



Newnham News

Friday 10 March 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you to all the parents/PTA/volunteers who contributed to our International Storytelling this afternoon - it was lovely to celebrate Newnham's wonderful diversity, something that can so easily be taken for granted.

Sticking with the international theme, our language of the month is changing from German to Spanish. Spanish will remain the language of the month for April as well, due to the Easter holidays and (ahem!) the slight delay in getting it started for March.

Could I remind all parents that you are responsible for your children until 8.40am. We have had several children turning up at the school gate unsupervised, some as early as 8.05am. This has led to some expressions of concern from staff members, who naturally feel a duty to ensure those children are safe. While the gate opens at 8.30am, the teaching staff are not expected out until 8.40am, at which point parents are free to be free!

Next week, school will be open as usual on the proposed strike days (March 15th and 16th), although there may be changes to the structure of those days.

I hope you all have lovely, warm, dry weekends(!),

Kind regards,
Eddie Ferguson

Debating Club

Some children in school have shown interest in being involved in a debating club and we're looking for someone who might be willing to lead a small debating group. This could be a club before school, during lunch or after school and we have flexibility with days. Is this something you, or someone you know, might be interested in? If so, please contact the office.

Classroom news:

Reception

Reception have been thinking about non-fiction books this week. Non-fiction books contain real facts and information rather than stories that have been invented. Knowing this, Reception created their own non-fiction book about dogs, with each child writing their own fact. Avery wrote that dogs like to play fetch and George wrote that not all dogs have fur. Our book is a must-read for all dog lovers out there!

Years 1 and 2

Key Stage One have had another very busy, if not quite a wet week, but we haven't let this stop us from enjoying learning about aerial/birds eye views in lessons of Geography and adding to our weather diary in Science. In Maths, Year 1s have been exploring non-standard forms of measurement using multi-link and bead strings to estimate how long or wide they think objects around the class are. Year 1s then moved on to explore metres and they predicted what items around the class would be shorter or longer than a metre. In Year 2, the children have been exploring multiplication by looking at groups of numbers and relating this to arrays and working out that $6 \times 4 = 24$ is the same as $4 \times 6 = 24$. In English, both classes have continued with poetry, creating acrostic poems, using the word 'spring.' The children came up with beautiful lines to describe the season of spring, such as "Ice creams are nicely taken away by people." In Science, both classes looked at how the length of the days in March are getting a little bit longer in comparison to the months of December and January. In Geography, the classes explored aerial views and created the aerial view of Chedworth Street, including the butchers, houses, the car park and Newnham Croft Primary school. Lastly, in PE, the classes have started creating a dance routine inspired by the seaside. Well done for a hard-working week Key Stage One.

Please find attached number bonds to 18 for Year 2s and spellings based on sessions of phonics.

Year 3

Year 3 have worked really hard throughout the week. In our English sessions, the children worked hard on writing and presenting their shape poems. In our Maths sessions, they learnt how to create and interpret bar charts and pictograms. In our damp, but nonetheless enjoyable forest school session, the children enjoyed working collaboratively to build and improve shelters. In our Science lesson, the children carried out an investigation into how the amount of oxygen can affect the length of time a candle burns for.

As part of our Geography unit on water, the children will be investigating water filtration. To help us with this, we would appreciate any empty 2 litre bottles which we can use in class. We plan to carry out the investigation on Tuesday 14 March.

Year 4

We had a lovely time in a singing workshop with the King's Men to kick start our week and have also been practising the songs for our play. We celebrated World Maths Day by exploring different pictures through 'maths eyes' and a group of children from Year 4 led a whole school assembly. In

English we wrote poems about ourselves and then turned them into shape poems, inspired by the ones about people who have shaped the world that we have been studying. In Maths, we began our new unit on shape, learning to draw circles with compasses according to different radius and diameter criteria and comparing regular and irregular 2D shapes. We also enjoyed our first production rehearsals and exploring outside during our forest school afternoon.

As part of our Geography unit on water, the children will be investigating water filtration. To help us with this, we would appreciate any empty 2 litre bottles which we can use in class. We plan to carry out the investigation on Tuesday 14 March.

Year 5

Year 5 started the week with an assembly and workshop by the King's Men. During the workshop, the class took part in fun warm-up activities and learnt 3 songs which involved layering. Their voices sounded wonderful! Attached is a short recording of Shenandoah sang by one of the King's Men and accompanied by Year 5. In English, we read Mysterious Traveller by Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham, looking carefully at the descriptive language the author's chose and the impact it had on us. In Maths, we looked at fractions, comparing them by converting to have common denominators and finding fractions of amounts. In Science, we looked at the work of Stephanie Kwolek and her invention of Kevlar. We tested various materials for strength and thought about how their properties would be useful for different purposes. Our PSHE work focused on Family and Friends, creating trees to represent our networks of important and special people and considering their qualities.

Year 6

This week in Year 6, we have been finding ratios and proportions of amounts in Maths, and have been learning how to write and plan short stories with tension and suspense in English. In PHSE we have been writing recipe poems celebrating the diversity of our school and have been very busy working on our stop-motion movies, which will be shown in an exciting red carpet event very soon. All in all, Year 6 have had a great week. *By Cordelia and Danielle*

Sign up to play at the next music festival!

The next Music Festival is in two weeks' time, Friday 24th March from 3.30pm in the school hall. All children learning a musical instrument are invited to play in front of our friendly and supportive audience. The newly formed Newnham Croft Orchestra will be featuring for the very first time, so do come and support them, especially if you are in KS2 and considering joining! Full details and sign up here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1I2bPF5eHIATKxXPYWBI3ukAkEW56HdT_k-V8nCFqqd4/edit?usp=sharing

School Meals

The menu next week will be Week 3 of the menu cycle (attached). 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.

Diary Dates

PTA gardening club 10am-12pm	12 Mar
Y5&6 CUWO concert at West Road	13 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	15 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	22 Mar
Daffodil Day 11am-3pm	26 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	29 Mar
Last day of term	31 Mar

PTA NEWS

Garden Club

The PTA weekend gardening club is coming back to life on **Sunday 12th March, 10am - 12pm** to supplement the work that the lovely volunteers do every week around the playground and gardens. We aim to give the gardens a tidy up in preparation for our Daffodil Day later in the month (see below).

Come to the school and trim a bush, weed a flower bed or sweep up for an hour or two and let's work together to keep Newnham Croft Primary School looking beautiful. We can't promise great weather but can promise you a hot cup of tea and a biscuit and a sense of satisfaction at having worked together with your school community.

We will have some tools there but if you have a pair of gardening gloves, bring them along. Children are welcome to join in, but you must keep an eye on them with all the tools etc. around. Any questions, let us know at:

newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com.

Daffodil Day

Spring is approaching and so is our first ever Daffodil Day! Join us on **Sunday 26th March, 11am - 3pm**, at the school to see the daffodils that our children and the gardening club planted, and enjoy the beautiful school grounds in the springtime. There will also be a tearoom serving food and drink, as well as crafts and activities to keep the children entertained while you enjoy a scone and cup of tea. The gardens are open to everyone, so bring a friend or a neighbour and there is free entry, with a suggested donation to our Garden Club.

As always with PTA events, we cannot put on events without volunteers and we are looking for a number of people to serve the food and man the gate. We also need donations of cakes and bakes to sell in our tearoom. Now is your chance to show off your inner Nigella and bring in a sponge cake, cupcake, traybake or tart to help us raise money. Sign up on slottr: <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18275646>

Thank you in advance for your support.

Community

Cambridge Literary Festival Children's Programme

See the flier attached.

Cocks and Hens Tennis Eater Camps

See attachment.

Easter Athletics and Netball Camps

See posters attached.

AMS Easter Sports Camps

See poster attached.

Information on Choristerships (from The King's Men)

The information below is for parents who may be interested in pursuing choristerships for their children. These are lesser-known, yet widely available, musical and educational opportunities for children aged 6-13. Many of these schools are attached to Oxbridge colleges, UK cathedrals, and other private institutions.

If you would like to talk to someone about choristerships, please reach out to:

- Felix Blake (Manager of The King's Men) at fab48@cam.ac.uk;
- Binath Philomin (Co-Musical Director and Schools' Workshops Leader of The King's Men) at blkp2@cam.ac.uk;

Please include the subject 'Choristership Enquiry' at the top of your email, and we will respond to you as soon as possible! If there is enough interest in choristerships, we can even organise a webinar for prospective applicants and parents. It is worth noting that many choral directors will also give free consultations for choristers both online and in-person. For further information on choristerships, choir schools, and funding opportunities, please consult the resources below:

- Choir Schools' Association: <https://www.choirschools.org.uk/>
- Cathedral Music Trust: <https://cathedralmusictrust.org.uk/>
- Springboard Foundation: <https://www.royalspringboard.org.uk/>