



# Newnham News

Friday 29 April 2022

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

- Lunch menu
- Garden Club
- Mystery Seeds
- Kapla Club

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful week in school, and for our older children one that has been filled with sporting endeavour and achievement. You will be able to read more about all of this later in the newsletter.

We are really starting to operate more normally now and it is so exciting to see the school start to branch out beyond the school grounds again. Next week Year 5 are off on their residential trip to Thorpe Woodlands, Year 3 and 4 are off to visit The Folk Museum and Kettles Yard in the city and the Reception children are going out of school to learn about road safety. We look forward to all of the other experiences coming back that helps enrich your children's education.

It was also great to host the Music Festival last Friday and be able to share in the musical progress of so many children. You were all absolutely fantastic and I look forward to seeing how much you continue to progress this year.

I need to let you all know that following the recent Education White Paper released by the DfE **we are slightly extending our school day from September 2022**. From next year we will start school at 8.45am for all pupils and finish school at 3.15pm for all pupils. This means a 10 minute longer day for KS1 and 5 additional minutes for KS2. This will then meet the minimum hour requirement that a primary school should be open, as stated in the White Paper. This will hopefully not mean too much change for families, as we will still accept children on to the grounds at the same time and just ring the bell 5 minutes earlier.

Another change for the future is that the Governors and Local Council have determined to reduce the Pupil Admission Number (PAN) of the school from 34 to 30 from September 2023. This will ultimately mean that we will evolve into a single form entry school of 7 classes and remove the future need for mixed classes in KS1 whilst also reducing the class sizes in KS2.

I'm also going to raise the matter of road safety at drop off and pick up times again, not due to it getting worse, but just to ask parents to continue to be thoughtful in parking away from Chedworth Street and also well clear of the junction at the top of the road.

## Classroom News:

### Reception

Did you know that not everybody likes spiders? That probably doesn't come as a surprise to you. In our class book *Aaargh Spider*, by Lydia Monks, the spider in the story is desperate to be a family pet and does all kinds of things to impress the family he is with. Our class created their own photographs of a spider doing interesting things, like going on the slide or riding on a train and then wrote sentences to accompany the photographs. In Maths we have been looking at the hundred square. We have learnt to count in 10s to 100 and played games to help us find where numbers might be within the square. In our Expressive Art and Design session this week, we have been looking at the work of Henri Matisse and created our own pictures inspired by his painting, *The Snail*.

### Year 1

We have had another busy week in Year 1. We have really enjoyed our close observational drawing of flowers, trying to work in the style of the artist Georgia O'Keeffe. In Geography we have used compass direction to give a partner instructions. In Science, we have been looking at where fruit and veg grow (above or below ground). We have also set up a pea experiment and made predictions about what we think will happen. We are still looking at the story *Eat Your Peas*, and have written an alternative ending, ready for the rewrite of the story next week. In Maths, we have been halving quantities and quartering shapes.

### Class 1/2N and 1/2C

In Science, we set up an investigation looking in to what a plant needs to grow and made predictions based on this. We also sorted vegetables and fruits according to where they grow on the plant (above or below ground). In PE, we worked on dribbling and passing in football. In Maths, Year 1 have been learning how to find half of different amounts and how to find a quarter of different shapes. Year 2 looked at problems involving mass, made comparisons about which objects were heavier or lighter and used grams and kilograms to solve problems involving addition and subtraction. In phonics, Year 1 have been learning how to spell words using the alternative spellings for 'ear' - eer/ere/ier, (e.g. ear - deer, sphere, fierce). They have also been practising applying their phonics knowledge and reading words using sounding out and blending skills. In Grammar, Year 2s continued to work on expanded noun phrases in sentences and, in Spelling, they worked on words containing the suffix 'ful' and 'less' and explained their meanings.

In Art, we were learning how to draw with pencil our close observations of blossom flowers – see Lydia’s drawing pictured here. Thank you for your continued support with your child’s daily reading at home and spelling and number facts practice. Please remember to send your child’s reading record log book and reading books in every Friday.



### Year 3

This week, Year 3 and 4 were very excited about their swimming sessions which began this week. Both classes had an excellent first lesson and I was so proud of all the children for how well they listened to the instructors and the progress that they made just within one lesson. In History, the class learnt about the incredible work of the mathematician, Alan Turing. Year 3 enjoyed learning about how this inventor created a computer which was able to decode secret messages and the class spent the lesson creating their own secret messages inspired by Turing. In Science, Year 3 have been exploring the four main types of plants. In English, we've been looking at portal story settings based on the story *Harley Hitch and The Iron Forest* using prepositions. In Maths, the class has been working on adding 3 digits together using the expanded column addition and the compact addition. In Art, we have been exploring William Morris and his beautiful botanical designs. The class practised creating their own wallpaper designs inspired by William Morris. Well done Year 3 for a very hard working week!

### Year 4

This week, Year 4 have been looking at portal stories in English. We have been discussing stories in which the character enters a whole new world, different from our own. We have been using the 5 senses to describe the setting of our own magical worlds. In Maths, we have been looking at negative numbers, measuring temperature and using Roman numerals. We also had our first swimming lesson at The Leys this week. The children were able to show the instructors how confident they felt with swimming, so that appropriate activities could be assigned. During our Topic lesson this week, our focus was on Alan Turing, the Universal Machine and his work cracking codes to help during WW2. Our focus in Science this week has been on the plant kingdom, discussing types of plants, what they have in common and what makes them different.

### Year 5

This week we continued reading Kensuke's Kingdom, using inference to discuss the behaviours and feelings of the characters and taking inspiration from the setting of a stormy sea to write descriptive poetry. We were able to use our reasoning skills in maths to explain and extend our knowledge of place value when looking at 6-digit numbers. We have also

begun to write the script and gather ideas for the Year 5 production, which is less than three weeks away (Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May).

### Year 6

Year 6 have been working very hard all week. We have been preparing for Sats by revising in Maths and creating reading comprehensions for the Year 5s. Also, we have been adding to our trading and economics topic. In Music, we have been studying music families and notes and in PE we have been moving on with our tennis topic. *Avigail and Charlotte*

### Cross Country Competition

On Thursday, eight Year 6s went to a cross-country relay competition in St Neots. The team said it was hard but fun. They don't yet know what place they came in. Thank you to Mr Ferguson and Mrs Passey for accompanying us. *Marielle and Alex*

### Football Tournament

Some Year 5s and Year 6s from Newnham Croft went to Coleridge to represent their school in a football tournament. There were originally 6 teams but 2 had been knocked out in the previous round.

The first team Newnham played were Ridgefield who were a strong side that were hard to break down, especially after going down 1-0 in the first few minutes of the game, but 3 quick-fire goals from Kamari, Monty and James put Newnham Croft in a comfortable position. In the last few seconds of the game, Ridgefield pulled one back, but it was too little, too late and Newnham Croft won the game 3-2.

The next game was against Morley, who were drawn on points with us. This was to be a competitive game...Morley went 1 up from a tap in, then James equalised, a few minutes later a Morley player took a shot that clearly went over, but since there were no crossbars the ref gave a goal. Moments later, Kamari scored an insane goal from the halfway-line and then in the last 2 minutes, a Morley player ran down the line, passed it across the face of the goal, and someone tapped it in and the game ended 3-2. But Newnham kept going.

The next game we played was against St Albans, who we beat 11-1 in the first tournament. The moment the game started, Kamari won the ball back and passed it to James who scored, then amazingly St Albans equalised! Newnham scored again, then St Albans equalised, again! Things were now getting tense. Kamari had the ball from a free kick, unleashed a wild shot that flew into the top left corner and Newnham were back in the lead. But then in the last minute of the game, Newnham's defence crumbled apart and St Albans equalised. They all went crazy. The game finished 3-3 but we are still in the finals. And the game was against...Morley.

The moment the Morley players kicked off, Newnham's energy levels were high. One of their most competitive players had the ball and blasted a shot on the edge of the box which flew wide of the post. Minutes later, a Morley player played a great pass through to their striker, who managed to get it just over the goal. Now, Newnham had a chance. Michael played a nice pass and James turned quickly and

played a ball through to Monty who shot first time...is it going over or is it going in? The ball dipped over the keeper and...GOAL! Morley were now getting nervous but Newnham kept going on and started defending for their lives! One of their players had the ball in the box but they couldn't get past our defensive line and Kamari kicked it out. Then Patrick made a brilliant save in the last minute. Newnham Croft had finally, after all the struggle, won! *By James.*

#### **School Meals**

Next week will be the week 3 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk)

Yours faithfully,  
Andy Matthews, Headteacher

#### **PTA**

##### **Garden Club**

We are getting together again to garden at the school on Sunday 1st May at 10.30am - see attached flyer for more information. Hope to see you there!

##### **Mystery Seeds**

We have a limited amount of Mystery Seeds that we need your help to try and work out what they are - see attached flyer and Classlist for more information. Seeds are available at Garden Club on Sunday and also at drop off and pick up on Tuesday.

#### **COMMUNITY NEWS**

##### **Messy Church**

Tuesday 3rd May at St Mark's, between 3.30 and 5.30pm? Toddles has also restarted, following the Easter break, and will be running from 10-11.30 each Monday and Thursday in the church hall.

##### **Saturday Football**

Friendly, fun, Saturday football resumes Sat 30 April, with groups for year groups from 11.30 to 4. Parent run for kids at the primary school only with great professional coach. Come for a free trial or sign up for a 10 week term. Email [newnhamsportsfootball@gmail.com](mailto:newnhamsportsfootball@gmail.com) for more info.

##### **KAPLA Club**

Please see the attached flyer for the Kapla Club on 13 May.

