



# Newnham News

Friday 5 December 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of a busy term, I've been reflecting on our Newnham Croft community. The more conversations I have with colleagues from other schools, including parents' experiences of their children's school and vice versa, the more I am reminded of just how lucky we are.

In no particular order. Having such wonderfully supportive parents who work alongside us in so many ways — from attending events, to helping with learning at home, to simply offering kind and encouraging words - you make such a positive contribution.

Equally, we are very blessed to have polite, enthusiastic and curious children who make our school a joyful place to work and be. Their eagerness to learn and their respectful nature are a credit to both home and school.

And of course, our dedicated staff and governors. Their hard work, professionalism, teamwork and positive attitude ensure that every child is well cared for and given the best possible chance to flourish.

Thank you all for contributing to such a warm and supportive community. I feel very lucky to be a part of it.

I hope you all have wonderful weekends

Kind regards,  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Y3/4 trip to Fitzwilliam Museum	Tues 9 Dec
Christmas Jumper Day	Thu 11 Dec
Eat lunch with your Y5 child	Thu 11 Dec
PTA Winter Fair	2pm Sun 14 Dec
Rec & KS1 festive show	16 & 17 Dec
Festive Singalong for all families	3pm Thu 18 Dec
Last day of term	Fri 19 Dec

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

## Whole school news

### Language of the month

This month we are looking at Lithuanian. See the attached file for some useful phrases.

### Spring club list

The timetable for next term's extra-curricular clubs is now live - see our [website](#).

### 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.

### Toys and personal belongings

Please can we remind parents that children are not allowed to bring any personal items into school (including stationary). It can cause a lot of friction with peers and items are regularly lost or misplaced, causing great upset.

## Classroom news

### Reception

This week in Reception, the children have been learning to count in 2s and exploring odd and even numbers through fun, practical activities. In art, we continued our self-portrait work by looking closely at eye and skin colour, helping the children understand and celebrate what makes each of us unique. We are pleased to share that the children have now completed all their Phase Two phonemes and digraphs. We hope you are enjoying listening to your child read at home—just 10 minutes a day makes a big difference to their confidence and progress.

### Year 1

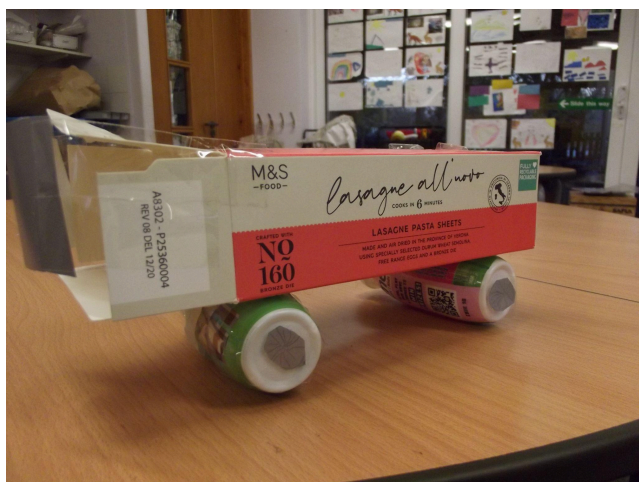
Over the past few weeks, Year 1 has been busy exploring different materials and their properties. Our learning culminated in a fantastic trip to the Cambridge Science Centre last week, where we were able to discover even more through hands-on activities. Back in school, the children put their new knowledge to the test through independent projects. Each child was challenged to create something for a small cut-out version of themselves. Some chose to design houses, others made beds, and some even built vehicles! Their task was to think carefully about which materials would be most suitable and why, based on what they had learned.

Here are two wonderful examples of their work:

Elke's bed with a 'soft' 'warm' blanket



Issy's vehicle with metal looking wheels 'as metal wheels don't bend'.



## Year 2

This week, we explored how schools have changed over time by comparing our modern classroom with one from 100 years ago. We also began learning our Christmas lines, and rehearsals are now well underway. In English, we finished our non-fiction class book, and in maths we moved on from addition and subtraction to begin exploring multiplication, focusing on multiples of 10 and 2. In science, we learned how animals and plants depend on each other within a habitat. Well done to all of Year 2 for completing their first rehearsals — we are very proud of you! Please remember to bring back library books every Friday, and all new Little Wandle home reading books are changed every Wednesday. Thank you for your continued support.

## Year 3

Year 3 has worked exceptionally hard this week on their end of term assessments. In maths, the children worked on telling the time to and past the hour using the analogue clock (including 5-minute intervals and quarter to and quarter past times). In English lessons, the children learnt how clauses are made up of a subject and a verb. They then had lots of fun linking clauses using various conjunctions. In our science lessons the children planned and carried out an investigation to find out how the roughness of a surface can affect the amount of friction produced. Finally, the children made lots of progress using

different sewing stitches in textiles. Thank you to all the adults that have come in to help over the last few weeks.

*Please note in the calendar that Y3 and Y4 will be visiting the Fitzwilliam Museum on Tuesday 9 December. Please ensure your child is dressed suitably for the weather and has a packed lunch and water bottle on that day.*

## Year 4

In maths, we tried doubling and halving bigger numbers and started looking at the grid method for multiplication. We finished our addition and subtraction topic by revising column subtraction and began our new topic, fractions, by labelling a fractions number line. In English, we started a new class book called *Harley Hitch and the Iron Forest*. We are also looking at non-fiction texts about Ancient Egypt. In RE we have been looking at the difference between revealed and remembered writings. In science, we compared the teeth of different animals



and learned about why different diets mean different types of teeth are useful. We also had our last DT sewing session. The children have loved this project and we would like to thank all the volunteers who have given time to make this possible. Spellings this week are words where 'ch' makes a /sh/ sound.

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## Year 5

Year 5 has had a busy and productive week. They built on their learning about biographical writing, investigated the threats found in desert environments, and completed the penultimate lesson of their science unit on separation and mixtures. In maths, the class explored the grid method and the short multiplication method for solving calculations involving a 3-digit number multiplied by a single-digit number. In English, the children researched other significant women in science. They also practised using relative clauses and applied these in their own sentences, ensuring they used correct paragraphing. In science, the class investigated dissolving by placing sugar cubes into three different temperatures of water—warm, cold, and hot—and timing how long each took to dissolve. They considered the variables and ensured the controlled variables were kept the same. Well done to Year 5 for a hardworking and successful week!

## **Year 6**

In Year 6 this week, we were busy bees once again. In English, we finished our Clockwork models. Many great pieces were made by several of us. In maths, we revisited BODMAS and did another arithmetic test. Quite short, I have to say. In science, most of us tried to set fire to the batteries in an electric circuit simulation. Plus Mr Ferguson didn't explode anything. Finally, we end the week with another bake sale!

*By Ahyun and Lyra*

## **PTA news**

### **PTA Winter Fair - Sunday 14 December**

Come along at 1400 and join in some Christmas crafts, sing a song, drink a hot chocolate and throw a snowball. The PTA is not ticketing this event, but asks parents to 'bring a dish' to sell on our behalf (usual rules apply about highlighting allergens please). Volunteers to help setting up, running activities and clearing up most welcomed. Let your class rep know if you are happy to be involved in any way.

## **Community news**

### **School music festival**

The Christmas music festival will take place on 12th December in the school hall (4:30 - 5:30pm). It will feature a performance from the Newnham Croft orchestra followed by solo performances by the school's budding musicians. Any child is welcome to perform independently of their level. Please fill the following form if your child would like to be included in the list of performers: <https://forms.gle/uq41LJFjLB5Aoh77A>

### **Chess team**

Our A-team, once again, recorded four wins from four. This time we whitewashed St John's B 6-0, then played both Stephen Perse teams (who have several secondary-aged players in their squad), defeating the A-team 4-2 and the B-team 4.5-1.5. Finally, we rounded it off with a 4-2 win over Cherry Hinton. This moves us from 4<sup>th</sup> place to 3<sup>rd</sup>, meaning we are now in the promotion zone! We don't want to get our hopes up too much, however, as we still must play the two teams above us, as well as the two below us that we're battling with for promotion, so the major challenges still lie ahead of us. Whatever happens, the boys and girls have done their school proud.

### **Christmas lectures livestream**

Have a look [here](#) to see where you can watch a livestream of one of the Christmas lectures.

### **Cambridge United holiday football camps**

Read the attached letter from Cambridge United for details of football camps to join over the Christmas holidays.

### **Local swap and sell event**

Please see the attached poster for a local swap and sell event on Monday 15 December.