



Newnham News

Friday 10 October 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

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[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

Hopefully, those of you lucky enough to have the time enjoyed the Breakfast Café and Harvest Assembly this morning. Thank you for all your generous donations, which will support the charity *It Takes a City*. It's always such a treat for the children to perform to an audience — their enthusiasm and engagement never fail to shine through.

One of the priorities in our School Development Plan (SDP) this year is to nurture that same level of engagement throughout all aspects of school life. During our last OFSTED inspection, it was noted that while the majority of pupils were engaged and active, there were some learners who were not always as involved in their learning as they could be.

Last year, staff — and teachers in particular — worked hard to improve lessons and activities to encourage all learners to take part more fully. Lesson inputs were shortened, and extension activities were redesigned to be more open-ended and enquiry-based.

This year, our focus is on the children themselves: helping them reflect on why they come to school, how they should behave in lessons, and why active listening and participation matter — whether the lesson is exciting (like volcanoes) or more procedural but equally important (like number bonds or column addition).

Anything you can do at home to reinforce this message would be greatly appreciated. Helping children understand that they learn for themselves, and that effort and engagement lead to both satisfaction and progress, isn't always easy — but it builds a foundation that supports every part of their lives that follow.

I hope your weekends are joyful and/or peaceful.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Open afternoon	3.15pm - 4pm	Mon 13 Oct
Y6 swimming (every Tues this term)		Tues 14 Oct
Individual school photos		Thurs 16 Oct
Eat lunch with your Year 6 child	12.15am	Thurs 16 Oct
Reception forest school		Fri 17 Oct

Y6 bake sale

3.15pm Fri 17 Oct

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

Whole school news

Open afternoon

Children can show their parents and carers their books in their classrooms on Monday 13 October at 3.15pm until 4pm.

Parent consultations

You can now book a 10 minute appointment with your child's class teacher on eSchools - login [here](#). If you're struggling to login, do get in touch with the office.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

It's been a bit of a poorly week in Reception! Many of our children have been under the weather with high temperatures, coughs, and colds. We hope everyone feels better soon. Please take a moment to check that your child is [well enough for school](#) before bringing them in — this will really help us keep those germs out of the classroom and support everyone's recovery.

This week, we have also started our very first reading sessions! The children have been exploring wordless books, which will be coming home with them today. These books are a wonderful opportunity for you to share stories together — encourage your child to look carefully at the pictures, talk about what's happening, and use their imagination to tell the story in their own words.

Year 1

In our English lessons, we have been looking at poetry with the intention of writing our own poems to share with the Reception class. Our focus poem has been a poem called *Purple is...* by an anonymous poet.

Purple is...

A beautiful bunch of grapes
Juicy round plums
Shimmering waves of heather

Floating shiny balloons
My cosy woolly jumper
That's what purple is to me

So far we have listed objects and described them using adjectives. Some of the children feel confident about their poetry skills and others are less sure. Watch this space to find out about how they get on with this.

Year 2

Year 2 has had a fantastic, fun-filled week! In English, we wrote setting descriptions and began planning our own alternative endings to *The Three Little Pigs*. In maths, we practised adding and subtracting 10, 11, 20 and 21. In geography, we explored our local weather, and in DT the children started creating their moving monsters from their designs. In science, we worked in groups to test which material was the stretchiest—everyone showed brilliant teamwork! During gymnastics, we practised and performed our balances. It's been a busy and exciting week. Well done, Year 2!

Year 3

Year 3 has had another impressive week. In maths, they worked really hard on solving two-step addition and subtraction problems (using partitioning and counting-on). In English sessions, they really enjoyed writing a diary entry in character. In our geography session, we focused on the damage earthquakes can cause and the various ways that this damage can be reduced. In our science lesson, the children enjoyed learning about stages that lead up to the formation of a fossil.

Year 4

In English, we tried out newspaper style writing as well as planning our own Grimwood style story. In maths, we found putting 4 digit numbers on a number line tricky in our assessment so we have been practising more of these. We also continued converting between 12 and 24 hour clocks and practised calculating time intervals using train timetables. In RE, we looked at how some Sikh beliefs and practices reflect ideas about religious equality. In science, we drew diagrams of the water cycle and showed our learning through comic strips about a water droplet on its journey. In PSHE, we talked about ways to make someone feel welcome if they are new in school (or elsewhere). Spellings this week have the prefix inter-. Quite a few children are still gaining confidence with their basic time telling skills; if you would like resources to support your child at home with this, visit <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/Search.aspx?q=telling+time>

Year 5

Year 5 have had a great week learning about irreversible changes, such as rusting and burning. They also finalised their stories based on *Goth Girl* and practised using the column addition method to add 4- and 5-digit numbers. In science, Year 5 observed ten different materials being burnt, including cotton wool, crisps, a crisp packet, wood, and paper. They timed how long each material took to burn and noted whether it was able to burn at all. In art, the class glazed their Greek pots, and everyone had a wonderful time singing *The Streets of London*



for the
Harvest
Festival.
Well
done,
Year 5
and 6!
Lastly, a
big thank
you to
Giorgio's
father for
coming in
to talk to
Years 5
and 6
about
Ancient
Greek
writing

and music.

Year 6

This week in history, we learned about Ancient Greece and made our own top trumps with the gods. In English, we looked at famous speeches such as the Gettysburg Address delivered by Abraham Lincoln. In maths, we did algebra and practiced mental maths. On Friday, we had a harvest café which raised a lot of money, which we have shared between the school and Jimmy's Night Shelter. Later that day, we had a harvest assembly where lots of songs were sung.

By Alex and Francis

PTA news

Y6 Bake Sale

Join us after school on 17 October for a bake sale! Enjoy delicious homemade treats while supporting the Y6 class' fundraising goal.

Fireworks Night

The PTA warmly invite everyone to fireworks night on **Saturday 8 November**. Please save the date and watch this space for further info.

Community news

Perform Pinocchio Holiday Course at Newnham Croft Primary School - 27th-29th October from 10:00-15:00

Over October half-term, 4-10 year olds can enter a world of colour, mischief and magic with Pinocchio. We'll be stepping inside Gepetto's cosy workshop where soldiers talk and ballerina's dance as we tell the story of Pinocchio following his dreams and discovering that telling the truth is always best. The course ends with a colourful performance for family and friends and every child receives a personalised certificate.

Find out more or book a place at perform.org.uk/pinocchio