



Newnham News

Friday 17 May 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear parents/carers,

One of the joys of Newnham Croft, and a regular source of awe and wonder for visiting parents, is the scope and scale of the grounds. It is such a luxury for the children to be able to roam over such a large area, with a broad mix of structure, courts and nature, not to mention the Croft gardening plot. It really is a wonderful asset.

Unfortunately, the nature part seems prone to constant expansion.

Pre-pandemic (a much used phrase when prefacing the decline of more halcyon times), we had a pretty solid group of volunteers who would come in and tend to the more delicate areas, the ones that our maintenance staff would be inclined to 'trim' with a strimmer.

Sadly and noticeably, that cohort retired. So, I wanted to ask if anyone green fingered (actual or aspiring) would be interested in taking up the reins. At its most basic, it would be a matter of periodic weeding, as the planting itself is quite well established. It could be at the weekends or during the school day - whatever might suit.

If the mood took you, you would have the freedom to channel your inner-Chelsea-Flower-show-gradener. If this is of interest, please get in touch. It was always such a lovely thing for the children and staff to see flowerbeds in full bloom during the summer term.

As always, happy weekends to you all.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

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|--|--------|--------------|
| Year 4 trip to Thalia (bring packed lunch) | | Mon 20 May |
| Eat lunch with your Year 2 child | | Mon 20 May |
| Year 2 swimming | 8.30am | Tues 21 May |
| Year 3 trip to Thalia (bring packed lunch) | | Tues 21 May |
| Year 3 swimming | | Wed 22 May |
| Year 6 trip to Thalia (bring packed lunch) | | Wed 22 May |
| Year 4 swimming | | Wed 22 May |
| Eat lunch with your Year 2 child | | Wed 22 May |
| Year 5 play | 5.30pm | Wed 22 May |
| PTA AGM (at school) | 7.30pm | Wed 22 May |
| Year 5 trip to Thalia (bring packed lunch) | | Thurs 23 May |
| Year 4 bikeability | | Thurs 23 May |

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|------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Year 6 sleepover | 6.30pm | Thurs 23 May |
| Year 5 forest school | morning | Fri 24 May |
| Year 1/2 forest school | afternoon | Fri 24 May |
| Last day of term | | Fri 24 May |
| Back to school | | Tues 4 June |

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

Bamboo canes

If you have a couple of spare bamboo canes, maybe 5 or 6ft tall, please do consider donating them to school. Year 2 and Reception will be planting some seeds in the near future and in hopeful anticipation of long strong shoots, they would love some bamboo canes to support them.

Mental Health Awareness Week

This week is Mental Health Awareness Week. In classes, we have been learning about how important regular movement can be to help protect our mental health. Our bodies and our minds are connected, so looking after ourselves physically also helps our well-being. Exercise releases "feel good" hormones that reduce feelings of stress and anger. It also helps us feel better about our bodies. It can improve our sleep too.

Classes have taken part in stretching and yoga, uplifting dance and aerobic activities this week, and considered how they make our body and mind feel. We hope that children will use regular movement as a tool to regulate uncomfortable feelings and will incorporate it into their everyday lives in the future.

Lunchtime supervisor

We would very much like to hear from anyone who might like to work in school as a lunchtime supervisor. The hours are 11.45 am - 1.15 pm, two to five days a week. The pay is £11.79 per hour. This is a lovely job involving facilitating and supervising the children's play outside, encouraging them to eat our delicious school dinners and a little bit of sweeping up and wiping tables. If you are interested please contact the office 01223 508737 or office@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk

Classroom news

Reception

The children in Reception have started to write their own stories based on the class book *Aaarrghh Spider* by Lydia Monks. We discussed what an author and illustrator are and agreed that the children could have a go at being both. They

decided on their choice of animal as the main character of the story, created their book covers and have written the first two pages of their books. Once completed next week, we hope to place the books in the library for all to enjoy.

KS1

We've had a busy, fun if very wet week. In English, all children have continued exploring the story, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch* and rewrote the beginning of the story using our own adjectives to describe the characters and setting. In maths, Year 1s have been building on their place value and partitioning of numbers up to 100 by using a range of methods, such as number lines and part - part - whole model. In Year 2, we've been working on counting up in 2s and 3s and finding the inverse relationship between multiplication and division. In between showers, Year 1/2 headed to the back of the field with split rings to identify any changes since our last spring walk. We used magnifying glasses and drew all the things that we could find, to show how the change in season has affected what has grown and what we are able to discover more of. Finally, in DT all children have been planning their smoothies which we shall be making next week. *Please remember to bring home reading books back either on a Wednesday or Friday as set by each class.* When we don't receive all books this means that other children who are expecting to take a book home then can't. Also home readers won't be sent home during the half term, but you can still access all books on the Big Cat Ebook portal.

Year 3

In Year 3, the children really enjoyed writing their *Fantastic Mr Fox* inspired stories this week. In maths, the children worked on the division problems that involved grouping and sharing. In science, lots of fun was had investigating which materials were insulators and which were conductors. In history, the children learnt about the famous highwayman Dick Turpin and used various historical sources to find out more information about him.

Year 4

This week we have begun exploring sea legends in English work. We have tried re-telling and writing a story about a selkie. In maths, we have been using 4 digits for subtraction and have started work on converting units of measure which has included using decimal numbers. In science, we made our own switches to control a circuit and have planned an experiment to find out about which materials are insulators or conductors. We have used different sources of evidence to form opinions about highwaymen and have thought about how tricky it can be to read someone else's emotions. In RE, we discovered similar ideas about forgiveness in different religions. The national multiplication tables check is after half term so now is a good time to recap facts you feel confident with and practise any tricky ones. Spellings this week are words with the suffix -ous.

Year 5

In maths, we explored common factors and common multiples and then learned how to find measurements for

scale drawings and models using simple fractions to scale real-life objects down. In English, we identified features of persuasive writing in adverts, letters and speeches and wrote letters in groups to persuade schools to add subjects to the curriculum. In computing, we finished our topic on vector drawings by using our learned skills to create new labels for the classroom. A lot of this week has been spent working very hard on rehearsals for our upcoming play which we are really excited about performing next week!

Year 6

This week we had our SATS including SATs breakfast. On Monday our breakfast was French toast, then we had the SPaG test. After breaktime, we had our spelling test. On Tuesday, we had blueberry pancakes for breakfast and after that we did our Reading test. On Wednesday, we had a full English breakfast (which the majority of the class picked as a favourite) to get ready for the Arithmetic paper and Reasoning 1. Then, in the afternoon, we had PE and Music. Finally on Thursday, we finished our SATs with a continental breakfast (croissant) and our final test which was Maths reasoning.

By Rupert and Noam

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

Garden Club

Please join us on **Sunday 19 May, 10am - 12pm** for Garden Club. All are welcome to attend but please be aware small children need to be supervised at all times. Bring gloves and some small tools if you have them (spade, garden shears etc). PTA coffee/tea and biscuits. Hope to see you all there!

AGM

The PTA AGM is approaching on Wednesday 22nd June, 7.30pm in the school. Please attend and join the committee for next year.

Community News

Foster caring

Please see the attached advert from a local fostering agency who are currently looking for more foster carers.