



# Newnham News

Friday 5 November 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

- Lunch menu

Dear Parents and Carers,

As some of you will know from the news, Cambridgeshire has become one of very few Enhanced Response Areas (ERA) in the country in relation to Covid-19. This is primarily due to the recent and very rapid rise in cases across the county coupled with the relatively low uptake on vaccinations. This means very little initially for the wider community, but institutions such as schools have been asked to bring in additional measures. Fortunately, many of these measures are in line with those additional measures brought in by the Local Authority a few weeks ago, so there won't be any immediate changes to life in school. There are however, a few things that we can now do if we have an outbreak occur in school. These include requesting negative Lateral Flow Tests or PCR tests for siblings of confirmed cases before they resume attending school. We are also trying to limit mass gatherings of children inside the building and limit staff contacts during the working day. We will also need to continue to require visitors to wear face coverings when inside the school foyer, and indoor school events will not be possible for the remainder of this term.

This will have an impact on popular school events such as the KS1 Christmas play, which will not be able to go ahead in the format we had been hoping for. The staff team are currently thinking about what we could deliver for parents this year, which is acceptable under the guidance and creates a meaningful way for families to enjoy the festive period with the school. I'll let you know as soon as I have any news on what this will be. This does not impact on the planned fireworks this Saturday, which as an outside event is allowed under the guidance.

As we are in an ERA, we will have a direct conversation with Public Health England if we do have an outbreak (the definition of this has not changed from the one I explained to you at the start of the year). They will discuss with us any more controlling measures that the school could implement for a time limited period. This might in some cases mean the temporary return of some systems to reduce intergroup mixing. Please be reassured that this will not mean the return to the staggered start and finish of the school day.

Currently, we've have two positive cases in school (one in Mr Ferguson's class and one in Mrs Cullen's class). These classes

have been contacted separately and advised to take PCR tests this weekend.

In other news, it is with mixed feelings that I need to announce that Mr Pinnock will be leaving us at Christmas. We are delighted for him on his appointment as Deputy Head of Kettlefields Primary School near Newmarket, which is a fantastic step in his career and well-deserved. We will though, be losing a well-respected and experienced teacher and SENCO from the school. I know that lots of children both past and present will have beautiful memories of being taught by Mr Pinnock over the years, and his current Year 4 class will miss him enormously. We all wish him well in this exciting new chapter in his career, in the knowledge that he will be a great success. Regarding his replacement for January, we are currently exploring recruitment opportunities and we will let you know what those are as soon as we have things agreed. I understand that this will be unsettling for the Year 4 families and children but we will ensure that the children are well-catered for from January. Regarding the SENCO role, Mr Ferguson will be taking on that mantle from January and will be liaising with Mr Pinnock in the weeks ahead to ensure a smooth transition.

Can I please remind those parents with children attending school-run afterschool clubs, that it is important to pick your children up at the correct time when these clubs finish. Staff do not get paid to stay for an additional 15 or 20 minutes waiting for children to be collected, and this is unfair on them.

Can I also make yet another plea for parents to not drive down Chedworth Street, or park around the junction at the top of the road. On Wednesday many parents witnessed and reported some utterly thoughtless parking by the junction which resulted in a very dangerous situation being created involving a number of vehicles, cyclists and pedestrians. This matter has been passed on to the local police for their information. As the mornings get darker, wetter and more slippery, I implore those very few parents who consistently do this to be more considerate and park in the roads surrounding the school and walk down Chedworth Street. Also don't be surprised if you find me by the junction next week.

To finish on a positive note, the PTA will again be selling Christmas trees this year. Leaflets will be in book bags next week so please look out for these.

## Co-op Local Community Fund

Newnham Croft has been chosen for the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round started in October and will run for 12 months. For every £1 members spend on selected Co-op branded products and services, 2p goes into our membership account. If you are not currently a Co-op member do please sign up, and if you are a member, please select us as your local cause - thank you!

## PSHE Virtual Library

We'd like to draw your attention to a resource we've just added to our website for PSHE: Our Virtual Library. There are a wealth of picture books out there which can be useful to support Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development and Personal, Social and Health Education but sometimes having the right book at the time is tricky. This resource means you can access over 50 books at any time. The themes the books cover include Empathy, Kindness and Compassion, Similarities and Differences, All Are Welcome, Black History and Black Lives Matter, You Can Be Anything and Be Proud of Who You Are. The stories might help start a conversation with your child, help to explain a sensitive subject or develop their understanding. If you click on any of the books on the virtual book shelves it will link to a video of the book being read. You can find the Virtual Library under the Parents tab/Home Learning page on the school website: [https://newnham-croft.eschools.co.uk/web/home\\_learning/362795](https://newnham-croft.eschools.co.uk/web/home_learning/362795)



## Classroom Round-up:

### Reception

We have been looking at 'symmetry' in Maths this week and as a result the class have become very confident with spotting symmetry in the environment. Amongst other things we found symmetry in leaves, playground structures, windows and even photos of animal faces. In Phonics we have learnt the new phonemes 'g, o, c, k', adding to the previously taught phonemes 's, a, t, p, i, n, m, n, d'. We have started to read our new book Ruby's Worry, by Tom Percival.

### Year R/1

This week in Year 1 we have been learning about Guy Fawkes and why we celebrate 5 November. The children have enjoyed learning the poem 'Remember, Remember the Fifth of November'. Please ask them to recite it to you with the

actions. In Maths, we have recapped fact families and looked at the importance of identifying symbols in number sentences. In Art, the children have used a variety of media to make firework pictures. In Phonics, we have started Phase 5 and learnt the sounds 'ay', 'ou', 'ie' and 'ea'.

## Class 1/2N & 1/2C

We've had a very busy week! In English, we've been doing some whole class reading and talking about our reading and answering questions. In Phonics, we've all been revising Phase 5 sounds to help us with our reading and writing. Year 1s have learned some new alternative sounds (oe, au, ey, and the split digraphs a-e and e-e), how to spell were and how to read looked, called and your. It would be great if you could help your child spot and recognise some of these graphemes and words in their reading at home. Year 2 have been focusing on spelling words ending in -le (middle, little, bubble, puddle, apple) and using apostrophes for contraction (e.g. wouldn't, couldn't, I'm, I've). We learnt what worship is and about some different places of worship in R.E. In Maths, Year 1 have continued to work on subtraction including using number lines to count back. They practised recognising the symbols +, - and = and learnt to recognise and name 3D shapes. Year 2 answered mixed up questions using subtraction and addition and completed number sentences with missing parts. They also worked on creating number families and explained what they had in common using mathematical reasoning. In Science, we enjoyed exploring the different trees in our school grounds and observing how they have changed over the last month. We learned to identify a variety of common woodland animals and discovered what habitats and microhabitats are. We looked for microhabitats outside and had fun making our own microhabitats with leaves and sticks. We are wondering how many animals will choose to move in over the weekend! We ended our Enchanted Wood topic by looking closely at some beautiful autumn leaves and identifying which trees they come from. If you are able to, please point out any oak, horse chestnut, willow and ash trees to your children over the weekend. Our new topic about Pirates will start next week.

## Year 3

It has been lovely to be reunited with the class and hear about their half term. They have spent this week being introduced to their new topic 'Ancient Egypt.' In History, the class learnt how this civilisation existed around 5,000 years ago, whereabouts in the world you'd find Ancient Egypt and how they were very skilled in medicine, farming and construction. The class learnt about the day-to-day roles of the Egyptians, such as farming, fishing, weaving and cooking. In SPAG Year 3 have been looking at the homophones; fair, meal, meat, knot and their. In English, Year 3 used prepositions and adverbs to describe a scene in London full of fireworks. One child wrote: "Above London Bridge, sparkling fireworks could be seen slowly making their way up into the dark sky." In Maths, we've been exploring division and learning how to use a number line and arrays to show shared groups. We have also started working on remainders and how you can use

multiplication to check your answer. In Art, we have started using charcoal and chalk to create images of Pharaohs. Lastly, in RE we have started exploring Hinduism and learnt about Diwali and the 4 main beliefs of the religion. Well done Year 3 for a excellent first week back.

#### **Year 4**

Year 4 have continued to develop their learning around time in Maths lessons this week and are looking at examples of 12 and 24-hour clock times in everyday life. In English, we have focussed on how paragraphs add clarity to our writing and how sentences in the same paragraph are grouped according to their topic or subject. We have also been considering how non-fiction texts may also use subheadings and topic sentences to introduce a new paragraph. In Computing, Mr Matthews taught the children some essential word-processing skills which have enabled them to begin creating an internet safety poster based on their own research.

#### **Year 5**

This week, we continued to look at primary and secondary sources, and to describe the benefits and issues with each (which proved challenging). We used our reasoning in Maths, including for solving a challenge involving multiplication, as well as practicing performing vaults in Gymnastics. In Science, we continued to look at refraction of light and found out why there are considered to be seven colours of the rainbow. Towards the end of the week, we've looked at comparing and simplifying fractions and in English we've started looking at the poem, The Walrus and the Carpenter by Lewis Carroll. The class enjoyed the humour and were excellent at performing entertaining verses from the poem.

#### **Year 6**

This week, Year 6 have been working on numerous things. First and foremost, we have begun a new book called Clockwork by Phillip Pullman. Clockwork is an amazing book, not just because of its great vocabulary but because of its well written spooky theme. Secondly, we have been studying Greek myths and proving their factuality. We have also continued working on our films in computing. In PE, we have started football lessons and in French we have been asking and answering questions. In Maths, we have been practising different methods including long multiplication, lattice, grid and some people tried an old Russian method using pebbles. In Music, we used instruments to tell the story of Perseus and describe his character. *By Alex, PJ and Nadav*

#### **School Meals**

The three-weekly school lunch menu is attached. Next week will be the week 2 menu. The cost of a school meal is £2.40.

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)

PTA website: <http://www.newnhamcroftpta.btck.co.uk/>

Yours faithfully,

Andy Matthews, Headteacher

#### **PTA NEWS**

##### **Barking mad!**

Many thanks to those of you who helped move 13 tonnes of bark in the playground last weekend. The island and the Reception gardens are looking beautiful. Many hands make light work!

##### **Bonfire Night**

Only one more sleep until the Newnham Croft Bonfire Night! Tickets are entirely sold out - so it looks like lots of you are coming along! We can't wait to see you there at 5.30pm. Remember, if you can help set up beforehand, or are willing to work on the bar or serve hotdogs for an hour, sign up [here](#). Thank you!

#### **Community News**

##### **Cambridge Nomads Hockey Club**

Please open the link below for further information. Please note that the sessions are held at Wilberforce Road.

<https://www.cambridgenomadshockeyclub.co.uk/a/nomads-juniors-53476.html>