



Newnham News

Friday 28 June 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear parents/carers,

Plans for our next academic year are well advanced. Today, the senior leadership team arranged the last few pieces of the staffing puzzle. Once we have shared this with the staff (and they have pointed out the inevitable flaws in our best laid plans) we will be sharing the 24-25 staff structure with all of you.

Last year we started reducing the number of children we have in each year (the PAN). Historically, it has been 34, which necessitated splitting the classes in Reception and Key Stage 1, as there is a limit of 30 children per classroom for these ages.

Starting with Reception last year, there will be a new PAN of 30, which will work through the school as the Reception children move up. This means that in KS1 for 24-25, there will be one Reception class of 30, one Year 1 class of 30 and two Year 2 classes of 17 each.

Having all the year 1s in the same class has given us an opportunity to develop our provision in Year 1, as we no longer have to mirror provision across two classes. As a result, we are looking to deliver the Year 1 curriculum in a way that more closely mirrors elements of our Reception provision. This should give more opportunity for the children to learn through activities and play, further cementing the foundations that are laid in Reception, whilst maintaining the high expectations we have at Newnham Croft.

As with all decisions taken in school, we plan to visit other schools to see models of this approach to help us structure this effectively.

I hope you enjoy the classroom news below and that you have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Eat lunch with your Year 6 child	12.15pm	Mon 1 July
Y2 swimming (last one)	8.30am	Tues 2 July
Y3 swimming		Wed 3 July
Y4 swimming		Wed 3 July
Eat lunch with your Year 6 child	12.15pm	Wed 3 July
KS1 mini Cambridge walk		Thurs 4 July
Booknic (for all)	3.15pm - 4pm	Thurs 4 July

Y4 forest school

morning Fri 5 July

Reception forest school

afternoon Fri 5 July

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

Classroom news

Reception

Each day in Reception, we discuss the days of the week and the months of the year. We talk about register time, phonics time, lunch time, play time, story time.....all happening at different times of the day. So this week, we talked about the importance of being able to tell the time and the class shared many ideas about this. The most common reason in the class for being able to tell the time was that if you weren't able to, you might miss important things. Once we established this, we agreed that we should learn to tell the time. We looked at a clock, recognising the way the numbers are organised on a clock face and noticing the difference between the two hands. We then practised telling the time for the full hour, noticing that the long hand is then on the 12 and the shorter hand on the named hour.

KS1

We've had a very warm, busy, yet fun filled week in KS1. In science, we've been looking at another sense, taste. All children tried ginger, honey, spinach and lemon and described how they tasted. For some of the children, they found the ginger quite spicy and the lemon very sour. In English, we planned short stories about Henry VIII and then we wrote them up using adjectives, time conjunctions, and Y2 used their own starting sentences. In maths, Year 1s have been consolidating their understanding of adding and subtracting to 20, using a range of concrete manipulatives. In Y2, we've been looking at subtraction number sentences using 2-digit numbers. In computing, we've continued using Scratch Junior to sequence a set of commands to enable our scratch character to move. In art, as part of our work on flora and fauna, we've been collecting flowers and pressing them. Lastly, in PE Y2s had their penultimate swimming lesson where they were taught what to do if they are ever in an emergency situation. Y1s have been practising and preparing for sports day. Next Thursday, we shall all be going on a mini Cambridge walk to look at some of Cambridge's most historical areas. All children should wear comfortable shoes and have a raincoat if it looks drizzly. Well done for a very hardworking week KS1!

Year 3

Year 3 has worked incredibly hard this week on their end of year assessments. Aside from this, they had lots of fun taking part in a scooter workshop on Thursday and Forest School with Mrs Bicknell on Friday. In geography the children found different features on a local OS Map using a combination of grid reference numbers and compass points. In computing this week the children enjoyed developing their programming skills using Scratch. In English they had lots of fun planning a series of arguments they could use to persuade Mr Ferguson to have a school pet. Good luck in your letter writing next week. It sounds like Reception has already got a pet snake!!

Year 4

This week we have enjoyed an amazing scooter workshop which involved exciting demonstrations as well as practising skills. In DT we have made final adjustments to our pneumatic model and have started to think about its appearance. In science we discovered which drinks might be healthier for our teeth by looking at the results of an experiment involving eggs sitting in different drinks. We have also enjoyed role-playing ordering food at a café in our French lesson. In maths we have looked at area and perimeter as well as numbers with 2 decimal places. In English we have been writing paragraphs of our own sea myth. This week has also included reading and maths assessments. The attached spelling words to practise this week are from the year 3 and 4 word list. Please check the list with highlighted words sent home previously for any other words that would be useful to practise. On Wednesday everyone will need to bring either a long sleeved top or thin trousers (eg pyjamas) for the swimming session.

Year 5

In maths, we continued to practise reading and drawing line graphs and also solved word problems about rate. In English, we wrote job application letters for our dream jobs, using formal language and appropriate register, and then wrote job offer letters to our peers for their dream jobs. In science, we learned about thermal conductors and thermal insulators and the benefits and uses of each. In PSHE, we discussed the changes that will happen during puberty (in both male and female puberty) and learned about the menstrual cycle and how to manage periods with different products.

Year 6

This week Year 6 has been working hard to complete their play and has successfully managed to perform it to an audience. We will soon also be starting a new DT topic which is *Textiles*.

By Dunya and Zoe

Booknic - Thursday 4 July 3.15 - 4pm

Come and celebrate our school's love of reading and books at our first whole-school booknic on the 4th of July. Come and share a book with your child on the field or listen to school staff reading some of their favourite picture books. Bring a blanket and we'll provide a snack.

Language of the month

This month's language of the month is Italian. See the attached document with some first words to get you speaking Italian.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu next week 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.

PTA NEWS

Newnham Croft Primary School PTA Summer Fete

Sunday 7 July 12 noon – 3pm

Adults £4.00, children £2.00 (includes inflatable), under 2s go free

See attached poster by Maguire (Y6).

CALL FOR SUMMER FETE VOLUNTEERS

Help at the summer fete and get a free ticket!

To make our summer fete a big resounding success, we're gonna need quite a bit of help.

Sign up for setting up, serving food/drinks, checking entry, inflatable slide, plus more and get a free ticket.

Sign up here! <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18284054>

Year 6 Tombola

Year 6 will be running their annual tombola at the summer fete - please donate bottles or cans of food, drinks or even toiletries. Donations can be dropped off at the school office.