



Newnham News

Friday 25 October 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

Thank you for your support over this half-term - both of the school (whether through the PTA, volunteering on trips, Forest Schools etc.) and of your children.

I always feel the first half-term of the academic year is a settling-in one - new year group, new adults, new classroom - and therefore a good one to get tucked away. It feels like we all come back for the second half of autumn a little more battle hardened to the morning routine, the weekly rhythms of school and the overall flow of working life.

Teachers reported that the parent consultations were constructive; we hope they were useful for you as well. As always, if there are any further queries or concerns, please do not wait for the next consultations to raise them - the brief updates on the playground or in meetings are so valuable for us to build a fuller picture and be able to properly support the children.

A reminder that the PTA are organising their Fireworks extravaganza for Saturday, 9th November. It's always a brilliant event but **needs lots of volunteers** to be its usual flourishing success. Please let a member of the PTA committee know how you can help.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on the 4th November, with all the joys of the second half of autumn to look forward to.

Before that, I hope all the children have a lovely and well-deserved rest (?) next week. Perhaps, not so much of a rest for the parents!

And a happy weekend to you all.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Half-term holidays	Mon 28 Oct - Fri 1 Nov
Back to school	Mon 4 Nov
Y6 swimming (and every Tue in November)	Tues 5 Nov
Breakfast cafe hosted by Y6	Fri 8 Nov
PTA Fireworks Night	Sat 9 Nov

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

Whole school news

In our reading assembly this week, we were sharing spooky poems. Some children were inspired to write their own excellent spooky poems at home and in their 'choose your learning' time in class.

What a spooky poem needs:

a creaky floor,
a trap door,
a mysterious cat,
a battered witch hat,
a witch's brew,
a cobweb too,
a weird clown,
a carpet that goes down,
a wild confuser,
a one eyed sir,
a zombie eating brains,
people holding canes,
if vampires were true and
a ghost that says 'BOO!'
By Molly Year 4

Earrings

A lot of children seemed to have had their ears pierced just before coming back to school this summer. This has meant a lot of ears needing taping and a lot of monitoring for adults in school. Hopefully, all these new holes will have healed and will allow the removal of the earrings before coming to school from next half term. Please try and wait until the first day of the summer holiday to get ears pierced so they have time to heal over the holidays. Thank you.

Catering assistant job vacancy

We are currently seeking a catering assistant for our school kitchen. This is a part-time role: 4 hours a day for 4 days a week. The closing date is now Friday 29 November. For more information, see our [website](#).

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu after half term will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

Classroom news

Reception

Reception has had a fantastic final week of this half term. In phonics, we looked at the phonemes: f and l and the children

practised writing out these graphemes. We had our third lot of reading sessions and it is really lovely to hear all the children building on their sounding out of the taught phonemes and applying this to their reading. A huge thank you to all parents for all the junk modelling that you've kindly donated to us. As part of Active Learning, the children who chose to go to the construction area have been creating fantastic models based on what they have seen around them, such as towers and cup holders. In maths, we practised using our bodies to create numbers from 1 to 10. We had our first session of Forest School and all children enjoyed going down to the forest and getting to know that beautiful part of our school. Well done Reception for settling in so well this term. The Reception Team are all very proud of your perseverance and resilience. Have a great half term!

Year 1

We have been looking at the poem *Down Behind the Dustbin* by Michael Rosen. The poem mentions a range of dogs and tells us a bit about them. The poem begins like this:

*Down behind the Dustbin
I met a dog called Ted.
'Leave me alone,' he says,
I'm just going to bed.'*

After talking about and listing rhyming words, the class attempted to write their own parts to the poem. Flora wrote:

*Down behind the Dustbin
I met a dog called Mick.
Where do you live?
He said I live with Nick.*

Year 2

What a great week in Year 2. The children have all written an alternative ending to the *Three Little Pigs*. We have been exploring capacity in maths and comparing items that are bigger and smaller than a litre. We have also been writing a science report about last week's materials experiment and recording what we found out. We all very much enjoyed celebrating the end of our Traditional Tales topic with our dress up day and a treasure hunt. Have a great half term.

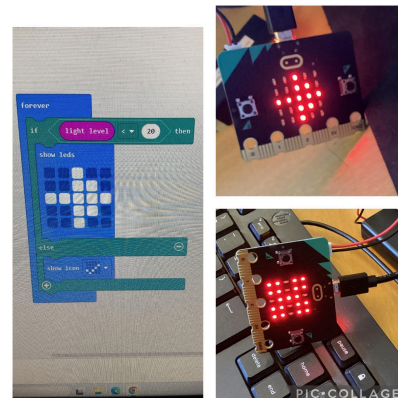
Year 3

Year 3 has worked really hard this week. In maths, the children enjoyed finding different ways to shade the fractions: $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$. Later in the week, they worked on finding fractions of quantities. In English, the children worked on completing their Stone Age stories. In science we looked back on what we had learnt in our Rocks and Soils unit. Finally in history, we considered what had changed and stayed the same in the Iron Age compared to the Stone Age. Happy Half-Term to everybody.

Year 4

Well done year 4 for all your hard work this week. In computing we have been programming a light sensor using microbits. In English we have finished writing a sequel to the novel *The Stolen Spear* by Saviour Pirotta. We used wonderful

descriptions and interesting sentences. In art we painted our 3D clay models of a character from the story. In maths we have been practising telling the time and using time to solve problems. For spelling this week we have been looking at all the words from this half term and choosing some to practice.



Year 5

We have had a great last week of the half term, including celebrating the end of our WW2 topic by having our own VE Day celebrations as well as our first forest school session of the year. We were very grateful to have a Y5 parent come in to talk about their family's history and their escape from the Nazi regime. In English, we drafted and edited our poems, finishing by creating a neat copy to publish in our class anthology. In maths, we learned how to calculate fractions of amounts.

Year 6

On Thursday, Y5 and 6 celebrated VE (Victory in Europe) Day. It was a very successful event. We made historical decorations and food. Lots of people dressed up in old-fashioned clothes. First we had some speeches and songs then some ballroom dancing. After, we had a selection of sandwiches and spam which most of us enjoyed more than expected. We finished with three popular dances in the 1940s.

By Mollie, Hannah and Chris

Today is V.E. Day. Today we celebrate for the countries who fought and survived. Today we celebrate for the children who escaped to the countryside safely. Today we celebrate for the few. Today we celebrate for the codebreakers who cracked the enigma.

VE Day speech by Patrick



Playground fish by Y6

Also, Year 6, don't forget to apply for secondary school by midnight on Thursday 31 October. See [admissions website](#) for more information.

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

PTA Meeting Minutes, Fireworks Night... and a request

Thanks to all who attended yesterday's PTA meeting. Children happily ensconced in a movie and pizza (my daughters now beg to go to the "PPA? "APT?"... "PTA!" meetings), we had an engaging discussion around spend requests, fundraising and upcoming events. Minutes from the meeting attached.

Next on the PTA calendar... Fireworks Night on 9th November! Poster attached with QR code for tickets. This event tends to sell out so do get yours quick. We will be asking, as always, for volunteers to help before, at or after the event. A reminder that without volunteers we wouldn't be able to run these events, which I know children and adults alike thoroughly enjoy. So please do step forward! We will circulate a sign up in the next week or so.

Finally - there are several larger fundraising initiatives we are keen to push forward with. A key one is the front garden (near the school entrance). Designs have been drawn up - by the children, no less; one chosen - again by the children; and a landscaper found who can realise their design. The Co op kindly provided some money to go towards this, the PTA have offered to subsidise... but we still need to raise around £3500. It would be great to get this off the ground, and to that end we are asking if parents would contribute towards this if they are able. We will set up a Fundraising page and will also be present to collect donations at the Fireworks Night.

It's never too early to be thinking about Christmas!

The PTA are pleased to announce they will be selling wonderfully-fresh, locally grown Christmas trees again this year. Trees can be collected from school on Fri 29th Nov and Sat 30th Nov, with delivery available if you live within 1 mile of the school. We'll be doing a big push after half term, but if you are keen, you can get your order in early here www.bit.ly/NewnhamTree. We'd also be grateful if you could start spreading the news to friends and neighbours. Thank you! If you have any questions please email Dani on dani@meepphone.com.

Community news

Free Flute and Recorder taster lessons available!

Flute and Recorder teacher Paulo Ghiglia will be offering taster lessons at school on Thursday mornings. Open to all children. Each lesson will last approximately 20 minutes, students will be provided with a disinfected instrument to try.

Paulo is a very friendly and experienced Cambridge based professional flautist and music educator who currently teaches over 50 pupils each week, 7 of which are students at Newnham Croft primary school. For more information email

pauloghi@gmail.com or visit ghigliaflutestudio.com. Paulo will be replying to queries during half-term.

Kettle's Yard art competition

Would you like to see your child's art displayed at Kettle's Yard? They are asking young people in Cambridge to Paint What Matters to them. For more information, see their website [here](#).