



# Newnham News

Friday 13 June 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

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Dear parents/carers,

Two long standing members of staff will be leaving us at the end of this term.

Helen Bracey, who started here in 2009 as a teaching assistant, moved to the office manager position a year later and has run the finance side of things since 2023, is moving on to a new job outside of education.

Nicola Marroncelli has been teaching at Newnham since 2008, covering various age groups, predominantly the younger classes, as well as supporting children who receive pupil premium. Mrs M has taken the very sensible decision to retire (although she is on standby for supply cover if needed).

It goes without saying that they will both be missed and that we wish them luck in their new adventures beyond the school gate.

In other news, the PTA have been busy looking into commissioning an extension to the ever-popular Island play area. The committee wanted me to ask the parent body if there is someone who would be happy to project manage this. They would work alongside me to co-ordinate the various moving parts (staff, PTA, governors, the construction firm) if the proposal looks possible.

If this is something that appeals to you (and it will **definitely** appeal to your children) then please get in touch with a member of the PTA or myself. And be reassured that you would be part of a team, not working alone!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Y4 swimming		Tues 17 June
Y3 swimming		Tues 17 June
Y2 swimming		Thurs 19 June
Y6 show	6pm (children can arrive 5.40pm)	Thurs 19 June
Reception forest school	morning	Fri 20 June
Year 6 forest school	afternoon	Fri 20 June
Y3 & 4 river visit to Lammas Land		Fri 20 June

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly - events like Sports Day are up there now.

## Whole school news

### Chess Success

Congratulations to Adam M, Alice C, Ariana B, Bertie U, Evan P, Jack D, Jinyan M, Jonah M, Max S, Natty D, Oliver H, Rafa S, Spica Y and Ziyuan L who took part in the chess Megafinal on Sunday. The level of chess they played, and their behaviour and sportsmanship on the day, were outstanding.

The big success story was Spica, who finished second in her age category, and received a medal to rapturous applause in a packed hall. She will join Jonah and Jinyan (who scored enough points to qualify) in Surrey in July to take part in the Gigafinal, where the best chess minds do battle in an elite competition. We wish all three of them the best.

### School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.65.

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).

## Classroom news

### Reception

Reception has had a fantastic full week! The children have been introduced to their new book, *The Gigantic Turnip*. They discussed the events in the story and acted it out in groups. In Phonics, the children explored CCVC words such as *crack*, and CCCVC words such as *sprain*, *strain*, and *screen*. In maths, they investigated all the number combinations that make up 5 and 6. They wrote these as addition number sentences, such as  $2 + 3 = 5$ , and learnt that when you reverse the sentence, it still makes sense – for example,  $5 = 3 + 2$ . In science, we talked more about the importance of looking after our teeth. During Topic, everyone created a healthy eating plate, filled with a variety of nutritious foods. We ended our week with Forest School, where we listened to the wonderful sounds of early summer and spotted the seasonal changes in nature. Well done for a great week, Reception!

## Year 1

In P.E. Year 1 has been focussing on ball skills. Following a few sessions on rolling, throwing and catching balls, this week we have been developing ball bouncing skills. The children were asked to follow the guidance for knowing how to bounce a ball. You might think it's easy, but there is a lot of coordination involved: 1. Hold the ball at chest height 2. Focus on the spot where you want the ball to bounce 3. Push the ball down to that spot using the correct amount of force 4. Track the ball with your eyes as the ball bounces up 5. Use both hands to catch the ball around waist height as it bounces back up to you. Hopefully, Year 1 will have lots of fun bouncing balls over the weekend!

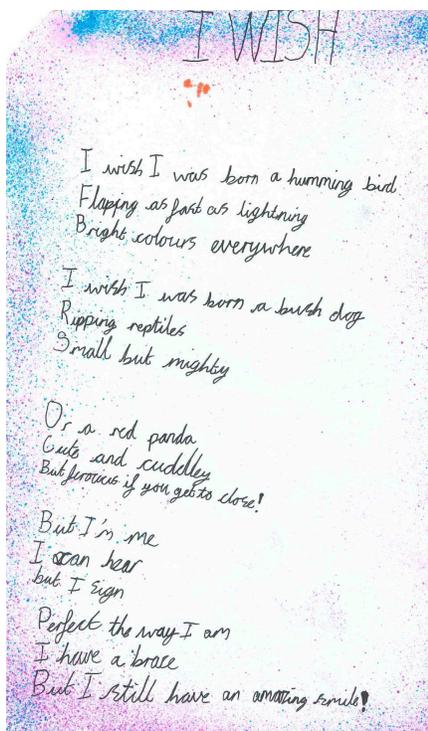
## Year 2

This week in history, we have been learning about Florence Nightingale and why she was significant. In English we also explored word definitions, used *-ly* to turn adjectives into adverbs and created our own superheroes and villains, describing them with expanded noun phrases. In maths, we continued our work on multiplication and division, focussing on the relationship between the two through inverse operations. In science, we explored the life cycles of different animals and learned about metamorphosis. In DT, we designed menus using our knowledge of a balanced diet. In computing, we revisited Scratch, writing short programs and experimenting with changing sprites and backgrounds before running them. Well done for a fantastic week Year 2!

## Year 3

Year 3 has worked really hard throughout the week. In our maths lessons, the children worked on their understanding of fractions. They compared them and placed them along a number line. In English lessons, they started to understand what makes a good advert. The children enjoyed creating a persuasive script for a chosen product and presenting it to the class. In our science session, we started to plan an investigation about whether or not the size of your hand affects your grip strength. The children enjoyed starting to think about what they wanted to find out in their child led projects and how they wished to present their ideas.

Millie wrote this poem after being inspired by Julie Stevens AKA Jumping Jules, a poet who visited us on Wednesday.



## Year 4

We have had a fantastic week in Year 4. In maths, we have started our fraction unit, looking at fraction and decimal equivalents. In English, we have continued to study *The Iron Man*. This week, we looked at conjunctions, and their impact in creative writing. In French, we had a go at making a triarama, in which children drew a variety of shops, including French vocabulary on their work. This week's spellings are adverbs/words ending in *ly*. Have a great weekend.

## Year 5

In English, we revised modal verbs and adverbs of possibility and explored how this can change the level of certainty in invitation letters. We also practised writing polite refusal RSVPs to invitations. In maths, we read various travel timetables (including trains with different arrival/departure times at the same stop) and calculated which route is fastest, which route would be most suitable to ensure punctuality and what time our train would arrive in the event of a delay. In science we looked at the properties of different materials and discussed which would be most suitable for different purposes. In PSHE, we talked about which words for female/male body parts are appropriate for use in school and why some words are considered taboo.

## Year 6

Some of Year 6 took part in an athletics tournament. There was a 600m run, 75m sprint, long jump and howler. The people that did not go to the athletics tournament made a healthy poster about the body and they practised the play and printed the play booklets. Ms Noble gave us 3 stars so now we have 98 ½. It was a wonderful week and we can't wait until the next one.

*By Salka and Alona*

## PTA News

### Summer Fete

After an amazing Auction, we're now preparing for the next Newnham Croft extravaganza, the PTA Summer School Fete on Sunday 13 July starting at 12noon. Many hands make light work and it would be wonderful if we could have lots of volunteers on the day to help with setting-up, gate duty, food serving, overseeing the inflatable slide, bar and the all important Face Painting and Glitter Station - any teenagers welcome to help here - and clearing up.

It will be incredibly useful to know who can help in advance, so please do pop your name in here to volunteer: [Yes I'm in! Sign me up](#) Thank you! The PTA

## Community News

### Friends of Paradise Film Night

Fugolburna - a stream frequented by birds. Fugolburna, the Anglo Saxon name for Fulbourn, is a film produced by the Fulbourn Forum which is a call to protect and restore the area's iconic chalk streams, currently in crisis.

Friday 20 June at 7.30pm, Newnham Croft School Hall  
ALL WELCOME

### **Music Festival - sign up open**

We still have a few slots for musicians to sign up to for our final Music Festival of 2025 on Wednesday 16th July. The Junior and Senior Orchestras will be performing and we look forward to hearing how much the children have progressed this year! Full details here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12qyvixX4XYxvAtm7O6Mp4mdOHnm9bz48jOGuPfgRTEc/edit?usp=sharing>

### **Take advantage of the warm weather - Sheep's Green Learner Pool open!**

If you are wondering what to do with hot and bothered children, why not come down for a dip at Sheep's Green Learner Pool? It would be lovely to see good use of this hidden Newnham gem to help ensure it continues to thrive. Details of opening times here:

<https://sheepsgreen.wordpress.com/>

### **Cambridge open studios 2025**

Around 500 artists in Cambridgeshire will once again be opening their studios to visitors for up to 4 weekends in July - the dates for this year are 5-6, 12-13, 19-20 and 26-27 of July from 10-5pm.

In Newnham there are 6 studios this year and for more info and to check which weekends each studio is open follow the link below for the local trail map:

<https://camopenstudios.org/aea8291d-73e3-441e-9fb2-e69622d1112b>

You are warmly invited to come and meet the artists and have a look around these and other studios in July.

### **School orchestra**

The school orchestra is seeking children who have been learning an orchestral instrument for a minimum of a year. In addition, we need new percussionists for the orchestra, and for this we are seeking pianists who are willing to try an exciting array of new instruments (xylophones, djembe, bongo drums, tambourines, triangle, etc..).

In order to prepare the schedule and finances for next term, I would appreciate it if you could email me (clementine.vignault@gmail.com) ASAP to express your interest in joining next year.

The Newnham croft school orchestra is a non-profit venture run by a group of parent volunteers. We hire a professional musical director, Ellie Kendall, (<https://www.eloisekendall.com/>) to conduct and prepare the music. (New parents volunteers are also welcome to join!)

Rehearsals usually take place on Tuesdays lunchtime, or on Fridays after school.

### **Michael Rosen event**

See the attached flyer for more information on a free concert hosted by Michael Rosen.