



Newnham News

Friday 13 December 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear parents/carers,

The Twelve Days of Christmas has been ringing out, the festive craft morning has been planned and the kitchen has been ordering for Christmas lunch. Next week could be a slight festive overload (suggests the Grinch)!

For this week, the children have been reflecting on their learning in reading and maths by completing end-of-term assessments. As always, these are done with a light touch and are used by teachers to help identify any gaps and inform decisions about support needed next term. For year 6, the assessments will come home next week. For the rest of the school, we will send them home after the Christmas break.

Enjoy the newsletter and we look forward to seeing you at some point next week, whether your child is in Reception and KS1 for their performance, or for everyone who can make it the festive singalong on Thursday. For the latter, we will open the gates at 2.50pm for a prompt (but cheery) start at 3pm.

Please could I ask that everyone stays to enjoy all the songs. Last year, some parents left once their child had finished their part and it didn't feel quite in the spirit of things.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Reception & KS1 performance	9.30am	Tues 17 Dec
Christmas Lunch		Tues 17 Dec
Reception & KS1 performance	1.30pm	Wed 18 Dec
Festive singalong	3pm	Thur 19 Dec
Last day of term		Fri 20 Dec
Back to school		Tues 7 Jan

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

Whole school news

Reception and KS1 Christmas Concert

We look forward to welcoming you to school to enjoy the festive performance that we have been rehearsing. Each child in Reception and KS1 will be allocated 2 tickets. Pick them up from the office, choosing which performance you would like: Tuesday 17 December at 9.30am or Wednesday 18 December, 1.30pm.

Holiday Activities and Food Voucher

For families who receive Free School Meals, you may also be eligible for holiday vouchers to spend on activities or food over the Christmas break. See the attached letter for more information. For more information on Free School Meals, see the council website [here](#). Even if your child currently receives Universal Free School Meals (i.e is in Reception or KS1), do apply as it would secure funding beyond that time.

Extracurricular clubs

Clubs have now finished for this term so please make sure you have arrangements in place for picking up your child after school next week.

The clubs list for next term has been released - you should have received an email on Monday. It is also on our website [here](#). This has been amended slightly to reflect a change in the Multisports, Football and Dodgeball start date. Please note the start and end date of the clubs your child is doing as they do not all have different start and end dates. If anything is unclear, please contact the club provider.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu after half term will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.50. This will rise to £2.65 from next term.

Classroom news

Reception

Reception has been particularly busy this week, not only preparing for Maisy's birthday party, but also rehearsing for the Christmas Concert and finally constructing crafts to make their classroom look very festive. All children have been practising songs and dance moves for the Christmas concert next week and have each been allocated with a Nativity costume. A big thank you to all of our wonderful Reception parents for making Maisy's birthday party so brilliant. All of the children looked brilliant in their party outfits on Friday afternoon. We watched all the birthday videos that the children had prepared at home with the help of their parents and we looked through the Birthday book, which is now filled with all of Reception's birthday photos from recent and past birthdays. There was even time for a little dance and some special birthday snacks. Well done Reception for an incredible penultimate week!

Year 1

In preparation for a Gruffalo party next week, the children in Year 1 have been reading and writing recipes. There are two recipes that we will follow. The first is called Terrible Tusks and includes

fruit on skewers, which we are sure that the children will enjoy. The second is called Mad Mud Pie and includes soil, leaves, twigs and stones, which is aimed more at the Gruffalo himself! The class has been finding out about the key elements of instruction writing including having a title, numbered instructions and pictures and labels.

Year 2

This week in Year 2, the children have had a wonderful time making their very own old-fashioned 'Cup and Ball' game. They also completed their final piece of instruction writing, showcasing all they've learned. Alongside this, we have been working on end-of-term reading and maths assessments, so there will be no new reading books uploaded to Collins Hub this week. In RE, we've been learning about Hanukkah, exploring the traditions and the significance of the Hanukkah candles (Hanukiah). The children have also been busy rehearsing for next week's performance, and we are all looking forward to it! As a reminder, please ensure your child comes to school in a Christmas jumper on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in preparation for the performances.

Year 3

Year 3 has worked really hard throughout the week on their end of term assessments. In maths lessons, the children continued to consolidate their understanding of how to add 3-digit numbers using partitioning (splitting into hundreds, tens and ones). In English the children enjoyed acting out and narrating scenes from *The Snowman* by Raymond Briggs. In our science lessons children learnt how to sort animals into vertebrates and invertebrates. They learnt about different types of joints and where they are found. Finally they looked at how our muscles work when we raise and lower our arms. Next week the children are looking forward to entertaining you with the Christmas Song they have worked on in music lessons. No spellings this week.

Year 4

It's been a busy week in year 4! It has been assessment week and everyone has worked hard. In DT we have added the finishing touches to our castle models. In maths we have practiced written methods for addition and subtraction. In English we have continued looking at *Grimwood* by Nadia Shireen. We have been practicing our oracy skills and writing a plan to deal with the horrible cat 'Princess Buttons'. We also designed our own science experiment to see how far sounds

travel. For spelling this week we have been looking at words where the 'ch' makes a 'sh' sound.

Year 5

In maths, we finished our unit on measures and data by exploring negative numbers in the context of temperature and how to calculate temperature differences. We also practised calculating the volume of 3D shapes and using the cubed symbol in our answers. In English, we wrote an application letter to apply for a travel grant to go on our imaginary travels to an Alpine region. We then began to write our travel pieces about our journey. In science, we continued to take regular observations of our bread samples as part of our mould growth investigation. In PSHE, we talked about the power that bystanders have when they see bullying and how to use that power for good.

Year 6

It was a great week in the Year 6 classroom. Y6 made some scrumptious-looking cookies for MasterChef this Thursday. We had a lot of interesting Arithmetic, Reasoning, SPaG and Reading tests. We enjoyed ourselves after knowing it was done.

By Tom B and Massimo

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

PTA winter fair 15th December 1200-1400

The winter fair is fast approaching. We are looking forward to crafts, singing, hot drinks, plus a race around the South Pole and an obligatory snowball fight (of the Pom Pom variety).

Although the PTA are enjoying a laissez faire attitude towards this non-ticketed event, it would be great to have an approximate idea of numbers. Please could you let your class reps know via WhatsApp if you plan to attend, and also if you are kindly offering to bring a dish to sell on our behalf. The dish remit is: a winter dish that reminds you of home, wherever that may be (10-12 portions minimum would be fantastic). Dishes will need to be labelled clearly with any allergens.

Do also feel free to bring non Newnham Croft friends along to play, the more the merrier.

Also, Year 6 will be running a stall selling bracelets and Christmas cards to fundraise for their end of year activities, so please bring along a little bit of cash to support them too.

Community news

The Newcroft Club Winter Holiday Club

Please see the attached poster for more information on winter childcare at the Newcroft Club.

Rainbows help wanted

The 1st Cambridge Rainbows unit, which meets in the Scouting Hut every Wednesday from 5.30-6.30 pm, is looking for parent volunteers/leaders to help plan and run meetings for the remainder of the school year. Training and mentoring provided. If you are interested, please contact Abby Van



Deerlin at avandeerlin@gmail.com or Jane Clough at ejaneclough@gmail.com.

Interested in joining a Cricket Club for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 children?

If there are children who wish to join a cricket club, then a new block of winter nets is starting in January and will run over the winter.

CCCC (City of Cambridge Cricket Club) will be coaching on Saturday afternoons at Hills Road Sports Centre in winter nets. There are many age groups for boys and girls.

Please contact Jonny Kent at jonnykent76@icloud.com for more information or for coming along to taster sessions. (Please copy me too on stevefarrukh@outlook.com)

CCCC is a friendly club and it will further help in their development as young cricketers.

From Steve Farrukh (Newnham Croft after school cricket club coach)

Waterbeach Waste Education Centre Newsletter

Please find attached a newsletter from Thalia Waste Management Centre with some good tips on recycling and minimising waste over the festive period.