



Newnham News

Friday 16 February 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

Dear parents/carers,

As part of our regular training, we attend a variety of courses addressing safeguarding. During one this week, they flagged up a useful website for parents who want to talk to their children about online safety - one of the most pressing concerns for children in Cambridge.

It is on the NSPCC website, which has so many good resources and lots of information. To access this particular link, please click [here](#).

I would also like to offer a gentle reminder that teachers are not allowed to send work home for children who are off school for illness or any other reason. We encourage families to use the time away from school to recover from their illness or learn about other important areas of life (e.g. cooking, shopping, hobbies).

If you would like to work with your children on maths or English, please take a look at our HomeLearning tab on the school website (click [here](#) for link). Alternatively, having read about what the class has been doing in the newsletter, enter their year group and learning area in a search engine. We have also found CGP workbooks to be an effective resource (they are used in for the homework in Year 5 and 6).

We would ask that you stay within your year group (rather than galloping through to future years) as this will help consolidate your child's knowledge. If you wish to extend them in maths, looking at reasoning or problem solving is always fun.

Finally, a fond farewell to Miss Wakelen - our loss is the orangutans' gain. We look forward to updates from your travels and seeing you back at Newnham in the autumn.

I hope you all have a lovely half term. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 26th February.

Kind regards, Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Spring term re-starts	26 Feb
Y1 meet the teacher	27 Feb, 9am
Y5 swimming	28 February
Y6 film festival	1 March 6-8pm

Please check the school calendar on our website, which is updated regularly.

Our language of the month is Hindi.

Classroom news

Reception

On Tuesday, which was Shrove Tuesday, the children in Reception found out about why some people have pancakes on this day. The reason originally was to use up all the eggs, flour and butter before Ash Wednesday (Lent). We also found out there are other traditions across the world, also in preparation for Lent. For instance, in Estonia, the day is called Vastlapäev, and traditionally sweet buns stuffed full with whipped cream called 'vastlakukkel' are eaten. They sound just as good as pancakes to us.

KS1

KS1 have had a busy, fun final week! To round off our topic of Amazing Animals, Year 2 went to Woburn Safari Park on Thursday and were blessed with the sunny warm weather and had a great time looking out for monkeys and discovering various other animals. Year 1/2 also had their session of Forest Schools and enjoyed being outside. In Maths, Year 1 have been focusing on numbers between multiples of ten and have been thinking about the patterns they have noticed. They also practised jumping back and forth on a number line in steps of 10. Year 2 have been working on subtracting using a number line by counting back, using their tens and ones and they have also looked at counting on, using a number line to find the difference when subtracting. In English, all classes completed their recount on their trip to Woburn Safari Park and their Top Trump cards based on a favourite wild animal of theirs. In geography, all classes compared Shanghai to a smaller area within the UK, such as London, by comparing the rivers and the very tall buildings that can be found in both places. In PE, all classes worked on circuit training and completed a number of activities to get them moving and improve their cardio fitness. Well done for a fantastic half term KS1. All books have been assigned to your children (paper and E-books). Please continue to read with your child over the half term break.

Year 3

Year 3 have worked really hard this week. In our English sessions, the children learnt how to start their sentences using fronted adverbials and how to embed these in their own versions of the Wolf's Secret by Myriam Dahman and

Nicolas Digard. In our maths sessions, the children learnt how to add and subtract fractions and place them in order. In geography, the children learnt how to use the 8-point compass directions to create a route from one point on the map of the school to another. In science, the children looked at the water cycle and considered how the rate of evaporation of a cup of water might be affected by where it is placed in the classroom. Thanks to everybody who has contributed to our topic on Antarctica this half term. I wish you all a happy and relaxing break.

Year 4

We have been enjoying practising the songs for our Year 3 and 4 production this week. They are very catchy! Enjoy practising them at home over half term and get going with learning those lines. In science this week, we looked at lots of different liquids and thought about what was the same or different about them. We then tested out whether they will freeze or not. In maths we have been continuing our work on shape and fractions: finding equivalent and improper fractions. In computing we thought about how to work well in a team and planned what we would like our micro pet to do. In English we used vivid description and longer, more detailed sentences to retell the story *The Wolf's Secret*. There is no spelling list for half term but do look at the Year 3/4 word list that came home recently. Well done for working so hard Year 4 and have a great half term.

Year 5

In English this week, we finished and edited our stories inspired by Shaun Tan. We enjoyed reading each other's stories and recommending them to the class and produced some excellent imitations of Shaun Tan's illustrations. In maths, we finished our fractions topic by learning to multiply non-unit fractions by whole numbers and then began our next unit on multiplication and division. We learned how to use facts we already know to make our calculations simpler (for example, knowing that $35 \times 10 = 350$ helps us to work out 35×5 or 35×20). In science, we explored simple machines, while in PSHE we discussed teamwork and what our individual skills can bring to a team. In computing, we programmed and built carousels, with brilliant results!

Year 6

On Monday we did the usual maths, English and echo reading, and on Tuesday we had our last lesson on Benin history. On Wednesday, we started our film festival projects and had a dance lesson; we also had a discussion on whether the Benin Bronzes should be returned to modern-day Benin. On Thursday, we had a maths test and sitting-down volleyball for our PE lesson. After school, on Thursday, we had the school disco, which was a mixed bag. On Friday, we had the awards assembly and the end of the half term. *By Fynn, Rupert and Wilfred*

School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. The menu after half term will start at Week 1. 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.