



# Newnham News

Friday 28 March 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

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[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

This week, Year 6 at their residential trip, Year 5 at the chemistry lecture and Year 3/4 children performing Hoodwinked, their production, were timely reminders of the occasions that children remember from their education.

Hopefully, there is a lot they remember subconsciously, like how to read, solve problems, add numbers etc. - the basic bones of education, but it is the out-of-class events that tend to lodge in the memory banks.

As such, we are always trying to find time amongst the curriculum demands to give children experiences beyond the classroom. We're lucky to be situated where we are, Cambridge being a city with more than its fair share of museums and visits that link to our learning.

It is not our aim to entertain children all the time - some of the most meaningful learning gains are not all-singing and dancing. However, it is wonderful to see children being so effusive about trips, visits and activities that they have experienced in school.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

PTA meeting	6pm	Mon 31 Mar
Y5 swimming		Tues 1 Apr
Reception forest school	morning	Fri 4 Apr
Y1 forest school	afternoon	Fri 4 Apr
End of term		Fri 4 Apr
Back to school		Wed 23 Apr

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

## Whole school news

### Red Nose Day Danceathon

Last Friday, the whole school (including the teachers!) danced, boogied and shuffled their way through the day, led by the indefatigable Year 6. Sponsorship money has been rolling in and our total is £988.65, which includes over £600 by Year 6 themselves. Thank you for your generosity.

### School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu next week will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.65.

## Classroom news

### Reception

We've had a great penultimate week in Reception. To round off the end of this term, all children recapped more phase 3 sounds and words in preparation for their phonic assessment next week. They explored the sounds: 'oi,' 'er,' 'or,' 'ur,' 'air,' 'oo,' and 'ow.' They also recapped the tricky words: "they," "all," "by," "my," "are," "sure" and "pure." In maths, Reception has been counting to add on, using cubes in active learning to practice this. In Literacy, all children completed writing up the retelling of our class book, *Is There A Dog In This Book?* To end this week, Reception had forest school and with the warmer weather, they thoroughly enjoyed being in the forest and investigating more signs of spring. Well done for a great week Reception!

### Year 1

Year 1 has continued with our focus on poetry. We used the structure of *The Caribbean Counting Rhyme* by Pamela Mordecai to write individual rhymes about a chosen theme. This is Leah's poem:

### Swimming Counting Poem

One by one  
One by one  
I am resting in the sun.  
Two by two  
Two by two  
I am playing in the pool.  
Three by three  
Three by three  
Near my house I bumped my knee.  
Four by four  
Four by four  
I am swimming in the shore.  
Five by five  
Five by five  
I am fishing near a beehive.

### Year 2

This week, we have been busy drafting our non-fiction texts about our chosen animals, rehearsing sentences before writing to ensure they make sense. Most children have begun writing up their final pieces and will present their non-chronological reports next week! In maths, we completed our subtraction unit and started ordering times of the day while recapping the days of the week and months of the year. In art, we worked collaboratively to fill our class whale using hatching and

cross-hatching techniques. In geography, we explored different climates, the difference between weather and climate and recorded local weather conditions. We also used a compass to find out which direction our playground faces. In PE, both classes joined for a circuit session, improving techniques and beating personal scores. Well done, everyone, for a fantastic week!

### **Year 3**

Well done to Year 3 and 4 for their production of Hoodwinked. The singing and the acting was amazing. Thanks to all the adults who helped put together the children's costumes. In maths this week, Year 3 have worked hard on representing data using both pictograms and bar charts and answering questions based on them. In our English sessions the children enjoyed adding their own adverbials to sentences that were inspired by *Bed of the Sea* by Alex Wharton. In DT lessons, children started to become familiar with the term 'seasonal foods' and understand the importance of reducing the carbon footprint on the food they consume.

### **Year 4**

It has been wonderful to see all the children enjoying their play and performing so brilliantly. They all rose to the occasion and felt proud of their achievements. Thank you again for all your support at home. In maths, we have been practicing multiplying and dividing. In English, we explored more narrative poems and acted out the main events. In history, we have nearly finished the child-led projects about the Vikings with lots of different activities such as animation, Powerpoint presentations, clay models and posters being produced. We also finished designing our robotic pets in computing. Next week we are going to present our finished work. Spellings this week begin with w or wh. Please focus times tables practice on 12x.

Please note - the final payment for the Grafham Water trip is due on Monday 31 March.

### **Year 5**

In English, we looked at features of persuasive speeches and analysed some famous modern and historical speeches, including those by Malala Yousafzai, John. F. Kennedy and Queen Elizabeth the First. We then discussed the differences between standard and non-standard English and when it is appropriate to use each one. In maths, we recapped negative numbers and then moved onto practising mentally adding 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10,000 and 100,000 to different numbers. In swimming, we had our lesson on lifesaving where we learned how to respond in emergency situations while keeping ourselves safe. In science, we learned about gravity, water resistance, air resistance and friction by conducting a range of different investigations and then had some time to explore how pulleys, levers and gears work. On Friday afternoon, we were lucky enough to have a parent come into school to run an amazing practical session all about rockets (linking to our previous science topic on Space).

Please note - the final payment for the Thorpe Woodland trip is due on Tuesday 1 April.

### **Year 6**

On Sunday, we took a long coach to Hilltop Outdoor Centre in Sheringham (Norfolk). When we arrived, we split into groups and each did amazing activities such as Big Zipper and Super Swing.

On Monday, everyone in our class did Airjump and archery. It was really fun and we had spaghetti bolognese for dinner.

On Tuesday, for lunch, we had pizza and at dinner time we had chicken burgers and played a huge game of hide and seek.

On Wednesday we finally managed to get everyone on the coach. Our class all agreed that Hilltop was loads of fun.

On Thursday morning, we made Hilltop brochures and did yoga in PE. In music, we followed Tudor music patterns and then made music with instruments.

On Friday morning, we did SPaG and then after break we finished our brochures. After lunch we did science and history, and in history we completed our Tudor projects.

*By Eddie and Rafa*

### **Year 6 Danceathon**

On Friday 21 March, Year 6 danced for 4 hours for Comic Relief. Year 6 raised over £600 in total. Every year group came to dance with Year 6 for at least half an hour. We had a great time but Year 6 was exhausted by the end of it. Year 6 did many GoNoodles and JustDances. We taught the whole school *Night Fever* on the field at the end of the day.

*By Hannah and Beatrice*

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).

## **Community news**

### **New Junior Church Choir at St Mark's, Newnham!**

Rehearsal Fridays in term time, 5-5.45 (snacks from 4.45). In the Community Centre, behind Church.

Starting on 25th April.

Open to all children aged 7-13.

Expert musical instruction with an emphasis on having fun!

To find out more or register an interest, contact Marcus:

singing@stmarksnewnham.org

### **Queens' College - Owlstone Development meeting**

Please see the attached flyer regarding a Zoom meeting with the developers.