



Newnham News

Friday 24 March 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

As we approach the end of term, there are a couple of reminders to share.

Firstly, please look carefully through the lost property over the coming week. As usual, we will be donating anything left after the last day of term to [Trumpington Kids Clothes Hub](#) (although the shed is remarkably empty - usually, by this time in the term, we have enough items to open a pre-loved, high-quality designer-outdoor-clothing-and-odd-sock emporium).

Secondly, whilst we understand only too clearly the tyranny of school holiday travel pricing, it is really important to ensure that your child does not miss the last day(s) of term. Long gone are the times when the learning would wind down over the last couple of weeks. The curriculum expectations that guide schools means that we keep going until the very end of term and your child will miss important opportunities if they are not here (not to mention the end-of-topic activities that help embed the preceding weeks of learning). It also negatively affects the school's attendance percentage, a key focus for the local authority and OFSTED.

In more fun news, the Year 6s are looking forward to their Oscar-lite Film Festival this evening, an annual celebration of their computing topic on animation.

On Sunday, the school community will celebrate the (slow!) arrival of spring at the Daffodil Day. The event is running from 11am-3pm, with all sorts of activities and cakes/scones/tea and, of course, daffodils, both the dainty and the downtrodden (thank you children).

Next week, the Year 3s and 4s will be displaying their acting and singing prowess in the school production, which will be lovely. Indeed, a singing assembly in a primary school was the final persuasion I needed to take the plunge and sign up to my teacher training. The gentle, shy, innocent harmony of 200 little voices (perhaps not ALL the Year 6s!) continues to be reason enough to come to work each day.

Have wonderful weekends, and I hope to see lots of you at the 🌷 Day,

Kind regards, Eddie Ferguson

Classroom news:

Reception

With Mrs Marroncelli, the children in Reception have been thinking about how and why people celebrate Easter and if they celebrate Easter with their families. The class also talked about signs of new life around us in the UK at this time of year and took a walk outside to see if they could spot any.



Years 1 and 2

We've had another very busy week in Key Stage One. In Geography, all classes have been comparing London to Brasilia by thinking about the different landmarks and the main rivers that flow through each city. In Science, the children created a poster explaining why it is so important to be protected from the sun. Year 1s had their session of Forest School, making dragons using sticks and constructing a nest for a bird. In English, the children are preparing for their Big Write next week, by thinking about the different vocabulary, grammar and sentence structure they would like to include as they write a story about a dragon. In Maths, Year 1s have been exploring height and length and they finished the week by comparing different heights and lengths of pencils using diene blocks to measure them with. The Year 2s have been recapping some of their number bonds to 19 and their fact families. In Dance, some classes have been putting together a barn dance or a seaside dance inspired by the seasons, using unison and cannon. Next term, Years 1 and 2 will be growing edible plants as part of their Science topic. If you have any spare plants/seedlings or seeds you would be happy to donate to this project, we would be very grateful to receive them. Please speak to your child's teacher before the Easter break if you can help us with this, and thank you in advance. Please find attached Year 2 number bonds to 21 and spellings of the week practised in sessions of Phonics.

Year 3

Year 3 have worked incredibly hard throughout the week rehearsing for their school production. In between rehearsals, they also completed their end of term Reading and Maths assessments and continued to work on their own dragon stories. On Wednesday morning, we had an enjoyable trip to the Cambridge Festival where the children enjoyed

working on several mathematical problem-solving activities. Well done to all of you; hopefully you will manage to have a well-earned rest at the weekend.

Year 4

We have been very busy this week rehearsing for our play. The children have done a brilliant job of learning their lines and we have seen some wonderful acting. We also enjoyed our visit to the Cambridge Festival where we learned about what it is like to be an engineer and the type of work they do to improve the world. In Maths, we have continued to explore the properties of 3D shapes and have created nets to build them, while in English we have finished writing and editing our short stories inspired by dragons.

Year 5

This week, like most classes, Year 5 have been completing their termly assessments. They have had a great attitude towards them, and worked really hard to do as well as they could - although they were pleased to get them finished! In Science, we looked at the life of Leonardo Da Vinci and his Vitruvian Man image with the ideas he suggested about human proportions. We tested some of the statements he wrote about in 1480 and measured our own body parts, calculating the proportions to see how accurate they were for us. Our English work has focused on writing instructions and our Maths on mental strategies for multiplication and division. On Wednesday afternoon we visited the Babbage Lecture Theatre as part of the Cambridge Festival to listen to a talk titled, 'What does an engineer do?'. The lecture was very interesting, especially learning about rocket failures and how 3D printers are impacting modern lives, and inspired many of the class.

Year 6

This week we did some amazing SATs practise (3 Maths and 3 English papers) and Year 6 have been working on stop motion movies for the 6th film festival. On Wednesday, Year 3 and Year 6 went to a Cambridge Festival maths workshop where we did a Magic V problem, which involved using reasoning and problem solving.

School Meals

The menu next week will be Week 2 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

Daffodil Day 11am-3pm	25 Mar
Y3/4 performance for parents 2pm	28 Mar
Y3/4 performance for parents 5.30pm.....	29 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	29 Mar
Co-op/Y6 breakfast café 8.30am	31 Mar
Last day of term	31 Mar
First day of summer term.....	18 Apr

PTA NEWS

Daffodil Day

Daffodil Day is coming! Join us on **Sunday 26th March, 11am to 3pm**, at the school to see the daffodils that our children and the gardening club planted, and enjoy the beautiful school grounds in the springtime. There will also be a tearoom serving food and drink, as well as crafts and activities to keep the children entertained while you enjoy a scone and cup of tea. The gardens are open to everyone, so bring a friend or a neighbour and there is free entry, with a suggested donation to our Garden Club.

As always with PTA events, we cannot put on events without volunteers and we are looking for a number of people to serve the food and man the gate. We also need donations of cakes and bakes to sell in our tearoom. Now is your chance to show off your inner Nigella and bring in a sponge cake, cupcake, traybake or tart to help us raise money.

Sign up on slottr: <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18275646>

Thank you in advance for your support.

Treat Stall

Our next Treat Stall will be on Friday 31st March, 3.15pm and this time it will be run by Year 6. Proceeds from this Treat Stall will go to Year 6 to help them raise funds for their leavers' activities, so bring a coin and go home with a sweet treat.

Community

Snowdrops in Paradise

On Sunday 25 March from 10am at the Owlstone Road gate, the Friends of Paradise and Cambridge City Council are holding this family and community event to repopulate bare areas with snowdrops. Bring a trowel and wear wellies! If you have snowdrops at home, divide the clumps and bring some along to plant. Children most welcome (accompanied by an adult). At noon, there will be a birdsong identification walk through the reserve.

City Of Cambridge Cricket Club (CCCC)

The CCCC would be very pleased to hear from any Year 4/5/6 boys or girls who wish to join the club. They will be coaching at the weekend am at the Sedley Taylor ground. There are many age groups for boys and girls with games in the Summer too. Please contact Jonny Kent at jonnykent76@icloud.com or Matt Holt at hello@cityofcambridgecc.co.uk for more information or to come along to a taster session. If you contact Jonny or Matt, please would you copy in Steve Farrukh stevfarrukh@outlook.com who also coaches at CCCC and has been coaching Year 5 and 6 at school. He is happy to answer directly any questions you may have.

Oxford and Cambridge Singing School Easter Courses

Juniors Course 3- 5 April 2023 (Mon- Wed) for those aged 7-12.

Junior's repertoire includes: Schubert's Ave Maria and for contrast, The Trout, plus Mendelssohn, Attwood and Wesley

Seniors Course - 3 & 4 April 2023 (Monday & Tuesday) for those aged 13 - 18

Seniors Repertoire - Mendelssohn, Stanier, Rossini & Schubert

Where: St Catharine's College, Cambridge

How: booking is via our website

<https://www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk/courses/cambridge-choral-singing/> . See attached flyer for further info.