



Newnham News

Friday 18 September 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Online safety](#)

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you to all parents and carers for bearing with us as we have introduced our new morning routines.

Overall, the new arrangements have been working well. We have received mostly positive feedback from parents, and staff have commented on how settled and ready to learn the children have been when they arrive in class.

However, the current five-minute window between opening the gates at 8:40am and the bell at 8:45am feels a little rushed and busy. There are simply a lot of people trying to get through the gate in a short space of time.

With this in mind, from Monday, we will be opening the gates five minutes earlier, at 8:35am. Everything else about the morning routine will remain the same. The children in Years 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 will go straight into school. Reception and Year 1 children will line up in their usual places.

One thing we are conscious of is that the new arrangements have reduced some of the opportunities for parents and carers to stop and chat with one another in the mornings. To try and help maintain some of these moments, we thought we would run regular parental coffee mornings.

Our first one will take place on Friday 2nd October after you've dropped off your children. So please come along and have a moment to pause, breathe and have a chat.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Flu vaccination
Y4 trip to Wandlebury

Mon 21 Sept
Tues 22 Sept

Y6 swimming
Y5/6 trip to Duxford

Wed 23 Sept
Thur 24 Sept

Parent coffee morning 8.45 - 9.15am Fri 2 Oct

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

Whole school news

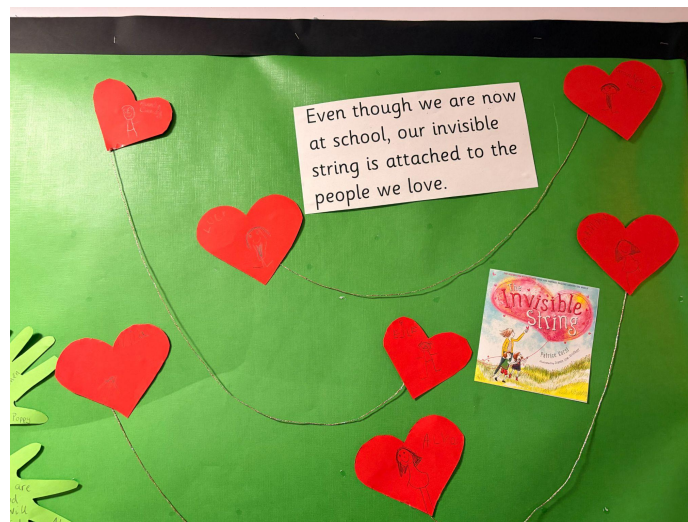
School Meals

The menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week is Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.90.

Classroom news

Reception

What an amazing first full week we have had in Reception! The children have settled in brilliantly and have been doing an incredible job of learning our new routines, becoming more independent and getting to know their new friends and teachers. We are so proud of how confidently they are beginning to find their way around our classroom and school. This week, we have been enjoying the beautiful story *The Invisible String*. We have been learning about how our invisible string



connects us to the people we love, even when we are not together. The children have shared some lovely ideas

about the special people in their lives and have enjoyed talking about the different ways we can feel connected to one another. On Wednesday, we headed out on a number hunt down Chedworth Street! We looked carefully for numbers in our environment and talked about why numbers are so important in our everyday lives. The children spotted numbers on houses, cars and signs and were fantastic at sharing what they noticed. We have had such a successful week that on Friday we were ready to join our first whole-school celebration assembly! The children did a wonderful job of sitting with the rest of the school, listening carefully and joining in with our celebration. What a fantastic achievement for our first full week! We are incredibly proud of our Reception children and can't wait to see what next week brings!

Year 1

This week, we have been learning how to write clear instructions using the story *Jasper's Beanstalk* as our inspiration. Jasper certainly got himself into a muddle when trying to nurture his bean plant! We thought he would have really benefited from having some clear instructions to help him know exactly what to do. Year 1 has been learning how to organise instructions clearly and choose precise verbs to explain each step. We have also been thinking carefully about including important details and making sure our instructions are clear enough for someone else to follow successfully.

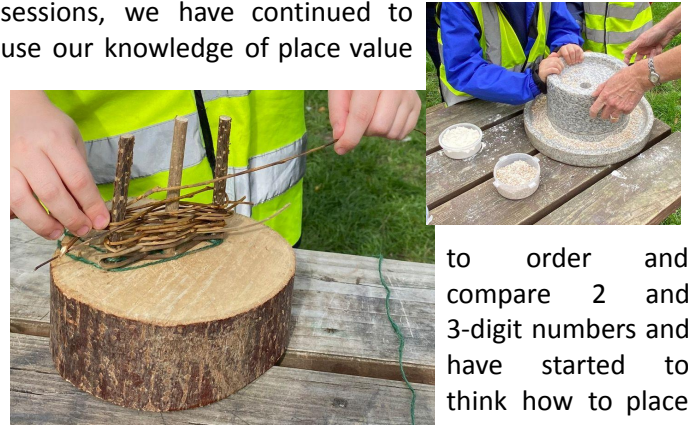
Year 2

This week, we solved the mystery of the clues we found last week! After sending letters to Mr Ferguson, we have been sequencing *The Three Little Pigs*, learning the story and adding actions to retell it using our oracy skills. In maths, we have been recognising coins, making totals and beginning to practise giving change. In Geography, we located the North and South Poles. In Religion and Worldviews, we discussed why harvest is an important time and how people celebrate it. In science, we continued exploring how materials suit their uses by investigating the different parts of a bike, their materials and properties, and why these make them suitable. In computing, we identified the uses of information technology in school. In gymnastics, we practised travelling and experimented with different ways of moving to improve our agility and coordination. Well done, Year 2, for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 3

Year 3 started the week with an 'Iron Age Experience Day' at Wandlebury Ring. Lots of fun was had, accompanied by some great learning. Thank you to all the adults who helped out on the day. It really made the children appreciate what life might have been like living thousands

of years ago. In this week's maths sessions, we have continued to use our knowledge of place value



to order and compare 2 and 3-digit numbers and have started to think how to place numbers along a number line with increasing degrees of accuracy. In English lessons, the children learnt how to recognise



prepositional phrases in instructional texts and started to think about what might be needed to wash a woolly mammoth.

Year 4

In maths, we began the week with a team challenge to create giant number lines from 0 to 1,000, identifying the midpoint, multiples of 100 and the order of numbers. We then challenged ourselves to extend our learning beyond 1,000 and up to 10,000, applying our knowledge of place value. We also explored the counting-on (or frog) method for subtraction, alongside mental strategies such as counting back in tens and then ones. The children practised selecting the most appropriate method for different questions. In English, we were delighted to convince Mrs Turner that it really is possible to wash a woolly mammoth! The children wrote detailed reports using new vocabulary and began to introduce humour to engage and entertain their readers. We certainly have a class of budding authors! Later in the week, we planned how Nancy might get her revenge on Princess Buttons in "Grimwood", developing our ideas and creativity as writers. In science, we compared the properties of solids, liquids and gases. We investigated which materials can flow, which can be compressed and how different materials change shape.

Year 5

Year 5 has had a great second week, learning more about World War II and feeling excited about their trip to Duxford next week. In English, we have continued with the story *Cloud Tea Monkeys*, and the class has been using subordinating clauses to describe the main character, Tashi. We also took quotes from the book to help us form opinions about her and used these as evidence to support our ideas. In Maths, Year 5 has been adding, multiplying and dividing decimal numbers by 10, 100 and 1,000. In history, Year 5 learnt about the role of the Royal Air Force and how they helped defend Britain's skies during World War II. In Science, the class had a go at separating substances using a sieve and a magnet. Well done for a brilliant week, Year 5!

Year 6

This week in English, we have been writing in role about The Highwayman. We have been using relative clauses. In history, we have been making and painting medals for the people who fought and worked in World War 2. In PE, we have been doing cross country and been trying to beat our personal score.

By Flore, Florence, Maja M & Marianna

PTA

The PTA had their first meeting of the year on Thursday. Discussions centred on the playground project - form, function and funding - which is a very exciting project for the coming year. They also approved payment for a Christmas performance by Travelling by Tuba, requested by the school following previous popular performances. As well as some classroom resources requested by the teachers, Reception had requested some dolls clothes with poppers or buttons to help the children develop their fine motor skills. If any families have any old items of clothing that they could donate, Miss Wakelen and the team would be very grateful for them.

Community news

Christmas card competition

Please see the attached letters with details on how to enter a Christmas card competition run by Daniel Zeichner.