



# Newnham News

Friday 13 October 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear parents/carers,

Undertaking training this week, where attendees were expected to apply another label (dyslexia, dyscalculia, neuro-diverse, ADHD, ASD) to children who didn't quite fit 'the standard model', it got me thinking about the ever-increasing urge to label certain traits.

We try hard in school to nurture an all-encompassing inclusivity; for each child to feel a part of our community, to feel value in, and valued by, that community; for the wonderful variety of skills different children possess to be valued and cherished (kindness, sportiness, writing, reading, friendship, maths, world-knowledge etc.). Yet by attaching a label, it seems to me that we exclude - identifying that trait as **too** different.

All of our children have differences and similarities, things that they find easy and difficult, but we welcome all and every. Whereas a label has the appeal of tidiness, of fitting difference in a box, real inclusivity is a far harder path to tread, but the path we must always ensure we are on.

It was wonderful to be able to welcome Daniel Zeichner, MP, to our assembly this morning. As with last year, he was really interested in the children's questions. Mr Zeichner commented on the confidence and thoughtfulness that the children demonstrated in what they asked, from the inevitable (How old? What do you earn?) to the more philosophical (Why do people fight?).

Finally, as some of you will already be aware, we are sadly to lose Mrs Palmer at the end of this term. Mrs Palmer has been with us for over 10 years, always working incredibly hard to help the children with their learning, as well as improving the curriculum areas she has led (currently French and Art). She has been a wonderful and generous colleague and will be greatly missed.

Kind regards  
Eddie Ferguson

## Classroom news:

### Reception

Reception went on a 'noticing' walk this week. We started by noticing that two children in the class had what we thought were the same coats on. On closer inspection, we noticed there were in fact several differences. This led to our noticing

walk and what we saw was very interesting. We saw pairs of things, tall things, short things and groups of things. We saw that there was one more brush outside the Year 2 classroom than outside our own classroom. Without directing the discussion, we were able to have a lot of mathematical talk and will continue to see what we notice everywhere!

### Years 1 and 2

KS1 have continued writing riddles in English this week. Year 2 have been looking at money in Maths. They have been recognising coins, looking at their values and learning how to give change. In Year 1, the children have been looking at number bonds up to 10 and how to write them as a number sentence. Learning quick recall of number bonds to 10 would be a great home learning task. In DT, the children evaluated the windmills that they made. They looked at what went well, what they found difficult and what they would try differently next time. In gymnastics, the children have been learning different balances and starting to incorporate their balances into short routines on the equipment. We have noticed that lots of children still have not accessed the online books that are allocated to them every week. The expectation is that your child should read the same book at least 3 times. We change these books on a weekly basis. If you are having trouble with the system, please come and let us know.

### Year 3

Year 3 have worked really hard throughout the week. In our Maths sessions the children used counting up to solve subtraction problems and partitioning to add 2-digit numbers. In our English sessions, the children thought of a range of impressive adjectives to describe the appearance and personality of a cat and then wrote a poem that was inspired by 'Lone Dog' by Irene McLeod. In Art, the children enjoyed applying their colour mixing skills to their volcano paintings. In RE, the children enjoyed discussing and portraying what a soul is, using words and pictures. In our Science lesson the children learnt how fossils are formed and enjoyed making impressions of various animals and shells using clay. A reminder that we have Forest School next Friday morning. It is always very helpful to have extra adults, so if you would like to join us, please let me know.

### Year 4

In English, we have been reading, discussing and performing narrative poetry. In Maths, we practised using different methods for addition and solved addition word problems. We also recapped finding the difference by counting up and interpreted data from line graphs. In Science, we learnt

about how fossils are formed when things that have lived are trapped within rock and enjoyed making mould fossils. In Art, we explored texture and colour to create highly individual pieces in our sketchbooks using layers of different materials and paint. We have also been working very hard on building up our core and arm strength in gymnastics to enable us to perform a lunge into handstand with accurate technique and control. There are no Year 4 spellings this week, but today your child will bring home an individualised list of the Year 3-4 words they need to learn based on a recent assessment in school. Please support your child to start learning the words they do not know yet, as they should know all the spellings on the sheet by the end of Year 4. Thank you for your help with this and if you have any questions about spelling, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### Year 5

In English, we finished reading our new class book, *The Cloud Tea Monkeys*, and analysed the text to see how character descriptions can help us create images in our heads, some more obviously and some more subtly. We explored how to infer things from text and practised creating our own inference questions to quiz each other with. In Maths, we have been using our times tables knowledge to divide larger numbers that are multiples of 10, and also learned two multiplication methods (the factor method and the partitioning method) that can aid us when multiplying numbers with factors. We learned how to scale measurements up and down while maintaining the correct proportions and, to celebrate World Space Week, we watched a scale model of the solar system being built. In Science, we investigated how light can be refracted by water and prisms and why this happens.

### Year 6

There has been a lot going on for Year 6 this week. On Tuesday, the school photos were taken. On Wednesday, one third of Year 6 went to the tag rugby competition while the rest of Year 6 were at swimming. Amazingly, Newnham Croft won the whole tournament against multiple teams, including the little green goblins, aka a team that was small and speedy. On Thursday, it chucked down cats and dogs so the cross country was postponed and will be happening next week. On Friday (today), the Ancient Greek restaurant will be open for business. *By Sammy and Lucas*

### School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week will be week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

### Violin Lessons

Our violin teacher, Helen Gibbens, has a teaching space for one pupil on a Thursday afternoon. If interested, please email her at [helengibbens@gmail.com](mailto:helengibbens@gmail.com).

### Diary Dates

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| PTA daffodil planting 10am-12pm ..... | 15 Oct    |
| Parent teacher consultations.....     | 17-19 Oct |
| Forest School Y3 am, Y5 pm.....       | 20 Oct    |
| Y6 breakfast cafe .....               | 20 Oct    |
| Half term .....                       | 23-27 Oct |
| Forest School Y4 am, Y2 pm.....       | 3 Nov     |
| PTA Fireworks Night.....              | 4 Nov     |
| Forest School Y6 am.....              | 10 Nov    |
| Flu vaccinations whole school .....   | 21 Nov    |
| Rec and KS1 performance 2pm.....      | 12 Dec    |
| Rec and KS1 performance 9.30am.....   | 13 Dec    |
| Last day of term .....                | 20 Dec    |

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 NEWS

#### Garden Club

The PTA weekend gardening club is coming back to life on **Sunday 15th October, 10am - 12pm** to help the school maintain the playground and gardens. We aim to plant several daffodil bulbs in preparation for our Daffodil Day next year. Come to the school 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](mailto:newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com).

#### Treat Stall

Treat Stall is back! In case you aren't familiar with Treat Stall, or have forgotten, each class takes a turn to bring in baked goods, crisps, fruit, breadsticks etc (ensuring no items have nuts, kiwi or sesame) and sells them at the end of the school day. The first Treat Stall will be on **Friday 20th October at 3.15pm** and **Year 6** will be hosting it. All other classes are encouraged to bring a few coins to buy a treat to get the half term off to a sweet start. Proceeds go to the PTA.

### COMMUNITY NEWS

#### **Super Star Sport CB half term camps**

Super Star Sport CB are back and running half term camps at two venues in Saffron Walden and Cambridge. Our sports camp promises a variety of activities for children and plenty of fun throughout the half term. Please see the attached flyer for further information and our link to get booked on <https://www.superstarsportcb.co.uk/book>.