



Newnham News

Friday 9 May 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear parents/carers,

Daniel Zeichner, the MP for Cambridge, visited the school this morning.

Mr Zeichner spoke a little about his role as Minister for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs but the main part of the assembly was taking questions from the children. These were, as always, varied - from "Why do you like being a governor [in government]?" to "Do you have a pet?" (used to have a cat called Brian, apparently).

As we left, Mr Zeichner spoke warmly about the atmosphere of the school and the loveliness of the children, as so many of our visitors do.

In our awards assembly after break, I passed Mr Zeichner's comments on to the children, initially as the compliment it was intended to be, reflecting the kind behaviour and thoughtfulness of our children.

However, I also asked the children to reflect on how lucky we all are at Newnham Croft. To live in our bubble where the people around us treat each other with respect and kindness, where everyone feels included and valued. I know there will be instances where this isn't the case, but generally, that is what life at Newnham is like.

It is wonderful - but very precious. Definitely worth being grateful for.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y6 SATS breakfast	Mon - Thurs from 8am Mon 12 May
Y4 swimming	Tues 13 May
Y3 swimming	Tues 13 May
Y2 swimming	Thurs 15 May
Y3 forest school	Fri 16 May
Y4 forest school	Fri 16 May

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly.

Whole school news

International Afternoon

We will be holding a celebration of the international make up of our school community during our International Afternoon on

Thursday 22nd May. This used to be a much enjoyed event in our school calendar which is making a welcome come back. This year, we will be looking at India and each class will find out about an aspect of that country. All parents are invited to join us from 2.45 pm until 3.30pm on Thursday 22nd May to enjoy the children's learning. If you have photos, clothes or artefacts from India that you would like to display at the event, please let us know. On the day, you and the children are invited to wear your own national costumes or national colours, though we ask everyone to please stick to national costumes, avoiding fancy dress.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu after the holidays will be Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.65.

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.

Classroom news

Reception

Despite it being a shorter week, Reception has had another very busy few days. In PSHE, we continued with our topic *The Wonderful Outside* by thinking about which materials we should recycle and the benefits of recycling. In science, we looked at more minibeasts, and some of us chose to go on another minibeast hunt during Active Learning. In maths,



we've been exploring 3-D shapes—naming lots of different ones and comparing them to objects around the classroom. We also learnt what faces are and how many faces you can find on a cube, cuboid, and cone. In Phonics, we've been

exploring CCVCC words such as *stamp*, *twist*, *swift*, *crisp*, *crunch*, and *squelch*. We also looked at CCCVC words like *string*, *scrap*, and *scrub*, and finally the CCCVCC words: *scrunch*, *strand*, and *sprint*. In addition, we explored the tricky words: *were*, *here*, *little*, and *says*. To end the week, we went on a trip to Cambridge University Botanic Garden, where the children enjoyed exploring the beautiful and exotic flowers and plants that spring has to offer. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and Reception did a fantastic job of walking swiftly and carefully. Thank you to all our wonderful parent helpers for joining us. Reception have started writing a few sentences about what they saw at the Botanic Garden.

Year 1

Year 1 has started to make their own puppets. After experimenting with different methods of joining fabrics last week, the focus this week was on designing a hand puppet. Linked to our topic of exploring the wilderness and neatly tied into the International Afternoon focus country of India, the children have been designing hand puppets of animals that are native to India. You'll be able to see the class's efforts at the International Afternoon.

Year 2

This week, we have been adding two-digit numbers by partitioning the tens and ones and counting on. We also applied our addition skills during our problem-solving lesson. In English, the children completed their simile poems about their chosen minibeasts. In geography, we used atlases to name and locate the five oceans. In art, we began planning our minibeast clay tile designs. In RE, we discussed as a class what a prayer is and worked together to write a class poem. We had another excellent swimming lesson this week, where we learned about water safety and played some games. For science, we were fortunate to visit forest school. The children recapped the different ways we can group minibeasts and discussed why they are so important. To finish the week, we were joined by Animal Club on Friday afternoon. Well done on a fantastic week, Year 2!

Year 3

Year 3 has had another really busy week. In maths, we worked on multiplying 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using a formal written method. In English, the children enjoyed starting to write their stories inspired by *The Paint Job* by Alex Wharton. In our art session, the children used their sketchbooks to plan an animated character that lived close to or by the riverbank. Spellings will be sent on Monday.

Year 4

What an exciting week. We have worked hard and improved in our swimming lesson. We have finished our river models. In maths we have been using negative numbers and Roman numerals. And of course the residential trip to Grafham Water. We had a great first day exploring the site and trying out sailing, raft building and paddle boarding. More news to follow! Spelling words this week are plurals of nouns ending in f.

Year 5

It has been an exciting week in Year 5, with our play rehearsals beginning. We have been doing an amazing job working together, practising our lines and songs and making props. In maths, we have been learning how to use 3-place decimals and how to apply this to converting between l/ml, kg/g and km/m. In science, we compared the gestation periods of different animals and created bar charts to show this data.

Year 6

On Wednesday, Y6 finished their Venetian mask project in art. We had been working on traditional masks for several weeks, painting third layers and adding finishing touches. The result was a spectacular one! In addition to this, Y6 had an eventful computing class, involving collecting data. As well as this, they also had the challenge of making their own spreadsheets, which involved using formulas for calculations.

By Frederick and Tom



Community News

Half term soccer school

See the attached flyer about Cambridge United's half term camps.