

Newnham Croft Primary School

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Interim Headteacher: Mr E Ferguson



Wednesday 4th January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to another term in Year 5. We hope you had a wonderful break and feel well-rested. Thank you for all the kind words, cards, vouchers and gifts we received at the end of term. The whole of the Year 5 staff are very grateful.

This term will see a few staff changes: Mrs Turner will teach the class Monday to Wednesday, with Mr Orton now on a Thursday morning as well as all day on Friday. Thursday afternoons will continue to be Music with Mrs Onatskaia and P.E. with Mr Friday.

Teaching Assistants will also change slightly: Ms D'Oyly will still be with the class on a Monday and Tuesday morning (and will teach Art on alternate Tuesday afternoons), Mrs Burke will also be in class on a Monday and Tuesday all day, on Wednesdays to Fridays Mrs Banerjee will continue to support the class all day, with the addition of Mrs Carrington on a Wednesday and Mrs Elbourne on a Thursday and Friday.

If you need to talk to us briefly, we will be on the playground just before the start of the day, or you can always knock on the classroom door if you have a quick query. Alternatively, you can make an appointment through the office for a longer meeting. We are aiming for the children to be independent, so whenever possible, please do encourage your child to come and talk to us themselves if they have any queries or worries.

In terms of topics, this half term starts with a Geography unit on Eastern Europe where we'll be comparing countries in Eastern Europe with others around the world. Our Science starts by looking at the Earth and Space, exploring scientific theories, the planets, the way they move and day and night. Our class book for the term is an abridged version of Hidden Figures, the amazing story of three black American women who overcame racism and sexism, carved out careers in science, and participated in some of NASA's greatest triumphs.

Parent consultations will be on Monday 6th February from 3:30-6:00pm and on Tuesday 7th February from 1:30-4:00pm. The booking system will open nearer the time. This term they will both be in-person consultations, but please get in touch with the office if there are any problems.

We have a talk from an astronomer from the Institute of Astronomy planned for 16th January where the class will get to listen to a fascinating presentation and be able to ask questions and discuss our solar system and beyond. We also have a visit to the Botanical Gardens planned for 23rd January to fit in with our Art this term. There will be an open afternoon for all parents/carers on Monday 30th January from 3.15 pm.

Year 5 have their term of swimming, beginning on 18th January and running for 10 weeks. This will be at the Leys School, which we'll walk to on Wednesday mornings. They will also have one regular PE

lesson a week on Thursday afternoons. Your child will be expected to be wearing appropriate active wear, or have the correct kit in school at all times, and to take part in every lesson: if he or she is unable to do this for some reason please speak to us before school or write a short note to inform us of any issues. Children with long hair must also bring in something to tie it back with and no jewellery is allowed in school without written permission.

We will be sending home weekly home learning again this term, which will be given out on a Monday, and will need to be back in by Friday, if possible. Most children were able to complete their Grammar books last term, and have begun a Maths Arithmetic book. The aim is to spend 30-40 minutes per week on the tasks in the books. It is also very useful if children read for at least fifteen minutes a day at home.

Finally, if any of the areas of study this term are your areas of expertise, please get in touch; it would be great to use some of the knowledge residing in the parent body to enrich the children's learning. Previously, we have had parents delivering workshops, assemblies and presentations, so please do get in touch if this is something you would like to do.

Kind regards,

Jo Turner and Dave Orton