



# Newnham News

Friday 1 December 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear parents/carers,

The proliferation of Christmas trees in school (thank you Dani Redhead and the PTA) and the start of advent calendars brings an obvious count-down phase to the autumn term. Combine this with the chilly weather and it feels the festive season is definitely approaching.

Despite rumours to the contrary among some members of staff, I am not all Grinch and no Santa. After what can feel like a very long November, especially for those afflicted by the numerous bugs doing the rounds, it is lovely to be planning for the Reception/Key stage 1 production, the festive sing-a-long on Monday 18 December, the craft morning and the children's Christmas lunch. December feels like the right time to start getting excited about the holidays, especially for those who have a focus for their joy like Christmas (or Hanukkah for 2023).

For those who got their trees from the PTA (or anywhere else) enjoy decorating them over the weekend. For those without a tree, enjoy the crisp weather.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards, Eddie Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Christmas Jumper Day.....	7 Dec
Y6 breakfast café 8.30am... ..	8 Dec
Rec and KS1 performance 2pm .....	12 Dec
Rec and KS1 performance 9.30am .....	13 Dec
Music Festival 6.30-7.30pm .....	15 Dec
Last day of term.....	20 Dec
Spring term starts for pupils.....	5 Jan

## Christmas Post Box

The post box will be open from Monday for children to post their Christmas, Hanukkah or happy holiday cards. Year 6 will deliver the cards every day. Please would you remind your child to put their name and year group on the envelope.

## New Home Reading Books

Thank you so much to all of the parents that worked so hard to fundraise for the home reading books to support our taught phonics scheme in Reception and KS1. The books have arrived in school and have been organised and catalogued, ready to be sent home. A launch meeting will be announced soon. Thank you once again.



## Classroom news:

### Reception

The cold weather this week has led to some very interesting learning as part of our Understanding of the World element of the Reception curriculum. Miss Blake left some plastic water toys in the water tray in the outside area, overnight. In the morning we found that the water had turned into ice! We used a thermometer to check the temperature of the water and found that it was in fact, 0 °C. This led us then to check the temperature of the water that comes from the cold water tap. The class knew the temperature had to be higher than 0 °C, as it wasn't frozen. It was in fact 14 °C. We then boiled the same water in a kettle, watching the steam come out of the kettle. We found that the water from the kettle, once poured out, was over 90 °C.

### KS1

In English, all classes have finalised their storyboards, retelling the tale of The Gingerbread Man. We've continued using Talk4writing to help with retelling the story and adding in actions to help us with remembering it in preparation for our story writing next week. Year 1 thought about connections to extend their sentences and Year 2 used open noun phrases to make their sentences sound even more exciting. In Maths, Year 1s have been adding single digits to teen numbers and they also learnt that adding a smaller number to a greater number is easier to work out as you just have to count on from the larger number. Year 2 have been looking at measurement this week, thinking about weight in grams and kilograms and capacity, looking at millilitres and litres. They used scales and jugs to explore these forms of measurement. In History, we recapped The Gunpowder Plot and some of us

acted out each part and some of us reflected on what we had learnt. In Science, all classes have been exploring microhabitats and we all went outside looking for at least 4 different microhabitats and worked out what sort of minibeasts could be found. Lastly, in PE, all children have been finalising their routine, which combines a forwards roll, teddy bear roll, egg tuck roll, and back support. All e-books have been added to your child's Big Cat portal, so please do continue to read with them. Well done for a hardworking week KS1!

### Year 3

Year 3 have worked really hard through the week. In Maths, the children have been adding and subtracting 1s 10s and 100s to 3-digits numbers (including number sentences that bridge the 100s). In our English lessons, we have started to recognise different features of non-chronological reports including titles, subtitles, paragraphs, captions and labels. In our History session, the children enjoyed comparing how we write today to how the Ancient Egyptians wrote. In Computing, the children enjoyed filming the storyboards that they had prepared previously, using iMotion.

### Year 4

In Maths this week, we worked on 4-digit place value, division using a number line and some investigations linked to these areas. In English, we have been exploring lots of non-fiction books about Ancient Egypt in preparation for writing our own non-chronological report, using all the fascinating facts we have learned in History. We learnt about paragraphs and how to write a glossary. In Computing, we learnt how to write programs for light and temperature sensors and in PE we started working on a gymnastics routine inspired by Ancient Egypt. In Music, Year 4 created their own songs about Ancient Egypt and practised playing scales on xylophones to accompany their singing. Well done Year 4 for a very hard working week! Please find the Year 4 spellings attached.

Both Year 3 and 4 will be visiting the Fitzwilliam Museum on Wednesday during the school day.

### Year 5

In English, we enjoyed writing short horror stories, inspired by the ones we read in Short! by Kevin Crossley-Holland. In Maths, we practised converting between grams and kilograms, millilitres and litres, miles and kilometres, and other imperial and metric units of measurement. In Science, we set up an investigation into whether different conditions affect the speed at which mould grows on bread. In PSHE, we learned when and how to seek urgent help from adults, including when the emergency services are required, and role played calling different emergency services.

### Year 6

Year 6 Masterchef took place on Thursday this week. The winners were the Masterchef Masters (Noam, Filippas, Lucas and Gray) with a chocolate loaf, pictured here. The loaf received 4/5 for appearance and 5/5 for taste. Today, Year 6 went to St Mark's Church to learn about church features. They also completed their swimming for the year, finishing it with a fun session. *By Gray and Evi*



### Music Festival 15th December

It's two weeks until our Festive Music Festival. Any child that is learning an instrument in school or privately is welcome to play to our friendly audience. To sign up or for more details, follow this link

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/173f4LhCGJ5rIII9wKocqL0eSPMg7Uw495Ipm5L-k20k/edit?usp=sharing>

### School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week's menu will be Week 1. 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).

### PTA News

#### Christmas trees

Thank you very much to everyone who bought a Christmas tree this year. We very much hope you enjoy them and thank you for supporting the school and buying a locally grown tree. Over £2,100 was raised for the school, which is a fantastic achievement!