



Newnham News

Friday 16 January 2026
Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:
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Dear Parents/Carers,

I often joke about my poor memory, so I can't remember whether I've touched on this topic recently in the newsletter. Even if I have, it feels important enough to share again.

A phrase on the wall of my office reads: "Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle" (possibly Plato). This week, in conversations with both parents and children, that message has felt especially true.

Sometimes those battles are obvious — you can see and hear the strain a family is under, and it is natural to respond with sympathy and patience. But at other times, the struggles are hidden. It can be a quietly spoken comment from a child, a small detail about home life they think is usual, that suddenly reveals a much bigger story. In those moments, you realise how little we often know about what others are carrying.

As I rush through my days — at the school gate, in meetings, or simply trying to get everything done — I have to remind myself that I rarely see the full picture. The person who seems to "have-it-all" will still have challenges and sadness. Some of us are luckier than others, certainly, but life doesn't grant anyone perfection.

Often, the behaviour I find hardest to understand stems from things I could never have guessed. If I *did* know the full context, that behaviour might feel far less frustrating and far more human.

So this is simply a gentle reminder to all of us. We don't always know the problems others are facing, but a little patience and compassion can make all the difference.

Therefore - be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Year 4 trip to computing museum	Mon 19 Jan
Year 5 swimming	Tues 20 Jan
Year 6 trip to Sedgewick Museum	Wed 21 Jan
PTA meeting	6pm Thurs 22 Jan
Year 6 SATS meeting	9am Fri 23 Jan
Year 3 & 4 trip to polar museum	Fri 23 Jan

Coming up....

Parenting workshop session	1.30pm	Mon 26 Jan
Year 5 trip to Whipple Museum		Thurs 29 Jan
Year 3 forest school		Fri 30 Jan
Year 2 forest school		Fri 30 Jan

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly.

Whole school news

Oracy Assembly

We had great fun in our Oracy Assembly on Thursday playing a game where we had to speak on a given subject — such as food, cats, art or the weather — for 30 seconds without pausing, repeating ourselves or using fillers like *um, like, literally* or *er*. It's a great game to try at home because it needs no resources and is a fun way to practise speaking and listening skills. Some of the teachers found it rather tricky!

Ms Holliday and Ms Mangera

Book Lists

Thank you to everyone who has bought books from our class wish lists. If you haven't yet, there is still time to buy new exciting fiction or non-fiction books linked to topics. For more information, see our [website](#).

PINS Parenting Courses - Emotional Regulation and Sleeping, Eating and Toileting

On Monday 26th January from 1:30-3:00pm we are hosting another PINS parenting session on Emotional Regulation. This is open to any parents and carers of our school community and will be face-to-face, held in a classroom at Newnham Croft. The session held at school last term was very well attended and was found to be useful and supportive to those who came. Please see the flyer for more information.

Last term, we hosted an online presentation for parents who were worried about their child's sleeping, eating or toileting. It included a video presentation by an Occupational Therapist, and included interesting information and practical tips. This session is being repeated online for people who missed it, but would like to attend, on Wednesday 21st January from 1:00-2:30pm and Tuesday 27th January from 7:30-9pm. The flyers attached include more information.

The Teams link for daytime event on Wednesday 21st January 1-2:30pm is:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 371 312 321 005 66 Passcode: Vf65PK6L

The Teams link for evening event on Tuesday 27th January 7:30-9pm is:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 351 998 194 600 56 Passcode: F65gp9V7

Online guidance

Please see below a useful resource on mobile phones, screen times and children.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Parenting Courses

Please find attached information about free parenting courses available in January and February. They include topics such as helping your child with sleep, managing sibling rivalry and supporting your child with worry or anger.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

The children are still thoroughly enjoying the bus topic and have fully immersed themselves in role play on our class bus. It has been wonderful to see their imaginations flourish as they act out different journeys and scenarios together. In maths, we have been using positional language and practising counting up to 100, building confidence through practical and engaging activities. In English, we have continued our work on *The Naughty Bus*, writing about what happened in the story and sharing our ideas as a class. We have also learnt a new poem called "Popcorn" — please ask your child to perform it for you at home! In gymnastics, the children challenged themselves with some tricky climbing activities, showing great determination and resilience as they explored new movements.

Year 1

This week in P.E., Year 1 has been enjoying a dance module inspired by Spring. The children created a lovely *spring dance* based on April Showers, dancing to *Singing in the Rain* by Gene Kelly. They explored different movements to show rain and sunshine, working both independently and in unison with others. The children showed great creativity, enthusiasm and focus, and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they performed their dances together.

Year 2

Year 2 has had another busy and exciting week. In science, the children learned about metamorphosis and identified different animals and their offspring. In geography, we located amazing places around the world and recapped the seven continents. The children loved using Google Earth to locate Mount Etna, the Amazon rainforest and the Great Barrier Reef, to name a few. In maths, the children used their place value knowledge to add and subtract multiples of ten to two-digit numbers. We then applied this learning by adding and subtracting 11, 12, 21 and 22. They enjoyed completing investigations and games to practise their skills. In computing, we explored what an algorithm is, gave directional instructions in pairs, and tested our own algorithms using Bee-Bots. In English, we continued reading our class book, wrote setting descriptions focusing on tense and verb choices, explored noun phrases, and mapped out our slow rise story.

Year 3

This week in maths, Year 3 has focused on placing numbers on number lines (0-100 and 0-1000 with and without intervals). The children learnt about important numbers such as 50, 25, 75 and 250, 500 and 750 and used these to help them place other numbers on their

own lines with increasing degrees of accuracy. In English lessons, the children had lots of fun creating their persuasive posters about issues they felt strongly about. They thought about the facts they wanted to include and how they might use alliteration and rhetorical questions to grab the readers attention. In our geography lesson the children started to discover some of the physical features that you might find in Antarctica. Next Friday, we are planning a trip to the Scott Polar Museum and will need a small number of adults to help us walk and accompany the children when we arrive there.

Year 4

In maths, we learned how to calculate fractions of amounts (for example, one fifth of 40 or three eighths of 80). We also practised dividing by using jumps along a number line, using times tables facts to help us. In English, we tried out useful ways to sequence and connect information in an explanation text. In RE we investigated ceremonies that celebrate naming. In science, we had a member of staff from Cambridge Water come in to run a workshop about the water cycle and water filtration (linking with our topic from last term). In PSHE, we focused on what we are good at and enjoy doing. Spellings this week are words ending in -sion.

Year 5

Year 5 has had another chilly yet productive week. They had their first swimming session, during which all children were assessed and placed into groups according to their ability and confidence in the water. In English, we have continued reading *Boy in the Tower*, and the class had a go at writing a description of the view from the tower block where the story is set. In Maths, the children have been exploring measure. They have looked at train timetables using the 24-hour clock and have also explored the area and perimeter of different shapes. In Science, the class selected a planet and carried out research on it. In History, we have been exploring Sikh beliefs and society during the Sikh Empire. Well done to Year 5 for another hardworking week!

Year 6

A big hello from Year 6. This week we found out about the film festival which caused great excitement! In English, we have been building up a story using a mix of dialogue, narrative and descriptive language to make a gripping story. We have just been introduced to our new history topic - the Sikh Empire and have done a map showing where the Sikh Empire and other things are. In PE we have been playing inclusive sports such as sitting volleyball and blind-folded football. We look forward to the week ahead.

By Kiana, Phoebe and Ayin

Community news

February Activity Camp

See attached poster for information about a half term camp at the Spinney Primary School.

EAL teacher

Please see the attached flyer for details of EAL tuition in Cambridge.