



# Newnham News

Friday 19 January 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

Unwittingly, the poem we used in our Monday assembly struck a serendipitous note, temperature wise (read below). We used it to think about more positive ways to deal with setbacks and bad luck than self-pity and sulking.

After a short philosophical diversion over whether animals can think, and if thought requires language (to be continued in next Monday's assembly), we decided that there were no advantages to feeling sorry for ourselves (save for a certain pleasure in wallowing). Much better, we decided, to look for the positives. What can we learn? How can we avoid the situation in the future? What **can** we be thankful for?

Luckily for most of us, the answer to the last question is: rather a lot, as long as we remember to raise our views to distant (and not so distant) parts of our world. Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards  
Eddie Ferguson

*I never saw a wild thing sorry for itself. A  
small bird will drop frozen dead from a  
bough without ever having felt sorry for  
itself.* **D. H. Lawrence**

## Diary Dates

Y5 swimming (every Wed this half term).	24 Jan
PTA meeting (7pm online and in school)	29 Jan
Year 1 trip to Woburn	1 Feb
Open afternoon 3.15 – 4pm	5 Feb
Co-op Breakfast Cafe run by Y6 8.30 - 9am	9 Feb
Year 6 assessment meeting 9 - 9.30am	9 Feb
Parent consultations	12 - 14 Feb

## Our language of the month will be Hindi.

### Open afternoon

As you may have read in your child's curriculum letter, the school will have an open afternoon **on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 3.15 – 4pm**. All parents and carers are invited into the classrooms to allow your child to share their learning with you. Please be aware that class teachers will be in a training session during this time.

**Note to Year 3 and 4** - you have been sent an email containing all of the song lyrics for the upcoming production of Wind in the Willows. The file is also attached to this email.

Children are learning these in school but will also benefit from practising them at home.

### Parent consultations

Booking for parent consultations is now open. Please [log into eSchools](#) via the school website or eSchools app and select a suitable time to meet with your child's teacher. Please note, children on the SEN register should make a separate appointment.

### Classroom news:

#### Reception

It has been a particularly eventful week in Reception. Firstly, Reception managed to achieve 100 smiley faces on the class reward chart. This means that there were at least 100 times that the class worked together as a team to achieve their goal, ranging from excellent learning in phonics to everybody working together to ensure the classroom is super tidy. The class chose to make cupcakes for their treat and are already collecting smiley faces for their next target.

With one of our trainee teachers, Miss Williams, the class enacted the story of the Gigantic Turnip and wrote their own class book version. If you would like to see the book you are welcome to have a look during the next open afternoon.

#### KS1

This week in English KS1 have been looking at letter writing, we finished the week writing a thank you letter to parents or carers, considering all the different aspects of letter writing we have looked at. In maths this week Year 1 have been counting 10s in the form of money. Year 2 have been looking at different methods to help us work out subtraction and addition question, such as place value, number facts and counting forward or back. In DT this week we have been designing our finger puppets. During geography this week, we have continued to look at human and physical features alongside map drawing with different symbols. In science we have been looking at different animal groupings, such as, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, birds and fish. We would like to continue to encourage you to be reading with your children at home. Just a small reminder that new paper books (For Miss Wakelen's class) will go home Wednesday to be brought back Wednesday the following week. And Friday to Friday for the others!

For children expected to take a book home today as part of their Big Cat portal books, if they haven't brought in their reading folders they will not be able to take their book home with them.

### Year 3

Year 3 have continued to learn about Antarctica this week. In our geography session the children learnt about some of its physical features. In English, they used prepositional phrases and expanded noun phrases to build up vivid descriptions of the continent. In our maths sessions, the children learnt to multiply and divide by 10 and 100. In our science session the children investigated what happens to the temperature of ice as it turns from a solid into a liquid.

### Year 4

It's been another hardworking week for year 4. In maths this week, we began our shape work, and also practised written subtraction methods with three digit numbers. In English we really enjoyed another form of poetry called acrostic. We also practised writing vivid descriptions and starting sentences in interesting ways. For geography we looked at the physical features of Antarctica and the different climates around the world. The attached spellings this week include some words that will be useful for our topic as well as some words from the year 3/4 list. In science, our work on states of matter included measuring the temperature of ice over time as it changed from a solid to a liquid. We have also continued reading our class book – *The Butterfly Lion* by Michael Morpurgo.

### Year 5

We started a new English topic this week, exploring Shaun Tan's book *Tales from Outer Suburbia*. We compared the differences and similarities between the stories and talked about what we enjoyed and why. In maths, we practised using a range of subtraction methods (both written and mental) and explained why different methods would be appropriate for different questions. In science, we learned about air resistance and compared parachutes made of different materials. In PSHE, we discussed the things that can help and hinder us when learning a new skill and talked about the skills we want to have learned by year 9.

### Year 6

This week, in Year 6, we made model parachutes in science about our topic, forces. We did Scratch in computing and in maths we focused on graphs. In English, we wrote a chapter based on our predictions on our current class book *Clockwork*. In music, we did an African chant with instruments. In PE we played dodgeball. In history, we have started a piece of writing about ancient Benin and we learned about houses in French.

*By Ollie and Noam*

### ECO NEWS

The Eco Committee met again this week and reviewed some of the important work that has happened since our last meeting. We're pleased that having Year 5 Eco Monitors checking the classrooms for lights left and projectors on, paper not being recycled and doors/windows open while the heating has been on has made everyone more mindful in their energy use and waste. The weekly Eco Award in assembly has proved very popular and has made many of the adults very competitive!

Next Friday (26<sup>th</sup> January) we'll be having a House Eco Afternoon where children will be in their school council groups making bird feeders, learning about birds and taking part in the RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch. We'll be making bird feeders in groups by reusing plastic bottles; we would appreciate any old plastic milk bottles/water bottles that we could use for this. Please bring any old bottles to your child's classroom or the office.



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If you have concerns about your child coming into contact with bird seed, please let the office know.

The Big Garden Birdwatch takes place from 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> January. If you're interested in taking part at home, you can find more information on the RSPB website: <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-bird-watch>

### School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week's menu will be Week 3. 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk).

### PTA News

Our next PTA meeting is coming up on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January, 7.00pm, in school and on Zoom and you're very welcome to join us!

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77415347985?pwd=gXhm8F2rnwADENH2OKASK0zNTpd45I.1>

Meeting ID: 774 1534 7985

Passcode: 2B05xR

We will be discussing funding requests from the school and upcoming events.