



# Newnham News

Friday 16 May 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

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[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

Not quite all about the SATs, but the tests have certainly been a significant part of this past week. A huge well done to **Ms Holliday**, the dedicated **Year 6 team**, and all the staff who supported the children so brilliantly throughout—your efforts have been truly appreciated.

In other news, several parents have already come forward with wonderful ideas for our upcoming **school auction**. We've received offers including **guitar and violin lessons**, a **High Table dinner at Trinity College**, and a **Spanish tortilla-making masterclass**, to name just a few. Your creativity and generosity are genuinely appreciated—thank you!

On the topic of the auction, as many of you know, our initial goal was to raise funds for new pupil laptops, enabling us to convert the ICT suite into a Year 2 classroom. However, thanks to the initiative of one of our governors, who connected us with a company offering refurbished laptops to schools, we were **donated 50 laptops completely free of charge**. While second-hand, our ICT support team has confirmed they're of excellent quality—better, in fact, than any machines currently in use at the school, including staff laptops!

As a result, we've adjusted the focus of the auction. Funds raised will now go towards the **development of three classrooms**:

- Transforming the **ICT suite into the new Year 2 classroom**
- Adapting **Miss Harvey's classroom** to better support Year 1's continuous provision
- Converting **Miss Wakelen's classroom** into a flexible **multi-purpose space** for group work, art, DT, science, and more.

The staff are looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible on Friday 6th June. Tickets are available through the School Gateway App - a buffet included in the price!

I hope you all have lovely weekends.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Eat lunch with your Reception child	11.55am Mon 19 May
Y4 swimming	Tues 20 May
Y3 swimming	Tues 20 May
Y4 parents can see MTC in ICT suite	3.15pm Tues 20 May
Eat lunch with your Reception child	11.55am Wed 21 May
Y5 performance	5pm Wed 21 May
Y2 swimming	Thurs 22 May
International Afternoon	2.45pm - 3.30pm Thurs 22 May
Last day of half term	Fri 23 May
Back to school	Tues 3 June

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly - dates for Open Afternoon and Sports Day are up there now.

## 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 and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 2. 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk).

## Classroom news

### Reception

With another beautifully sunny and warm week, Reception has enjoyed going on more minibeast hunts during their Active Learning Week and discovering more about the different types of minibeasts, thanks to our topic, *The Wonderful Outside*. In Literacy, the children have enjoyed

writing sentences about worms and ladybirds, using one of this week's tricky words: "there". In Phonics, as part of Phase 4, the children have been learning longer words, such as tantrum, forest, printer, chapter, blanket, blossom, shampoo, children, second, present, freshness, chimpanzee, and finally these compound words: windmill, sandpit, lunchbox, and handstand. We also looked at the tricky words: there, when, what, and one. In maths, we've been working on numbers to 20 and determining which pairs of numbers make 20. Lastly, in P.E., all children have been building on their ball skills. Well done for a brilliant week, Reception!

### Year 1

We are enjoying poetry in Year 1 English, this time focussing on the wonderful poetry of Shirley Hughes from her book *Out and About*, a first book of poems. The class have been working on reciting poetry for entertainment, using expression and being aware of their audience. The class also had to work out the hidden titles of the poems, understanding how titles are chosen and why they are important.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gl3JxUNNKWM>

Enjoy this short film about how Shirley Hughes creates her wonderful illustrations for her story books.

### Year 2

It's been an exciting and busy week in Year 2! The children were thrilled to receive letters from their friends in Year 1 and thoroughly enjoyed writing back to share all the wonderful things they've been doing this year. In maths, we've been consolidating our subtraction strategies, focusing on counting on, counting back, and partitioning. The children have worked really hard and shown great progress. In science, we've been learning all about worms and the important ways they help humans. The children have been fascinated by these helpful little creatures! In geography, we've been exploring maps, learning about keys and symbols, and even had a go at creating our own maps — with some fantastic results! A special mention must go to all of Year 2 for their outstanding attitude during swimming lessons. They have been impressively independent, organising themselves and listening carefully to the instructors. We're incredibly proud to share that members of the public even commented on how brilliant the Newnham Croft children were! Well done, Year 2 — keep up the amazing work!

### Year 3

This week in maths, Year 3 have worked on a range of different calculation methods designed to help them divide numbers that extend beyond the times tables. In English lessons, the children continued to work hard on developing their editing skills and understanding of when and how to use apostrophes for contraction and possession. In our science lesson, the children enjoyed investigating which poles attract each other and which poles repel each other. The highlight of the week was learning to play Kabaddi in preparation for next week's International Afternoon. The children are looking forward to showcasing this exciting sport for you.



Y3 forest school

### Year 4

We have had an excellent week in Year 4. In maths, we have been looking at using the extended and compact column methods for addition and subtraction. In English, we have continued to explore the story *The Princess and the Pea*. Year 4 have started to write their own innovative versions in the form of a play script. I am excited to read all of your final drafts. Spelling words to learn this week are words with the added suffix -tion. Next week we will be practicing the multiplication test in the style of the MTC. Any parents who are interested in having a look at what the test looks like, are welcome to join us on Tuesday at 15:15 in the ICT suite. Finally, look out for Grafham Water photos, which will be coming out shortly. Here's one to whet your appetite...



### Year 5

We have been busy rehearsing for our upcoming play this week and have done a great job learning our lines and working on our scenes. In maths, we finished our decimals and fractions topic by practising finding the difference between decimals (including two-place and three-place decimals) and then moved onto our next topic, multiplication and division. We used known times tables facts to help us work out multiplication and division questions mentally, expressing remainders as fractions, and then applied these skills to solving real-life problems and deciding what to do with the remainder depending on the

situation. In PSHE, we discussed how to manage emotions we might feel in times of change.

#### **Year 6**

This week we had our SATs tests and SATs breakfast. We were also sad that there was no Chen in the reasoning paper. In English we are using computers to write stories using the hyperlink tool. We had a very good breakfast from Ms Noble and Ms Harper. We have been making a display of the Indian Ocean with posters for the International Afternoon next week!

*By Leela and Alona*

### **Community News**

#### **Rewarding, paid jobs at Sheep's Green Learner Pool**

Better are looking for poolside assistants to make this much-loved open air pool in Newnham a welcoming & safe place for children and their families. Flexible, part time, May to September. Applicants need to be over 18, friendly, reliable and self-motivated. No previous experience necessary. Up to £14.12 per hour. Please do share with friends & neighbours. This is an ideal job for students or anyone looking to give something back to the community. For more information see the poster or visit <https://sheepsgreen.wordpress.com/blog/>

#### **Girls football**

See the attached flyer for Cambridge Cobras.

#### **Half-term activities at Sandringham**

See more details attached from the Sandringham Estate Forest School.

#### **Summer drama course**

Attached is a flyer from Perform who will be hosting a summer drama course at Newnham Croft in July.

#### **Summer singing**

Attached is a flyer from The Oxford and Cambridge Singing School with details on singing courses in the summer.