



Newnham News

Friday 7 February 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

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Dear parents/carers,

The school ran a public speaking competition in KS2 at the start of the term to choose two finalists for an inter-school event at Peterhouse College in March.

Oracy has become a real focus in schools. The skills required to speak in front of others, like everything else, need to be practised, and the ability to speak well in front of a group is so important in all walks of life.

It was brilliant to see the bravery of clearly-nervous children speaking in front of 130 of their peers. Particular congratulations to the young man in Year 3 who volunteered to be the one to start the whole thing - impressive.

As you can see below, another busy week in school. Enjoy the classroom news - I always enjoy reading about the happenings in school.

Happy weekends.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Parent consultations	Mon 10 Feb
Y5 swimming (and every Tues this term)	Tues 11 Feb
Parent consultations	Tues 11 Feb
Y6 author visit	Thurs 13 Feb
Y6 dance assembly	9am Fri 14 Feb
Y4 field trip to Lammas Land	Fri 14 Feb
Last day of half term	Fri 14 Feb
Back to school	Mon 24 Feb

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

Whole school news

Parent consultations

You should have received an email inviting you to book in for a parent consultation with your child's teacher. Please log into your eSchools account to do this. **Booking closes on Friday 7 February at midnight.** Parents of children on the SEN register should contact the teacher to make a separate appointment.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu next week will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.65.

Classroom news

Reception

Reception has had another very busy week. They have been looking at the spelling of longer words in Phonics ending in -er, -et and -en, such as "chicken", "carpet" and "ladder." In maths, Reception has started looking at 2D shapes. They looked around the classroom at objects which are rectangular, circular and squared. Reception also used 2-D shapes during Active Learning to create shape people. In PE, everyone used the gymnastics equipment, such as the benches and horses to safely walk across and jump down from, making sure that they remembered to bend their knees and land carefully on their feet. In computing, all children did some digital art, creating images of vehicles using the program 2Simple. Well done for a very hardworking week Reception!

Year 1

In geography, Year 1 has been looking at the local weather and found that there is so much more to weather than checking to see if it is just hot or cold and wet or dry. We set up a weather station outside our classroom and have been checking it each day this week. We checked the wind direction, which ties in with our knowledge of compass points, the temperature, whether there has been any rain and what the weather conditions have been. From Monday to Friday there was no rain, the temperature ranged between 0C and 10C, there were varied wind directions and we had a range of weather conditions, from sunny to foggy but mainly cold!



Year 2

Year 2 have been writing their findings of their science experiment 'What do seeds need to grow?' and seeing if their predictions were right! In maths, we have been learning about fractions of shape and quantity, focusing on $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$. In English we have continued writing our adventure stories based on the book *Grandads Island*. In history, this week we looked at primary sources to learn about Amelia Earhart and the journeys she took. In computing we worked on debugging algorithms.

Please continue to support your child's reading at home - you can access their books through Collins Hub. If you have trouble logging in, please let us know. It is recommended that your child should be reading these at least 3 times a week.

Year 3

Well done to Year 3 on yet another productive week. In maths, the children used the expanded column method to help them add 3-digit numbers together. They also learnt how to use rounding to 100 to help them estimate their answers and use the inverse operation to check they were correct. In English, the children started to write up their non-chronological reports about a rare animal they have discovered living in the Amazon rainforest. They thought about the technical vocabulary they wanted to include and used a variety of conjunctions to link the clauses together. In science, the children used a range of different objects to create shadows and explored what happened when the distance of light source was altered.

Year 4

This week in science we looked at how different materials make different shadows. In our project, we presented our research



about rainforest creatures. We also produced some beautiful sgraffito artwork based on the leaf shapes we had collected.

In maths, we have looked at ways to sort 3d shapes using their properties and Venn diagrams. In English we have completed our own Grimwood style story, based on the animals we see from our classroom window. Molly wrote: 'While they snored, the towering trees covered them like a shelter.' Spellings this week are mathematical words.

Year 5

In maths, we practised finding unit and non-unit fractions of amounts and then applied these skills to word problems. We then learned how to find equivalent decimals and fractions for tenths, hundredths, halves and quarters. In English, we looked at the differences between the features of instruction and explanation texts and practised writing our own explanations for a fictional invention we made up. In science, we designed and

carried out investigations into how moon craters are formed, using flour and cocoa powder to represent the Moon's surface.

Year 6

In Year 6, we are learning about space. We have put up inflatable planets and made posters of the 'Phases of the Moon'. And in English, we did onomatopoeia pictures. In art, we are talking about perspective, drawing roads into the distance. This week, Mrs Turner gave an assembly about trusted adults.

By Bethany and Nora

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

Community news

Half term drama course

This February half-term, Perform is bringing the magical world of "The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe" to our school. Running from Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th February (10am-3pm), this exciting three-day holiday course is inspired by C.S. Lewis' classic tale. Children will have the chance to sing, dance, act and bring the story to life, culminating in a magical performance for family and friends. A fantastic opportunity for children to build confidence and creativity while having lots of fun. Visit perform.org.uk/lion to find out more.