

Newnham Croft Primary School

Chedworth Street Cambridge CB3 9JF Tel 01223 508737
office@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr E Ferguson



Wednesday 4 September

Autumn term – Reception

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Reception at Newnham Croft School. We are delighted to have your child as a member of our class and are looking forward to a wonderful school year.

Here are a few details of the term, which you may find helpful:

This term we will focus on the topic 'Me and My School' to help with transition. We will also be linking much of our learning to the book *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell and *Ruby's Worry* by Tom Percival. Please do not read these books with your children just yet, as we want to keep an element of suspense and surprise!

Teaching Staff

There will be several members of staff involved with your child's learning:

Mrs Markham (Class Teacher): Monday - Friday

Miss Blake (Nursery Nurse): Monday - Friday

Mrs Cummins (Learning Support Assistant): Monday – Friday

Mrs Maio (Learning Support Assistant): Monday – Friday

Children starting full time:

All children will be starting full time on the 16th September.

Morning Routine

Drop off is at 8.45am at the large tree near the gate to the Reception outdoor area. We would like to encourage all parents to make the drop off time as swift as possible, as it makes separating from parents a less prolonged process for any children that might be anxious as well as fostering independence. Please also stay off the field – a rule we have for the whole school during drop off.

Afternoon Routine

For the pick up at the end of the day at 3.15 pm, we would like you to come to the classroom door. This will make it easier for staff to dismiss the children and for you to be able to help your children carry their belongings.

Message Book

If your child is being collected by someone other than yourself, has a playdate or appointment, please give staff a brief verbal message and we will note it down in our class message book.

Letters

Any notes or payments that need to go to the office can be sent into class and will then be taken to the office for you, saving unnecessary queues at the busiest times of day.

Snacks and Water Bottles

You do not need to provide a snack at playtime as the children will receive a piece of fruit or vegetable everyday as part of our healthy schools initiative. Please continue to send your child's labelled water bottle to school each day. Drinking water regularly during the day helps to keep children well hydrated.

Lunch

If your child is having a packed lunch on a particular day, your child should bring their lunch to the classroom in the morning. We are a 'Healthy School' and packed lunches should reflect this, so no sweets or crisps please. Also, it is important that your child knows whether they are having a packed lunch or school dinner so it would be helpful if you could remind them. Do not forget school dinners are free for all children in Reception and Key Stage 1! If you think you might be entitled to Pupil premium please use [this link](#) on the school website for more information.

Nut Allergy

We would like to thank you all for your consideration and support in making our school a nut free zone.

Physical Education

P.E. sessions will be on Monday each week. It is essential that your child has the appropriate clothing for these sessions, which is reflected in our 'Active Wear' guidelines. Active wear should be worn every day, not just on the scheduled P.E. day. Please ensure that long hair is tied back safely and that no jewellery is worn.

Spare Clothes

We would like you to send in spare clothes for your child in case of toileting accidents. These should include a named bag with underwear, socks/tights, a top and bottoms (eg trousers). If your child does have a toileting accident, we will then be able to help them change into clean, dry clothes and the soiled clothes will be sent home to be washed. Do then also remember to send a fresh set of spare clothes into school.

Jewellery

The children should not wear any jewellery to school including pierced earrings but they may wear watches. Please note that watches must be removed for P.E.

Early Years Curriculum workshop with a phonics focus

We run workshop for parents each year regarding the teaching of phonics at Newnham Croft. We shall also discuss Reading and Maths. This will take place Wednesday 23rd September at 9.15 am in the school hall.

Reading

Reading is one of the key components of the curriculum and opens the door to so many experiences and possibilities. We prioritise reading and would like you to read with your child every day. Once we start our phonics sessions, we will send home books for your child to share. These will include both ebooks and paper books. More details, including logins for the ebooks will be shared shortly. We will be talking in class about the importance of reading at home on a daily basis. It would be beneficial for your child if he/she could read and be read to for at least ten minutes every day. To further encourage the children, each child will receive a certificate on completion of each 50 home reading sessions (these can be written in the reading log sheets). Guidance will be given about this during our Early Years Curriculum workshop, as mentioned above.

Forest Schools

The children will be using the areas outside the classroom (The Wild Garden) and the Forest School to extend their learning. The Forest Schools sessions will be led by Liz Bicknell, who is a trained Forest School teacher. The dates for these sessions are to be confirmed.

The sessions will take place first thing in the morning so on those dates we would like children to come to school prepared for the session. This means that children should wear waterproof jackets and waterproof boots such as wellies or hiking boots. If it is raining, your child will also need to wear waterproof trousers. Please label all items with your child's name and do send in a change of footwear which can be worn in school once the sessions are finished (wearing wellies inside is not comfortable). Please can you also send in a carrier bag for your child to place their outdoor wear in, so they can safely return all of their belongings home again.

Other Important Dates

Open Afternoon: There will be an open afternoon for you to come into the classroom and share the learning that has taken place. This will take place on Monday 14th October from 3.15 to 4.15 pm.

Parent consultations: For this term will be during the week of 21st October 2024. More details will follow.

The Early Years and KS1 Christmas Concert: You will have the option to attend the one of two viewings;

Tuesday 17th December from 9am - 10:30am

Wednesday 18th December 1:30pm – 3pm

Thank you for your support in making such a positive and happy start to your child's school year,

Kindest regards

Katrina Markham
(Class Teacher)

Sarah Blake
(Nursery Nurse)

Nadine Cummins
(LSA)

Mirka Maio
(LSA)