



# Newnham News

Friday 31 January 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

Another week, another moment of child-inspired awe. This time, it was their resilience.

What for adults looking in, is heart-breaking and unbearably unfair, is dealt with bravely, positively and with a look for the bright side. Not a flinch of self-pity or navel-gazing woe, just a smile and finding joy - in friends, in play and getting on with the day. Incredible!

I often tell my children to let others feel sorry for them, by all means, but feeling sorry for yourself is indulgent and pointless. It can also become self-fulfilling.

Much better to either change something or, if that's not possible, to find the positive, keep busy and remember that **everything** passes eventually.

Including, it appears, January!

So with the promise of Spring and the Six Nations rugby for the weekend, I hope your Saturday and Sunday pass delightfully and look forward to seeing you next week.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Open afternoon	3.15 - 4.00	Mon 3 Feb
Y5 swimming (and every Tues this term)		Tues 4 Feb
Y6 trip to Whipple Museum		Wed 5 Feb
Y6 Games Night (all welcome)		Fri 7 Feb
Parent consultations		Mon 10 - Tues 11 Feb

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly.

## Whole school news

### Parent consultations

You should have received an email inviting you to book in for a parent consultation with your child's teacher. Please log into your eSchools account to do this. If you are having trouble accessing eSchools, please contact the office. Parents of children on the SEN register should contact the teacher to make a separate appointment.

## School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu next week will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.65.

## Classroom news

### Reception

Reception has had a fun week building on their topic of *Journeys*. On Thursday, we went to visit GP Motors Garage in Newnham. The mechanics were brilliant at showing us what happens in a garage. They showed us how vehicles could be lifted up and down so that they can take a look underneath. The mechanics also answered lots of questions, such as, "Can you fix a

Porsche?" In Phonics, Reception learned the sounds: 'air,' 'er' and the spelling rules for doubling letters containing bb, mm, tt, dd, pp, ff and tt (e.g. rabbit, kitten, puppet). We also explored the

tricky words: "are," "sure" and "pure." In maths, we explored time. Reception used the sand timers to work out how many minutes it takes to complete a GoNoodle (Dance along) and what jumping up and down for ten seconds feels like. During active learning, some of the children even chose to use the sand timers in the Home area (My Little Kingdom) to time how long it would take to cook fish and boil a carrot. Well done for a very hardworking week Reception!



### Year 1

In DT this week, as part of our plan to make smoothies, we looked at the importance of being able to prepare foods safely. After sharing the horror stories of mums and dads cutting fingers, safe cutting of fruit was demonstrated. The class sliced bananas and strawberries using table knives and also had a turn at juicing citrus fruits. We shared the importance of such skills as you don't want to be calling your mum and dad to help with slicing fruit when you are an adult! We will be reinforcing these skills during lunchtime so that the children become more independent with their food.

## Year 2

Year 2 has had another fantastic week! In maths, we used place value, counting back, and number facts to help with subtraction. We also explored fractions of shapes, focusing on  $\frac{1}{3}$ ,  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and  $\frac{1}{2}$ . In English, we planned an adventure story, wrote a setting description, and improved a story as a class. In history, we investigated why Bessie Coleman is significant. In DT, we practiced sewing a pouch with a running stitch. In science, we observed changes in our seeds and updated our plant diaries. Our highlight of the week was a trip to the Botanic Gardens! The children took part in a *Sensational Seeds* workshop, saw the world's biggest seed, learned how seeds grow, and even made plant pots out of newspaper to take back to school.



## Year 3

In maths this week, we have been working on using partitioning and the expanded column method to add 2 and 3-digit numbers. In English lessons, the children learned to organise the information they had gathered under different subheadings and how to link clauses using a range of different conjunctions. In geography the children learned about why rainforests are so important to the planet and the threats that are currently under.

## Year 4

This week in science we looked at the amazing effects you can get using two plane mirrors. In our project, we have learned about how the rainforests are changing and what we can do to protect them. In maths, we have looked at polygons and 3d shapes, and their properties. In English, we have started writing our own *Grimwood* style story, based on the animals we see from our classroom window. Florence wrote: 'Suddenly, as it got dark like midnight, a figure came out of nowhere!' Spelling words this week end in -ous, including words that retain the 'e' following 'g'.

## Year 5

In maths, we finished our topic on shape by learning how to plot 2D shapes on coordinate grids, translate them and reflect them in the y axis. We then began a new unit on fractions, beginning by comparing sets of fractions where all the denominators need to be changed to the lowest common denominator. In English, we began a new topic on instructions and explanations, exploring the features of each type of text and looking at the importance of adverbs and imperative verbs. In science, we learned about how the Moon orbits the Earth, how this causes each phase and why we only see one side of it. In PSHE, we

discussed stereotypes and how these can be limiting to many different people unless we question them.

## Year 6

In geography, we have been learning about renewable energy sources within the UK. We have particularly been focusing on Port of Blyth's renewable energy farms. In science, we have been discovering how day and night works. For our new English unit we have started reading Morpurgo's *War Horse*. We have answered some reading comprehension questions and read chapters in groups. In maths, we have looked at scaling shapes. For PE, we have been improving our dodgeball techniques. Overall, this week in Year 6 has been good fun.

By Ava and Christian

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

### Family board game night

Friday 7 February there will be a family board game night in the school hall organised as a fundraising event for Year 6. We will make fresh pizza on the night (delicious dough supplied by Maison Clement) and there will be a very large choice of games to choose from for all ages. £2 Entrance tickets can be bought on Classlist. There is a limited number of tickets available for the night and tickets are selling fast. We will also be running a raffle on the night and are seeking donations of board games, toys or chocolate and bath goodies, etc.. There are donation boxes in the Year 6 classroom and the front office.

## Community news

### Twilight at the Museums: Go on an after-hours museum adventure!

17 - 23 February 2025

Twilight at the Museums is back! Museums across Cambridge will be opening their doors as the sun sets for illuminated adventures this February half term.

Enjoy nighttime nature hunts, take on torchlit trails through the galleries, search for dinosaurs and twilight beasts, get hands-on with space-themed science, journey to the mysterious underwater realm of god of the sea Poseidon, and much more! All events are free or low-cost, and a mixture of book ahead and drop-in activities.

Find out more and book your place on the University of Cambridge Museums website: [www.museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/twilight](http://www.museums.cam.ac.uk/theme/twilight)