



Newnham News

Friday 30 January 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Watching the delight on children's faces when they see their parents at the end of the school day always brings home just how important those parents are to their child. By some distance, they are the number one person in their children's world.

What a responsibility — and what a job. The worst paid, but the most rewarding one a parent will ever have.

It is to nurture their nature, whatever that nature may be. Whether they are a restless ball of energy, a dreamer, intensely focused or quietly relaxed. Every nature, with the right nurture, can be guided to be kind, to be resilient, and to learn how to manage and channel themselves positively.

Undoubtedly, some natures make the nurture process harder. But all natures can be wonderful. It is how we shape and develop them that makes what we do — parents, families and school — so important.

But this falls especially on you, the parents. To your children, you are unquestioned heroes, lighting their early steps.

As I said: what a responsibility.

So keep up the good work, and enjoy your weekends. You have definitely earned them.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Year 5 swimming	Tues 3 Feb
Year 4 forest school	Fri 6 Feb
Year 2 forest school	Fri 6 Feb
Year 6 film festival	6pm Fri 6 Feb

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

Whole school news

World Book Day

This year's World Book Day takes place on Thursday 5th March. In the past, we've been lucky to enjoy some fantastic assemblies led by parents, including last year's session with a children's illustrator. If you are an author, illustrator, publisher or work in another area of the book world and would be interested in getting involved, please speak to Miss Holliday or Ms Mangera.

We'd also like to keep you updated that, following parent feedback, our current plan is to hold World Book Day dressing-up every other year. As 2025 was a costume year at NCPS, children and staff will not be dressing up this year.

Parents guide to school complaints

The local authority has shared some new guidance for parents and schools relating to the process for raising issues and making complaints. Please click on this [link](#) for further information.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

The week started with an exciting bus trip to the Central Library for half of the class. The children were wonderfully behaved and did some amazing writing about their experience, sharing what they saw and how they felt. In maths, we have been learning number bonds to 10, using visual prompts and fun rhymes to help the children remember them. During PSHE, we have been talking about what makes a good friend, discussing kindness, sharing, and how to look after one another. Please remember to check your child's home folder and support them with writing their name using correct letter formation. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 1

P.E. in Year 1 this half term has focused on two exciting areas. During Tuesday sessions with Mrs Roberts, the children have been developing their agility skills through fun games such as *Dragon's Nest*, *Destroy the Towers* and *Courtyard Dodgeball*. In Wednesday P.E. sessions with the class teacher, the focus has been on dance. The children have been responding creatively to a range of seasonal stimuli, and this week they worked together in unison to create a wave-inspired dance set in the summer.



Year 2

Year 2 has had a busy and creative week. In English, the children completed their excellent slow rise stories, using rich vocabulary to help readers visualise their journey to Lammas Land. We then began our poetry unit, performing poems in groups and focusing on expression. We also went on a simile hunt around the school and worked together to write a group poem about our school. In art, the children created collaborative mono prints using carbon paper, experimenting with tone and mark making. In geography, we drew sketch maps and used OS maps to match symbols using a key. In maths, we used Venn and Carroll diagrams and finished our shape unit by learning about the properties of 2D shapes. We ended the week with a fantastic Forest School session! Well done, Year 2.

Year 3

Year 3 has had a great week and really impressed in so many areas of their learning. In maths the children continued to work on multiplication and division problems. In English lessons the children gave some really inspiring, informative speeches about a subject of their choosing. They also really enjoyed creating calligrams on

words with opposite meanings and writing recounts about what life might be like living in Antarctica.

Year 4

In English, we edited and produced the final version of the explanations for our amazing inventions. In maths, we practised adding fractions with the same denominator, giving answers in their simplest form, and converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have also been learning the 7x and 9x facts. In science, we constructed circuits, this time introducing a switch and exploring how this works and why we need switches. In RE, we investigated different ceremonies of commitment. Spellings this week are words ending in -ous that include 'ge.'

Year 5

Year 5 has had a very active week, with their third swimming session and a trip to The Whipple Museum to coincide with our learning about Space and Earth. In science, we have been exploring how day and night and the seasons occur, using models of the Sun and the Earth with a torch and ping-pong balls. In history, we explored the historical significance of Ranjit Singh. In RE, Year 5 has been looking at what funerals can mean in different worldviews. In English, the class has been reading more of *Boy in the Tower*. This week, they focused on colons and explored why the author has chosen to use them. They then rewrote parts of the story using colons. In maths, we have been looking at decimals. The class practised multiplying decimals by 10, 100, and 1,000, as well as adding decimals using the expanded and compact column methods.

Year 6

This week in Y6, we had a very exciting week. It involved Masterchef Round 2, topic: pies. The winners were

Coconut Cream Pie (by Kamille, Matilda, Spica, Ayin and Kiana)

and Jamaican Curry Pie (by Ahyun, Ziyuan, Joylin, Ariana and Maya) and everyone thought they were delicious! We



also had our public speaking competition, in which Kamille will be taking part for Y6. There were many other great speeches including Edie and Ahyun who were candidates as well. Miss Baxter has been teaching us more lessons as part of her training programme. Our class book *Gregor the Overlander* is getting more and more intense.

By Kamille and Matilda

Community news

Chess club

Rounds 9-12 of the schools' chess league took place last Sunday, with our A-team beating both Hardwick & Cambourne teams: the As 3.5-2.5 and the Bs 6-0. They then drew 3-3 with (then) league leaders Junior Chess & Go, before losing by a single point to promotion rivals King's E. These excellent results mean we are still in third place with a three-point cushion, set for automatic promotion, but there's a chasing pack piling on the pressure.

Kasparov Division			
Position	School	Played	Points
1	MCGaP	12	53.5
2	Junior Chess & Go B	12	52
3	Newnham Croft A	12	49.5
4	King's F	12	46.5
=	St John's A	12	46.5
6	King's E	12	46
=	Stephen Perse Junior A	12	46
8	Hardwick & Cambourne A	12	41.5

Scouts Ceilidh

Our next amazing Scout Minibus fundraising event is now on sale! We will be hosting a **Ceilidh** at the scout hut on **Saturday the 28th of March**. There will be two dancing sessions, 7-8pm and 8:45-10pm, both included in your ticket. There will also be a BBQ and licensed bar operating for you to purchase food and drinks before the event (doors open 6pm) and during the break. All profits go towards the minibus fund.



There are limited tickets for this event so purchase early to avoid disappointment. Please note this event is only open

to adults/age 11+, for safety reasons.
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/ceilidh-night>

Chorister event

On Sunday 1 March 2026, Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge, will be hosting *The Chorister Experience*, a free event for children aged 6 to 9 to find out more about singing opportunities at the University Church. The event is targeted at children currently in Years 2 and 4.

The children will take part in a workshop with the Great St Mary's choristers and do some fun warm-ups and musical games with our Voice Coach, Helen Groves. At the end of the afternoon, they will sing as part of a service of choral evensong, conducted by Director of Music, Alexander Berry.

After the event, participants will have the opportunity to sign up to voice trials, which will take place on Saturday 14 and 21 March.

To sign up to take part in *The Chorister Experience*, please fill in the following form:
<https://greatstmarys.churchsuite.com/-/forms/udeinvjm>