



Newnham News

Friday 22 November 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

After showing some prospective parents around the school yesterday, highlighting all the wonderful stuff that makes Newnham such an easy sell, we stopped in the office for the usual Q&As.

One of the questions was about diversity and the school's approach to children with differing needs. I replied that, though understanding the current culture to identify and label needs, we tried not to use labels. That each and every child/adult in our community was as welcomed, equal and valued as any other and their wondrous variety celebrated.

My rather excellent, though woolly, answer led another parent to nod agreeably, arch an eyebrow and ask, pointedly, if and how we supported children who struggle.

It is a question whose answer I realise I take too much for granted and an answer that needs to be explicit to those not amongst our staff. So I thought I would be explicit here.

We are constantly helping EVERYONE. All the challenges different children face (being kind, playing with peers, understanding numbers, sports, reading, staying focused, staying awake, eating well, extending thinking etc. etc.) are discussed, dissected, analysed and possible solutions suggested, tried and tested by the staff.

Obviously, some children will need more support at different times, but ALL the children are always on the radar. To be honest, they are almost all we talk about!! It is the very essence of why we do our jobs.

It is a message that is worth being explicit about.

I hope you all have lovely (possibly stormy) weekends and we will see you all promptly (please) on Monday morning.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Eat lunch with your Y4 child	12.15pm	Mon 25 Nov
Y6 swimming (last one!)		Tues 26 Nov
Eat lunch with your Y4 child	12.15pm	Wed 27 Nov
Y3 & 4 trip to West Stow		Thur 28 Nov
Year 2 forest school	morning	Fri 29 Nov
Reception forest school	afternoon	Fri 29 Nov

Festive music festival

6.30pm Fri 13 Dec

PTA Winter Fair

Sun 15 Dec

Please check the school calendar on our website, which is updated regularly.

Whole school news

Parenting workshops

Please see the attached information about free online parenting workshops, covering many challenges that we know many parents face. They cover information such as supporting your child with anxiety, anger and helping manage difficulties with sleep. The sessions are offered both during the day and in the evening and are around an hour long. Booking is via the link on the attachment.

Catering assistant job vacancy

We are currently seeking a catering assistant for our school kitchen. This is a part-time role: 4 hours a day for 4 days a week. The closing date is Friday 29 November. For more information, see our [website](#).

School lunch survey

Please take a moment to tell us about your child's experience of lunch in school, whether or not they have school dinners. We've had a good response from Years 3 & 4 (thank you!) but would really appreciate hearing from more children across the school. The questionnaire can be accessed here <https://forms.gle/EXfDVMZsaHasESnp7>. Please note it may be helpful to have your child nearby when you complete it.

Also, as we haven't raised our charge for lunches since 2022, and with the high inflation of the last couple of years, we have had to look at our pricing. Unfortunately, this will result in the price we charge rising to £2.65 per lunch from January 2025.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu after half term will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

Classroom news

Reception

We've had another very busy week in Reception. In Phonics, Reception has looked at the sounds: z, qu, ch and plural words that end with an s, such as 'cats.' We also looked at the tricky words: 'go', 'no', 'to', and 'into.' In maths, we have been exploring symmetry and all children created symmetrical paper butterflies using paint and cotton buds. Reception were retold the story of *Maisy's Birthday* and completed some guided writing

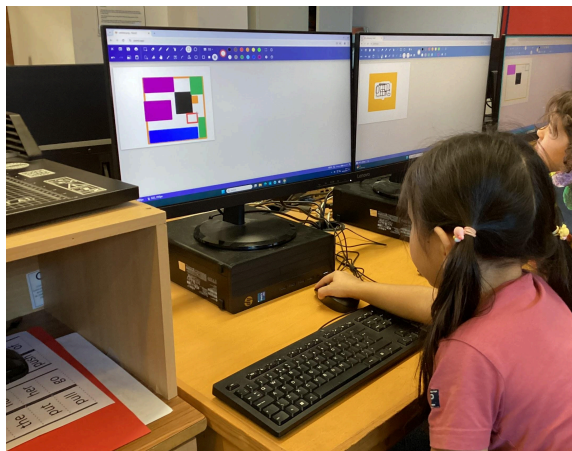
about Maisy. Lastly, we had our second session of Forest School and all children enjoyed listening to the sounds around them, such as the birds. Mrs Bicknell spoke to us about the different minibeasts that could be found and turned over logs to discover worms and millipedes and beetles. Well done for a great week



Reception!

Year 1

In computing, Year 1 has been using paint programs to create artwork. This week, we looked at the work of the artist Henri Matisse and how he used collage to create bright and stimulating pieces of art. Looking at an image of his 'Snail' we



tried to recreate his work on the paint program.

We were able to use tools such as shape outlines and the fill function in our digital

versions. Mouse control is quite tricky as many children are used to tracking pads on laptops but this is improving in each session.

Year 2

Year 2 has had a fantastic week full of learning and fun! We've been editing our poems and practising performance poetry, showing off our amazing oracy skills. In science, we've been sorting things into categories: alive, dead, and never alive—it's been fascinating! Art lessons introduced us to the world of mono printing and some great artists. In history, we enjoyed reading response letters from family members about their toys from the past. Together, we created a toy timeline for our display, carefully sorting the toys from oldest to newest. In maths, we've been spotting patterns in multiples of 2 and 10 and have even started doubling. Great job this week, Year 2!

Year 3

This week, Year 3 has continued to enjoy learning about the Romans. They learnt how organised and well trained their army was and enjoyed marching in small groups out in the playground.

In maths, we learnt how to recognise 2D and 3D by the number of sides and faces they had. Later on in the week, the children learnt to recognise different turns both clockwise and anti-clockwise. In English, the children learnt how to write direct speech correctly and how to join clauses together using a range of time related conjunctions. In computing, the children enjoyed planning their own animations.

Year 4

Well done Year 4 for your hard work this week. In English, we have been looking at speech punctuation and trying to write our own (interesting) conversation. For history, we have been finding out about life as a Roman soldier and trying to stay in formation while being attacked by Celts! In DT, we have been building 3d shapes from nets and thinking about which ones will be useful for building a castle. In maths, we have been representing and interpreting continuous data in line graphs. For spelling, this week we have been looking at words ending in -ly.

Year 5

In maths, we learned how to convert remainders into fractions and what we need to do with remainders in different situations (for example, leaving it as a remainder, dividing it to form a fraction or rounding it up or down). We then moved onto practising the grid method for multiplication and comparing it with short multiplication. In English, we planned, wrote and edited spooky short stories, inspired by those we read in *Short!* by Kevin Crossley-Holland. In science, we researched the scientist, Carl Linnaeus, and his taxonomy for classifying living things, then created informative posters about him. In PSHE, we looked at examples of indirect bullying and discussed the importance of not being a bystander.

Year 6

This week at Newnham Croft, we spent a lot of time planning our restaurant, as well as doing what we usually do; maths, English, geography and science. At times it was stressful but by working together, we have managed to create wonderful decorations for our restaurant. We hope you enjoy it!

In maths, I think that we made progress on our weekly tests, as we have learnt to divide fractions. In English, we have started to write the end of a suspenseful chapter of *Clockwork*. In geography, we wrote about the Alps and in PE we continued to practise tag rugby. So quite a good week!

By Rohan S and Grace

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.

PTA News

Last chance to order a Christmas tree

Only a few hours left to order your fabulous Christmas tree if you haven't done so already www.bit.ly/NewnhamTree. Orders close at midnight tonight. Collect your tree next Friday 29th Nov or Sat 30th Nov, or get it delivered on Saturday 30th Nov.

Christmas tree delivery elves needed

We desperately need volunteers to help distribute Christmas trees next Saturday 30th November. This is a fun way to meet a few new faces and get a bit of exercise! If you don't mind your car getting filled with needles (apologies - this is inevitable!) or can help deliver on foot using the school wheelbarrows or a cargo bike if you have one, please let me know by emailing dani@meeophone.com. Thank you!

Year 6 cards for sale

Year 6 have produced some beautiful Christmas and Festive cards for sale, as part of their fundraising efforts towards their end-of-year celebrations. Please keep an eye out for their stand in the playground over the next few weeks. Your support will be very much appreciated!

Community news

Festive Music Festival

There are only a handful of slots remaining for our Festive Music Festival, so sign up soon if your child would like to play. Whether your child has just started learning an instrument or is a seasoned performer, we'd encourage children of all abilities from across the school to perform in this friendly & supportive concert that will take place in the school hall on Friday 13th December from 6.30pm-8pm. Full details [here](#)

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ks_sO_wG8tlw-3_oIK8Wzul9984nPtk1VmPFLasFnb0/edit?usp=sharing

Smartphone free childhood - if this is something you feel strongly about, not only is there a growing community of parents at the school you could reach out to, but there is also a national petition that you can add your name to. Please click on the link below:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/700086>

See also an attached file detailing an upcoming smartphone free event in Cambridge.