



Newnham News

Friday 3 March 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear Parents/Carers,

Just as we try to develop the children's knowledge and skills, so it is vital that staff and governors continually develop their own.

Subject leaders attend termly briefings, teachers and TAs undertake area-specific training, kitchen staff carry out the required training for their hygiene certification, the site manager liaises with the local authority to keep on top of current health and safety guidance, the governors attend training to develop their understanding of their role in the success of the school and our office staff have recently both had virtual sessions keeping abreast of school finance and attendance.

Personally, I spent Wednesday morning attending a session for school 'Prevent' Leaders. 'Prevent' is a government strategy aimed at understanding the potential indicators of radicalisation or extremist behaviour and taking the right steps to protect pupils. There was a lot that was interesting, although perhaps not all applicable to primary level, but it highlighted the ever-present need for vigilance in what our children are viewing on the internet.

Due to the difficulty for some of us with keeping up with the sites that are popular with the young'uns, they recommended signing up to the newsletter on the ineqe website (<https://ineqe.com/signup/>). I thought I would share it with you as it I know that it can be quite a worrying area of parenthood. It's free to sign up to.

In other news, I wanted to flag up the wonderful work that our volunteer gardeners do on their regular Sunday morning sessions in school. They are in from 10am, so if you would like to come along and volunteer, it is a lovely way to potter about on a gentle Sunday morning and is hugely appreciated by the school.

Finally, thank you so much for all your sponsorship donations over the week. The hot water/filter costs have been covered, so all other donations are helping with the cost of the new books that we need. You have been very generous indeed - thank you.

Have a lovely weekend and good luck to all those running in the half-marathon on Sunday,

Kind regards, Eddie Ferguson

Breakfast Café

The Co-op and Year 6 raised £205.10 at the Café this morning, jointly shared between the charity MIND and Year 6.

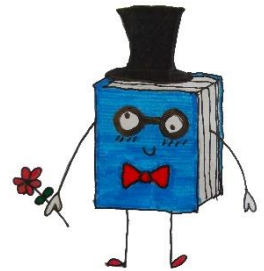
World Book Day



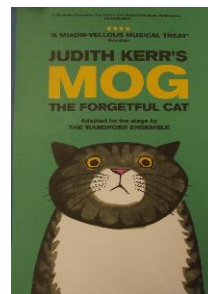
World Book Day was marked in many wonderful ways on Thursday this week. We started the day with swapping class teachers, who read a story or two to swapped class. Ms Holliday then held a book quiz for the entire school with questions linked to book titles, covers and first lines of books. Congratulations to Air house group who were the winners this time around. The children also had the opportunity to read with a book buddy from a different year group, giving them the opportunity to enjoy a shared book and make new friends. Thank you also to the families who purchased our used library books which will help to raise funds for new reading books.

Reading Mascot

A school wide competition took place to create a reading mascot. There were many impressive entries and one lucky winner was selected. Sir Bookio, came with the motto Reading Can Bring Anything to Life! Well done to the designer Nefeli for her winning entry, which will be reproduced and placed in all the areas around school that we can enjoy reading.



Rec and Y1 Theatre Visit



Reception and Year 1 walked to the Cambridge Arts Theatre to watch the production of Mog the Forgetful Cat, by Judith Kerr. The children very much enjoyed the show, even though we had rain and a delay with the show starting! Thank you so much to our parent helpers who accompanied us on the trip. Mog really is a remarkable cat.

Classroom news:

Reception

In Reception this week, we joined an online session with Woodgreen Animal Shelter in Godmanchester. This organisation rehomes small animals and works towards ensuring pets are well looked after. The class found out about the importance of animal welfare through looking at what a pet such as a hamster would need to be happy. Five things are required for a happy hamster home: a large cage, shredded paper for comfort, toys to play with food and water and companionship. We found out that in the case of Syrian

hamsters, they do not like to be housed with other hamsters but it is still important to have a human that cares for them as they are pets. Some of the children created their own hamster homes and Sofia's example here is one of the great designs.



Years 1 and 2

This week, Key Stage One have been busy celebrating World Book Day and the Year 1s went on a trip to the Arts Theatre with Reception to watch a production of Judith Kerr's *Mog*, which they really enjoyed. In Maths, Year 1s have been working on halves and quarters using shape. Year 2 have also been looking at fractions of shape, but also of number. They used their knowledge of number facts to work out doubles and halves, which helped them to work out halves and quarters of numbers up to 20 and then beyond. In English, both year groups have continued with poetry by building up vocabulary to add to their acrostic poems next week. Year 1s have been exploring adjectives and applied these to sentences about their own senses when going on a spring walk, whereas the Year 2s used noun phrases and similes to describe their senses when they went on their spring walk. In Geography, all classes have been using an atlas to identify the names of the countries which make up the United Kingdom and the major cities which can be found in these countries. In PE, we have continued with building on dance thinking about the seasons of the year. This week the classes explored April showers and used unison whilst in pairs/ small groups to create a routine inspired by this season. Lastly, in PSHE, the classes thought about ways to keep themselves safe if ever they feel unsafe. Well done for a hard working week Key Stage One. For Year 2s, please find attached number bonds to 17 and spellings looked at in sessions of Phonics.

Year 3

Year 3 have had another busy and productive week. In our Maths sessions, our main focus has been on time. The children learnt how to read analogue and digital times and calculate the duration of a task. In English lessons, the children really enjoyed writing imagined biographies about themselves. In our Grammar lessons, the class were introduced to where fronted adverbials are found within sentences and what they add to them. In Computing, the children enjoyed constructing their own branching databases. In our Science session, the children learnt about the life of Garrett Morgan and how he was responsible for inventing the first fully operational traffic lights. They had lots of fun creating their own electrical circuits that incorporated switches and bulbs.

Year 4

It has been an exciting week for us as we have started to work on our year 3/4 production, doing a full script read through

with year 3 and practising some of the songs together. We also celebrated World Book Day by reading stories to the Year 1 children and taking part in a whole school book quiz. In our Scientists and Inventors topic, we talked about Garrett Morgan, inventor of traffic lights, and had a go at building our own traffic lights using electrical series circuits. In English, we have been practising using fronted adverbials by writing mini biographies about ourselves using them in our sentences. In maths, we have begun a new unit on multiplication and the children continue to practise their times tables daily. It has been great to see how many of them are practising on Times Tables Rock Stars regularly at home too.

Year 5

Last week, Year 5 were given training to become 'Playground Buddies' by Year 6 and this week they began their sessions at lunchtimes. The purpose of Playground Buddies is to lead games and activities which are fun and inclusive. We hope this will ensure any child (if they're feeling lonely or unsure what to do during break time) a chance to join in with a group activity, make friends and learn new games. In our learning this week, we have been looking at co-ordinates in Maths and used them to show the new position of shapes after translation and reflection. In English, we have looked at expanded noun phrases and used them for elaborate descriptions of 'Cloud Tea' with the purpose of advertising. Our PSHE work focused on our communities, the role of volunteers and how much we can be influenced by the media.

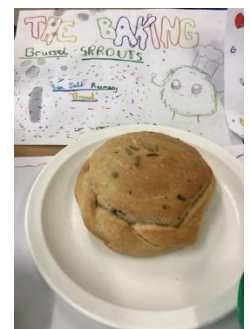
Year 6

This week in Year 6, we have been on the edge of our seats in the White Horse Tavern, listening to our spooky new book, *Clockwork*, by Philip Pullman. We have also been finding percentages and fractions of amounts in Maths, and in Science we're been learning about adaption and evolution. We have been busy in Computing with stop-motion films for a forthcoming festival, and have new and exciting folders for our fast approaching SATs. Although it has been long, Year 6 have had a very good week! *By Cordelia and Luciana*

Masterchef

This Wednesday we did MasterChef. Our topic was to bake bread so we needed to include a rising agent. The group that won was The Baking Brussel Sprouts. Thank you to our judges: Mrs Cullen, Mrs Palmer, Mr Goller and Mrs Banerjee. We would also like to say a big thank you to our teachers and the kitchen.

By Rose, Saffran, Carmen and Danielle, aka The Baking Brussel Sprouts



School Meals

The menu next week will be Week 2 of the menu cycle (attached). 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.

Diary Dates

Y5 swimming.....	8 Mar
International Afternoon/Storytelling 2.15-4.15pm	10 Mar
PTA gardening club 10am-12pm	12 Mar
Y5&6 CUWO concert at West Road	13 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	15 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	22 Mar
Daffodil Day 11am-3pm	26 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	29 Mar

PTA NEWS

Garden Club

The PTA weekend gardening club is coming back to life on **Sunday 12th March, 10am - 12pm** to supplement the work that the lovely volunteers do every week around the playground and gardens. We aim to give the gardens a tidy up in preparation for our Daffodil Day later in the month (see below). Come to the school and trim a bush, weed a flower bed or sweep up for an hour or two and let's work together to keep Newnham Croft Primary School looking beautiful. We can't promise great weather but can promise you a hot cup of tea and a biscuit and a sense of satisfaction at having worked together with your school community. We will have some tools there but if you have a pair of gardening gloves, bring them along. Children are welcome to join in, but you must keep an eye on them with all the tools etc. around. Any questions, let us know at newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com.

Daffodil Day

Spring is approaching and so is our first ever Daffodil Day! Join us on **Sunday 26th March, 11am - 3pm**, at the school to see the daffodils that our children and the gardening club planted, and enjoy the beautiful school grounds in the springtime. There will also be a tearoom serving food and drink, as well as crafts and activities to keep the children entertained while you enjoy a scone and cup of tea. The gardens are open to everyone, so bring a friend or a neighbour and there is free entry, with a suggested donation to our Garden Club.

As always with PTA events, we cannot put on events without volunteers and we are looking for a number of people to serve the food and man the gate. We also need donations of cakes and bakes to sell in our tearoom. Now is your chance to show off your inner Nigella and bring in a sponge cake, cupcake, traybake or tart to help us raise money. Sign up on slottr: <https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18275646>

Thank you in advance for your support.

Community

Snowdrop planting and bird identification in Paradise

Friends of Paradise are having a snowdrop dividing and planting session in Paradise on March 26th, followed by a bird identification walk. Families are very welcome. See the attached poster for more details.

Cambridge Festival Family Weekend

One of the largest festivals of its kind in the country, the annual Cambridge Festival, which features over 360 mostly free events, runs from Friday 17th March until Sunday 2nd April. On Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th March, we will host our Family Weekend, with hands-on activities. To see the full list of events, both online and in-person please visit: <https://www.festival.cam.ac.uk/events>