



# Newnham News

Friday 9 January 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Online safety](#)

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

A delight to see all of the children and to hear so many lovely tales about holidays and festivities. I hope you all share this enthusiasm for the holiday period - it is not always a given that parent and child feedback align on this one!

We wish you all a wonderful and productive 2026 and look forward to working together to support the progress of all the children - the reasons we all come to work.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and have lovely weekends.

Kind regards,  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Year 5 swimming	Tues 13 Jan
Coming up....	
Year 4 trip to computing museum	Mon 19 Jan
Year 6 trip to Sedgewick Museum	Wed 21 Jan
Year 6 SATS meeting	9am Fri 23 Jan
Year 5 trip to Whipple Museum	Thurs 29 Jan

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly.

## Whole school news

### Bus toys and books

Reception are reading a book about a big red bus and have requested donations of any books or toys you may have that feature buses. Please drop into the office.

## Spelling

Some parents have been requesting a website/app for their child to practise spellings on. [Spelling Frame](#) is a website where your child can play games to practise their spellings, which is free for the first few spellings rules for each year group. Schools have an option to purchase a membership that pupils can then access from home. This is something that we are considering, but would like to know parents' opinions on the website. If you would like to try out the first few games free, click [this link](#) and click on your child's year group/phase. We are very keen to hear your feedback so that we can decide whether a school membership on this site would be a good investment and would be helpful to families so please let us know what you think.

## School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

## Classroom news

### Reception

This week in Reception, the children have been thoroughly enjoying the story *The Naughty Bus*. The story has sparked lots of excitement and creativity in the classroom. The children designed and made their own buses, and together we created a large role-play bus that has become a favourite area to play in. The children worked collaboratively to paint the bus and cut out the wheels and lights, showing fantastic teamwork. Each day, they have loved deciding where our bus will travel to next, using their imaginations and sharing ideas with their friends.

In maths, we have been learning how to estimate. The children have been practising making sensible guesses and talking about their thinking, developing their confidence with numbers. In Phonics, we have started Phase 3, which is very exciting! The children learned their first trigraph and have been eager to spot it in words and use it in their

learning. Well done, Reception, for a wonderful week of learning!

### Year 1

What a productive start Year 1 has made to 2026! We have begun learning about lots of different themes, but one that has really stood out is our Design and Technology work on sewing. We started by exploring a range of fabrics and learning what they are used for. We discovered that



many fabrics are made by weaving threads together in an “over and under” pattern.

The children then had a go at

weaving strips of ribbon onto wire racks, helping them to understand how fabrics are made in a fun, hands-on way.

### Year 2

Year 2 has had a fantastic first week back! The children enjoyed sharing their holiday news and were introduced to our new class book, where we explored new vocabulary, interesting verbs and past tense verbs. In maths, we have been working on doubling and halving by partitioning two-digit numbers into tens and ones. In art, we focused on observation using still images and film across different time frames. In geography, we recapped the four countries of the UK, their capital cities, and identified some key characteristics of each. Just a reminder that home reading books are changed on Wednesdays. Thank you for continuing to read with your children at home!

### Year 3

Year 3 has had a great first week back. In maths lessons we have focused on how many days there are in each of the months of the year and related this knowledge to the seasons in the year. In English lessons, the children enjoyed listening to *Stella and the Seagull* by Georgina Stevens. They were inspired to start thinking about how they might want to persuade people to improve the physical environment of the school. In our geography session we looked at how lines of latitude and longitude can tell us exactly where on the planet we are. In science this week we started our unit on *Light and Shadows*. We

thought about what dark is and discussed the difference between a light source and a reflector.

### Year 4

In English, we’ve started our unit on explanations by reading *Rosie Revere, Engineer* and *So you think you’re an inventor*. We thought about features and an introduction to hook the reader. In maths, we recapped what fractions are and started exploring unit and non-unit fractions of amounts. In science, we began our new electricity topic by identifying whether every day appliances are mains or battery powered, and created a model to show how electricity requires a circuit to move from the power source to the output device. We began our new geography topic, *Who lives in Antarctica?*, by learning about lines of latitude, global climate zones and why we have different seasons in each hemisphere. No spellings this week but look at the Y3/Y4 list at home.

### Year 5

It has been lovely to welcome Year 5 back and hear about their Christmas breaks. In science, we have started a new module, *Earth and Space: Forces and Space*. Year 5 explored three different models of the solar system: heliocentric, geocentric and static. They then compared the contributions of Ptolemy, Alhazen and Copernicus to our understanding of the solar system. In English, we have begun a new narrative unit and Year 5 have started studying *Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen. They have been making predictions about what might happen in the story based on the visual clues on the front cover. In history, Year 5 was introduced to their new topic, *The Sikh Empire*. They spent the lesson exploring how the Sikh Empire was established, using a timeline and a map.

### Year 6

In Year 6 we started a joint history with Year 5 about the Sikh Empire. In science, we have been doing evolution and inheritance, looking at similarities and differences between the same species. Our class book is called *Gregor the Overlander*. It is a twist and turning book filled with all sorts of emotions.

By George and Oscar