



Newnham News

Friday 11 February 2022

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Lunch menu
- Online Safety Guide
- EWIF newsletter
- Mystery of the Moonflower
- Squirrel Scouts

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a lovely final week to this half term, concluding with everyone getting together today to wish Mr Ferguson and Ms Holliday well for their wedding. As part of that celebration we shared a lovely film that the Year 6 children had put together with lots of advice and positive messages to the happy couple. Particular thanks must go to Avigail for editing the film together. It was sad that she could not be in school to share the moment with her class, but her editing skills were appreciated by everyone. I'll take this opportunity to again wish the happy couple a wonderful time together in Scotland, we are all utterly delighted for them both.

Happily, Covid rates have continued to fall this week, so it does look as though we are on the final stretch of this whole escapade. I sincerely hope that it won't be very long before we can have parents back being able to attend school events in person and allow us to celebrate all of the brilliant work your children are doing.

We are delighted to have received a very kind donation of a Japanese cherry tree from the Sakura Cherry Tree Project. This is one of 7000 trees donated as part of this project across the country. We have been waiting for this tree to arrive for a couple of years and it is now planted in the courtyard at the front of the school. Thanks to Veronica and her team for planting it last weekend. In the years to come it should add a lovely extra touch to the front of the school.



Finally I'd just like to wish you all a lovely spring half term break. The staff at school have been working so hard this term and they completely deserve a well-earned break. We equally hope that you have a lovely week with your families.

Online Safety

Attached to this newsletter is an Online Safety Guide for parents. We've put this together to help highlight some of the current issues and dangers presented to children through their online experience. This is not a guide which is intended for you to share with your children, as it contains reference to software and issues that you might not want to expose your child to. It is intended as an information document for parents to keep you up to speed with the various dangers attached to online experiences that some children are experiencing. This guide, along with other materials, is also shared on the school website in the Parents area. It is a long document and you certainly don't need to read it in one sitting. We will be starting to send you all regular updates to this guide during the year as new technology and challenges present themselves. If you feel that there are software, issues and subjects not addressed by this guide, please get in touch with the school, as we can then address these in updated publications.

You will also find attached to this newsletter an update from the County's Early Intervention Team. Some families may well find some support helpful to them through this service. If so, please take time to look at this attachment. They will be sending out weekly updates which we will continue to attach to future newsletters.

Owlstone Croft

Many of you will be aware that Queens College is planning a major site development on the plot of land adjacent to the school. I know that many local residents have concerns about this development and the school governors have discussed how the school will respond to the planning application. There have been a few rumours circulating, suggesting that the school are supportive of the development and have agreed to 'bribes' of work being done on the school's windows in exchange for our support and the use of our grounds as an access route to the site. I just want to take this opportunity to reassure you that this is all completely untrue and without any basis in fact. Neither work being done for the school, nor the use of the school grounds for access, have been discussed with Queens at all. A collective decision on the school's response to this proposal will be taken and managed by the school governors in due course, once we see the planning proposal in full.

Whole Class Photos

Pret-a-Portrait will be in school on 24 February to take group class photographs.

Classroom Roundup

Reception

We wrote our own version of the story Handa's Surprise, calling it 'Princess Lola's Surprise'. In our version of the story, Princess Lola packed her basket with seven items of food for her friend, Prince John. Sneaky animals stole the food on her journey and somehow the food was replaced by crunchy green apples. In phonics we have reached the end of Phase 3 and will review this after the half-term break. In Maths we have been weighing objects using non-standard units of weight such as blocks. Yesterday we weighed 500g of potato seeds to plant in our garden.

Year 1

This week in Maths, Year 1 have been looking at numbers to 50. In Geography, we have been looking at the UK map again and locating major cities using our knowledge of the compass. We have recorded our flame dance and enjoyed watching it back. In English, the children have written their account of what The Great Fire of London would have been like, had they been there. The class have definitely earned a well deserved rest. Enjoy half term Year 1!

Class 1/2N and 1/2C

In DT and Science, we enjoyed baking bread rolls and testing and evaluating them. The general consensus was that the rolls were delicious and that we are all star bakers! In Maths, Year 1 have been learning about numbers to 50, counting backwards and forwards within 1-50 and have started to learn about place value (that 2-digit numbers are made up of tens and ones -using dienes/base 10 maths equipment). They also applied their knowledge of subtraction to subtracting lengths. Year 2 learnt about the relationship between minutes and hours and consolidated last week's learning on 'past' and 'to' times. They also completed end of unit assessments on division, fractions and time (copies of which have been sent home in reading folders). In English and History, we concluded our topic by writing a diary entry about the Great Fire of London and explaining how the fire started, how we know about it and describing some of the differences between London now and in 1666. In Geography, we have been learning how to locate precisely. The children have really impressed us with their enthusiasm for their topic learning this half-term. In phonics, Year 1 focused on spelling plural nouns using either 's' or 'es' (cats, foxes). Year 2 have been working hard on their grammar and spelling including how to recognise nouns, adjectives, verbs and adverbs and how to add the suffix 'y' to words ending in e (taste/tasty. ice/icy). Thank you for helping your child to spot and recognise some examples of these spellings in their daily reading at home and to practise their spelling. Well done to everyone for a hardworking half-term and wishing you all a happy and healthy week.

Year 3

This week, Year 3 performed a music concert based around our topic of 'Magic, Potions and Spells.' The class sang and danced beautifully and even though we had a little bit of rain, this didn't dampen their performance. I felt very proud of Year 3 and a huge thank you to Katerina for all of her hard work organising the music and joining us for the rehearsals. In English, we've been completing our stories based on *Fantastic Beasts*. The class planned the remainder of their stories, by adding the build-up, the problem and finally the resolution to their stories using paragraphs and the grammatical devices, fronted adverbials and open noun phrases. In Maths, the class have been working on the inverse relationship between multiplication and division. The class also have explored angles and turns and perimeter. In Geography, Year 3 explored the Prime Meridian and researched a European country which lies on the Prime Meridian. Lastly, in Art, the class painted their polystyrene tiles which contained their scribed sea patterns with poster paint and printed these into their sketch books and onto sugar paper to reveal beautiful marine patterns. Well done Year for an excellent week. Have a wonderful half term!

Year 4

For the final week of this half term, Year 4 have been finishing our topic of 'Magic, Potions and Spells' by writing our stories. Our capturing stories include fronted adverbials, adjectives, similes and personification to ensure our readers are drawn in. In Maths, we are finishing our unit on shape by looking at symmetry and patterns. We even managed to combine our Maths learning with our art, as we went outside with our sketch books to find and draw symmetrical patterns in nature. Everyone in Year 4 has earned a 'Classmate of the Week' award this week. Each child has taken the challenge to adjust to a new teacher in their stride this half term, they should all be so proud of their efforts. Miss Sheridan certainly is!

Year 5

This week's Forces topic saw us testing various materials in order to design a brake for a bike. We needed to think about creating a test as fair as possible which would increase the amount of friction in order to stop a wheel spinning the fastest. In RE we learnt about world views that have influenced non-violent protests throughout history, exploring the lives of Nelson Mandela, John Hume, Martin Luther King Junior and Mahatma Gandhi. On Wednesday and Thursday, we designed, constructed and evaluated a marble run with the aim of seeing how long we could make a marble travel 50cm. In French, we continued looking at our theme of food - this week we were thinking sandwiches.

Year 6

This week in Year 6 has been extra fun. We have been learning about statistics and how to read and create pie charts in Maths. In English we have been writing information texts and instructions. We also made marble runs. Last week we spread joy by handing out fortune cookies to celebrate lunar new

year. We'd like to say a big congratulations to Mr Ferguson and Ms Holliday who are getting married over half term.

By Marielle and Tomke

School Meals

The first week of the new term will be the week 1 menu of the new three week cycle (attached). The cost of a school meal is £2.40.

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

Yours faithfully,

Andy Matthews, Headteacher

COMMUNITY NEWS

Squirrel Scouts

Does your child enjoy the outdoors, like making new friends, going on adventures and trying new things? If so, Squirrel Scouts could be for them! Squirrels are the new youngest section of The Scouts, and open to 4-6 year olds. There is a brand new Squirrel Drey opening in Newnham on Tuesday evenings, and we are looking for Squirrels to join. See attached flyer for information.

Mystery of the Moonflower - FREE livestreamed Twilight event this half-term from the Botanic Garden

This half-term we are extremely excited because we are locking up two celebrities, Maddie Moate and Greg Foot (from CBeebies Do You Know? Blue Peter and Let's Go Live) in the Cambridge University Botanic Garden glasshouse range as part of an interactive escape room type mission called the Mystery of the Moonflower. It's going to be a really fun, interactive adventure for children of all ages. To join in the fun and help Maddie and Greg solve the mystery simply visit www.bit.ly/MoonflowerMystery at 7pm on Wednesday 16th February. Trailer: <https://youtu.be/suG7hlh-zTc>

For more information visit Cambridge University Botanic Garden website: www.botanic.cam.ac.uk