



Newnham News

Friday 20 January 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

Firstly, I wanted to thank you for your kind words of support and congratulations. It is reassuring to hear that so many of you are confident and happy with the direction of Newnham Croft under the current governors and leadership. I am absolutely delighted to have been appointed as the substantive head. What has been gratifying to observe over the past few months is the growing sense of community that has returned to our school and I look forward to being a part of that as we continue to build and develop.

As I have said before, a vital part of that community are the governors. With this in mind, I wanted to let you know that there is a vacancy for a parent-governor coming up. If you might be interested in joining the governing body, please come and speak to myself, Dani Redhead, Matt Day or one of the other governors (there is a list on the website or in school) to find out more about the role.

The kitchen continues to work hard to provide a healthy balance of delicious and nutritious food - and continues (like most of us) to struggle to get exactly what is needed due to shortages with suppliers. As a result, we wanted you to be aware that there might be changes to the menu at short notice; if Ms Noble and the team have to change the main meal, they will always try to offer something that is as popular as possible.

Attached to the newsletter are two posters signposting parenting help/support from the local authority, if you'd like to take a look.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,

Kind regards,
Eddie Ferguson

Classroom news:

Reception

In Reception's Expressive Arts and Design session this term, we have placed a focus on Design and Technology. With Miss Blake, the class have been working on scissor skills using various scissors for differing effects, such as serrated scissors for cutting wavy lines. The children have also been looking at joining two parts together using resources such as tape, glue and split pins. In the photo, one of our children has chosen to apply the skills she has been taught by making her own car and has attached the wheels using split pins.



Years 1 and 2

This week, in relation to our topic 'Significant Explorers,' Year 2 visited the Scott Polar Museum and were really thrilled by all the exciting artefacts relating to past polar explorations, including those of Earnest Shackleton. There was plenty to look at and the children were particularly impressed with the selection of clothing that was worn by the Inuit and previous explorers, such as Robert Falcon Scott. They also enjoyed the images, paintings and pictures of the animals. Please see the pictures attached. In Maths, Year 1 have been working on calculating change from 10p and 20p by counting-up using a coin number line. They have also worked on finding the difference between amounts up to 10p and 20p. Year 2s have been exploring time and they have been working on o'clock and half past. They have also been using their reasoning skills to explain how they know that some of the clocks show o'clock and some of them show half past. In English, Year 1s have been working on the past and present tense and used their knowledge of this to create past and present tense sentences. Year 2s have continued their work on quest stories and worked on their inference skills. They predicted what would happen next in Oliver Jeffers Story, The Way Back Home. In History, both classes studied the modern female explorer, Felicity Aston and compared her with Matthew Henson. Well done for a hardworking week Key Stage One. Please find attached Year 2 number bonds to 30 to be tested on next Friday and the set of tricky words explored this week.



Year 3

Year 3 have had another busy week. In our Maths lessons, we have focused on place value. The children started the week by placing 3-digit numbers on a number line. Towards the end of the week, we investigated how many different 3-digit numbers we could generate given a certain number of digits. In English lessons, the children worked on how to punctuate direct speech and how to write sentences containing subordinating conjunctions. In our Science session, the children enjoyed using mirrors to reflect a light source onto an intended object. In Geography lessons, we looked at the climate found in rainforests. Finally, in our art sessions the children enjoyed assembling materials for their Rousseau inspired collages.

Year 4

This week in English, we have journeyed through more traditional tales and their twisted versions and have written setting descriptions using expanded noun phrases and prepositions. We have practised the correct use of inverted commas and other punctuation by writing conversations between different characters from traditional tales. In Maths, we have learned to use the grid method to multiply two-digit numbers together and have looked at the relationship between division and multiplication (corresponding facts). In PE, we have continued to create dance motifs inspired by Camille Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals, this week focusing on the fish to produce a range of well-choreographed aquatic movements.

Year 5

Year 5 started the week with a presentation and talk from Dr Matthew Bothwell, from the University's Institute of Astronomy. The class, along with Year 6, enjoyed posing challenging and interesting questions while Matthew spoke of some of the most amazing facts about space. It was incredible to be able to hold a meteorite originally from the asteroid belt, millions of years old! The class had a very successful first swimming lesson at The Leys. We were so impressed with their positive attitude, determination and stamina. In Maths, we have looked at decimals - adding and subtracting them mentally, multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000 and rounding. In English, we have looked at the role of adverbials in creating a cohesive text and have started to hear about Dorothy Vaughan's life in the book Hidden Figures.

Year 6

This week in Year 6 has been fairly usual. In Maths, we have been learning about three digit decimals. In English, we've been reading and discussing poems about space. In Science, we made a model to show the distances between planets (using fruit from Ms Noble's kitchen)



and we had a visitor from the astronomy department, Matt. In PE, we played tag-rugby and in Music, we're learning about composers. Geography, we have described the climate and temperature of Eastern European cities. Our new school language is Japanese. *By Andreas and Monty S*

School Orchestra

We are delighted to announce that the Newnham Croft Orchestra is going live! Rehearsals will start this coming Tuesday 24th January at lunch time. If your child plays an orchestral instrument or recorder, and has been playing for at least a year, you can find more details and sign up here <https://forms.gle/Jtj9VHiGAHkQxYjR6>.

Music Festival

The next Music Festival will be on **Friday 3rd February** from 3.30-4.30pm in the school hall. Any child learning a musical instrument, whether privately or in school, is welcome to sign up to play to our small, friendly audience. Sign up here by Thursday 2nd Feb <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gE-bdQG2HK4JWxfgf0cRszP3HeTklQo3h0AFeljiYbE/edit?usp=sharing>

Free KS1 books

We have been clearing space for new books in the school library. They will be free to take from outside the kitchen after school next week.

School Meals

The menu will be week 3 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

Y5 Botanic Gardens.....	23 Jan
Y6 Holocaust Memorial Day poetry talk/workshop	23 Jan
Y6 to Botanic Gardens.....	24 Jan
Y5 swimming.....	25 Jan
Y3 and 4 to Botanic Gardens	30 Jan
Life Bus for KS2	31 Jan
NHS weighing and measuring Rec and Y6	1 Feb
Y5 swimming.....	1 Feb
Music festival 3.30-4.30pm	3 Feb
Parent teacher consultations 3.30-6.00 (not Y2)	6 Feb
Parent teacher consultations 1.30-4.00	7 Feb
Y2 Parent teacher consultations 3.30-6.00.....	8 Feb
Y5 swimming.....	8 Feb
Half term.....	13-17 Feb
Whole class group photos	22 Feb
Y5 swimming.....	1 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	8 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	15 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	22 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	29 Mar