



# Newnham News

Friday 14 March 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear parents/carers,

A very busy week celebrating lots of science.

Science day on Monday was our first where we used the whole day. It felt more successful without the rush of fitting everything into a morning. It also meant the children got to do four activities instead of two.

We then had two scientists, both parents, come to talk in our Tuesday and Wednesday assemblies - one about brains, the other bacteria. Both assemblies were extremely well pitched - not easy when you're used to talking to university students - and children (and staff) learnt a lot.

A very big thank you to Mrs Markham, our Science Lead, for all the hard work she put in to make it such a successful week, and to our parental scientists for giving up their time.

Have a very good weekend.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Y3 & 4 trip to West Road Concert Hall	Mon 17 Mar
Y5 swimming (and every Tues this term)	Tues 18 Mar
Y3 community litter picking	Thurs 20 Mar
Comic Relief Danceathon	Fri 21 Mar
Y4 Bikeability	Fri 21 Mar
Reception forest school	<i>morning</i> Fri 21 Mar
Y1 forest school	<i>afternoon</i> Fri 21 Mar
Y6 residential to Hilltop	<i>9.15am</i> Sun 23 Mar

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly.

## Whole school news

### British Science Week 7<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> March

To celebrate British Science Week, Newnham Croft spent the week completing science investigations and listening to some fantastic scientists share their passion for science. With this year's theme of "Change and Adapt," on Monday, all pupils got into their student council groups and completed four different activities: milk fireworks, lava lamp, catapult and marshmallow-and-spaghetti tower, and reflected on how this year's theme could be applied to the activities. Attached is a PDF of the instructions on how to complete each activity, should you wish to try these experiments at home. On Tuesday, Dr Marta

Correia, a Newnham Croft parent, joined us for an assembly, where she spoke to all the pupils about her work and interest in the brain. She showed models of the human and animal brains based on MRI scans and explained how animals' brains have adapted to suit the way they live, such as their heightened sense of smell. Attached to the newsletter is a poster for Dr Correia's department's upcoming science night event (running as part of the Cambridge Festival). On Wednesday, Professor Jeanne Salje, another Newnham Croft parent, came and spoke to us about how she was inspired by her time at Newnham Croft as a pupil to study science and what this has meant for her. She spoke to the children about bacteria. Thank you so much to both parents; your assemblies were absolutely brilliant.

The organisers of British Science Week would like you to enter a poster competition on the topic of 'Change and Adapt'. For more information, visit [www.britishtscienceweek.org](http://www.britishtscienceweek.org).

## School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu next week will be Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.65.

## Classroom news

### Reception

We've had a busy week filled with lots of practical activities to celebrate British Science Week and more project-based learning to enhance the children's independent investigation work based on their choice of an animal. In Phonics, Reception has been recapping the Phase 3 sounds: 'ar,' 'ee,' 'oo,' 'air,' 'ow,' 'or,' 'oo' and 'oi.' We also recapped the tricky words: "no," "of," "to," "into," "she," "he" and "we." In maths, Reception has been exploring money (coins). They have been applying their understanding of number bonds to 10 to help them with counting out the coins. In literacy, Reception wrote a mini poem based on the dog from the class book, *Is there a dog in the book?* They came up with their own words to complete the sentence: The dog is... Well done for a fantastic week Reception!

### Year 1

As part of our history topic on toys, the class had the opportunity to play with a range of toys from the past. The toys were on loan from the Museum of Cambridge and the class thoroughly enjoyed exploring them. The pupils noted the materials that the toys were made from and whether these types of toys are



still played with today. As well as this, some children also brought in toys that their parents and grandparents played with when they were children. It was very interesting to compare these two bears. One is about five years old and the other seventy years old. Can you guess which one is which?

### Year 2

In English this week, we focused on writing captions and subheadings for our non-chronological reports and practised using commas in a list. We also wrote sentences about our chosen animals using the present perfect tense. Monday was especially exciting as we celebrated Science Week — definitely a highlight of our week, along with our exciting Forest School session. In science, we finalised our plans for our child-led project, where the children chose what they wanted to find out about the seasons and decided how to present their findings — there was lots of fantastic teamwork on display! In art, we painted a sea background for our next lesson, experimenting with mixing primary and secondary colours. In geography, we located the equator on a world map and identified the continents and countries it passes through — super map skills! Well done for a brilliant week, Year 2!

### Year 3

Year 3 had lots of fun taking part in science activities linked to National Science Week. In maths sessions, the children learnt how to add amounts of money and write their totals using both pounds and pence. In English lessons, they enjoyed drawing images based on the poem *Midnight Wish* by Alex Wharton. In science, the children planned and predicted the outcomes of an experiment designed to find out how water is transported in a plant. In history, the children continued to think up questions about Vikings they wished to investigate.

### Year 4

Well done Year 4. We've been so amazed by all the brilliant acting. Please remember to bring costumes in on Monday in a named bag. In maths, we have been thinking about when to use different subtraction methods. In English, we have enjoyed a funny poem called *The Jumblies* and have looked at using adverbials. On Monday we tried out four different experiments for Science Day. In computing, we have started writing algorithms for our robotic pets. Spellings this week have 'au' making an 'or' sound. Please focus times tables practice on 9x.

### Year 5

In maths, we continued to practise using short division (bus stop method) and learned how to express remainders as fractions. We then moved onto our next topic on angles by learning how to use a protractor to accurately measure different types of angles. In English, we finished reading *Kensuke's Kingdom* and discussed our thoughts on the ending. We also spent some time working on our child-led history projects on the Tudors. We enjoyed our last Forest School session of the term by rebuilding our shelters with improvements and cooking on the fire.

### Year 6

This week in Year 6 we have been continuing our Tudors history project, and have been starting to revise for SATs. In order to do so, we have been given folders in which we store our 5

questions a day worksheets. In music we have been expanding on our Tudors work by dancing in Tudor style. Overall, we had a great week and are always looking forward to the next!

By Christian

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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk).

### Community news

#### Music Festival - sign up now open

All musicians are invited to sign up for our Spring Music Festival on Thursday 3rd April. The Junior and Senior Orchestras will be performing, which is always a treat, and any small groups or duets are also welcome to perform. Full details here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tdg2nBHXu76RjNjM8ejiNmh1VO6mKXLRbg-njX4pV504/edit?usp=sharing>

#### Cambridge Festival

Some information about the Cambridge Festival that is happening in a few weeks from Professor Jeanne Salje: *There is almost too much going on!! If people want a one-stop day that doesn't need to be booked in advance, I can recommend going to the SBS@Pathology on Tennis Court Road on Sat 29th March where there are drop in events all day. I'll be running a "microbe mission" treasure hunt and lots of colleagues are running loads of other events too. Highly recommended for families!*

Here is the website link for all the events: <https://www.festival.cam.ac.uk/>

#### Department of Chemistry Free Workshops

Have a look at the attached poster for free science workshops happening as part of the Cambridge Festival.

#### Get Ready for a Half-Term at Cambridge United Easter Soccer Schools!

Join Cambridge United for their Easter Soccer Schools from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April, and have an unforgettable half term of holiday spirit and festive footballing fun!

Event Details:

Full Camp Details:

- Week 1 Dates: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April
- Week 2 Dates: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April
- Times:
  - 9 AM - 4 PM daily
- Ages/Gender
  - 5 – 12 years old
  - Mixed sessions
- Venues:
  - Chesterton Community College
  - Coleridge Community College
  - Comberton Village College
  - Swavesey Village College
- Cost:
  - £25 per day

You'll get the chance to make new friends, learn footballing skills, and potentially meet Cambridge United FC First Team Players!

There's still plenty of spaces, so make sure to register soon and secure your spot via our website – [Soccer Schools | Cambridge United F.C.](#)

Or email Kristi on [kristim@cambridgeunited.com](mailto:kristim@cambridgeunited.com) for any questions!

#### **Easter Choral Course**

Please see the attached poster for details on an Easter singing course at St Catherine's College.

#### **Easter Rugby Camps**

See the attached poster for Easter camps at the Cambridge Rugby Club.