



Newnham News

Friday 23 June 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

Another week and more checks and helpful scrutiny for the school and staff.

Local authority moderators came in on Wednesday to look through books and check the accuracy of our assessments about the children's writing. Around a quarter of schools receive these visits annually, and, although stressful and a little nerve-wracking, they provide excellent feedback and, fortunately, corroboration of our teachers' judgements.

On Thursday, one of the Cambridgeshire safeguarding leads spent the day checking through our policies, procedures and other paperwork, as well as talking to staff and children about the culture of the school. This is an extremely thorough audit of this vital part of the school's responsibilities. Once again, the outcome was positive, which was reassuring.

In both instances, whilst there were no glaring gaps in our provision, the school was provided with a to-do list of things we can improve upon, which is so helpful in making sure we are always moving forward.

Parents have a role to play in this as well, so for those of you that haven't, please do complete the survey using this link: <https://forms.gle/PFhRR8Yph24NM4Br6>. The parent survey really helps the school leaders when developing the plan for next year. We have already completed the staff survey and a pupil survey will be carried out as well.

Finally, from next week we are trialling a new system in the mornings. We have staff briefings on Monday and Wednesday, meaning that staff are always rushed to get outside for 8.40am. What we propose is that teachers will no longer be expected on the playground until just before 8.45am on those days. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, teachers will be outside from 8.35am if you need to catch them for a brief chat. I am aware that we have not been consistent with our punctuality in getting to the playground and hope that this will help.

Have a lovely weekend,

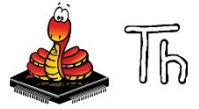
Kind regards,

Eddie Ferguson

Coding at St John's College School

On Tuesday 20 June, a group of four Year 5 children participated in a coding training programme at St John's College School.

They focused on three main projects including the coding language Python. The children used Thonny (a platform used for running code) and Turtle which they programmed patterns on. They really enjoyed it! Thank you to Mrs Bole for accompanying them. *By Annielle, Rupert and Zihan*



Bike/scooter thefts from the bike park

A reminder to be mindful of locking up bikes and scooters in the school bike park as there have been some recent thefts.

Classroom news:

Reception

In Reception, we have been reading our class book, *The Gigantic Turnip*, and acted out the story. We wrote out the recipe for vegetable soup and this afternoon we chopped the vegetables and actually made the soup!



Years 1 and 2

Key Stage One have had yet another very active and warm week from swimming or circuit training to Forest Schools, (this week it's been 1/2). In Maths, Year 1s have started working on multiplication by adding lots of the same groups of objects together and then have recorded these as multiplication number sentence. Year 2s have been working on adding 3-digit numbers to a number line, ordering them from the smallest to the largest and finished the week by working on subtraction by counting back on a number line. In English, all classes created a character profile based on the current story book *Betsey's Birthday Surprise*. They wrote sentences using adjectives to describe either Betsey or Grandma Liz. In History, we looked at the nurse, Mary Seacole. In Science Key Stage One have explored the different categories of animals based on what they eat. The classes were given a selection of animals and they all had to work out whether these animals were 'omnivores,' 'herbivores,' or 'carnivores.' Well done for all of your hard efforts, especially during these very warm days. **Please could we remind all children to make sure that they have water bottles with**

them, particularly with the temperature rising, as we want everyone to stay nice and hydrated. Please find attached spellings and divisions for all Year 2s.

Year 3

Year 3 have had another busy week. In our Maths sessions the children used column addition to add combinations of 3-digit numbers and used rounding to help them make quick estimates of what their totals might be. In our English sessions the children worked on building noun phrases using a range of adjectives, adverbs and prepositions. The children really enjoyed creating a poem about somebody special based on Valerie Bloom's 'You are'. In our Computing session the children worked hard on coding a pen to draw lines. In our Science sessions the children looked at different types of skeletons and learnt how to sort them into different groups.

Year 4

This week in Maths we have been focusing on rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 as well as placing 4-digit numbers on different length number lines. In English we have recapped prepositions and written different sentences using prepositions to show time, place and cause. We have also had a go at changing the adjectives and prepositions in Valerie Bloom's poem, Hide and Seek, to change the meaning and the setting. In Science we have explored different types of skeleton (endoskeletons, exoskeletons and hydrostatic skeletons) and the advantages and disadvantages to each type. We have been keeping healthy choices diaries every day for the last week and have now looked at which kinds of healthy choices we are making regularly. We each decided on one thing we would like to improve on, with some excellent suggestions from the class, such as sleeping more, going on screens less and eating more vegetables.

Year 5

This week in Maths we have been drawing and interpreting line graphs, thinking about the size of each interval on an axis, being careful when plotting and finding information based on what the graph shows. We used this to help us with our Science enquiry this week, which involved setting up a test to see what happens to our heart rate when we exercise. In English Year 5 have planned, written and edited persuasive speeches, encouraging parents to let them have a pet, own a mobile phone, be allowed more screen time or go to bed later. They were able to apply many of the persuasive features they've learnt about over the past few weeks.

Year 6

This week Year 6 have been very busy. In Maths we have been doing some riddles and finding ways to solve them. In English we have been writing discussion letters. In Science we have been learning about gestation periods of animals, including humans. In RE we have been writing about creation stories for different religions. In PE we have been practising for sports day and this week practised sprinting. In Music we practised the songs for the play and lastly we have been writing our play script – yay! *By Jaein and Nelly*

Music Festival - last one of the year

[Sign up](#) for the final music festival of the year, which will be held on Friday 7th July at 3.30pm. Any child that plays a musical instrument is welcome to perform a piece to our friendly, supportive audience. This is also your chance to hear the Newnham Croft Orchestra perform.

School Meals

The menu for next week is 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

Y2 swimming.....	27 June, 4, 11 July
Y3&4 swimming	28 June, 5 July
PTA summer fete	2 July
Co-op/Y6 breakfast café 8.30am	7 July
Music Festival 3.30pm	7 July
Sports Day.....	12 July
Y6 play.....	13 July
Y6 leavers' party	18 July
Y6 leavers' assembly.....	19 July
End of term	19 July

PTA NEWS

School Disco

Kids - get your dancing shoes on **TONIGHT! 5.30pm - 6.30pm** for Reception and KS1, then **7pm - 8pm** for KS2. Tickets are £3 per child and again, available on Classlist. Water will be available and the music won't be too loud so it's suitable for everyone. Children can be dropped off but need to be picked up by a known adult. We will also need adult supervisors for this - please sign up here <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18277531> and you can show the kids how to really move on the dancefloor!

Summer Fete

Our annual Summer Fete is on the horizon too - **Sunday 2nd July, 12pm to 3pm**. Games, music, stalls, food, drinks and fun in the sun - tickets are available on Classlist

<https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1003601084> We really need volunteers to make this event happen - it would be a real shame to have to close stalls due to lack of adult supervision. Please consider donating an hour of your time to watch the gate, or the inflatable slide or serve some food. The Summer Fete is a real party atmosphere and you will have fun! Sign up

here: <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18277561>

Any questions, contact newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com and thank you in advance!

COMMUNITY

Eleanor Toye Scott Album Launch

I started taking singing lessons several years ago, and eventually started writing songs, and I'm now about to launch my first album. (Unlikely, but true!) I'm holding a launch event at Thrive cafe bistro (5-7 Norfolk Street) on Saturday 1 July at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £5, and people can also buy a CD for £5, either in advance or on the night. It will finish around 9.30-10. I'm being accompanied by local singer-songwriter Rhys Wilson, who has produced the album, and supported by a couple of friends, Aske Petersen and Gabi Quandt. My vocal coach, Liuba Doga, may also be performing (to be confirmed). Tickets are available here

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/eleanor-toye-scotts-album-launch-take-me-as-you-find-me-tickets-661966408347>

There are links to a couple of tracks on the Eventbrite page, so people can hear the sort of thing I do.

Cambridge Open Studios 2023

Artists will once again be opening their studios to visitors for up to 4 weekends in July.

Locally there are 4 studios:

At 22 Marlowe Rd (no.69 in the guide) 2 artists will be exhibiting their work: Ruth Schmid upcycles materials to make unique and functional bags and accessories, and Sue Lawley is showing atmospheric contemporary oil paintings.

At 47 Granchester St Harriet Lintoff (no.68) will be showing her paintings of still life and landscape.

Neil Warmsley (no.2) will be showing his work and the gardens that inspire it at the Margaret Beaufort Institute, 12 Grange Road.

Rani Drew (no.70) at 10 Fulbrooke Rd paints landscapes and nature in vivid watercolours.

Further afield there several exhibitions in Granchester - find more info in the yellow OS booklets you will see around or go to <https://camopenstudios.org/july-open-studios-2023/>

You are very welcome to come and meet the artists and have a look around these and other studios in July.

Sheep's Green Learner Pool is looking for any keen gardeners

Sheep's Green Learner pool has a lovely green border of plants alongside the pool that could do with a bit of TLC as our regular team of gardeners are not available this season. Could you spare a couple of hours (at a time that suits you) to help tidy things up? Please get in touch with Dani on dani@meeprophone.com if you can help. Thank you