



Newnham News

Friday 26 April 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

We are always trying to find opportunities for the children to have real purpose for their writing. This sometimes includes persuading the kitchen to include new recipes on the menu (which led to Mexican day).

This week, some Year 6 children brought me a letter concerning the No-Ball Monday rule. I approached the letter with the intention of issuing a firm no, my altruism being at a low ebb that day. However, the quality of the writing was truly impressive and, in spite of my mood, I found myself persuaded. I enclose the letter below, which arrived with an extensive number of signatures.

Enjoy your weekends.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Dear Mr Ferguson,

For a long time now, No Ball Monday has been ruining our Monday lunchtime. In our class, we strongly believe that many of us (and other classes) find this unfair and frustrating. Even though we understand why no ball Monday has been enforced, (it can sometimes prevent the younger children from accessing the field), all of our Y6 think that re-introducing the footballs would give pupils an alternative to behaving in an inappropriate and immature way.

Additionally, this school has one of the most spacious and enjoyable playgrounds in all of Cambridge. And not being allowed to play football wastes this beautiful space, it could even increase injury risk significantly by cramming more children in a space less than half the size. Lastly, if a child is passionate about a certain skill and activity, why not let them do what they love. We definitely enjoy football more than manhunt. 100% of the people we asked have said that no ball Monday is hindering them from playing the sports they love and is making their break and lunch times less enjoyable. This is why we believe normal Mondays should be re-introduced.

Sincerely, Filippos, Lucas, Gray and Diego.

Diary Dates

KS1 speed kick challenge	Mon 29 Apr
Eat lunch with your Year 1/2 child	Mon 29 Apr, 12.05pm
Year 2 swimming	Tues 30 Apr
Bag2school clothing collection	Tues 30 Apr
KS2 speed kick challenge	Tues 30 Apr
Year 5 Thorpe Woodland trip	Wed 1 May

Year 3 swimming	Wed 1 May
Year 4 swimming	Wed 1 May
Eat lunch with your Year 1/2 child	Wed 1 May, 12.05pm
PTA Coffee and Chat	Fri 3 May

Please check the school calendar on our website, which is updated regularly.

BAG2SCHOOL textile fundraiser

Bag2School will be collecting from Newnham Croft on 30th April. Please bring your bag (or bags!) to the playground on the morning.

We are after your unwanted textiles – this can include adults' and children's clothes, shoes (tied together please), hats, belts, handbags and soft toys, (please refer to <https://bag2school.com> for full details).

SEND Conference

Pinpoint, are a parent/carer forum who give help and information to parent carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and/or additional needs, as well as give parent carers opportunities to have a say and get involved in improving local services.

They are holding their free SEND Conference in St Ives on 20th June. This is an opportunity to listen to speakers, take part in workshops and find out more about available support services through their marketplace. Please find more information in the attachment or by following this link: <https://www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk/event/pinpoint-in-person-conference-2024/>

Classroom news

Reception

The Reception topic for the half term is 'The Wonderful Outside' which made Earth Day, which took place on Monday, particularly relevant. To mark the day, the Reception children collected litter from the playground. Now, the pupils at Newnham Croft are pretty careful with their litter, however, our class did find quite a lot of snack wrappers hidden in the undergrowth and helped to clear it all up. Perhaps, KS2 children who bring snacks in could do so in reusable containers to cut down on waste?

Continuing with the theme of outside, the class wrote a shared poem about a spider:

Have You Seen My Spider

It has a big, big, big red body
It has 8 dark orange eyes
and 8 furry red legs
It likes to munch flies
It likes to crunch flies
It makes it's sticky web in old passages.

Hang on - is that him now?
zzzzz munch!

KS1

We've had another busy week in KS1, heading outside on a spring walk in science and preparing for making smoothies in DT. In maths, Year 1 has been working out odd and even numbers and exploring doubling and halving. In Year 2, all children have been using a variety of methods to work out subtraction of 2 two-digit numbers. In English, we've been looking at more of *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* and completed a mini reading comprehension on lighthouses. We then labelled and described a "particularly appetising" sandwich using a range of adjectives as part of Mr Grinley's lunch. Maybe you and your child could make a delicious sandwich at home this weekend. In geography, all children located the seas and countries of the UK on a map in preparation for our work on coastal towns around the UK. E-books have been added to the Big Cat Portal and home readers have gone home. Please ensure that children are reading for at least 10 minutes a day. Finally, well done to all Year 2 for completing their first session of swimming at Parkside Pools. If all children could meet in the playground outside the hall every Tuesday for 8.30am that would be amazing.

Year 3

Year 3 has had another impressive week. In our history sessions, the children enjoyed learning about the justice system during Anglo-Saxon times. Our maths sessions focused on addition and subtraction problems that crossed over the 10s and 100s barriers. In English, the children continued to enjoy listening to *Fantastic Mr Fox* and worked really hard on punctuating sentences containing direct speech. In our science sessions the children learnt about the dangers that are associated with using electricity. In our art session, the children used charcoal to draw pictures of bird nests.

Year 4

This week in Year 4, the children have been learning about negative numbers. We have been relating this to temperature scales. We had an exciting debate in history whilst comparing crime and punishments from Anglo-Saxon times to the ones in modern day Britain. In English, we have been using technical language in our explanations about how everyday machines work. We have been exploring a range of conjunctions to make our writing interesting. They have continued to work hard on their swimming this week too.

Year 5

In English, we had lots of fun writing the script for our year 5 play. We worked brilliantly as a team, with different groups working on different scenes and it has come together really well. In maths, we converted numbers to and from Roman numerals and then revised 2-place and 3-place decimals, focusing on what column each digit is in and how to add and subtract them correctly. In science, we created bar graphs showing the gestation periods of different animals and looked at the relationship between the size of the animal and the length of the gestation. In history, we looked at censuses from the local area around the school and discussed the differences between the people who lived there 100 years ago and the people who live there now.

Year 6

This week in Year 6 we have been doing SATS revision in maths and English. We have been doing Macbeth and witch spells from it. In PE, we did benchball because it was raining but we have actually been playing rounders. On Wednesday, we used the wall apparatus.

By Maguire and Evi

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.

PTA NEWS

Coffee and Chat

We're planning another morning coffee session on Friday 3rd May at 8.30 - 9.30am. Stay after drop off for a hot drink and catch up with other parents and carers.

If you can help set up and tidy away, please let us know by emailing newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com.

Community News

Newnham Nursery Job Vacancy

We are looking for an enthusiastic and committed individual to join Newnham Pre-School Nursery in Cambridge CB3.

The applicant MUST be qualified to NVQ level 3, equivalent or higher, have relevant experience working with 2½ - 5 year olds with good knowledge of Early Years Education, work well in a team and have excellent communication skills with both adults and children. Suitable DBS, reference and health check required for successful candidate.

We are recruiting for a full time position for 5 days per week (8.30am - 3pm) and for term time only.

For further information, please email Susan at office@newnhamnursery.co.uk.