



Newnham News

Friday 2 December 2022

Interim Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

Another week of activity and useful busy-ness.

Front of shop, KS1 put together a very interesting toy museum, Years 3/4 examined genuine artefacts from the Roman/Anglo-Saxon period and Years 5/6 had a first-hand account of what life was like for children in WW2 (not to mention the controlled chaos of the annual Year 6 Masterchef project).

Behind the scenes, the school's Local Authority advisor came in to have a 'deep dive' into our Computing curriculum. This is a process to assess whether our provision is fit-for-purpose. It is a really helpful process, also previously undertaken with DT and History, that allows the staff to reflect on where we are within a specific subject, and where we need to take it. I am pleased to report our advisor was happy with what she found. Speaking to the children, she was impressed by their knowledge about computing and, crucially, how aware they were about the need to stay safe online and the best ways to do this.

There was also a meeting of the FGB (Full Governing Body) on Wednesday evening. It is a quirk of our education system that a group of people that are so integral to the strategic direction of a school, and on whose shoulders such great responsibility rests, are unpaid volunteers; we are very lucky at Newnham Croft to have such a dedicated bunch. They undertake training, whenever needed, and come in to school for monitoring visits in all the curriculum areas (over 40 visits planned for this academic year), as well as overseeing countless other areas, most importantly the school's safeguarding provision.

The above is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg for the week. It shows why no two weeks in a primary school are ever the same and why the job can never be described as boring. From the staff to the governors, the parents to the children, it's a wonderfully complex organism to be a part of.

Have happy weekends (and, for those who bought them, enjoy your Christmas trees - thank you Dani and the PTA for organising them).

Kind regards, Eddie Ferguson

Classroom News:

Reception

This week, the children in Reception looked at the globe and atlas and had discussions about where they were born and their heritage. It is wonderful that we have different heritages and come from different places, but we are all part of the community at Newnham. To prepare for the end of term performance, the children have been practising singing Christmas songs during the music session. In Maths, Reception have been learning about how to count in 2s and recognise even and odd numbers. The class also read the story *This is Our House* and talked about why we need to share and be fair and kind. As part of our learning linked to our topic of Festivals and Celebrations, we will be going on a short visit to St Marks Church on Barton Road, on Monday 5 December. We will discuss how churches can be special places for Christians and will also discuss other places that are special to us and what makes them special.

Years 1 and 2

We've had another very busy week exploring more of our topic, Toys. In History, the children looked at how toys from over 100 years ago have changed in terms of their materials, the colour and style of them. To coincide with this, we held our Toy Museum on Wednesday after school and it was great to see all the Key Stage One parents accompanying their children to look at the toys that they and staff members had all brought in, which belonged to them and/or their parents when they were little.

The museum was set up so that you see how the toys have changed as the years have progressed. Thank you to everyone who visited. Key Stage One children also shared their cup and balls, worry dolls and peg dolls that they had created in



sessions of Art. We were also very fortunate to have a local author and illustrator come and visit us on Monday afternoon. Alison Miles read her wonderful picture/story book *Crabs at Christmas* and shared how she had become an author and what had inspired her to write children's books. In Maths, Year 1s have been working on their number bonds to

10 and 20 and Year 2s have been adding and subtracting numbers less than 10 from 2- and 3-digits. In English, Years 1 and 2s have been describing the toys that were found in the Toy Museum, paying close attention to the materials and the time periods that these toys were from. In DT, the classes worked on their pegs dolls, designing them and thinking about the emotions that they would show and then using colouring pencils to add the facial expressions and clothing. Year 2 Spellings for practising are attached. Well done for an excellent week.

Year 3

Year 3 have continued to learn about what life might have been like under Roman rule and the influence the Anglo-Saxons have on our language. On Monday the children really enjoyed a presentation by Christopher Wakefield and Evan from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU). They enjoyed looking at the various artefacts that were brought in and guessing what they might have been used for. In Maths lessons we have focused on adding and subtracting multiples of 1, 10 and 100 from 3-digit numbers. The children really enjoyed listening to and performing poems by Michael Rosen in our English sessions. In our Computer lesson the children had lots of fun creating simple animations using iMotion.

Year 4

In English, we have been enjoying Michael Rosen's poetry and have looked at the types of features he uses in his poems. We also practised learning and performing his poems for the class. In Maths, we invented our own maths magic tricks to try on each other, with some impressive results! We also created some beautiful posters for each of the days of the week, showing their link to Anglo-Saxon times.

Year 5

On Monday, Year 5 and 6 were treated to a talk from Benedict's grandparents who described their personal experiences during World War II. Benedict's grandmother was born in a camp in Germany after her father and mother (who was pregnant at the time) were deported from Nazi-occupied Guernsey to Biberach. She recalled her early memories from the camp and the close sense of friendship and community with those who lived in the same town. Benedict's grandfather described his experiences of being evacuated from London to the countryside with his family, including the hostility of the locals towards those who had arrived from the city. It was wonderful to hear first-hand experiences and compare them with those we have learnt about in class. In English, Year 5 have explored the use of commas, dashes and brackets for parenthesis, while in Maths they have looked at rules of divisibility, explored prime numbers and used mental methods for division. During our Dance lessons on Tuesdays we have now covered the Charleston, the Lambeth Walk and the Lindy Hop. We're looking forward to performing some of our dances at our VE Day party at the end of term.

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been very busy having their first of a few Masterchef contests, their challenge being to create a festive winter biscuit. They have also been lucky enough to receive two parent/grandparent talks, and during those learnt many facts on computer science and history. Thank you to Mr Fitzpatrick. On various days of the week students from Cambridge University came in to very helpfully assist us with Maths (percentages) and English (writing and editing in role based on a poem). Overall it has been a fun and exciting week.
By Andreas and Cordelia

School Meals

The menu will be week 1 of the menu cycle (attached). The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

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.

Diary Dates

Y6 swimming.....	7 Dec
Music Festival 3.30pm.....	9 Dec
Rec & KSI production 2pm.....	12 Dec
Rec & KSI production 9.30am.....	13 Dec
Rec NHS Vision Screening 9am.....	19 Dec
School Christmas lunch	20 Dec
Festive singing 3.20pm.....	20 Dec
Last day of term	21 Dec