Newnham News

Friday 13 November 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:
Online safety
Topic overviews
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NET donation link

Dear Parents/Carers,

Trust is a fragile thing.

Once again, I come away from a meeting with other schools' leaders and have reason to be very thankful for the community we have all built and work so hard to maintain at Newnham.

Tales told by headteachers of parents making complaint after complaint, of school staff acting defensively when spoken to; basically, an atmosphere of adversity seemingly built in on all sides.

At Newnham, it feels there is a more consensual and collaborative approach. There is a recognition by staff of the contribution from parents, and by parents of the hard work and good intentions of staff.

Are there problems? Definitely. In children, we are dealing with new, fresh, far-from-finished articles, so problems are built-in. But the solutions are best found working together; being a part of, rather than apart from, each other.

Thank you all for this. It is another reason I am grateful to be at this school.

Have lovely weekends.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y3/4 trip to West Stow		Mon 16 Nov
Reception forest school		Wed 18 Nov
Y6 swimming		Wed 18 Nov
PTA AGM	*5.30pm*	Thur 19 Nov
Year 2 forest school	*morning*	Fri 20 Nov
Year 4 forest school	*afternoon*	Fri 20 Nov
Y6 restaurant	*6.15pm*	Fri 20 Nov

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

Whole school news

Reception and KS1 festive performance
The festive performance for Reception and KS1 will be on Tuesday 15 December at 2pm and Wednesday 16 December at 9.30am. Each family will be given 2 free tickets, and you can now collect from the office , selecting your preferred performance.

School Meals
The menu is attached and online. The menu after half term is Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.90.

Classroom news

Reception
This week in Reception, we enjoyed another fantastic Forest School session, where we worked together to create a huge poppy for Remembrance Day. We have also continued to enjoy our class book, Pumpkin Soup. Inspired by the story, we have been busy writing shopping lists of the ingredients we would need to buy to make our very own delicious soup which was delicious!!



Year 1
In science, Year 1 has been exploring Everyday Materials. We have been investigating a range of familiar objects, identifying the materials they are made from and discussing the different properties of these materials. The children have been learning to use scientific vocabulary to describe materials, thinking about whether they are hard or soft, rough or smooth, bendy or rigid. They have enjoyed becoming material detectives, looking closely at objects around them and considering why particular

materials are chosen for different purposes. There have been lots of opportunities to observe, investigate, compare and share our ideas as we develop our understanding of the materials we encounter every day.

Year 2

This week, Year 2 continued to build their addition and subtraction skills by making links to known number facts and using number lines. In subtraction, the children explored finding the difference by counting on from the given number. In English, we continued learning about our chosen animals, focusing on punctuating questions and statements, using joining words (and, or, but) to join ideas and developing descriptions with expanded noun phrases. In science, we investigated things that are alive, were once alive or have never been alive. In history, we explored how schools have changed over time using photographs and historical sources. In art, we explored texture through touch and rubbings. In gymnastics, we continued developing our teddy bear and forward rolls. We have another exciting week ahead! A quick reminder that the children will be taking part in a one-off Forest School session next Friday morning.

Year 3

Year 3 has had a fantastic week filled with lots of exciting learning and fun! In maths, we have been learning to tell the time using analogue clocks. The children have been working hard to recognise quarter past and quarter to times, as well as telling the time in 5-minute intervals and, more recently, to the nearest minute. They have shown great enthusiasm and determination as they develop their time-telling skills. In English, the children have enjoyed working collaboratively to create a group poem. They have been exploring adventurous and descriptive vocabulary and experimenting with different poetic devices, including alliteration and onomatopoeia, to make their writing exciting and engaging. During history, we have been learning about the legacy left behind by the Romans. The children particularly enjoyed bringing history to life by marching up and down the playground in their *contuberniums* (Roman groups of soldiers)! Finally, there has been plenty of laughter and dancing as we practised our Strictly-inspired dance for Children in Need. We have been perfecting our head swishes and arm rolls, and the children are very excited about performing their routine! Well done, Year 3, for another wonderful week of learning. We are so proud of you all!

Year 4

In maths, we revised time telling, converting between the 12-hour, 24-hour and analogue clocks. We also revised calculating time intervals. In English, we began our new topic, looking at the poem *A Small Dragon* by Brian Patten. In science, we learned about the different types of teeth we have and the different jobs they do and then built labelled models of the upper and lower teeth. We also really enjoyed our second forest school session. In spelling, we looked at the -ly ending.

Year 5

Year 5 has had another very active and busy week! Each morning, as soon as we have arrived at school, we have practised our dance routine for the Children in Need dance in preparation for this afternoon. In English, we have been exploring the life of Mary Anning and have started writing our own biographies, using fronted adverbials to add cohesion to our sentences. In Maths, Year 5 have been looking at the grid and the short multiplication method to solve one digit multiplied by three digits. In Geography, the class has begun to identify the key physical and human characteristics of the Alps, including famous features such as Mont Blanc. In Science, we have been investigating transparency. The children used a selection of materials and a torch to explore whether each material was transparent, translucent or opaque. Well done for a brilliant week, Year 5!

Year 6

In Year 6 this week, we have been preparing for the restaurant that you are all very excited for (at least we HOPE!). We have also been organising lots of things from birds to…..SWEETS! We have been reading a book called Clockwork, which includes mystery and dramatic cliffhangers (Although, Ms Holliday leaves us hanging - haha, get it?) In maths we have been multiplying fractions. We have a rhyme to help us better use it too (Multiplying fractions no big problem - top x top and bottoms x bottom)!! In geography we have been learning about the Alps which is also to do with the restaurant (which YOU should still be excited for!).

By Mariana and Talya

PTA news

The PTA AGM is on Thursday 19 November at 17.30.

Community news

Bottisham Village College Festive Fair



Saturday 28th November
11:00 - 14:00
Bottisham Village College
Book Santa's grotto here:
www.ticketsource.com/friendsofbvc

Christmas music

