Maths, the children solved subtraction problems by counting up in steps along a number line. In English, we continued to enjoy poems about the weather and animals. In Science, the children made predictions on what might happen over time to soil samples that are mixed with water.

Year 4

In English, the children wrote some excellent recounts of our trip to the Natural History Museum in London this week. Ralph wrote: 'We took a short journey to a workshop with a funny man called Joe. He thought we were scientists so he trained us up so we could save the people of volcano town. It was super fun'. Our study of volcanoes in Geography was brought to life in the Museum when we took part in an interactive workshop and travelled through a life-like model of the centre of the earth on a very long (and high) escalator! Thank you to all the adults who accompanied us on our trip. In Maths, we practised using the expanded and compact methods for addition and interpreting data from bar charts and pictograms. Please find attached the Year 4 spellings.



Year 5

Year 5 have had an especially exciting week this week, starting off with an excellent Ancient Greek theatre workshop run by a kind parent volunteer, where the children competed in groups to write and perform a Greek play. We were fortunate enough to spend a morning learning to inline skate and to watch a fantastic display of inline skate tricks. In English, we finished and edited our ancient Greek travel writing pieces and started work on our new topic, based on *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham. In Maths, we focused on the counting-up subtraction method for finding the difference between difference prices and finding change, and have also used the near multiples technique to make certain additions and subtractions easier and faster.

Year 6

Year 6 have been learning about prime numbers, common multiples and factors in Maths. They have had lots of fun re-writing a poem as a narrative text. On Thursdays, Year 6 have

been focusing on cross-country in PE and in Music, they have been re-creating Ancient Greek tunes and musical pieces. In Science, they are learning about and conducting experiments to do with the way light travels. In Art, they have had lots of fun creating Pandora's Box-style pots out of terracotta clay, with the help of Ms D'Oyly. *By Rebecca and Nathan*

School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week will be week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

Diary Dates

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
Forest School Rec am, Y1 pm 13 Oct
PTA daffodil planting 10am-12pm 15 Oct
Parent teacher consultations 17-19 Oct
Forest School Y5 am, Y3 pm 20 Oct
Y6 breakfast cafe 20 Oct
Half term 23-27 Oct
Forest School Y4 am, Y2 pm 3 Nov
PTA Fireworks Night 4 Nov
Forest School Y6 am 10 Nov
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

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](#).

Gardening Club

Another daffodil bulb planting session is planned for **Sunday 15th October, 10am - 12pm**. Everyone is welcome to spend a morning on our beautiful school grounds.

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>