



# Newnham News

Friday 1 April 2022

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

- Lunch menu
- Garden Club flyer

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was really lovely to see so many of you in school on Monday, enjoying the work that your children have put into their learning this year. This will return to becoming a regular event for parents to look forward to. The next opportunity for you to all come in will be on Monday 27 June. This date has been added to the parent Google calendar on the website along with the dates for sports day (14 July) and reports coming home (1 July).

It was also great that so many parents attended this week's parent workshop on Reasoning in Maths. Mr Ferguson hopes that the meeting was helpful to parents developing their understanding of this vital part of Maths in the school. If you missed the meeting, the workshop shared on Youtube using the link below. I've also included last May's workshop on calculation methods.

Maths Reasoning Workshop March 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYxJyad5y1Q>

Maths Calculation Workshop from May 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzwV-PixqdY>

I'm very aware that a number of you will have received attendance letters from the school this week. We are duty bound as a school to remind parents about the need for good attendance, and we follow defined thresholds for the sending out of these reminder letters. The DfE's definition of persistent absence is below 90% attendance, regardless of whether the absence is approved or not. We are obviously aware that Covid has had an impact on attendance this year, however we are still required to remind parents of the impact of low attendance on academic outcomes and inform parents of where current attendance sits below these benchmarks. Hopefully, every child's attendance will improve next term as Covid measures ease.

With this in mind, I'd like to highlight the arrangements for Covid management next term:

- From now on, anyone with a positive COVID-19 test result (this will rely on people accessing paid tests) will be advised to try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for five days, which is when they are most infectious. **For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be three days.** This means no need for a negative test to return to school.
- From now on, updated guidance will advise **people with symptoms of a respiratory infection**, including COVID-19, and a high temperature or who feel

unwell, to try stay at home and avoid contact with other people, until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature. So essentially, if they feel unwell stay at home.

- Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend.
- Schools are expected to take these measures -
  - Ensuring all eligible groups are enabled and supported to take up the offer of national vaccination programmes including COVID-19 and flu.
  - Ensuring occupied spaces are well-ventilated and let fresh air in.
  - Reinforcing good hygiene practices such as hand washing and cleaning.

It just remains for me to wish you all a lovely Easter break, and I look forward to seeing your children return happy and ready to learn later this month.

## Skipping Week

During skipping week, the children in school have been trying to improve their skipping skills. Rakel in Reception, Wilfred in Year 1, Ariana and Francis in Year 2, Anna in Year 3, Evi in Year 4, Charlie in Year 5 and Nadav in Year 6 all won awards for their determination in trying to improve throughout the week. Clara won the Passion award for completing the challenge of teaching herself to skip in a pretzel shape! All the houses also competed in a skip-off to win shields, which will go towards the end of term cup.

## Classroom News:

### Reception

This week, we have been learning about the Christian festival of Easter. We found out about the story of Jesus and his resurrection and discussed how people celebrate Easter, here in the UK. Chocolate may have been mentioned once or twice! In Maths we have been learning about the value of different coins and how you can use a range of coins to make the same total. Well done for another fantastic term of learning, Reception and we look forward to starting our new topic after the break.



### Year 1

This week, Year 1 have been working really hard to complete their assessments in Maths and English. We have also found time to experiment with oil pastels and drew some animal prints. In Geography we have looked at physical and human features and used geographical vocabulary to identify them.

### Class 1/2N and 1/2C

In Maths, Year 1 have been learning how to make equal groups by sharing. They also answered word problems about comparing capacity and completed an end of unit assessment on weight and mass and capacity and volume. Year 2 also completed some maths assessments and worked on problem solving and reasoning questions involving the four operations. In English, we concluded our Incredible Animals topic by writing independently about animals. Please ask your child about some of the amazing new facts they have discovered about a range of animals. We finished our animal prints in Art (see below) and evaluated our finger puppets in DT. In phonics, Year 1 practised spelling and reading words written with the silent 'w'/'r' (write) and the silent 'b'-'m'/'mb' (thumb, lamb). Year 2 recapped the spelling rules they have worked on so far this year and completed sentences using subordinate clauses. Well done to everyone for a hardworking half-term and wishing you all a happy Spring break.



### Year 3

Year 3 have spent this week finalising their mechanical posters as part of this term's DT project. Lots of thought went into their posters, as the class wanted to stress the importance of looking after the environment. One child created a spinning world which included levers to show rubbish being placed into the correct bins. In English, we have been working on editing paragraphs which had lots of errors in them. This included checking the spellings of Common Exception Words and tricky words and checking that the sentences were correctly punctuated. The class also finished reading Philip Pullman's, *The Firework Maker's Daughter* and answered some retrieval questions on it. Year 3 also completed an independent piece of narrative based on the painting, *Storm in a Shipwreck*. In Maths, we've been exploring time, converting analogue to digital time and exploring intervals of time, such as 10, 20, 30 and 45 minutes.

Well done Year 3 for a very hardworking term. I hope that you all have a peaceful Easter break.

### Year 4

This week, Year 4 have been focusing on subtraction techniques in Maths to solve 3-digit subtraction problems. In English, we have been learning how to up-level our writing and expand our vocabulary. We learned how to use a thesaurus and created character descriptions with rich, exciting new words that we have never used before! In our final art lesson looking at *A Shipwreck in Stormy Seas* by Claude-Joseph Vernet, we have been focusing on the people in the foreground of the painting. We looked at their body language and how they might be feeling based on their positioning. We have also been busy reflecting on our topic this week, talking about countries around the world that are special to us and designing our own flags. Finally, in every spare moment, Year 4 have been busy practising and creating resources for the Timestable Check, which will be in June this year. The children are expected to know all multiplication and division facts up to 12x12, getting faster each time they practise! It is the hope that the children continue to use *TimetableRockstars* and other online resources over the Easter holidays, as this test will be completed on a computer or iPad (more information about this can be found on the Government website). Thank you for a fantastic term! We hope you find time to relax and have a enjoyable break!

### Year 5

Year 5 have spent the week solving some challenging problems in Maths (some of them linked to the theft of an Easter bunny costume!). In DT, we have designed, made and evaluated a piece of jewellery using our knowledge of what was found in the tombs of the rulers of the Shang dynasty. In history, we have looked over the list of questions we made at the beginning of the Shang topic, ticking off the ones we have covered and finding the answers to the ones we have not.

### Year 6

This week we have had lots of fun. Today we have been pranking people because it is April Fool's Day. Ms Holliday said, "If I get pranked one more time I might lose it." We have also been making Shang Dynasty themed necklaces and we started a new unit Poetry in English. *By Tomke and Alex*

In Year 6 we have been very active as we have played in football and rugby tournaments. We have also taken part in dance and skipping competitions, and we also entered the Commonwealth Games competitions, which three groups have been selected to enter (Ioan, Farouq and Elliot for the first group; Avigail, Sophia, Charlotte and Ella for the second group and Otto, Stanley, Fin and Felix in the third group). The skipping competition was won by Earth. *By Adam and Antonio*

### School Meals

The first week back will be the week 1 menu of the new three week cycle (attached). 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk)

Yours faithfully,  
Andy Matthews, Headteacher

## **PTA NEWS**

### **Gardening Club for Parents and Carers**

The PTA want to start a regular weekend gardening club to supplement the work that the lovely volunteers do every week around the playground and gardens. This will ensure the space is kept tidy and works well for everyone who uses it. Our first mission is to give the Reception garden a spruce up. If you're at a loose end on Sunday 3rd April at 11am, come to the school and trim a bush, weed a flower bed or sweep up for a hour or two and let's work together to keep Newnham Croft Primary School looking beautiful. We can't promise great weather but can promise you a hot cup of tea and a biscuit and a sense of satisfaction at having worked together with your school community. We will have some tools there but if you can come and bring a pair of secateurs and a pair of gardening gloves, we will get off to a great start.

Any questions, let us know at [newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com](mailto:newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com).

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Newnham Football**

Fun, friendly, professionally coached Saturday football restarts for Newnham Primary school kids on Saturday afternoons from 30 April. Sessions for all years available and all abilities welcome, including those new to the game. Run by parents for fellow families, please message us at [newnhamSportsFootball@gmail.com](mailto:newnhamSportsFootball@gmail.com) to sign up, join a taster session or ask us any further questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

### **Coton Cricket Club - Junior training**

Coton Cricket Club will be starting Junior training in May, through to July. Please register your interest now to ensure a place for training on Saturday mornings. Available for girls and boys in years 1-6, focussing on learning basic skills of batting, throwing, catching and bowling in a fun environment. Email Tom Smith on [tmi\\_smith@hotmail.com](mailto:tmi_smith@hotmail.com).