



# Newnham News

Friday 16 December 2022

Interim Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

For the final newsletter before the Christmas break, there is only one possible focus - the children who make Newnham Croft what it is.

From KS1 and Reception's upliftingly, delightful singing in their Christmas production to the Year 5 and 6s VE day celebrations, it has been a week to remind us all how lucky we are to work in a primary school.

To see the motivation as the biggest people created their speeches and performances to celebrate VE day; the collaboration that goes into such events (including, inevitably, the Spam sandwich making!); the pride at the end result; and the support that their peers gave each other, was a wonderful thing.

For the smallest people, the shyness of many; the coy grin at a loved one in the audience (or a tongue firmly stuck in cheek to prevent it - serious business!); the uninhibited dancing joy of a few; and the blossoming confidence of the often-quiet-in-the-classroom - again, all wonderful to see.

While the top and bottom of the school were thus engaged, the Year 3 and Year 4 children were being guided by Mrs Kivisild's mum, who was sharing her skills with calligraphy, as part of their Invaders topic (see pictures below). The concentration and focus shown as they learnt to form their letters, the satisfaction of a job well done when they had finished and the polite and attentive welcome that is always extended to our visitors by the children was fantastic.

In a world where things are busy and unpredictable, and where darkness is a rather too regular companion at this time of year, the joy of the children and their uncynical, wonderfully fresh view of the life, is a tonic I would recommend to everyone.

Being the leader of such lovely children is a vital role, so the governors have an important task on their hands when selecting the new Headteacher. The advert for the post has now gone out and interviews will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of January.

Finally, all the staff would like to wish you a very happy Christmas break and look forward to seeing you in 2023.

Kind regards  
Eddie Ferguson



## Classroom news:

### Reception

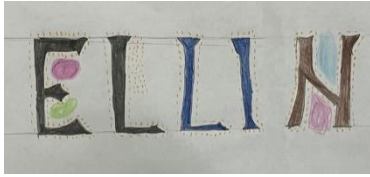
This week, the children in Reception had a grand party to celebrate Maisy's birthday, which was a great experience for the children to finish the topic of this term – Festivals and Celebrations. In preparing this party, the children were very busy – writing birthday cards for Maisy and wrapping the presents they made. On Wednesday morning, the children made cupcakes for the party. In the afternoon, they sang the happy birthday song to Maisy, opened the presents and played musical statues. Then, all the children enjoyed their cupcakes and other party food. It was such an immersive experience for the children to feel the spirit of celebration and understand its meaning.

### Years 1 and 2

Key Stage One and Reception have had a great start to the week performing their Christmas production. Well done Reception and Years 1 and 2 for a very successful production and to all the parents for attending. You danced and sang beautifully. In Maths, Year 2s have been working on sharing larger numbers and adding groups of the same number. Year 1s have been working on time, ordering the day and drawing hands on a clock to show the different hours of the day. In English, Years 2 have been working on writing a story based on the picture book, Lost in the Toy Museum using the past tense. Year 1s have been working on sentence structure, remembering to add a capital letter and a full stop. In Science, we've been exploring the structure of a plant. Both Year groups labelled the plant. Year 1s wrote an explanation about each part of the plant and Year 2s described the importance of plants. Well done Key Stage One for a very hardworking week. Please find attached some spellings for Year 2 to practise.

**Year 3**

Year 3 have worked really hard throughout the week. On Wednesday, they were treated to a calligraphy lesson by Mrs Barrow (Mrs Kivisild's mum) who taught them to write in the style of Bishop Eadfrith who was responsible for writing the Lindisfarne Gospels. In English lessons, the children really enjoyed writing poems inspired by Michael Rosen. In our Computing sessions a lot of thought went into the planning of their simple animations. Our Maths sessions focused on using counting on as a means of solving subtraction problems to and bridging 100. In our DT sessions children have started to work on decorating their cushions.



**Year 4**

We have been busy working on our cushions in DT this week and the children have developed their sewing skills brilliantly since half term. We have now finished our Michael Rosen poetry topic in English and the children enjoyed writing both free verse and rhyming poems inspired by his work. To finish our Anglo-Saxon topic, the children took part in a calligraphy workshop where they learned to write letters in style of the Lindisfarne Gospels text.



**Year 5**

In English this week, Year 5 looked at Migrations: Open Hearts, Open Borders - a collection of postcards from an exhibition where illustrators had been invited to send postcards that showed support and solidarity for human migrants. We used this as inspiration to express our own ideas on migration, thinking about the animals we had learnt about. The class wrote their own poems and illustrated their postcards. In Maths, we converted metric units for length, volume and mass. We then explored imperial measures, drawing graphs to convert miles to kilometres and looking at conversions between some imperial measures. We enjoyed our VE Day celebrations to mark the end of our WWII topic yesterday. The class made bunting, banners, paper chains, hats and wreaths and enjoyed an afternoon of music, dance and Spam sandwiches.

**Year 6**

This week in Year 5 and Year 6 we had a WWII themed party on VE Day (Victory in Europe). Lots of people dressed up authentically and we danced the dances of the era. We ate traditional WWII food, including Spam, marmalade and jam sandwiches. In English, we have been learning about the Shakespearian play Macbeth. We have been thinking about their looks and have been analysing their personalities.

In Maths, we have been learning about circles, quadrilaterals and angles. *By Aman, Nefeli and Saffran*

**School Meals**

The menu will be week 3 of the menu cycle (attached), apart from on Tuesday when the kitchen will be serving a traditional Christmas dinner (turkey or vegetarian wellington). 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk).

**Diary Dates**

Rec NHS Vision Screening 9am.....	19 Dec
School Christmas lunch .....	20 Dec
Festive singing 3.20pm.....	20 Dec
Last day of term.....	21 Dec