



Newnham News

Friday 28 January 2022

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Lunch menu
- PJ's persuasive letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are continuing to have a steady flow of Covid infections across the school and as of today we still have about 1 in 10 pupils currently off with Covid. Thankfully this does not seem to be growing too rapidly. This also includes four members of school staff, some of whom will hopefully be back in school next week. As cases remain so high and are in almost every class in the school, I'd continue to advise all parents to lateral flow test your children daily in order to attend school. Please also inform the school of any positive test results as soon as you can.

Away from Covid, the children have been having a great week. Year 3 are preparing for a mini music concert (outdoors) for parents on Wednesday 9th February at 3.30pm, hopefully this will be just as lovely as the Christmas concert last term. Year 4 have yet to fully decide what they will be doing for a school performance, and restrictions may well still be in place. We will let you all know as soon as the position is clear. We have also been finalising plans for the Year 4 residential trip to Grafham Water later this year. Please look out for more information on this coming out next week.

In other areas of the school, the children have been working enthusiastically in all they do. It's been wonderful to see them all enjoying their learning. So much credit for this must go to the teachers and support staff who have delivered learning for the children under what remain very trying times. This has included willingly covering for absent staff, dealing with last minute changes of plans and showing resilience in the face of these circumstances. I'm sure that you'll all want to join me in thanking them for all their continued hard work and dedication towards the school.

We have one slight change to our morning plans. If you attend the early morning reading group, can you now drop the children at the school playground gate and they can walk around the school to enter straight into the Year 3 classroom. There is still space in this group for any other parents who wish to drop their children early. If you're interested then please let me know.

Choose the school menu

Ms Noble has been excited to read the (very polite) persuasive letters she has received. We announced, in our recent writing assembly, that children can write a letter

requesting new meal suggestions for school lunches. So far, Ms Noble has received letters from children in Year 4 and Year 6. Today children enjoyed muffins for pudding, thanks to the excellent letter from PJ in Year 6 (attached). Children from any class can post a letter in the box in the hall and may have their idea added to the school lunch menu.

Classroom Roundup

Reception

We have now moved onto the second of our topic related class books, *Handa's Surprise* by Eileen Browne. In this well-known story, Handa takes a basket of seven fruits to her friend Akeyo. On the way however, surprising events occur. As a class, we talked about surprises and we wrote about surprises we could plan for our friends. In Maths we have been looking at 1 more and 1 less than a given number and are becoming really confident with this. In Phonics we learnt the following phonemes and tricky words: 'oa', 'oo', 'ar' and 'or'. 'was', 'they', 'my', and 'are'. In Art, we have finding out about colour mixing and using watercolours.

Year 1

This week Year 1 have made a fantastic start at re-writing the story of the *The Baker's Boy* and *The Great Fire of London*. In History we have been learning about Samuel Pepys and why he is a significant individual. We have been extending our learning in subtraction in Maths and using our number bond knowledge to help us. In Science we have enjoyed collecting weather data and answering questions about it. In Geography we have also been looking at the UK again and learning to locate major cities in England on the map.

Class 1/2N and 1/2C

In Maths, Year 1 have been working on their understanding of subtraction and have used different methods to subtract by taking away and counting back on a number track or number line. Year 2 have been continuing to learn about fractions including finding $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$ of quantities. In Science we used the data we had gathered about the weather over the last week to answer some questions. In English, we re-wrote the first part of the story *The Baker's Boy* and *the Great Fire of London*. In Phonics, Year 1 practised reading words using the graphemes 'ch' (school, chef, chin) and 'er' (perfect, summer) and spelling 'what' and 'please'. Year 2 have been continuing to learn the rules about adding the suffixes 'est' and 'er' to root words ending in different letters (eg. brave, braver, bravest). They also practised using full stops correctly to demarcate sentences.

It would be great if you could help your child spot and recognise some of these graphemes, words and punctuation in their daily reading at home and to practise their spelling. In History, we learnt about Samuel Pepys and his diary.

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been exploring the Arctic and Antarctic and have been looking at the countries found in the Arctic Circle. The class spent the lesson comparing the amount of hours of daylight across one year for the Arctic, Antarctic Circle and London. In Science, Year 3 have been looking at the water cycle and explored the roles of evaporation and condensation. In English, we've been exploring similes and a little bit of personification. The class used these to describe a setting as part of their Fantastic Beasts story. In Maths, Year 3 have spent this week working and building on the expanded addition method. They also used their reasoning skills to explain how this method helped them to add multiple numbers together. Well done Year 3 for a very busy yet hardworking week.

Year 4

This week, year 4 have been exploring more of our topic of 'Magic, Potions and Spells' in English to create descriptive settings for our characters using personification and similes. We have been working really hard to become independent writers this week, using a 'Learning Ladder' of success criteria to edit and improve our own work. In Geography, we have been looking at the Arctic and Antarctic, making comparisons between the two. Science this week included making comparisons on changing states of matter. We carried out an experiment to see which solids could melt when heated and which could freeze or change to a gas when placed in the freezer or boiled. Year 4 have also been practising times tables in as many spare moments as we can. We are planning to be as prepared as possible for the times table check in the Summer term!

Year 5

This week, in Maths we continued to look at reading scales, and converted measures of capacity. We've also looked at adding decimals and spent time using our reasoning skills to find rules for calculation problems. Our forces work in Science involved an investigation about air resistance; groups designed and made different parachutes which they tested by dropping from a height and measuring the time taken to get to the floor. They linked their results back to their knowledge of gravity and air resistance. In Geography, we have been researching and presenting information about what the land was like before the people of Benin settled there, and how they adapted it to suit their needs.

Year 6

This week in Year 6, we have been continuing with our War Horse topic and learning about formal and informal register in English. In Maths, we have been using mental and written methods to solve problems. In Geography, we have been

looking at biomes in Nigeria, which is linked to our Benin topic in History. In Music, we have been learning the djembe, and in PE we are continuing our hockey topic and starting to play matches. All in all, Year 6 have had a very hardworking and successful week! *Penny and Farouq*

Thank you from Year 6

Thank you to everyone who bought one of Year 6's festive cards in December. We are very grateful to all of you. Year 6 made over £200, which we plan to spend on Year 6 class projects. We also plan to donate part of our profit to the PTA.

School Meals

Next week will be the week 2 menu (attached). The cost of a school meal is £2.40.

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

Yours faithfully,

Andy Matthews, Headteacher

PTA NEWS

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 2nd February at 8pm on Zoom. Details to join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71078824116?pwd=fhQM9meyABKxByXH9m8-aT5LhRLI-Q.1>

Meeting ID: 710 7882 4116

Passcode: X8AYYY

This brief meeting will cover how much money we have raised and how best to spend it. We will also discuss ideas for events and activities for the coming months. Join us if you can.

COMMUNITY NEWS

St Mark's Toddles and Junior Church

Toddles runs on Monday and Thursday mornings, between 10 and 11.30, in the community centre behind the church. All babies and children under 5, and those who care for them, are welcome.

Junior Church takes place on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays of the month. We begin in church at 9.30am, and then go into the community centre for a Godly Play story and a creative response of the child's own choosing. Any questions can be directed to childrenandfamilies@stmarksnewnham.org.