



# Newnham News

Friday 24 October 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

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[NET donation link](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

One of the many things I have learnt from working in a primary school is that almost everything we tell the children to do/be/think, I should also be telling myself. For example, the rhetorical question: "Who are you in charge of?"

When someone has done something wrong, we use this phrase to get children to reflect, especially if the start of their response is: "S/he made me...".

The more I say "Who are you in charge of?", the more it has acquired depth and significant power. Who **am** I in charge of? When I raise my voice because someone is annoying me (or I am feeling annoyed!), am I in charge of myself or is the person I am raising my voice to now my puppet master?

I often share with the children the idea of the power this understanding gives them - to be in complete charge of yourself. Between the stimulus and your response, to observe the 'pause', to use that moment to think rather than react.

It is, as always with these things, easier said than done; but practice and awareness make it easier. In a world where so much is out of our control (especially if you're a primary age child), I find remembering what **is** in my power very reassuring.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy half term. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 3rd November.

Kind regards,  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Back to school		Mon 3 Nov
Reception Bikeability		3 & 4 Nov
Y6 swimming		Tues 4 Nov
Sensory needs workshop by DfE	1.30pm	Tues 4 Nov
PTA meeting	6pm	Tues 4 Nov
Y3 forest school		Fri 7 Nov
Y4 forest school		Fri 7 Nov
PTA Fireworks Night		Sat 8 Nov

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

## Whole school news

### School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu when we return after half term will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

## Classroom news

### Reception

This week we have been learning the phonemes e, u, and r, and our very first digraph – ck! The children have had lots of fun spotting these sounds in words and practising their blending skills during phonics sessions.

We have also really enjoyed learning a pumpkin poem and practising our cutting skills to make our own pumpkin faces. The children showed great creativity and control with their scissors — we were very

impressed! It's been a wonderful, busy week full of learning and laughter in Reception. We hope you all enjoy a restful half term — you've earned it!

### Year 1

As a culmination of our Year 1 history unit about *our own histories and childhoods of the past*, the children have been thinking about what their lives might look like to children in the



future. This week, we explored the idea of time capsules and discussed what special items we could include to show what it's like to be a Year 1 pupil at Newnham Croft in 2025. After lots of thoughtful suggestions, the class decided on four items to include:

- A photograph of the class, to show what we look like and what we wear.
- A photo of a birthday cake, in case celebrations look different in the future.
- A photo of a modern car alongside a toy car, to compare technology and play.
- Some current coins, to show what our money looks like today.

We plan to keep our time capsule safe until the children reach Year 6, when we will open it together and see how much has changed over the years!

### Year 2

This week in English, we have been writing riddle poems about traditional characters. The children loved using clever clues and creative descriptions to keep their readers guessing! In maths, we have been exploring weight, practising how to read scales and weigh objects to the nearest 100 grams. We've also had the exciting experience of moving classrooms! The children have enjoyed helping with the move, carrying their trays and setting up tables in our brand-new learning space. It's been a busy and exciting week full of teamwork and discovery! To finish the week, the children looked fantastic dressing up for Traditional Tales Day and really brought their favourite stories to life. Well done, Year 2, for all your hard work this half term!

### Year 3

Year 3 have worked really hard during the week despite feeling tired. In maths lessons we continued to work on measuring and estimating lengths in centimetres and metres as well as finding the perimeters of a range of 2D shapes. In English lessons, the children enjoyed taking notes and thinking of suitable subheadings for their non-chronological reports. In science, the children started the week by looking at the benefits of having earthworms in soil and later in the week enjoyed observing how the process of sedimentation works.

### Year 4

In English, we had great fun writing our own Grimwood style story. We used lots of new language, speech marks and paragraphs. In maths, we used counting back in tens or hundreds to help with subtraction and did an investigation using rounding to the nearest 100. We also introduced bar charts, including interpreting them, filling in gaps and collecting our own data. In RE, we looked at ideas that people of the Bahá'í worldview think are important. We really enjoyed finishing our volcanoes topic with a child-led project where we worked in groups to produce a range of pieces of work. There are no attached spellings this week as we have been looking at Y1/2 and Y3/4 tricky words. Please look out for paper copies of these tests coming home this week. It was brilliant to hear at the parent consultations how many children are keenly logging onto Times Tables Rock Stars daily. Please find attached a guide on

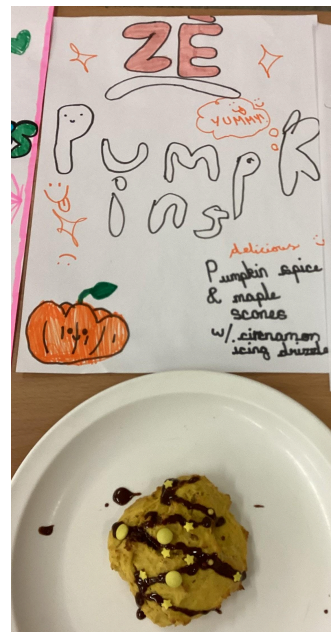
which TTRS modes would be most suitable for your child based on where they are on their tables learning journey.

### Year 5

For our final week of this half term, Year 5 have enjoyed spending time completing some child-based projects to round off their learning on the topic of Ancient Greece. Some of the children chose to explore medicine, while others decided to learn more about the Greek gods and philosophers. They have also been creating posters for our Greek Day, which will be taking place after half term. In English, all children have been exploring the poem *The Walrus and the Carpenter*, and have practised reciting it in preparation for performing a stanza in assembly. We also explored fronted adverbials and looked at parts of the poem that demonstrated their use. In Maths, we finalised our work on addition and column subtraction of four- and five-digit numbers, and we have started exploring improper fractions. Well done for a brilliant first half term, Year 5!

### Year 6

This week, Year 6 has completed our first round of Masterchef! The topic of the round was scones and in 2nd place was a Raspberry Delight and in 1st place was Ze Pumpkins. In art, we finished making our Pandora's Box out of terracotta clay. In



English, we wrote short stories inspired by pictures with a title and one sentence we had to include in our story. Our audience was reluctant readers our age. In maths, we have been multiplying 3 and 2 digit numbers. We used long multiplication, grid method, ladder method and some tried out the complicated line method and lattice method. Also in English, we have made posters of black people we are inspired by for Black History Month.

By Phoebe and Matilda

### PTA news

#### Fireworks Night

The PTA warmly invite everyone to fireworks night on **Saturday 8 November** - Here is the link for the tickets: <https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1371970892>

#### PTA meeting

The next meeting is Tuesday 4 November at 6 - 7pm in the school hall.

#### The Croft Plot

Many, many thanks to the enthusiastic students who helped improve the Croft Plot over lunch today! They planted flower bulbs, garlic, onions and broad beans while examining the

worms and snails who call the Croft Plot home. We're looking forward to a colourful (and tasty!) display next spring.

### **Community news**

#### **Yoga Studio Newnham**

Come and find The Breathing Space, at 8 Grange Road, Newnham's wellness place. Our schedule launches this November, with a range of yoga classes for all levels.

We are also open to wellness professionals who may like to be involved, especially massage or similar therapies. We look forward to growing with you! A visit to [www.somebreathingspace.com](http://www.somebreathingspace.com) will reveal further details.

#### **Fostering**

Please see the attached poster for more details on fostering.

#### **Winter Wheelers**

The council runs Winter Wheeler sessions, where you can get your bike serviced for free. Have a look at the poster for more information.