



# Newnham News

Friday 10 February 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

Tuesday was Safer Internet Day, which is a day to raise awareness of how we can interact safely online. Mrs Markham led an assembly on this important subject and I have included a link to a NSPCC webpage that offers advice and suggestions for parents. As with all areas of safeguarding, whether in school or at home, virtual or online, open lines of communication are absolutely central to making sure our young people are safe and know how to conduct themselves. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

There was a governing body meeting on Wednesday evening, full of all the usual detail and oversight they bring to their role as school governors'. Included in the proceedings was feedback from a local authority impact report, which was very complimentary about the work the governors have undertaken over the last year - well done governors!

One of the issues discussed was the parking at the top of Chedworth Street. There was a suggestion that putting plastic warning signs on that junction during drop-off would be an effective deterrent, but we would need a parent volunteer to be in charge of putting them out and collecting them in. If this is something you feel able to help with, please come and speak to me.

Finally, a request. I am running the Cambridge Half Marathon on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March and I would like to try and raise enough money to buy a water boiler and filter for the staff room (ours broke last year). I have set up a JustGiving page ([https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/eddie-ferguson?utm\\_term=P2y793wp8](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/eddie-ferguson?utm_term=P2y793wp8)) for anyone who would like to sponsor me and this worthy (?) cause. If there are any extra funds, it will go towards buying books for our home readers (they are currently electronic only).

Have a lovely weekend,

Kind regards  
Eddie Ferguson

## Raising money for Turkey and Syria

Thank you to everyone who donated to our appeal. We have raised £553.11, which we are going to combine with donations raised by the Co-op who are supporting the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal.

## Children's Mental health Week

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week. We had an assembly on Monday which introduced this year's theme: Let's Connect. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. We looked at how healthy connections - to family, friends and others - can support our mental health and sense of wellbeing. We encouraged children to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. We followed up this with work in classrooms, discussing the importance of being mindful about our emotions and reminding ourselves of strategies for managing uncomfortable emotions, including connecting with those around us. Attached to this email is a flyer giving information and advice for supporting wellbeing at home.

## Classroom news:

### Reception

This week saw the conclusion of our topic on Transport and Journeys. We have based our literacy on the book Naughty Bus by Jan Oke, which is about a toy bus that gets into a lot of strife. We devised our own version of the story by creating a new setting, a new problem and a new resolution for the problem in our story. The setting for the story was the forest and one of the ideas for a problem was that the bus fell off a bridge in the forest. Thankfully, the bus was saved by a person with a huge net! Sofia painted this fantastic picture of the bus in its new setting.



### Years 1 and 2

Key Stage One have had a very busy and exciting final week. The classes have been working hard testing materials and building on their plans to construct their boat/rafts. They finished the week by testing to see if their boats floated and then evaluated them. In Maths, Year 1s have been adding

doubles and near doubles adding multiples to numbers under 10 and 20. They've also added multiples of 10 to 1- and 2-digit numbers. Year 2s have been applying their knowledge of number facts, place value and doubles to work out addition and subtraction number sentences of 2-digit numbers. In English, both classes wrote a Big Write, to showcase all their sentence structure, spellings and understanding of tense. Year 1s had to imagine that they were explorers who had been dropped off by a hot air balloon in a mysterious place, while Year 2s wrote a quest story as part of their quest story module using the past progressive, adjectives and accurate spellings of tricky words. In History both classes reflected on the significant explorer that stood out to them the most and created a stamp to remember their great work as well as some sentences to explain this. In Science both classes explored food chains and worked out what 'producers' and 'consumers' are. All e-books have been added to the Big Cat portal, so please ensure that your child is reading the book that has been issued this week during half term. Well done for a great final week and have a wonderful half term break. Thank you to Alexander's dad for coming in and engaging our Year 2 class with his inspiring talk about his fieldwork in the high Arctic and his work as part of NASA's Mars Perseverance Rover mission. Also, a big thank you to Chandy Nath for coming in to speak to Year 1 and 2 about her time in Antarctica. They really enjoyed meeting a real life explorer. There will be no number bonds or spellings to practise over the half term, but past KS1 SAT papers for Reading and Maths have been sent home with all Year 2 children, if they wish to practise and build on their number skills and reading comprehension.



### Year 3

Year 3 have had a busy final week. In our English sessions they enjoyed writing their persuasive adverts for a trip to the Amazon Rainforests. In our Maths sessions we have focused on fractions. The children used partitioning to find halves of odd and even numbers. In our Science lesson we investigated how the distance of a light source from an object can affect the size of the shadow. In Computing, the children had lots of fun using the sound commands on Scratch. In our Geography

session we looked back at what we have learnt about rainforests and the continent of South America.

### Year 4

We have enjoyed creating rainforest holiday adverts this week, using our geography knowledge, own research and persuasive writing skills. In Maths, we are looking at unit and non-unit fractions of amounts and we created some of our own fractions questions to challenge each other. We have finished studying Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone and had some brilliant insight into the characters and the plot. We explored mental health, wellbeing and our support networks during Children's Mental Health Week, creating paper dolls of our trusted people. The children have worked so hard this half term and should be really proud of their learning and achievements.

### Year 5

In Year 5 this week, we have been revising our skills in column addition and subtracting by investigating patterns when 5-digit numbers are reversed. In English, we have finished our unit on short stories by writing our own short story, often keeping the reader guessing! On Friday afternoon, Miss Sheridan returned to Newnham Croft to give a planetarium presentation. The children were really excited to see her and loved the planetarium experience. Thank you Miss Sheridan!

On Thursday this week, Mr Bellingham came in to talk to Year 5 about Eastern Europe. He explained what the EU is and which countries are members. He explained the role he played in his previous job, which involved helping new countries to join. He had visited many countries and was able to share photos of his travels. *By Clara*

### Year 6

On Monday and Tuesday, Year 6 created pie charts to demonstrate how many people speak different languages. On Wednesday, Year 6 began work on a report on how dance has changed through the decades and Henry's Dad gave a talk and demonstration on the plant Venus (thank you Dr Rimmer!). On Friday, Mr Jach taught us how to make pierogi – Polish dumplings. Thank you Mr Jach! Also on Friday Daniel Zeichner MP visited the school and spoke to all the children in assembly. *By Diego and Aditya*



**International Storytelling Afternoon** is on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March. This is our annual celebration of the many different cultures that make up the Newnham Croft community. Information about the task the children are being asked to undertake at home is attached below.

### Year 4, 5 and 6 Lunchtime Choir

Starting after half term, Davina Shore is going to run a trial five week choir course on Thursday lunchtimes 12.15-12.45. The cost is £15 per child. Please contact Ms Shore at [info@davinashore.com](mailto:info@davinashore.com) if your child would like to sign up.

### School Meals

The menu after half term will be week 3 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk).

### Diary Dates

Half term.....	13-17 Feb
Whole class group photos .....	22 Feb
Y5 swimming.....	1 Mar
Co-op breakfast café 8.30am.....	3 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	8 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	15 Mar
Y5 swimming.....	22 Mar
PTA meeting 7pm .....	23 Feb
Y5 swimming.....	29 Mar

### PTA

Our next PTA meeting is on Thursday 23rd February, 7pm - in school and on Zoom (link below). Please join us to discuss funding requests and future plans. All welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76050237616?pwd=VrQA3IZUBv5zejOxerOOD4b8K3aurV.1>

Meeting ID: 760 5023 7616

Passcode: j5ezcv