



Newnham News

Friday 27 June 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

Now, it is important to be quite clear that these are merely my idle thoughts. Some will agree, some will not and quite probably, some will stop reading shortly! However, it's a subject I've been wanting to write about for a while, and now I have.

Resilience is gently being eroded in our children. Kindness - the reasonable desire of a parent to protect - is having the unintended consequence of undermining a child's natural ability to problem-solve, gently softening their ability to resist, to persevere, to overcome life's negatives.

Guilt, now as much a part of parenting as nappies and pocket-money, only adds to the difficulty. If I can't be at home because of work, I can at least make it up to you by buying you X, Y and Z, by understanding when you speak to me like that.

What seems to have been lost a little is that children **need** parents to be strong, to set boundaries, to offer the child a padded wall they can test themselves against. When they find that wall is, instead, an open door, the child loses themselves, far too young to navigate the world and suddenly without the magnetic North that their parents are meant to be.

Whatever your thoughts (or not) of these ruminations, I very much hope you all have very happy weekends.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y4 swimming (bring PJs!)	Tues 1 July
Y3 swimming (bring PJs!)	Tues 1 July
Y2 swimming	Thurs 3 July
Y6 sleepover	Thurs 3 July

children arrive at 6.15pm

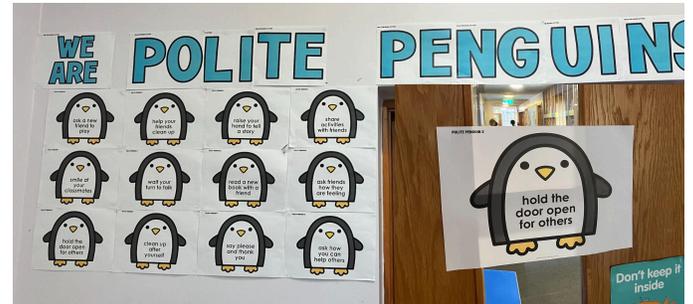
Don't forget:

PTA Summer Fete	12 noon	Sun 13 July
Sports Day	KS2 morning, KS1 & Rec afternoon	Tue 15 July

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

Whole school news

Polite Penguins



This week, the whole school has been celebrating the importance of being polite penguins! In assembly, we've been sharing ideas about how small acts of kindness—like smiling, saying hello, holding doors open, and using polite words like “please” and “thank you”—can make a big difference. Year 6 has brightened up our corridors with fantastic polite penguin posters, and today we were thrilled to see a Year 4 and a Year 2 child awarded High Flyers for their wonderful manners and respectful behaviour.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.65. *Please be aware that the price of a school meal will be increasing to £2.75 from September. We are aware that this follows an increase in January but governors will be reviewing the meal costs annually and it makes sense to do this for the start of each academic year.*

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.

Classroom news

Reception

We've had another very warm week in Reception, but this hasn't stopped the children from enjoying their final Forest School session, exploring insects in the outdoor area, and taking part in their Child-Led Projects. Our Child-Led Project is based on last term's topic, *Minibeasts*, and provides the class with the opportunity to engage in any child-initiated activity they choose. This has included mark-making using minibeast images as inspiration, searching for spiders in the outdoor area, creating minibeast-themed number bonds to

ten in the tough spot, and following instructions to make playdough models of minibeasts. In maths, the children have been exploring doubling and halving using towers of multilink cubes to support their understanding. In literacy, we read our class book *The Gigantic Turnip* and discussed the role of the animals in helping the farmers. In phonics, we explored words ending in **-ing**, such as *groaning* and *sleeping*; **-ed** words that make a **t** sound, such as *cloaked* and *scooped*; **-ed** words with an **-id** sound, such as *started* and *floated*; and **-ed** words that make a **d** sound, such as *groaned* and *cleared*. Well done for a brilliant week, Reception!

Year 1

Year 1 have been enjoying experimenting with watercolours in their art lessons. They've explored how the paint moves and blends, creating abstract imagery guided by the feel of the brush and colour. Inspired by watercolour artist Emma Burleigh, the children learned about her techniques and tried out some of her expressive ideas. Rather than painting specific objects, they let their creativity lead the way. Next, they'll begin adding details to their work—perhaps transforming abstract shapes into imaginative scenes!

Year 2

It's been a busy and productive week in Year 2! In English, the children have written detailed character descriptions for their heroes and villains and have begun planning their own superhero stories. In history, we worked together to write a diary entry from the perspective of Edith Cavell, exploring her experiences as a nurse during the First World War. In science, we investigated what animals, including humans, need to survive. Our DT lessons focused on balanced combinations of ingredients and what works well together in a recipe. In maths, we have been reading analogue and digital clocks to the nearest 5 minutes. It would be fantastic if you could support this learning at home by using real-life opportunities to talk about and practise telling the time.

Year 3

Year 3 have continued to have lots of fun in English lessons looking at different adverts and answering questions about them. In maths lessons, the children learnt how to tell the time using the 24 hour clock and to compare times in seconds, minutes and hours. In PSHE, the children continued to learn about their bodies and what was different and the same about them. In our science lesson the children used the results they had collected last week to construct a bar chart showing how handspan affects your ability to grip different sized objects.

Year 4

We have had a busy week in year 4. In maths, we have been looking again at areas we found tricky. This has included division, finding change and Roman numerals. In English, we have continued the whole school story for world writing day and investigated how to use apostrophes for plural nouns. In science we found out the results for all our plant growing experiments, and started looking at bones and muscles for the new 'Healthy Me' topic. We have also completed some

assessments and talked about kind behavior at school, and why this is so important. Spellings this week are words with 'ie' making an 'ee' sound.

Year 5

In maths, we learned about percentages and how to convert them into decimals and fractions. In English, we practised writing job application letters and then wrote job offer letters to each other in response to our applications. We then began our new topic, Argument and Debate, by discussing opinion versus fact and writing about who we think is the greatest person to ever live and why. In science, we investigated which materials are soluble in water and what factors affect the rate of solubility. We were also lucky enough to take part in a computing session about micro bits, delivered by St John's School, where we programmed robots to drive around different obstacles.

Year 6

This week we have continued our writing assessments. In history, we've looked at people on bank notes and had a debate about who deserved to be on a bank note: Alfred the Great or Elizabeth I. In PE, we have played rounders instead of athletics because of the tournament next week.

By Patrick and Thomas

PTA News

Summer Fete

In the words of DJ Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince it's SUMMER, SUMMER TIME, which can only mean one thing...

The PTA Summer Fete!

**Sunday 13 July
12 noon - 3pm**

Free inflatable slide, face painting, craft corner, Kids vs Adults football game, raffle (with prizes donated by local businesses), stalls and games, and more... (Under 2s go free, and cannot use the inflatable but there will be other activities they can join in.)

Sizzling hot dogs provided by Cousins. Ice cream from Crofters. Dairy-free/veggie also available.

This event cannot run without help from the school community - parents and carers, if you can, please consider lending a hand at this event. Sign up here: <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18289336>

Proceeds go towards Newnham Croft Primary School PTA.

Donations wanted!

For Year 2's stall this year we're making Jolly Jars and we need your help!

We're looking for empty, clean jam jars (ideally with labels removed/soaked off, no nut butter jars please), and lots of the following items:

- Small toys (e.g. matchbox cars, fidget toys, bouncy balls, Playmobil people, toy animals or other figurines, Kinder Egg toys...)
- Stationery (e.g. erasers, small pencils/ pens/ crayons, novelty paperclips...)
- Stickers or other craft items
- Sweets
- Plastic jewellery

- Balloons

If you have any of these lying around, we'd be grateful if you could bring them to the labelled box in the playground (under the kitchen window at every drop-off and pick-up) by Friday 4th July.

Thank you!

Yr 2 Class Reps (Olivia, Gali and Camila)

Y6 Tombola stall

Tombola stall at School Fete - Donations of bottles and small gifts for the tombola needed please (alcohol directly to the office).

Community News

Summer at the Museums: What will you discover this summer?

24 July – 31 August 2025

Enjoy a great value day out with your family at museums in Cambridgeshire.

With 25 venues to explore, there's all sorts of fun to be had over the school holidays. We have a packed schedule of events, designed to spark your imagination, explore big topics and help you create special memories with the whole family.

Follow a nature trail, get creative in arts and crafts workshops, experience hands-on science and technology, and much more – all free or low cost! Sign up for weekly event updates straight to your inbox.

The full programme will launch on Friday 11 July 2025 on the University of Cambridge Museums website:

www.museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/summer

Music Festival - sign up open

We still have a few slots for musicians to sign up to for our final Music Festival of 2025 on Wednesday 16th July. The Junior and Senior Orchestras will be performing and we look forward to hearing how much the children have progressed this year! Full details here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12qyvizX4XYvAtm7O6Mp4mdOHnm9bz48jOGuPfgRTEc/edit?usp=sharing>

Take advantage of the warm weather - Sheep's Green Learner Pool open!

If you are wondering what to do with hot and bothered children, why not come down for a dip at Sheep's Green Learner Pool? It would be lovely to see good use of this hidden Newnham gem to help ensure it continues to thrive.

Details of opening times here:

<https://sheepsgreen.wordpress.com/>