



Newnham News

Friday 20 September 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

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[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

Yesterday, Mrs Markham and I attended our biennial safeguarding training, a statutory requirement for safeguarding leads in schools. There are numerous other courses throughout the year that keep us up-to-date with all recent developments in this area as well.

As you can imagine with all the current press coverage and the work by some of our parents, there was much discussion about children and keeping them safe online, in particular the impact that smartphones have on their lives.

More and more evidence (as well as what we see with our own eyes) points to the problems that these devices (and the internet in general) can cause for children and young people who do not possess the maturity to interact with it with the necessary discretion and care.

In school, we have always banned phone use within the grounds, requiring children to hand them in to their teacher for the day. Usually, it is only year 6 children who have them and there is only one child in the current year 6 class who has a phone.

It is worth remembering that if you need to be in touch with your child at the end of the day, there are non-smart phones that can call and text but that do not give access to the internet.

It is also important to remember that the potential danger with smartphones is the access they offer to the internet. It is so important that we properly supervise children wherever they have this access. Children should not be left alone with devices (including games consoles), especially ones that don't have filters on them. It takes surprisingly few clicks to find some of the darker corners of the virtual world and we cannot unsee something we have seen.

The most important thing is to make sure that lines of communications remain constructive and open with your child. If they know you are going to be cross, they will not tell you about what they are doing. For more information, visit the school website (or click [here](#)).

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y4 Wandlebury trip	Mon 23 Sept
Early Years curriculum workshop	9.15am Mon 23 Sept
Y6 swimming	(and every Tues) Tues 24 Sept
Flu vaccinations	Fri 27 Sept
Y5 & 6 trip to Bletchley Park	Thurs 3 Oct
PTA barn dance	see attached poster Fri 4 Oct
Harvest assembly (parents welcome)	9 - 10am Mon 7 Oct

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

Whole school news

We're delighted to introduce

Mother Nature, our new Eco mascot! The design was part of a competition at the Eco Picnic last term, won by Natty in Year 5. A friend of Ms Harper has turned his design into a beautifully created character, to be



awarded to the class that has been the most eco-friendly during the week. We're looking forward to getting this year's Eco Committee up and running very soon.

Parent consultations

You should have received an invitation to book an appointment for a parent consultation with your child's teacher. If you have not done so already, please login to e-schools [here](#) to do so. If you have any issues with logging in, please get in touch with the office. Parents of children on the SEN register should make a separate appointment with their class teacher by contacting them directly or through the office.

Lunchtime supervisor

We would very much like to hear from anyone who might like to work in school as a lunchtime supervisor. The hours are 11.45 am - 1.15 pm, two to five days a week. The pay is £11.79 per hour. This is a lovely job involving facilitating and supervising the children's play outside, encouraging them to eat our delicious school dinners and a little bit of sweeping up and wiping tables. If you are interested please contact the office 01223 508737 or office@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk

Early Years curriculum workshop

There will be a curriculum workshop for Reception parents on **Monday 23rd September at 9.15am**. If there are parents of other new children in years 1 and 2 who would like to find out a little bit more about how phonics and reading are taught at Newnham Croft, you are very welcome to join us.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu next week will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

Classroom news

Reception

Well done Reception for a great first full week in school. The Reception team and I have been so impressed with how well you have all settled in, particularly during lunchtime. All children have been brilliant at selecting their meals and sitting down nicely at their tables, remembering to use a knife and fork to eat their food with. We've also spent the week getting to know more areas of the classroom and exploring new stations, such as the water station and the mud kitchen. As a reminder, it's the Early Years Workshop on Monday at 9.15. Please do come along. Also for any Reception parents who haven't signed up for ClassDojo, please use [this link](#) which was emailed to you earlier this week. Well done Reception!

Year 1

Following on from the introduction of our class book *Beegu* by Alex Deacon last week, this week the children in Year 1 have found out a little more about the story. The main character of the story, who is also called Beegu, has been very lonely since crash-landing on planet Earth. Each child made a model of a potential friend for Beegu from playdough. They then wrote a character description of the friend describing both what the character looks like from the outside, as well as the characteristics that cannot be seen. Many children thought that Beegu would like a kind and gentle friend.

Year 2

Year 2 has had a busy week filled with lots of great learning. In English, we researched and wrote facts about wolves. The children created a word bank of fantastic noun phrases and used these to write sentences about wolves. In maths, we investigated making totals with money, and some of us practised giving change using our place value knowledge from last week. In science, we compared different materials, and in gymnastics, we worked on our travelling moves using the equipment. During computing this week, we identified examples of IT in everyday life and we also resized images. In geography, both classes went on a walk around the school grounds to spot signs of Autumn. Well done, Year 2, for a great week! As always, please remember to bring your reading folders on Wednesday and Friday.

Year 3

Year 3 has had another action packed week. In maths, we have focused on place value additions ($475 = 400 + 70 + 5$ / $400 + 30 + 40 + 5$) and subtractions ($465 - \underline{\quad\quad} = 425$). In

English lessons the children identified the features of instructional texts. In science lessons we continued to look at the properties of rocks concentrating in particular on rocks that are permeable and impermeable. The highlight of the



week was our Iron Age Experience Day at Wandlebury. The children enjoyed finding out about how important this site was. They enjoyed baking bread over a fire and practising their weaving and slingshot skills. Thanks to all of the adults who helped out on the day.

Year 4

Well done Year 4 for another hard working week. In our history topic, we considered sources of evidence and looked closely at the stone age village Skara Brae. In English, we have been collecting and trying out conjunctions to extend sentences. In maths, we have been using place value to help us for example $1642 - 40 =$. We have been investigating crossing boundaries such as $300 - 10 =$. In science we found out about different ways to classify animals using their similarities and differences and used words such as vertebrate, mammal and omnivore. For spelling this week we have been looking at words beginning with the prefix in- and revising words from Year 1/2. Please see the attached list of spelling words and look out for a paper copy of the year 1/2 words to practise at home. Don't forget our class trip to Wandlebury on Monday. We need comfy footwear, a raincoat and a packed lunch!

Year 5

In English, we finished reading *Cloud Tea Monkeys* and planned our own stories set in a faraway place, taking inspiration from the book. In maths, we continued practising rounding to the nearest 10,000 and 100,000 and then began looking at decimals, including adding ones, tenths and hundredths and multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. In science, we conducted an investigation into shadows and practised collecting data ready to be represented on a line graph. In PSHE, we discussed emotions associated with being new somewhere and what we can do to help people when they are new.

Year 6

This week in history, we learned about the BLITZ! In maths, we learnt how to multiply fractions. Also in history, we made medals of honour when we were studying the Battle of Britain. In English, we talked about Highwayman and performed it in groups.

By Rowan A and Patrick

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.

PTA News

Classlist

Call for all new parents to register with Classlist! This is the platform that the PTA uses to communicate with parents about all the events we hold for the school community such as coffee mornings, fireworks night, the summer fete etc. Please register using the link here or the attached flyer.
<https://classlist.page.link/sV5CUKhhZ7TQunJg8>

Please see attached flyer for the PTA Barn Dance on 4 October.

Community news

Support your anxious child

Cambridge County Council are hosting a course for supporting parents with anxious children. See attached poster for more information.

Indoor cricket

See attached flyer for indoor cricket sessions by the City of Cambridge Cricket Club.