



# Newnham News

Friday 8 December 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear parents/carer,

I've realised that I always seem to be thanking people - a clear indication of the time and effort that so many of our stakeholders invest in Newnham Croft.

Today's thanks are directed to the families that came in after school last week and worked hard labelling various library books (see photo). Thanks, as well, to our two regular library volunteers who come in and try to make sense of the hundreds of scattered books that gather each week. This Sisyphean task is set by our eager young readers, who like to return books in their own unique interpretation of the Dewey Decimal system.



All week there has been the (mostly) joyful sound of singing coming from the hall as children practice, either for next week's KS1/Reception concert or for the whole-school festive singalong on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. You will need a free ticket for the former, where we will be collecting for Save the Children.

The Festive Singalong is for all parents, if you can make it. We will be starting at 2.45pm, with collection of children as usual at 3.15pm. The PTA will be offering hot drinks and treats for all as well - please lend a hand, if you can.

As always, I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards  
Eddie Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Rec and KS1 performance 2pm..... 12 Dec  
Rec and KS1 performance 9.30am..... 13 Dec  
Music Festival 6.30-7.30pm..... 15 Dec  
Festive Singalong, 2.45pm.....18 Dec  
Last day of term ..... 20 Dec  
Spring term starts for pupils ..... 5 Jan

## Fundraising

Our school raised £78.70 for this year's Poppy Appeal which went towards the £3130.57 raised by Cambridge schools and we also raised £110.20 on Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children. Many thanks for your generosity.

## Extra-curricular Clubs

Please note that many extra-curricular clubs have now ended, including Cookery, Pottery and Basketball. There is still one more week remaining for: Football, Tennis, Multi-sports, and Dodgeball. Ms Noble's Gingerbread House Workshops are Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December.

## Home Reading Book Launch

We would like to invite parents/carers to the launch of the new home reading books that you all amazingly fundraised for. This meeting is for the parents of Reception and Year 1 children and will take place on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8.45 am** (just after drop off) and will run for approximately 15 minutes, so that you can get back to your daily tasks. We look forward to seeing you then.

## Support for you and your child

As we come towards the end of term, we wanted to flag up an incredibly supportive local network called Pinpoint, which is run by parents for parents. Pinpoint give help and information to parent carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and/or additional needs, as well as give parent carers opportunities to have a say and get involved in improving local services. No formal diagnosis is required in order to access support from Pinpoint – for example, a child may be on a waiting list, accessing services, had a referral turned down, or just be struggling. Attached to the newsletter are flyers with links to support information.

## Classroom news:

### Reception

As you might be able to imagine, it has been a busy week in Reception. We have been rehearsing for the Reception/KS1 production and look forward to seeing families at the performances next week. The class have also been finding out about the Jewish festival of Hanukkah. The festival is celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting as well as playing dreidel, singing songs and preparing delicious food. With Mrs Marroncelli, the children used hand and finger prints to make their own menorah and candles.



### KS1

KS1 have been busy this week rehearsing for our Christmas production. We have also been squeezing in Phonics, Maths and reading assessments. The children have also started writing their versions of The Gingerbread Man. Please continue to support your child with reading the allocated online book. It is recommended that they read it at **least** 3 times on different days throughout the week.

### Year 3

Year 3 had an enjoyable trip to the Fitzwilliam Museum this week and really impressed with their enthusiasm for everything relating to Ancient Egypt. In Maths this week, we have continued to work on number bonds to 100 and used counting up as a method to subtract 2-digit numbers from 3-digit numbers. In English lessons, the children enjoyed extending sentences using a range of different conjunctions. In our Science session, children enjoyed investigating whether or not the different poles on a magnet repelled or attracted one another.

### Year 4

In Maths this week, we completed some assessments and worked on an investigation (about garlic cloves!) linked to division. We enjoyed our trip to the Ancient Egyptian galleries in the Fitzwilliam Museum, saw so many artefacts and learnt a lot more interesting facts about the Ancient Egyptian way of life. We also pretended we were Howard Carter and wrote some excellent diary entries about discovering the tomb of Tutankhamun. Ariana wrote: "Right in front of me was the most exquisite sarcophagus I have ever seen." In English, we completed a reading assessment and continued practising our reading and writing skills, focusing on reading non-fiction and practising using punctuation correctly to demarcate sentences. It would be really helpful if you could focus on punctuation (particularly full stops to mark the end of a

sentence) with your child during their home reading sessions. Please find the Year 4 spellings attached.

### Year 5

We finished our short stories English topic with a peer editing session and the chance to recommend each other's stories for sharing. We have now started our new English topic on poem anthologies, centred around the book, *I Like this Poem*, edited by Kaye Webb. In Maths, we looked at train timetables, focusing on how to calculate journey time and compare different routes for speed. In Science, we learned about different types of bacteria, beneficial and harmful, and how bacteria is transferred. We enjoyed showing off our festive jumpers and worked really hard on our assessments.

### Year 6

This week in Y6, we have done multiple Maths lessons and a test. In English, we have started our poetry unit and we have looked at annotating and performing poems. In Science, we have stopped our experiment of seeing how mould grows in different locations; we have found that the kiln room produced the most mould. In Music, we have started to prepare for our festive singalong. In P.E., half of the class has been learning the rules of netball and the other half have been learning to perfect their skills.

*By Annielle and Charlotte*

### Save your toilet roll tubes!

With a day of crafts planned for the children on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, we ask if you could save a few cardboard tubes from toilet rolls and bring them to school on or before 18<sup>th</sup>. Children can bring them to class and give to their teachers, or they can be dropped off at the school office.

### Music Festival 15th December

Only 1 week until our Festive Music Festival. Any child that is learning an instrument in school or privately is welcome to play to our friendly audience. To sign up or for more details, follow this link

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/173f4LhCGJ5rIIl9wKocqL0eSPMg7Uw495Ipm5L-k20k/edit?usp=sharing>

### School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week's menu will be Week 2. 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk).