



Newnham News

Friday 25 February 2022

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Lunch menu
- Advert for Clerk to Governors
- Local Authority letter to parents
- Early Intervention Worker newsletter
- King's Camp flyer

Dear Parents and Carers,

With such a perilous world playing out all around us just now, I'm particularly mindful of those children and families who might have extended families and loved ones much closer to the conflict in Ukraine than we are in the UK. I'd firstly like to be clear that as a school we will want to be able to support any children and families feeling the impact of this war. We have both Ukrainian and Russian families in the school and have already needed to discuss issues about the support for these children with a couple of classes. Our singular aim is to ensure that, for these children, we keep school as a non-politicised place where all children feel safe and supported. If you do discuss the conflict with your children at home, please be very clear to them that no nationals from those countries should be made to feel uncomfortable about their nationality and that the actions of a head of state are not the actions of the people from that country. Equally, if you would like some support for your child/family then please get in touch with us. To those families currently facing these challenges, we offer you our sincere sympathy and our hope that the situation rapidly improves for everyone.

It might seem trivial following that to return to the mundane matters of parking and traffic, however recently we have seen a tailing off of safe and sensible parking in and around the school. Please refrain from either parking at the junction at the top of Chedworth Street, parking down Chedworth Street, trying to drop off and turn in the staff car park. It is such a shame when this gets worse, as it distresses, frustrates and upsets those parents who take great care to park sensibly slightly further away and walk the last bit to school.

Also, please remember that school starts at 8.50am and drop off is at 8.40am to allow that to happen. Too often we have parents arriving after 8.50am and then taking a long time to leave the grounds. Recently some parents have been locked inside the gates and have resorted to coming into the school to get out. This is a clear safeguarding concern as parents should not be inside the school building when we are not aware of it and supervising it. If you do find yourself locked inside the grounds, please make a staff member aware, who can escort you to the front entrance.

You will all be aware of the Covid guidance changes and that from yesterday there is no longer a legal requirement to isolate if you contract the virus. However, the

recommendation is that you still do and schools have been instructed to refuse entry to children who have either tested positive in the previous 5 days or to those who are showing symptoms of Covid. Close contacts are now removed from the request to carry out daily LFTs and can attend school unless they have symptoms. In school we only have a few cases presently, so this feels like a proportionate response. School staff will no longer be taking twice weekly LFTs either and will only be wearing masks in congested communal spaces. The wearing of masks in classroom by either pupils or staff is strongly discouraged unless there is a clear medical reason why this should continue for now. The accompanying letter from the Local Authority goes into more detail about all of this, so please do read it. These measures will be in place until 1st April, when I expect almost all will be removed should cases not rise again.

In the weeks ahead, we will however be returning to running some school events a little more normally, assemblies will return to being face-to-face unless rates start to rise rapidly again. So, we can start looking forward to World Book Day allowing classes to share poems in an assembly next week. We're also looking forward to a science week in a few weeks, and a host of other school activities returning to a degree of normality. These can't come soon enough for us all, but will still be subject to alteration should rates increase in the school. This really does feel like the beginning of the end to Covid!

This week also saw the children having their class photos taken. You should have received a card from your child yesterday with the login to look at the picture. If you didn't receive one please contact the school office.

Finally can I please flag that we are advertising for a new Clerk to Governors. The advert is attached for you to consider. It's a great opportunity for someone to contribute to the running of three local schools, so if this sounds interesting to you please take a look at the role.

Classroom News:

Reception

In Reception, we started our chosen topic of 'Space' by reading the first of our class books 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. Baby Bear went on a journey to the moon and took a few chosen items with him. We wrote our own lists of what we would take to the moon and these included torches,

chocolate and blankets. Some mums and dads were also taken along! In both phonics and Maths, we have been revisiting phonemes and concepts learnt before the half-term break and will be moving on to phase 4 in our phonics programme next week. An email was sent out earlier in the week requesting photographs for our topic. Please could baby photos and photos of parents at work be sent into school by **Friday 4th March**. A reminder about home reading again; reading the same book on several occasions helps to build fluency.

Year 1

In Year 1 we have really enjoyed the start of our new topic Incredible Animals. We have written a class acrostic poem and have started to write individual ones. In Geography we have been recapping our knowledge of the 7 continents. In Science we have been classifying animals into mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and birds. In Maths we have been identifying numbers to 50 and comparing them.

Class 1/2N and 1/2C

Year 1/2 have enjoyed the start of our topic on Incredible Animals. In English lessons they learnt about the features of an acrostic poems and enjoyed writing their own compositions based around African animals. In phonics lessons Year 1 have been working on alternative 'y' sounds (happy, mystery, sky). Year 2 have been working on spelling words where the letter 'o' makes a 'u' sound (mother, money, cover). In Maths lessons Year 2 have focused on adding multiples of ten and 2-digit numbers using their knowledge of tens and ones. Year 1 have been stating what one more and one less of numbers to 50 are and using the < and > signs to compare numbers. In Science the children started to look at classifying animals into different groups. In Geography lessons they recapped their knowledge of the 7 continents of the world and started to recognise some of the physical features found in them.

Year 3 and Year 4

It's been lovely to have all of Year 3 and Year 4 back for the second half of the Spring term. We began this term with our new topic, *Explorers* in Science. The classes went outside in search of microhabitats, looking for plants and insects within them. In Geography, the classes have been exploring aviation and created a timeline to show all the different aviation types, in preparation for their next sessions travels around the world. In English the class have started reading Philip Pullman's *The Firework Maker's Daughter* and used their retrieval skills to answer questions about the first chapter. The classes have also been exploring newspaper reports. They discovered all the features of this non-fiction text and then wrote their own book review applying some of the knowledge they had learnt from the reports. In Maths Year 3 have been learning about time, such as converting analogue time to digital time and Year 4 have been multiplying and dividing by 10. Well done to both classes for a very busy and hardworking week.

Year 5

This week in English we began looking at the book *Cloud Tea Monkeys* by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham. The class made predictions for the ending based on what they knew or could infer from the story so far. In Maths we started the week looking at polygons, sorting them by their properties and reasoning, as well as finding fractions of amounts. In RE we debated what was more important; freedom or justice. Lots of children were able to put forward articulate and well-reasoned arguments to support their opinion and in History, we have started our new topic, the Shang dynasty, looking at what else was going on around the world at the time.

Year 6

This week in Year 6 we've been looking at a new topic, the exquisite Shang dynasty, which is a topic Newnham has not covered before. In English we have been studying and writing explanation texts about successful companies, people and sports teams. In Maths we have been reviving decimals and how to multiply them. In the past few days there has been a netball festival which has got the whole class worked up. Nevertheless, our class is quite enjoying Science, where we have been looking at local icon Stephen Hawking's theory about black holes. *Adam and Antonio*

School Meals

Next week will be the week 2 menu of the 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

CoderDojo

We wanted to let any Coders know about a great opportunity to further develop their skills. Drew Spencer (who helped out with our CodeClub in the pre-pandemic days) is currently the Champion of the CoderDojo, a club which runs sessions every first Saturday of the month. Details are all here on the official website:

<https://zen.coderdojo.com/dojos/gb/cambridge/cambridge-makespace-cambridge>

Messy Church

The next Messy Church at St Mark's will be on Tuesday 1st March. There will be a meal involving pancakes. It runs between 3.30 and 5.30pm, and there is no charge.

Coton Cricket Club - Junior training

Coton Cricket Club will be starting Junior training in May, through to July. Please register your interest now to ensure a place for training on Saturday mornings. Available for girls and boys in years 1-6, focussing on learning basic skills of batting, throwing, catching and bowling in a fun environment. Visit <https://coton.play-cricket.com/> or email Tom Smith on tm_smith@hotmail.com to register interest.

King's Camp

See the attached flyer re King's Camps sports and activity camps.