Newnham News

Friday 27 November 2026

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm sure you don't need me to point out that a season of illness has descended. School is, as always, a wonderful incubator of all things viral, so all our community - staff, parents, children - are able to share in this periodic gift!

Personally, I am a big believer in the benefits to our immune systems that exposure to illness and other nasty little organisms brings. Although, it's worth noting that this silver lining will probably evaporate quite quickly if I catch the bug myself!

In more positive news, you may have noticed that the scaffolding has gone from the main part of the building. This has been well received by us all. However, this particular silver lining is clouded by a lack of a clear plan for completion of the rest of the works. They say a couple of weeks, but…

Anyway, enjoy the rest of the newsletter, enjoy the weekend and don't forget that the PTA Christmas trees and some accompanying festive refreshments will be here at the end of school next Friday.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Reception forest school		Wed 2 Dec
Year 3 forest school	*morning*	Fri 4 Dec
Year 5 forest school	*afternoon*	Fri 4 Dec
Y6 treat stall		Fri 4 Dec
PTA Xmas tree pick up		Fri 4 Dec

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

Whole school news

Reception and KS1 festive performance
The festive performance for Reception and KS1 will be on Tuesday 15 December at 2pm and Wednesday 16 December at 9.30am. Each family will be given 2 free tickets, and you can now collect from the office , selecting your preferred performance.

Festive singalong
In a slight change of plan, our festive singalong will now be on **Friday 18 December at 3pm**. Join us to round off the term in a tuneful way.

School Meals
The menu is attached and online. The menu after half term is Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.90.

Classroom news

Reception
Well, this week in Reception, as well as doing our best to keep those pesky germs at bay, we have been busy learning an autumn poem, *'Leaves Are Falling'*. In maths, we have been partitioning numbers to 7 and writing the corresponding addition sentences. We have also been exploring symmetry and discovering how shapes and patterns can be the same on both sides.

Year 1
Following on from our classroom and playground mapping activities, we have been taking our geography skills a step further! This week, the children used an actual map of the playground to locate different features. Working in pairs, they took turns giving and following directions to guide each other to specific places. The children enjoyed putting their map-reading skills into practice, using positional language and developing their confidence in giving clear directions.

Year 2
In English, we've been busy writing up our non-fiction pieces, and the children are looking forward to sharing their work and reading what their classmates have written. In music, we've continued practising our songs for the Christmas performance, which we're all getting very excited about! In science, we researched woodland

animals and made our own fact cards, thinking about how their habitats provide everything they need to survive. In history, we compared classrooms from the past with those of today, and in gymnastics we've been putting all our skills together to learn a routine. In maths, we've been finding doubles up to 20, halving even numbers and exploring multiples of 2 and 10. We've also looked at multiplication as repeated addition and finished with a fun doubling and halving game!

Year 3

Year 3 has had another fantastic and productive week of learning! In maths, the children have been developing their skills in using both the expanded and compact column methods to add and subtract 3-digit numbers. In English, they let their imaginations run wild as they created their own versions of Kit Wright's *Magic Box*. In science, we investigated how different surfaces affect the amount of friction produced. We rounded off the week with our first forest school session of the year, where the children had great fun designing and creating their own Anglo-Saxon settlements.

Year 4

Year 4 children have had a great week immersing themselves in new texts this week. We have enjoyed reading The Iron Man and imagining different characters' feelings and motives. In maths they began to conquer the multiplication grid method and in history and DT they explored Roman artefacts and buildings. They have designed their own Roman building ready for construction! In maths, we used mental strategies for addition and subtraction, such as adding/subtracting near multiples of 10 and 100 and using known number facts to add 1-digit numbers to 3- and 4-digit numbers. In science, we looked at the teeth of different types of animal and discussed what this could tell us about their diets. In English, we practised performing *A Small Dragon* in different ways and discussed the most appropriate style of performance for the type of poem.

Year 5

We enjoyed forest school, drafted our biographies and explored reversible and irreversible reactions in science. In maths, we have been working with 24-hour time intervals to calculate the duration of stops using train timetables. We have also explored the perimeter and area of shapes, including composite shapes. In English, the children have been writing up their biographies, using paragraphs, relative clauses and fronted adverbials to make their writing more interesting. In science, the children observed me using tea lights to heat butter, chocolate, marshmallows, a wax crayon and some beads. They had to decide whether each material could be changed back to its original form.

Year 6

In Year 6 we have been doing our last swimming session. It was a fun session, everyone enjoyed it. In maths, we're working on quadrilaterals. In English, we have been writing our stories based on Clockwork by Phillip Pullman. In science we have been working on vertebrates. And in computing, we are making our own WEBSITES! A big thanks to Mrs Noble for making the food at the Y6 restaurant last week.

By Bianca and Molly

PTA news

Y6 treat stall

On Friday 4th December there will be a Treat Stall after school. Year Six will be selling some yummy treats to aim to help raise money for their end of year activities. Cash is strongly encouraged, all treats will be £1.

PTA Christmas trees and mulled wine



Community news

School music festival

The Christmas music festival will take place on Dec 11 in the school hall (4:30 - 5:30pm). It will feature a performance from the Newnham Croft orchestra followed by solo performances by the school budding musicians. Any child is welcome to perform. Please fill the following form if your child would like to be included in the list of performers: https://forms.gle/vVjvJBiRDppf2jfHA

Jingle on the River

See the attached poster for a fun festive event.