



Newnham News

Friday 15 October 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Lunch menu
- KAPLA club
- Bushcraft club

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a lovely (and Covid free) week in school, and the children have been continuing to demonstrate a fantastic attitude to their learning. It has also been fantastic to see the interschool sports re-start too. Well done to the Year 6 girls' football team for their tournament performance last week and to the Year 5/6 tag rugby team who won their tournament yesterday.

Thank you to everyone who donated goods to Jimmy's Night Shelter. The staff there were incredibly grateful for your generosity. It's a fabulous cause and well worth us continuing to support them during this difficult time for many.

We are now hotly anticipating the handover of our new boilers. At the moment the weather is thankfully being kind to us, but during next week we should get our boilers fired up and be able to ensure a comfortable working temperature for classrooms as we move into the winter months. This means that after half term the playground should be free of building materials and fencing and our new shed should also be completed by then. This will be the new area where lost property will be housed and accessible for parents to view and reclaim. Next week we will be laying out all of the existing lost property on the playground so that parents can claim items before we move to the new system.

The new shed, as with so much in the school, is supported by our PTA and the fundraising that they do during the year. We are very aware that parents have not had the chance to meet up as much as normal at school events, so the PTA have arranged for an opportunity for parents to meet up next Friday morning after drop off. Michelle from our kitchen will be offering pastries, tea and coffee from **8.45am on Friday 22 October** by the school kitchens. Please use this as an opportunity to chat and network with other parents. Please note this is for adults only and not for children about to enter school. Another great PTA event also approaching is our annual Fireworks night; please see the PTA section of this newsletter for further details about this great family occasion. This event is planned to go ahead on Saturday 6 November.

I'm afraid that I need to yet again bring up the issue of parking around Chedworth Street at both ends of the school day. We continue to receive accounts from parents of near misses for cyclists and pedestrians, often due to vehicles parked too

close to the junction by the butcher and severely reducing visibility. I really wouldn't want it to be a serious injury to a child to finally prompt people into realising the dangerous position this parking puts people in. There is plenty of parking in the streets around the area, leaving just a short walk to the school. If the pressures of drop-off times are very difficult for you, then you might want to consider the early morning drop-off Reading Club option, which runs from 8am. The cost of this service is only £3 per day, and can be booked by contacting the school office.

I also have a reminder for parents that children should be wearing trainer style shoes into school every day, as part of our active wear policy. Children should not be wearing jewellery to school, including earrings (unless they have just been pierced, and even then only studs).

Finally, I hope that you have all had the chance to book parent consultations for next week. You will be sent the Zoom link for the meeting by the teachers next week.

Year 5 and 6 Cross Country

Today, Year 5 and 6 celebrated their half term of cross country running in PE by completing a 2km run around Grantchester Meadows. The sun shone, the cows were helpfully compliant and the children ran and supported each other brilliantly. A big thank you to the parents who marshalled the course, and to everyone who helped to ensure it was such a successful event.



Classroom Round-up:

Reception

In Maths this week we have been looking at counting objects accurately. We found that moving an object as you count really helps. In Phonics, we have now started on Phase 2. This means we have begun to introduce the first phonemes. We have learnt s, a, t, p. We have been looking at words that start with these phonemes and have begun to blend words orally. For example, s -a-t, together make the word 'sat'. Some parents have informed me that their Big Cats e books accounts are not active. Please let me know if this is a problem for you and I will try to sort it. Can I reiterate that we have an 'Active Wear' policy at school, which means all children should come to school dressed in comfortable sportswear every day. We had our first PE session with Miss Wakelen today and several children were wearing skirts or dresses.

Year R/1

In Year 1 this week, we have been learning to use adjectives to describe nouns. We started by describing the Gruffalo, then created our own fictitious characters, used adjectives to describe them and made them into puppets. In Maths, we have been consolidating our quick recall of number bonds and applying addition. Over the past few weeks the children have made clay woodland creatures and this week they glazed them. This week in Gymnastics we have been using different parts of our body to balance on and off of the equipment.

Class 1/2N and 1/2C

The classes have had a very exciting week. In our topic work for 'The Enchanted Woodland' we explored our school environment. The children learnt about what a habitat is and enjoyed visiting the wildlife area to explore what animals and plants might be living there. We discovered some tiny doors and realised that some of our woodland creatures might be fairies! In English the children enjoyed listening to 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. They learnt about nouns and adjectives. They then used them to describe their own woodland monster which they made into a puppet. In Maths, Year 1 started the week by comparing number bonds within 10 using the < > and = signs, before being introduced to the subtraction symbol and working on problems relating to it. The Year 2s have continued to focus on recognising tens and ones and using this knowledge to help them add and subtract 1-digit numbers and multiples of 10 from 2-digit numbers. In Phonics, Year 1 have been working on the phonemes 'oy/oi', 'er/ir', 'aw/or' and 'ue/oo' along with tricky words 'people', 'house', 'like', 'have' and 'about'. Year 2 have continued to work on the spellings of words where the letter 'c' makes the 's' sound (city, spicy and



face) and making nouns out of adjectives using the suffix -ness (happiness, loneliness, quietness). In RE the children started to look at different beliefs and some of the clothes, symbols and places of worship associated with them.

Year 3

Year 3 have spent a lot of this week exploring natural disasters, such as cyclones and typhoons. The class enjoyed learning about the 'eye' of a cyclone and what happens to the wind as it picks up more speed. In English, the class wrote informative and persuasive leaflets on how to stay safe in the event of a hurricane or an active volcano. The class used some features from their non-chronological reports, such as a heading, sub-heading and informative text, including bullet points to persuade and inform people on how to keep themselves safe and replenished. One child wrote about the safety kit that you should keep just in case you have to quickly evacuate. In Maths, Year 3 have been learning about doubling and halving by partitioning their tens and ones and have also been counting up on a number line as a method of subtracting or finding the difference between two numbers. The class explored fossils in Science and looked at the stages it takes for an animal to become fully fossilised. Well done Year 3!

Year 4

The week has had a topic focus around hurricanes, typhoons and cyclones, and the children have been learning about how these are formed and the effects of them. They have also been producing posters to bring together their research on this topic. The class also spent some time looking at different rocks and fossils. In English they have been exploring their own phobias and writing recounts of how these formed, how they feel and how they cope with them (there has also been some justifiable exaggeration in order to aid the power of their recounts). Amongst other areas of Maths, we've been exploring the children's reasoning skills by presenting them with some open-ended problems to explore. They have demonstrated some fantastic thinking skills and been able to find some common truths and patterns in their data.

Year 5

In Maths this week, we have looked at column subtraction and investigated the outcomes of a particular algorithm (follow this link if you'd like to try it yourself - <https://nrich.maths.org/11014>). In Science, we have been studying how light is refracted as it passes through different media, and in History we have been channelling our inner estate agent to sell an Ancient Greek house. We started planning and writing a new chapter for the gothic novel, Goth Girl, where a new villainous character visits Ghastly-Gorm Hall. We finished the week with our cross-country run around Grantchester Meadows. This class have been fabulous throughout their cross-country lessons with Mr West this half term and have consistently impressed with their perseverance, talent and supportive nature during long-distance running.

Year 6

We have been learning about Ancient Greece and how people lived. Year 6 have also been researching modern Greece and we have written postcards back from Greece. We have been writing travel guides and have included facts about clothes, food and houses. In RE, we have been learning about Buddhism and the first Buddha, named Shadantha, who was very curious about life and became the first Buddha. In addition to this, for Black History Month we have made some bioposters which we have displayed on our windows so the other classes can see them. These inspirational people have changed the world and our posters included: Rosa Parks, Mohammed Ali, Garret Morgan, Harriet Tubman and Usain Bolt. Today, we will be doing our 2km run around Grantchester to show off everything we have learnt in our cross-country lessons with Mr West. *By Michael and Otto*

School Meals

The school lunch menu is attached. Next week will be week 3 of the 3 weekly cycle. The cost of a school meal is £2.40.

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 website: <http://www.newnhamcrofptpta.btck.co.uk/>

Yours faithfully,

Andy Matthews, Headteacher

PTA NEWS

PTA Meeting

Thank you to those who attended our Zoom meeting this week. The minutes will be available soon on Classlist if you wish to see what was discussed.

Bonfire Night - Saturday 6th November

Come and join us to celebrate Bonfire Night, organised by the Newnham Croft PTA and supported by the Newnham Scouts and Guides. The date for your diary is Saturday 6th November and there will be hot food and drink on the night. Tickets for adults and children are available from the school office. This is a great opportunity to get the school community together and we look forward to seeing you there!

These events cannot go ahead without the support of the teachers and parents who do so much to make this happen. If you can support by volunteering an hour of your time on the day we can make sure the event goes ahead. You can sign up to volunteer here:

<https://www.slottr.com/sheets/16570225>

Community News

KAPLA Club

Please see the attached flyer for the KAPLA wooden construction club being held at Newnham Croft on 19 November.

Holiday Bushcraft Club at Wandlebury

This Autumn/Winter we've got a spooky Halloween event, our Half Term Holiday Bushcraft Club and even a couple of Winter (Christmas) Wreath making classes lined up. See the attached flyer for more information.