



# Newnham News

Friday 31 March 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

As I watched the Year 3/4 production on Wednesday evening, the hall fit to bursting with parents/siblings/grandparents; the Year 3/4 adults, who had put in so much work to ensure the success and smooth-running of the process; Ms Noble and Mrs Harper and the other kitchen volunteers and their freshly baked wares, I had a familiar surge of gratitude to be safely ensconced in Newnham Croft life.

The world outside, according to our beloved media, is a blitz of stupidity and unkindness; of relentless marching towards decline; of strikes, discontentment and adversary. In school, however, our community shows the sides of humanity the media (or their audience) seem so eager to ignore - the kindness and collaboration; the care, the warmth and support; the diligence and conscientiousness of people who care. A consistency in an ever-changing world.

I know there is always relief at the end of a term, to be able to take a sabbatical from the morning rush, from the desperate attempts to get a child (or, even worse, children!!) into school on time. However, I hope that you also find comfort and reassurance in the ebbs and flows of the school year - the deep breath at the start of a new term; the long exhale as the summer holidays arrive; the familiar faces and new arrivals; the moments of delight and satisfaction as your child develops and matures. Sometimes, there is benefit in narrowing one's horizons to the day-to-day.

I wish you all a very happy break, wherever you find yourselves, and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 18 April. I also apologise for the never-ending stream of (mis)punctuation in today's message - I blame fatigue.

Kind regards, Eddie Ferguson

## Classroom news:

### Reception

Reception were awestruck when they had the chance to watch both the Year 3/4 production and the Year 6 dance competition this week. This motivated the class to present something of their own. Each week, the class learn a different poem, often linking to the class topic or the time of year. So during Thursday's assembly, the class recited the poem 'A Little Seed'. Reception parents can view the recital on ClassDojo.

A little seed for me to sow,  
A little soil for it to grow.  
A little hole, a little pat,  
A little wish, and that is that.  
A little sun, a little shower,  
A little wait, and then a flower.

### Years 1 and 2

Key Stage One finished the spring term with a Big Write based on the story George and The Dragon. The children changed the character of the mouse to a small creature of their choice and used descriptive language such as adjectives to retell the story. The aim of the big write was for the children to showcase all their taught spelling rules and accurate sentence structure. In Maths, Year 1s have continued with their work on measurement by looking at the difference between the height of items and using cubes to help them work out the exact difference. The Year 2s have been recapping addition, subtraction, multiplication and division using one of their taught methods, number lines, re grouping tens and ones, arrays and even counting on. All classes have also been working on assessments across Reading, Maths and Phonics. Well done for a very hard-working spring term Key Stage One. We hope that you all have a very restful Easter break. All ebooks have been added to the Big Cat Collins portal, so please continue to read with your child over the holidays. For Year 2s, as promised during the SAT information meeting earlier this week, all Year 2 children will be sent home with practise SAT papers for them to work on if they wish. There will no number bonds or spellings to practise during the holidays. The PP presentation is also attached.

### Year 3

Year 3 had lots of fun performing Dragon Days to various audiences this week. They sang beautifully and really worked hard on projecting their voices when on stage. Thanks for all of the support that was given to helping the children learn their lines and songs. It really did sound and look amazing. In Maths this week we have focused on place value. The children learnt to write 3 and 4 digit numbers in numerals and words. They also placed whole numbers and fractions along a number line. In our Geography the children considered why it is important to have clean water and how a filtering system works. In our Computing session the children worked at creating branching databases using the attributes associated with various dinosaurs. In RE, the children considered how Easter relates to New Life and how Christians view Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Finally in our Science session the children really enjoyed setting up an experiment to see if

electricity can pass through freshwater and salt water solutions.

#### Year 4

Year 4 have had an incredibly busy week this week, putting on three stage performances of Dragon Days, which were the culmination of weeks of hard work learning lines, songs and rehearsing almost daily. Well done to all the children who blew us away with their performance - their Easter break is very well deserved! We have now finished our shape topic in maths and will be moving onto decimals and fractions after the holidays. In English, we have finished reading our class book, The Butterfly Lion, and have also finished writing and editing our dragon-inspired stories. Well done to all the Year 4 children for their amazing work and energy this term and have a lovely break with your families.

#### Year 5

This week Year 5 have been exploring mechanisms in DT, looking at how pop-up books create their interactive elements through folds, pivots and sliders. They designed their own pop-up page, inspired by their Art this term on Rousseau's paintings. The swimming session focused on lifesaving skills. Wearing pyjamas, the children had a go at 'rescuing' their partner using the safe techniques demonstrated and learnt how to use their clothing to help reach anyone in danger in water.



#### Year 6

This week has been utterly amazing. For a start, Year 6 had a proper dance competition on Wednesday and the results were announced today (see below), and of course you couldn't miss the fabulous play by Year 3/4 called Dragon Days starring a young man called Tom. *By Erik*

And the winners are...

Miss Wakelen announced the Y6 dance competition results (decided after lots of discussion by our panel of judges) and the winning group was Nelly, Isabella and Robyn. This group received certificates for teamwork and self-belief. She also gave three special commendation awards for individuals who showed passion. These went to Diogo, Caius and Adele.

#### School Meals

The menus for next term are 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk)

#### Diary Dates

First day of summer term.....	18 Apr
Y5 swimming.....	19 Apr
Y5 Thorpe Woodlands parents Q&A 3.15pm.....	24 Apr
Y3 and 4 swimming.....	26 Apr
Y5 to Thorpe Woodlands.....	3-4 May
Y3 and 4 swimming.....	3 May

#### PTA NEWS

Many thanks to all who attended our Daffodil Day at the weekend. Despite the rain, we had a steady stream of visitors, both from our school community and our local community. We had lots of lovely conversations with past pupils and parents who came in to reminisce, as well as plenty of little visitors who will be coming to Newnham Croft after the summer. Current pupils enjoyed showing their families where they planted their daffodils and the Garden Club volunteers enthusiastically conversed with families about the school grounds.

A special thank you to those who donated a cake for our cake stall, and to the volunteers who helped out on the day, many of them staying much longer and helping tidy up at the end. We also can't forget Mr Jach and Mr Ferguson who came to school early on a Sunday to help set up. It was a real team effort and that effort paid off - not only was it a fun and enjoyable event, we raised over £500 of profit to spend in school and on the gardens. Thank you all!