



# Newnham News



Friday 15 December 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear parents/carers,

A week where festive was very much the theme. From the tinkle and twinkle of voices and smiles in the Early Years / KS1 performances to the twinkling Christmas tree in the school foyer; from the children's Christmas cards being delivered round the school to a performance by the orchestra resplendent in festive favourites, it really has been a wonderful week.

Interspersed amongst the joy has been the opportunity for the children to reflect on their learning over the term, completing assessments in Reading and Maths. For the first time, we have decided that all assessments will be shared with parents, so expect them in the first week back after January. I will be sending out a letter covering this in more detail in the new year.

On Monday next week, the children will be enjoying a craft morning and the parents are invited to a festive singalong from 2.45pm on Monday afternoon. Pick up will be as normal at 3.15pm. The children and staff then have Christmas lunch on Tuesday. The PTA will be busy as well, supporting the singalong with hot drinks on Monday and running the treat stall during pick-up on Wednesday. And then everyone can rest!

I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful break and we look forward to welcoming you back on Friday (I know) 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Kind regards  
Eddie Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Music Festival 6.30-7.30pm.....	15 Dec
Festive Singalong, 2.45pm.....	18 Dec
Treat Stall.....	20 Dec
Last day of term.....	20 Dec
Spring term starts for pupils.....	5 Jan

## E-Safety Online Talk

Please find below the link to the E-Safety training that the 2 John's gave for the school last month. It is due to expire soon, so watch it sooner than later - it's really useful.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CWnlhX1Dpyf2\\_b9OoXjGdGdKcWCiGbkcnuydL4NwkXWIHI54bqIAel\\_Q0t\\_CYftM.ViG H6Yv52vXL8nHM](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/CWnlhX1Dpyf2_b9OoXjGdGdKcWCiGbkcnuydL4NwkXWIHI54bqIAel_Q0t_CYftM.ViG H6Yv52vXL8nHM)

## Lost Property

The lost property store is bulging with lost items – please have a look before the end of term to make sure you aren't missing anything.

## Classroom news:

### Reception

Along with the dress rehearsals and actual nativity productions this week, Reception have been finding out about the story of Christmas and why Christians around the world look forward to the celebration. On a more day-to-day level, we have been working really hard to develop our handwriting, ensuring each letter is well formed and that there is an understanding of when to use upper case letters and when to use lower case. Please see the attachment for formation guidance. The formation phrases on the attachment apply to the lower case letters.

### KS1

This week, the students in Key Stage 1 (KS1) have been quite busy with our Christmas production. As a key stage, we had a fantastic time performing for all of you. Apart from the festive activities, we have also continued with Reading and Maths assessments. Furthermore, all the students have been working on their "big writes" this week, where Year 1 has been rewriting the story of The Gingerbread Man using the talk-for-writing method. In Year 2, students have changed characters to create their own versions of the story. Additionally, some students in KS1 have been getting creative by making Christmas cards. In our Computing lessons this week, Year 1 students have been comparing traditional paintings with digital paintings. Meanwhile, Year 2 students have applied the photography skills they've learned this term to capture high-quality photographs and evaluate them. It's been an exciting and productive week for all of us! Please continue to support your child with reading the allocated online book. It is recommended that they read it at least 3 times on different days throughout the week.

### Year 3

Year 3 have worked really hard throughout the week despite feeling tired after a long term. In English lessons the children completed their non-chronological reports about Ancient Egypt. In our Maths sessions the children worked on using doubling and halving to help them multiply and divide by 8. In our DT lessons the children used running stitch to complete their Egyptian collars. In Music lessons, the children have been practising their festive songs in preparation for the concert on Monday.

#### Year 4

Well done to Year 4 for an extremely hardworking and enjoyable term and wishing you all a happy, festive break. In Maths this week, we practised multiplication and division. In English and History, we researched Ancient Egyptian Gods and Goddesses, finished



writing our reports about Ancient Egypt and published our book of 'Grimwood Tales' for Year 3 to enjoy. In Music, we practised our songs for the Christmas Singalong on Monday afternoon. We are also looking forward to having a talk with Year 3 about Ancient Egypt by Dr Kate Spence from the Department of Archaeology at the University of Cambridge on Monday. Please see above some of the eye-catching Egyptian collars we have been sewing in DT. There will be no spellings attached this week.

#### Year 5

We had a busy week this week, spending a morning in forest school where we learned how to cut logs with saws and make tree decorations from twigs and string. We made pizzas, using our own designs, and then evaluated what went well and what could be improved next time. Our teamwork skills were excellent as we shared out ingredients and helped each other with chopping and preparing food. In Maths, we worked out the perimeter and area of both regular and irregular 2D shapes and then moved onto calculating the volume of 3D shapes. In English, we focused on learning poems by heart and performing them in different ways to an audience. We celebrated the end of the week with a handmade gifts Secret Santa, which was entirely child-organised and -led.

#### Year 6

This week, Year 6 have had a very busy week. We have been doing our practice SATS this week, which include 3 Maths tests, 2 or 3 English and Grammar tests and 1 Spelling test. Also, we have been doing science experiments with bread, seeing how mould grows on bread and where it grows best. This is the last full week until the holidays! So, the students have been deciding on a movie and if we do a Secret Santa. The Secret Santa is that students (who select to play) will give an edible present to a randomly selected person to eat during the movie that we will watch together.

*By Sam and Toby*

#### Eco Tip of the Month!

This month's Eco Tip is to think about waste this festive time. To be as environmentally friendly as possible, we should reduce the amount that we're using, re-use what we can and recycle. We can think about how much we're buying so we

don't create lots of waste, re-use gift bags and use wrapping paper that can be recycled as well as composting our Christmas trees in January. The World Wildlife Fund has some great sustainable tips too. <https://www.wwf.org.uk/top-tips-sustainable-christmas>

#### Music Festival 15th December

Our Festive Music Festival is tonight at 6.30 – 7.30pm. 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/173f4LhCGJ5rIII9wKocqL0eSPMg7Uw495lpm5L-k20k/edit?usp=sharing>

#### Mrs Markham's Half Marathon

In March next year, Mrs Markham will be running the Cambridge Half Marathon and is raising money for the charity Mind. Please consider supporting her here:

<https://www.givengain.com/project/katrina-raising-funds-for-cambridgeshire-peterborough-and-south-lincolnshire-cpsl-mind-69285>

#### School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week's menu will be Week 3. 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

##### Festive Singalong

Our final task for the end of term is providing hot drinks and a treat for parents and carers to enjoy when the children sing their festive songs on Monday 18 November. We need 2 people to help set up at 2.30pm, so please let us know on Classlist or email [newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com](mailto:newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com).

##### Treat Stall

The last Treat Stall of 2023 will be after school on Wednesday 20 December and will be hosted by Year 5. Items will be priced at 50p each, so bring along a coin or two to go home with a sweet treat.