



# Newnham News

Friday 6 December 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

On Monday, we took a few of the KS2 children to the annual SSP cross-country competition at Netherhall. The event is for Cambridge primary schools and has a girls and boys race for each of the KS2 classes.

It is always an excellent event. The joy of being out with the children, the excitement and buzz of 400 7-11 year olds whirling around the huge field is just the tonic.

However, what is always brought home to me is how much the children take from it. The thrill of being involved in a competition with so many other participants lasts for the whole event, whether your race has been run or not.

It is a thrill of taking part, rather than winning, and speaks of the value of competition in and of itself, irrespective of the outcome. It is also a rare experience for children in primary school, so when opportunity arises, we try to take part in all the competitions that are offered.

I find this is particularly valuable for children who do not think of themselves as sporty. The buzz of taking part is universal and can transform their view of themselves as sportspeople.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and the weekend to come

Kind regards  
Edward Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Eat lunch with your Y3 child	12.15pm	Mon 9 Dec
Eat lunch with your Y3 child	12.15pm	Wed 11 Dec
Christmas Jumper Day		Thurs 12 Dec
Festive music festival	6.30pm	Fri 13 Dec
PTA Winter Fair		Sun 15 Dec
Reception & KS1 performance	9.30am	Tues 17 Dec
Christmas Lunch		Tues 17 Dec
Reception & KS1 performance	1.30pm	Wed 18 Dec
Festive singalong*	3pm	Thur 19 Dec
Last day of term		Fri 20 Dec

\*more information coming soon

Please check the school calendar on our website, which is updated regularly.

## Whole school news

### Eco-Committee news

Last Friday, the Eco Committee was busy spreading the word about creating an Eco-Friendly Christmas. As well as selling their



homemade tree decorations and plastic-free gift tape, they were encouraging the idea of being mindful of the environment at the festive time of year. Children

were shown how using decorated brown paper gift tags and wrapping paper, which can be recycled, is a better choice for the planet. Reducing the amount of plastic we use, swapping outgrown clothing and considering how much waste we produce are all easy ways to reduce our negative impact on the planet. There are still some decorations and tape to be bought at the Winter Fair on the 15<sup>th</sup> December.

### Christmas Jumper Day

Children can wear a festive jumper to help celebrate Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 12 December. We are also raising money for Save the Children, so if you would like to, donations can be made on the SchoolGateway app next week or children can bring in £1 coin.

### Reception and KS1 Christmas Concert

We look forward to welcoming you to school to enjoy the festive singing that we have been rehearsing. Each child in Reception and KS1 will be allocated 2 tickets. Pick them up from the office from Monday 9 December, choosing which performance you would like: Tuesday 17 December at 9.30am or Wednesday 18 December, 1.30pm.

### Parenting workshops

Attached with this week's newsletter is December information from Shelley Bari, our school's EIFA (Education Inclusion Family Advisor). This includes some parenting advice for this month and links to the free online workshops available. This month, there is one on Sleep on 10th December 12-1pm, and one on supporting your child with worried feelings, on 17th December 6pm – 7.30pm. Feedback we have received from parents who have accessed these has been very positive in gaining confidence and reassurance from attending.

### School Chess Team

Our chess teams did the school proud last weekend, as rounds 5-7 of the CCC league were played. Our A-team, captained by Rohan and Evan in alternate games, beat the Junior Chess & Go B-team 3½-2½, and thumped King's F 4½-1½. Our B-team demolished St Matthew's by a score of 4½-1½ and defeated the Sancton Wood B-team 3½-2½. Both teams sit mid-table, just half a point apart, which is incredible for their first season in the competition. The league table, and all results, can be found at [cambridgechess.co.uk](http://cambridgechess.co.uk)

There has been such amazing attendance at the after-school chess club, and so much enthusiasm among the children for representing their school, that we are planning to put a C-team into the league from January! Merry Christmas everyone.

### Contact details

Please ensure that we have current and correct contact details for you and please be available during the day, in the unlikely case that we need to speak with you. Often, we find phones ring out and messages are not listened to, which makes it difficult for us to keep you informed.

### A new piano for the school

A former parent of the school has very generously donated a piano to the school, which is a significant upgrade on the piano we had in the hall. The orchestra is fundraising for a quilted cover to protect it to ensure that it can give the school many years of service, free from pencil shavings and other things that accidentally fell into the old piano. If you are able to make a donation towards this, we'd be very grateful. Please contact [dani@meeprophone.com](mailto:dani@meeprophone.com) or the school office for details.



### FSM

Please see the attached poster and application form to see if you're eligible for Free School Meals.

### School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu after half term will be Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.50. This will rise to £2.65 from next term.

## Classroom news

### Reception

Reception has spent this week preparing for Maisy's birthday party next Friday, which has been inspired by the story, Maisy's Birthday Party. Reception has been writing out invitations to one another; thinking about what food could be found at a birthday party; and counting all the candles on a birthday cake. In Phonics this week, Reception has reviewed some of their trickier digraphs this term, such as 'nk', 'ng', 'th' and 'sh' including 'x'

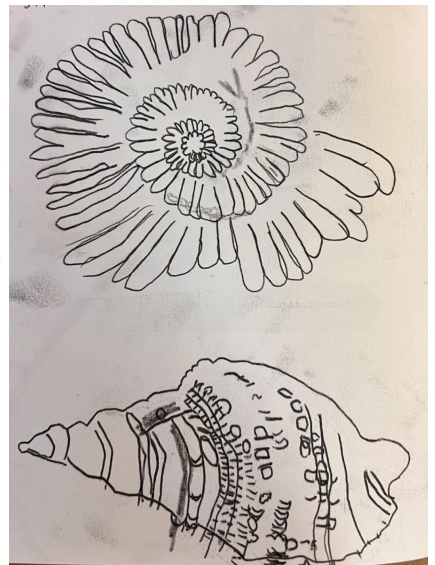
and 'w.' We've also recapped our trickier tricky words, "has" and "off." Reception also had the opportunity to join their first whole school council groups. Each group (Earth, Fire, Air and Water) discussed playtimes, the importance of wearing activewear and the Christmas postbox for sending Christmas cards. Well done for a fantastic week Reception.

### Year 1

This week the children in Year 1 have been making shadow puppets linked to our science work. They first of all looked at the properties of different materials, sorting them into those that were opaque, those that were transparent and those that were translucent. Based on this, they had to choose the relevant material that would let enough light through or block light to create a shadow on the theatre screen.

### Year 2

This week has been busy and exciting! We've begun rehearsals for our Christmas Concert. In English, the children practiced using imperative verbs and time connectives to improve their instruction writing. In maths, we explored 2D shapes and symmetry. In history, we compared how teddy bears have changed over time, examining their features. In art, the children created fantastic carbon monoprnts using carbon copy paper, showcasing their impressive mark-making skills. Well done on a great week, Year 2!



### Year 3

This week Year 3 has been focusing on length in maths. They learnt to draw, measure, compare and order lengths in millimetres and centimetres. In English the children enjoyed writing their own stories based on *Strict* by Michael Rosen. In DT this week, the children worked in groups to make the castles they had previously designed. In history the children were treated to an Anglo-Saxon calligraphy workshop.

### Year 4

It's been another exciting week for year 4! We were very lucky to have a visit from a calligraphy expert who showed us how to use Anglo Saxon lettering. We also had a DT day to make our castle models. They look great. In English we have started looking at *Grimwood* by Nadia Shireen. We have thought about characters and what might happen next. In maths we have been using the grid method for multiplication. Our science experiments let us see the vibrations that make sound. For spelling this week we have been looking at words ending in -ch/-tch.

## Year 5

In maths, we practised reading transport timetables using the 24-hour clock and calculating time intervals. We then learned how to calculate the perimeter of rectangles and composite shapes and the area of rectangles and irregular shapes. In science, we designed an experiment into which condition causes mould to grow fastest on bread, focusing on the independent, dependent and control variables. In PSHE, we discussed self-esteem and the things we are good at.

## Year 6

In Year 6 this week we have organised a game of Secret Santa. We've also been planning our next round of MasterChef! In maths, we have been working on coordinate grids and shapes. We are enjoying reading our book *Goodnight Mister Tom*, although it is a bit sad.

*By Leela and Salka*

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 News

### Christmas tree thank you!

Thank you very much to everyone that purchased a Christmas tree from the school. Your generosity raised over £2,200 and we are very grateful for your support. We hope you are enjoying your tree! If you are unsure what to do with it in January, you may want to consider arranging for Arthur Rank Hospice to collect it, for a small donation <https://www.arhc.org.uk/fundraising/fundraise-your-way/community-initiatives/christmas-tree-recycling/>

### PTA winter fair 15th December 1200-1400

The winter fair is fast approaching. We are looking forward to crafts, singing, hot drinks, plus a race around the South Pole and an obligatory snowball fight (of the Pom Pom variety).

Although the PTA are enjoying a laissez faire attitude towards this non-ticketed event, it would be great to have an approximate idea of numbers. Please could you let your class reps know via WhatsApp if you plan to attend, and also if you are kindly offering to bring a dish to sell on our behalf. The dish remit is: a winter dish that reminds you of home, wherever that may be (10-12 portions minimum would be fantastic). Dishes will need to be labelled clearly with any allergens.

Do also feel free to bring non Newnham Croft friends along to play, the more the merrier.

## Community news

### The Newcroft Club Winter Holiday Club

Please see the attached poster for more information on winter childcare at the Newcroft Club.

### Newnham Winter Trail

This December, Newnham residents are bringing the festive spirit to life with a magical Winter Window Trail! Similar to

an advent calendar, from December 1st to 24th, a new household will unveil a creative window display each day.

The displays will celebrate winter themes such as nature, lights, snow, and anything that spreads joy and warmth during this special season.

Follow along and explore the trail using the attached map.

### Festive Music Festival

There are only a handful of slots remaining for our Festive Music Festival, so sign up soon if your child would like to play. Whether your child has just started learning an instrument or is a seasoned performer, we'd encourage children of all abilities from across the school to perform in this friendly & supportive concert that will take place in the school hall on Friday 13th December from 6.30pm-8pm. Full details [here](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ks_sO_wG8tlw-3_oIK8Wzul9984nPtK1VmPFLasFnb0/edit?usp=sharing)

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ks\\_sO\\_wG8tlw-3\\_oIK8Wzul9984nPtK1VmPFLasFnb0/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Ks_sO_wG8tlw-3_oIK8Wzul9984nPtK1VmPFLasFnb0/edit?usp=sharing)

### Interested in joining a Cricket Club for Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 children?

If there are children who wish to join a cricket club, then a new block of winter nets is starting in January and will run over the winter.

CCCC (City of Cambridge Cricket Club) will be coaching on Saturday afternoons at Hills Road Sports Centre in winter nets. There are many age groups for boys and girls.

Please contact Jonny Kent at [jonnykent76@icloud.com](mailto:jonnykent76@icloud.com) for more information or for coming along to taster sessions. (Please copy me too on [stevefarrukh@outlook.com](mailto:stevefarrukh@outlook.com))

CCCC is a friendly club and it will further help in their development as young cricketers.

From Steve Farrukh (Newnham Croft after school cricket club coach)

### Trinity College Chapel musical evening

Please see the attached poster regarding a festive musical evening at Trinity College Chapel.