



# Newnham News

Friday 17 January 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

Last Tuesday, there was a PTA meeting in the hall, involving pizza and Paddington 2 for accompanying children. As you can imagine, there was a liveliness to proceedings that only a group of eleven 5-8 year olds circling the hall at full volume can provide.

As always, it was a very useful, interesting meeting. Highlights included the PTA approving funding for a top-up of bark for the 'Island' area and funds for the development of the front-of-school garden that the children have helped plan. Thank you PTA.

In other news, some of you will be aware that the class structure will change next year, with a move to single class year groups throughout (meaning we will have a single Year 1 class and a single Year 2 class).

This has necessitated a lot of forward planning, as some of the classrooms in EY/KS1 were not designed for thirty children. Therefore, the decision has been taken to convert the ICT suite into the Year 2 classroom, meaning that we are going to replace the current 34 PCs with 34 pupil laptops, so the computing curriculum can be delivered in the classrooms.

Unfortunately, the school will struggle to find the £13,000 that we have been quoted without seriously cutting other areas of the budget. Therefore, I wanted to reach out to any parents who feel they are in a position to help us with donations. If this is you, could you donate through the Newnham Educational Trust (click [here](#) for form), as it will allow us to claim gift aid for those of you who are British taxpayers. All contributions gratefully received.

I hope you all have lovely weekends.

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Y5 swimming (and every Tues this term)	Tues 21 Jan
Y6 breakfast cafe	8.30am Fri 24 Jan
Eat lunch with your Y2 child	12pm Mon 27 Jan
Y2 Botanic Garden trip	Tues 28 Jan
Eat lunch with your Y2 child	12pm Wed 29 Jan
Y4 Grafham Water deposit due	Fri 31 Jan
Open afternoon	3.15 - 4.00 Mon 3 Feb

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

## Whole school news

### Parenting workshop

Attached with the newsletter this week, is some information from Shelley Bari, our EIFA (Education Inclusion Family Advisor). This includes information about free workshops to support your child covering themes such as worry, sleep, anger, digital safety and sibling rivalry. Also, attached is information about face-to-face or online support on Reducing Parental Conflict.

### 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 another busy, yet milder week, which has made being outdoors all the more enjoyable. Reception has been building on their topic *Journeys* by learning about road safety and exploring where Newnham Croft is in Cambridge by using a map. In Phonics, we've looked at the sounds: 'oo,' (zoom) 'oo',' (took) 'ar' and 'or.' We've also explored the tricky words: "was," "you" and "they." In maths, Reception has explored

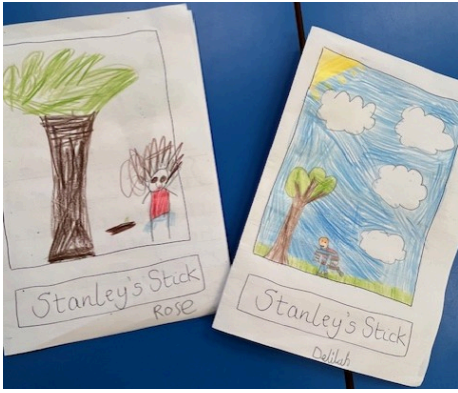


grouping amounts by working out how many animals can equally be shared between 2 and 4 areas. In literacy,

everyone has practised writing a short sentence based on their new book *Naughty Book*. Just to remind everyone, slippers will be introduced on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, so please feel free to bring them in if you haven't already.

### Year 1

The class book in Year 1 is currently *Stanley's Stick* by John Hegley and Neal Layton. This tells the story of a boy called Stanley who uses a stick for great imaginative play. This week, the children in our class retold the story as a brief version



before next week, embarking on writing their own versions. As a preliminary activity, the class already had some good ideas about what they would use a stick for. Flora wrote 'My stick is a spoon and I mix with it.'

## Year 2

This week in DT, we started our new project by learning how to do a running stitch. The children practiced threading their needles and sewing two pieces of fabric together. In maths, we worked on telling the time using analogue clocks, focusing on "o'clock," "half past," "quarter past," and "quarter to." In maths Year 2 also rounded numbers to the nearest 10 and reviewed comparing numbers using greater than, less than, and equal to. In English, the children planned and wrote a setting description from the perspective of Syd, the main character in our new book. In science, we worked in groups to discuss and plan how we could test what a seed needs to grow. Finally, in history, we looked at the key events that led to the first successful airplane flight.

## Year 3

This week Year 3 has learnt about the different layers that make up a rainforest and how plants adapt themselves to cope with conditions that are found within them. In maths, the children have learnt to recognise equivalent fractions for  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$  and to add fractions with similar denominators. In English, the children have used a range of impressive verbs and adverbs in their Snowman stories. In our art session, the children learnt about the artist Henri Rousseau and how he used his local botanic gardens in Paris to inspire his pictures. Year 3 finished the week by sketching plants at the Cambridge University botanic gardens. Thanks to everyone who made it such an enjoyable experience.



## Year 4

We have had another busy week in Year 4. We were excited to visit the tropical rainforest glass house at the botanical gardens this week. We thought about the environment in this type of biome and how the plants are adapted to these conditions. We looked at the colours and shapes of the plants there, ready for our art project. We have studied rainforest paintings by Rousseau. We have also been learning about the different layers in the rainforest. In maths we have been adding and subtracting fractions. In English we have been continuing work on *Grimwood*, using our summarising and note taking skills. Spelling words this week are from the year 3/4 word list. Please find paper copies of the recent test on year 1/2 words and 3/4 words – coming home on Friday.

## Year 5

In English, we continued to read stories from *Tales from Outer Suburbia* by Shaun Tan. We compared the similarities and differences between the stories and then moved onto our SPaG portion of the topic, focusing on modal verbs and parenthesis. In maths, we practised column subtraction, especially when it requires carrying, and applied this to various types of word problems. We also practised rounding 2-place decimals to the nearest tenth and whole number. In science, we learned about the discoveries of Copernicus and Galileo and how we came to learn that the planets orbit the Sun.

## Year 6

On Monday, we prepared our first debate and did BODMAS in maths. On Tuesday, we learnt about our name and what makes it important, e.g. identifying and stereotypes. We also did the debate. On Wednesday we had dance and we did the 1980s and in the afternoon we did French and learnt about houses. On Thursday, we added decimals in maths and in the afternoon we had PE where we did dodgeball and focused on dodging and catching by swerving and ducking. In music, we learnt about The Planets Suite. We did a test on it too and found out where Gustav Holst is from.

*By Rafa and Khalil*

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

### Fitness class on Lammas Land

Please see the attached flyer for a local fitness class.

### Half term tennis camps

Please see attached flyer for those who want to get organised for half term activities.

### Cambridge Makers

For more crafty half-term activities, see here:

<https://www.cambridgemakers.org/courses-family-editions/>