



# Newnham News

Friday 8 October 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

- Lunch menu
- Jimmy's Harvest wish list
- Early Intervention worker newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

You may have seen our chef Michelle starring on the ITV news last night, highlighting the issues that schools are starting to experience with the supply of food for our kitchens. As is so often the case in news edits, it painted a newsworthy portrayal of the situation. I just want to be really clear that although we are experiencing some supply issues, we are committed and confident that we will be able to sustain the delivery of hot and varied school meals to the children throughout this winter. As I pointed out in a previous newsletter, the only impact is likely to be the occasional late menu change on isolated days. Clearly, there is a danger that the situation might get worse, but as we run our own kitchens, we can be more agile and proactive in our sourcing of ingredients.

While we are on the subject of providing hot meals, it is time for our annual Harvest Festival and as always we will be collecting donations for Jimmy's Night Shelter. Please look at the attached wish list for products (not just food) that they would welcome to be donated. Due to the new restrictions I explained in my letter yesterday, the Harvest assembly on Monday will be set outside, with classes sat apart. We will have some tables set up by the school gate for children to put their donations on in the morning ready for delivery to Jimmy's. We'll also leave the tables out for a couple of days just in case people forget on Monday.

I know that the return of additional Covid measures in the school will concern many of you, but our case numbers remain quite low compared to other local settings. One thing that has become clear with our recent cases is that very often symptoms (and therefore positive tests) may not become visible until several days after contact. Therefore, it might well be advisable for those children who have been tested as contacts immediately after tracing to retest again 4 or 5 days later. This is not however governmental advice, but I share it with you all as a point of interest that you may wish to follow to prevent further cases. In positive news, we have also been reassured that events such as the PTA Firework Night will be able to go ahead as planned in November.

Can I also flag up the PTA's AGM, which will be via Zoom next Wednesday evening (13 October) at 6pm. Please see the link in the PTA section of this newsletter for how to attend. At this time the support of the PTA is more important than ever, so

if you do have some time to give in supporting the school in this way, then please feel free to come along to the meeting.

Today we are starting to take part again in some inter-school sports events. A team of Year 6 girls are competing today at a football tournament, and next week will be the turn of the Tag Rugby team and the cross country runners. We wish them all well in representing the school.

Finally, parent consultations will be conducted during the last week of this half term. Early next week the booking system will be ready for you to book slots using the eSchools system. These will be managed with a waiting room, from which the teacher will let you into the meeting at the time booked.

## Classroom Round-up:

### Reception

The class experienced their first School Council meetings this week where the entire school is organised in groups comprising of mixed-age group participants. The children discussed the importance of wearing active wear to school in place of a school uniform and the reasons for this. Can I therefore also remind parents/carers that children should come to school in active wear (flexible sports type clothing and footwear) every day. Dresses/skirts and party shoes can be saved for the weekend. In class this week, we have been looking at rhyme and alliteration, creating our own alliteration aliens, such as 'Bing Bong Buggle Boo', to help emphasise the sound that can be heard at the beginning of a word. Also, to clarify the use of the Reading records sent home last week, please do list books you are reading with your child, including those on the Big Cats e library. As the children become more aware of letters and sounds, you can switch to recording your child's independent reading in the records.

### Year R/1

In Maths this week Year 1 have been looking at addition, fact families and number bonds. In English the children have been learning and performing an autumn poem. In Science we have been looking at the seasons and the changes to deciduous trees throughout the year. We also talked about the things we enjoy about the seasons. In gymnastics we have been working on jumping and landing safely. With the weather changing please can you make sure your child has a waterproof coat in school every day. Thank you.

### **Year 1/2N and 1/2C**

In English the children had lots of fun working on The Leaves on the Trees (sung to the tune of the Wheels on the Bus). They learnt the poem off by heart and used actions they had created when presenting the poem to the rest of the class. In Phonics lessons, Year 1 have been working on alternative ways of making 'ee' and 'ea' 'i' and 'ie' and 'ay' and 'ai' along with the tricky words 'oh', 'old', 'said' and 'their'. In Spelling and Grammar lessons some of the Year 2s have been working on how to demarcate their sentences correctly. Later in the week they also worked on the spelling of words where the 's' sound is made by the 'c' before 'i', 'e' and 'y' (ice, circle and spicy). In Maths, Year 1 have been working on number bonds to 10 and finding systematic ways of ensuring they know all of the different pairings. Year 2s used their knowledge of number bonds to 10 to help them add single digit numbers more efficiently. Later in the week, they used related facts to help them make number bonds to 100. In Geography they enjoyed using the bird's eye view map of the school to help them find various locations around the outside area. They also learnt about a 4-point compass and used this to help them navigate around a grid.

### **Year 3**

This week, Year 3's Natural Disasters topic has continued across their core and foundation subjects. In Geography, the class have been exploring volcanoes and learnt how they are formed, the different stages it takes for a volcano to erupt and which parts of the world you would find them. Year 3 were excited to learn about how there are around 1,500 active volcanoes around the world. In Science, the class have been investigating permeable and impermeable rocks. They spent the lesson submerging different rocks into water to investigate which rocks sunk and which rocks floated and then thought about why this could be. Would the rock's density and weight play an important role? In English, Year 3 wrote a non-chronological report on a volcano or hurricane. The class used all the necessary features, such as a heading, introduction, subheading, information text, picture and a conclusion. In Maths, Year 3 have been revising 3-D shapes and learning about their faces, vertices and edges. The class have also been rounding numbers to the nearest 10 and 100 and they placed 2 and 3 digits on a number line. Well done Year 3 for another, very busy and hard-working week!

### **Year 4**

Continuing on from the work we started in Science last week, we have been grouping rocks according to their properties. We checked their density by placing them in water, observed their colour and texture and also graded them according to hardness and durability. In Maths we have moved on to using mental strategies for addition and subtraction for 4-digit numbers and have noticed that certain calculations are particularly well suited to this method. We have finished up our Aesop's Fables work by writing one or two of our own fables in the same sort of style.

### **Year 5**

This week in Year 5, we have designed and made periscopes in Science, using our knowledge of how light travels and reflects. In History, we have been comparing elements of life in Ancient Greece with our modern day. We've looked at measures in Maths, converting mm, cm and m and calculating the perimeter of regular polygons, as well as column subtraction. In English, we've enjoyed finding out how Chris Riddell uses illustrations to convey characters and atmosphere in his stories and have designed our own characters to feature in a gothic novel. We have also been inferring characters' feelings from what we have read in our other story, Who Let the Gods Out.

### **Year 6**

Recently, Year 6 have arrived back from Hilltop, where we spent three nights and four days. It was a magnificent journey for everyone, where we made friends, did challenges we never thought we could do and achieved amazing things. Coming back to school was back to reality and hard work. This week, we have been converting measurements and calculating time intervals in Maths. As it is October, we have been making bio-posters about inspirational black people. In French, we have been learning to tell the time. In History, we learnt about daily life in Ancient Greece and compared it to the modern UK. In PE, we are getting ready for next week's cross country run and everyone is pushing themselves to their limits. *By Alex and Otto*

### **Early Intervention Family Worker Team**

Please see the attached Cambridge City team newsletter.

### **School Meals**

The school lunch menu is attached. Next week will be week 2 of the 3 weekly cycle. The cost of a school meal is £2.40.

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 website: <http://www.newnhamcrofptpta.btck.co.uk/>

Yours faithfully,

Andy Matthews, Headteacher

## PTA NEWS

### PTA Meeting - Wednesday 13th October 6pm on Zoom

All parents and carers are invited to participate in the forthcoming PTA meeting - we will be discussing upcoming events and ways to bring our school community together, along with any funding requests from the school. The agenda will be up on Classlist in the coming days.

Topic: PTA AGM Zoom Meeting

Time: Oct 13, 2021 06:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77053603176?pwd=M3pSbSs3WUNyMVh3dW1TSjhJZm1QZz09>

Meeting ID: 770 5360 3176

Passcode: 3BFfaG

Please note - the time has moved to 6pm. If you cannot make it and have something you wish to bring up, do let us know via email ([newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com](mailto:newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com)) and we will discuss it. The minutes will be available afterwards.

### Class Reps

Also, we are still looking for some Class Reps! If you would like to volunteer to take on just a few responsibilities that benefit your child's class and keep parents/carers and the PTA in touch with each other, let us know via email or on our recent post on Classlist.

## Community News

### Central Cambridge Library events

On Saturday 6th November (3pm-4pm) we have a comic club which is perfect for children aged 12-16, who have an interest in manga, comic books, or anime. We have a great space in the library where they can hang out, watch cartoons, chat about comics, and doodle to their hearts content. This is a free event, and there's a few free tickets left which can be booked on our Eventbrite page: <https://teen-comic-and-manga-club.eventbrite.co.uk>

On Saturday 20th November (3pm-5pm) we have a kids board games club for children aged 8+. We have lots of family-friendly board games that our children's librarian can teach, or if families would like to bring their own games that's great too! This is a free drop-in event that families can just turn up to: [\(4\) Kids Board Games Club | Facebook](#)

### Epic Holiday Camp

Tech camp is here for October Half-Term with all NEW activities and a *Halloween Costume Contest*! We are running on 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Heritage School, CB2 1JE from 9 am to 4 pm each day.

For a full list of activities and more information please see flyer attached. Spaces are limited due to social distancing and work on a first come first serve basis.

Covid Safety Protocols in place.

Get £10 OFF with code: CAMS10

### Oxford and Cambridge Singing School

Please see below details of our Christmas Singing courses at Jesus College. As well as a fabulous repertoire (Carols and festive music from around the world) we also have a great coaching team including Richard Pinel (Director of Music at Jesus College, Cambridge), Dr Simon Jackson (Director of Music at Peterhouse College), Helen Groves - voice coach at Great St Mary's and Michelle Blrd, Director of Music at St Mary's, Bushey.

**When** - 20 & 21st December (Monday & Tuesday) two courses for those aged 7-12 and 13-18.

**Where** - Jesus College, Cambridge

**Repertoire** – Christmas Carols and Festive music.

**How** - booking is via our website. Bursaries are always available on our courses. [www.oxbridgesingingschool.com](http://www.oxbridgesingingschool.com)

**Covid** - We adjust our courses to whatever Covid guidance is in place at the time of the course to ensure the safety of both our participants and our staff.