



# Newnham News

Friday 1 March 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

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Dear parents/carers,

I was all set to welcome the delights of spring in today's newsletter but it appears that the meteorological gloom is to remain deeply unrelenting.

For many adults (including many of the staff in school), what is already a tricky time of year is veering towards the downright unpleasant, nurturing thoughts of greener grass in other hemispheres (or just giving up quietly in a corner!)

As always, however, working with children is instructive. Their capacity to live in the moment, to not dwell on the past or future (beyond the next meal or playdate), to accept what is, to not dream of what is not, is surely the only way to approach the weather and life in general.

Expectations are, more often than not, a brick-like impediment to enjoying the moment and making the most of the day we are lucky enough to be living.

I expect you already knew this. I also expect the sun will come out tomorrow.

Whatever the weather and your plans, I hope you all enjoy the weekend. Good luck to those of you running in the half-marathon (see the message from Mrs Markham below) and we will meet on Monday in the full splendour of whatever the weather holds for us.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Class photos	4 Mar
Year 5 swimming	6 Mar
World Book Day 'Dress your head as a book'	7 Mar
Forest school - Year 2	8 Mar, am
Forest school - Reception	8 Mar, pm
PTA Daffodil Day	17 Mar, 12 - 3 pm

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

**Our language of the month is Polish. First words to follow.**

## Class Photos

Pret-a-Portrait will be in school on Monday 4th March to take photos of each class.

## Eat lunch with your child

Ms Noble would love to invite you to join us for lunch at Newnham Croft. The parents and carers of each year group will be invited in turn to enjoy a school dinner and sit with your

child, starting with Reception in a few weeks. More details to follow.

## Eco Picnic - Save the date!

This year we plan to resume our annual Eco Picnic! Pre-Covid, these used to happen on a summer's evening and would be a chance for families and members of the community to enjoy the school's fabulous grounds and celebrate the work that the Eco Committee, along with the rest of the school, have done throughout the year. People are invited to bring along picnic blankets and chairs along with food to enjoy on the school field. The date has been set for Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June from 3:30-5pm. The children will be organising a lot of the activities, and have already started planning scavenger hunts and Eco art activities. If you have any ideas of other activities that could happen, or would like to help in any way, then do get in touch. In the past we've had story-telling in the Forest School area, qigong and making miniature gardens.

We'll let you know more information nearer the time.

## Message from Mrs Markham

Thank you everyone who has contributed towards my Given Gain account for the half marathon this Sunday. The money that has been raised is going to a great cause, if you'd like to contribute, or add more, please use the link below.

<https://www.givengain.com/project/katrina-raising-funds-for-cambridgeshire-peterborough-and-south-lincolnshire-cpsl-mind-69285>

## Humanist visit

This morning Year 5 and 6 had a visit from a member of Humanists UK. She spoke about the core beliefs of Humanists and how having a humanist worldview impacts her life. She explained that the main principles of Humanism are that the world is a natural place – we should ask questions and look for evidence to help us to understand it, we should all be free to find what makes us happy and we should be kind to other people, animals, and the planet. The children listened with great interest and had some excellent questions.

## Online parent workshops

One of the attachments with this email is this month's newsletter from our EIFA (Education Inclusion Family Officer, Shelley Bari). This includes links to free online workshops available to parents including the topics of worry, anger and sleep.

## Classroom news

### Reception

It is great to have everyone back in class and we have not wasted any time embarking on our new class topic of 'Amazing

Animals'. We started with brainstorming the facts we already know about animals and there were many. For example, Poppy M shared that she knows that elephants use their trunks for many purposes. They drink and eat with their trunks, pick things up and wash with their trunks. We then discussed some things we would like to find out. Do hyenas hunt for food and why are megalodons extinct? We will try our best to find out in the next few weeks.

### **KS1**

This week year 2 have been using the strategy partitioning, they have used this to help them halve, double and add two-digit numbers. Year 1 has been doing fractions of amounts and shapes. In history we have been looking at the past and present, comparing life in London now and back in 1666. In science we have been looking at coniferous and deciduous trees. We have been busy in English this week writing letters and recounts based around our classes finding buried cheese. We have also had Perform drama school in which was fabulous and the children loved it (see attached flyers for more information). Continue to read with your children please. Well done to all of KS1 for a fantastic week!

### **Year 3**

Year 3 have worked really hard throughout the week on their production of *Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. In maths, we have continued to focus on problems involving fractions. The children worked on finding non-unit fractions of small amounts of objects and learnt how to count up and down in tenths. In history, the children started to learn about where in the world the Ancient Maya lived. They learnt about what type of civilisation they were and some of their many achievements. In computing, the children enjoyed creating their own questions that had yes or no answers.

### **Year 4**

Wow! What an amazing start back. We have been so impressed with the hard work so many of you have put into learning your lines and songs. Well done. Please look out for an email about costumes. In maths this week we have been working on fractions including: positioning fractions on a number line, equivalence, simplifying, adding and subtracting fractions. In English we have started work on *The Wind In The Willows*, thinking about what clues the author is giving us and collecting good words and phrases for describing settings. In our topic work we have started finding out more about the Maya civilisation. Please find attached spelling words making the /s/ sound using sc.

### **Year 5**

In English, we have started a unit on recounts and reports. We enjoyed the story *Tuesday* by David Wiesner and then had a go at hot seating and interviewing eye witnesses of the events in the story. We then wrote up police incident reports, using the evidence we gathered. In maths, we learned to multiply 4-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using short multiplication and then moved onto dividing 3-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers using short division (bus stop method). We were lucky to have a

humanist visitor coming in to speak about humanism, which links to our previous RE topic, *Why is it better to be there in person?*

### **Year 6**

Year 6 has had an extremely busy week, preparing a mind blowing set of films. Luckily for Year 6, that means we had a lot less maths than usual! Other exciting news is that this week some students will find out what school they are going to. Year 6 families, please come to school at 6pm on Friday if you would like to attend the 7th annual Year 6 film festival. It is completely free, and there will be refreshments ranging from hotdogs to popcorn.

In English, Year 6 have been writing debates about AI being used in schools. Next week, they will be writing balanced arguments.

*By Sam and Lucas*

### **School Meals**

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week's menu will be Week 2. 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk).

### **PTA NEWS**

#### **Daffodil Day**

Join us on Sunday 17th March, 12pm - 3pm to see the daffodils planted by parent volunteers last year. Once you've toured the grounds, stop in our tearoom for a cup of tea and a scone while the kids do some colouring in. Free entry and open to everyone, so bring a friend, family member or neighbour.

If you can lend a hand or offer up some home baking to sell in the tearoom, sign up here:

<https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18282233>

### **Community Events**

#### **Film night 20th March 6.30pm**

The Friends of Paradise invite you to a screening and Q&A of the film *Pure, Clean Water* with Director Tony Eva in the school hall on 20th March. This 1 hour film is suitable for Key Stage 2 children and up, with friends and families all warmly invited. No booking necessary. A suggested donation of £5 per person can be payable at the door. Please see attached poster for more details.

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

Coton Cricket Club will be starting summer training after Easter. Sessions focus on learning the skills of batting, throwing, catching and bowling in a fun environment. Older age groups play matches against other teams. Please register your interest now to ensure a place for training on Saturday mornings - available for girls and boys in years 1 - 6.

Email Tom Smith at [juniors@coton.cricket](mailto:juniors@coton.cricket)

#### **Great St Mary's Choir**

Please see attached flyer with more information on children aged 8 - 11 joining the Great St Mary's Choir.