



Newnham News

Friday 13 September 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear parents/carers,

What a lovely week!

So good to see my colleagues, the governors and parents; as work environments go, I'm lucky to be supported, entertained and surrounded by the adults I am.

Also, and very obviously, it's been wonderful to see the children. It's possibly easily overlooked, but fundamentally, we all work in primary school because this age group delights us. Their newness, innocence and sometimes cheerful indifference to our instructions, is refreshing when the wider world offers more cloudy horizons.

Well done to all of you for shaking off the slower holiday routines and getting the little darlings to school each morning, mostly on time.

Enjoy the classroom news and have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y3 Wandlebury trip	Tues 17 Sept
Y6 swimming	(and every Tues) Tues 17 Sept
PTA meeting	school hall at 6.15pm Wed 18 Sept
Y4 Wandlebury trip	Mon 23 Sept
Y6 swimming	Tues 24 Sept
Flu vaccinations	Fri 27 Sept
PTA barn dance	Fri 4 Oct
Harvest assembly (parents welcome)	9 - 10am Mon 7 Oct
PTA Fireworks Night	Sat 9 Nov

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

Classroom news

Reception

It has been so lovely having Reception join us this week for half days. The children are starting to get used to the routine; remembering to bring their labelled book bags and water bottles. They have spent this week getting to know their classroom a little better and understanding what to do if they need to use the toilet or want their coat. The Reception team set up various areas inside and out of the classroom for the

children to have their active learning. This includes the home area, mark making, the sand pit and the slack line. Well done for a great week Reception!

Year 1

Phew! What a start to the term. It might be quicker to say what the class hasn't done this week but here is a quick insight. In English, the class were introduced to the book, *Beegu* by Alexis Deacon. This tells the story of an alien who crash-lands on Earth and cannot communicate with anyone and is desperate to find her mum. We created pictures of what we think Beegu's planet might look like and performed drama scenes of how Beegu was responding to her new environment. We also devised our class rules to ensure that we have a happy school, with the number one rule being 'be kind to each other.'

Year 2

What a great first full week back for Year 2. In maths, we have been partitioning 2-digit numbers and adding multiples of 10. In English, we have been reading lots of traditional tales and thinking about what features they may have. In DT we have started to look at moving story books and worked out how to make a rabbit come out of a hat using a slider mechanism. This week we have not given paper copies of home reading books, as we would like everyone to log into their new Collins hub account. You will find your new login in your child's home folder. Let us know if you have any issues.

Year 3

Year 3 has made a good start to the year. In our maths sessions this week we have been working on placing 2-digit numbers along a number line and calculating what number is halfway between them. In our English sessions we started to look at *How to Wash A Woolly Mammoth* by Michelle Robinson. The children enjoyed discussing how it might prove difficult and enjoyed using imperative verbs to write their own command sentences. In our first science session we started our unit on rocks and soils by sorting 'sweetie rocks' into different groups based on their physical properties. In our history session we began to talk about what chronological order means. Spelling list is attached.

Year 4

Well done Year 4 for such a positive and hardworking start to the term. We have been enjoying finding out about the stone age for our history topic – 'Would you rather live in the stone age, bronze age or iron age?' We have looked at chronology

as well as trying out some cave painting. In English we have collected features and facts from non-fiction texts. We also tried to summarise a non-fiction text but this was tricky! In maths we have been ordering 3 and 4 digit numbers and placing them on a number line. In science we used biscuits to create a classification key. For spelling this week we have been looking at homophones. Please see the attached list of spelling words.

Year 5

Year 5 has had a brilliant first full week back! In maths, we looked at place value, focusing on 6-digit numbers and what each digit represents. We also practised placing 6-digit numbers on number lines of different lengths and rounded to the nearest 10, 100, 1000 and 10,000. In English, we continued reading *Cloud Tea Monkeys* and explored how we can make nouns into verbs by adding suffixes, -ate, -ise, -ify or -en. In science, we learned about how light travels in a straight line and did some investigations to prove this. We began our new history topic by looking at the causes behind WW2 and what happened during the Battle of Britain, and were lucky enough to have a year 5 family member come in to discuss her lived experience of the war.

Year 6

This week in Year 6, we have been rounding numbers in maths. We learnt about air raids, rationing and evacuation in World War 2. In PE, we are doing cross country with the new teacher Mrs Roberts. In English, we have been annotating and reading a poem called *The Highwayman*. We are also planning to write our own versions. We have been exploring Henry Moore in art. He did the Shelter artworks and was a famous war artist. All in all, we have really enjoyed our first full week in Year 6.

By Eddie and Chris

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

A very warm welcome to a new school year from the PTA. We hope that everyone is settling into their new class (and in some cases into their new school) and that the beautiful chaos of the holidays is finally starting to ease away.

We are holding our first PTA meeting of the year next **Wednesday 18th at 1815** in the school hall. In an effort to encourage as many voices as possible to attend, we will be providing pizza and a film for the kids (and various alcoholic and non alcoholic beverages for the grown ups).

Let us know if you are coming with kids to better allow us to cater. Also please send any discussion items you would like

raised, either in person or in absentia, to:
newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com.

Looking forward to seeing new and old faces alike a week today.

Community news

Cambridgeshire Music lessons

We have a number of peripatetic music teachers that come into school to teach individual music lessons. If your child is interested in learning the piano, cello or guitar, these can be booked via Cambridgeshire Music <https://www.cambridgeshiremusic.org.uk/individuals/instrumental-vocal-lessons/individual-instrumental-vocal-tuition.html>

Flute Lessons with Paulo

Learn to play the flute in a fun and inclusive environment, at school! Open to everyone from Y3 upwards, lessons last 30 minutes (great if you want to join one of the two school orchestras in the future!). Get in touch at pauloghi@gmail.com

School orchestra

The school orchestra has remaining spaces available for children with at least a year of experience in playing an orchestra instrument (Y2 and above). Young string players in particular are strongly encouraged to join the lunchtime orchestra on Tuesdays at 12.30 - 1.15pm in the music room. There is also a senior orchestra club on Friday afternoons (3:15-4:15) for more advanced musicians. If interested, please contact Clémentine - Clementine.vignault@gmail.com

Leys School Choral Day

Please see attached information about a choral day at the Leys School for Year 5 and 6 pupils.

Town and Gown 10k and Junior 3k - Sunday 6th October

Muscular Dystrophy UK who organise the Town and Gown 10k have offered us a 10% discount for adults to take part in the 10k or for children (aged 9 - 15) to run the 3k by using the code SCHOOLS24. Sign up online here: <https://race-nation.co.uk/register/town-and-gown-events/cambridge-town-and-gown-2024>