



Newnham News

Friday 29 November 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

A more prosaic message today.

Firstly, Mrs Laughlin and I had our meeting to look at attendance last week and were really impressed with the improvements in attendance rates. There were only 7 children whose attendance was below the 85% cut-off we use at this time of year, which is a big improvement on our previous data.

Even the group of children with below-90% attendance, which is our expectation in the spring term, was much smaller than usual too. So, thank you for your efforts and keep up the good work.

Secondly, while the yin of attendance is positive, the yang of litter is less so. There has been a very noticeable increase in food wrappers in the playground from children's snacks and lunches.

Please try and send your child to school with a healthy snack that is not wrapped - carrots, apples, crackers etc.. The amount of YoYo Bear and Nature Valley wrappers blowing around the playground is bewildering at times.

So, to summarise:

1. Attendance - excellent
2. Litter - could do better.

We appreciate all your support with both of these..

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and the weekend ahead.

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*	9am	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

Absence request form

On the subject of attendance, if you know your child will be absent, due to unavoidable or exceptional circumstances, please fill out an absence request form and return to us as early as possible. Forms are on our website [here](#) or you can pick up from the front office.

Maths advent calendar

Please find attached the Nrich maths advent calendar. There are twenty-four problems, one for each day in December, during the run-up to Christmas. The problems are ideal for working on collaboratively, either with friends at school, or with friends and family members at home.

After you've had a go at the day's problem, you can compare your approach to the solutions Nrich have published, which are based on students' work.

We hope you enjoy working on them!

<https://nrich.maths.org/advent-calendar-2024-primary>

School lunch survey

Please take a moment to tell us about your child's experience of lunch in school, whether or not they have school dinners. The questionnaire can be accessed here <https://forms.gle/EXfDVMZsaHasESNp7> and is open until Sunday. Please note it may be helpful to have your child nearby when you complete it.

Also, as we haven't raised our charge for lunches since 2022, and with the high inflation of the last couple of years, we have had to look at our pricing. Unfortunately, this will result in the price we charge rising to £2.65 per lunch from January 2025.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu after half term will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

Classroom news

Reception

With our topic on *Celebrations*, Reception has completed lots of activities around this theme. As part of Active Learning, all children were given the opportunity to decorate Maisy's birthday

cake, from the story book *Maisy's Birthday Party*, using colourful beaded strings, pebbles, flowers, leaves and little lights. Mrs Marroncelli discussed with the class all the things that they would expect to have at a birthday party, such as the food and games. In Phonics, Reception has looked at the diagraphs: 'sh,' 'th,' 'ng' and 'nk' and the tricky words: "she," "he," "of" and "go." As part of their Guided Writing, we've started using our Literacy books to write out CVC words using taught graphemes. In maths, we've been looking at repeating patterns and during Active Learning, lots of children chose to use the Numicon to create repeated patterns. We finished the week with our final Forest School of this term and despite the weather being quite chilly, all children were able to listen carefully to the sounds around them and then create dens and explore the surrounding trees. Well done Reception for a fantastic week!



Year 1

As a cross-curricular activity for R.E. and science, the children in Year 1 made Christingles to mark the celebration of the same name. The R.E aspect included understanding what the Christingle represents for Christians, with the orange signifying the earth, the red ribbon the blood of Jesus and the sweets the fruits of the earth. A candle is added to symbolise the light that Jesus represents for



Christians. For the science aspect, the class has been looking at how the senses are a very important part of all celebrations, from the food we taste, to the lights we see and the smells we enjoy.

Year 2

This week in Year 2 we have been consolidating our doubling and halving and looking at how these facts work together and enjoying a problem solving game with dice (you could ask your child to teach you this at home). In English we have been looking at lots of instructions and seeing what they have in common. The children tried following different instruction texts to see what parts were the most helpful. In science we have been grouping animals according to their diet. Art this week was an introduction to carbon printing and in history we were comparing old and new toys. It's been a great week full of hands-on tasks and we enjoyed our no pencil Wednesday with lots of oracy activities!

Year 3

Year 3 has had another really busy week. The highlight was our trip to The Anglo Saxon Village at West Stowe. The children saw some of the artefacts that were uncovered at the site and were able to get first hand experience of what living through this period might have felt like. Thank you to all of the parents who helped us on our trip. In maths, the children represented data using bar charts and were able to work out how much more/fewer sugar some fizzy drinks contained than others. In our English lessons the children started to plan a poem inspired by *Strict* by Michael Rosen.

Year 4

What an exciting week for year 4! We have been looking at where invaders such as Angles, Saxons and Jutes came from and



why they came to Britain. Followed of course by a trip to the Anglo-Saxon Village at West Stow where we experienced what life would have been like living in Anglo-Saxon times. In English we have been trying out conjunctions to make sentences longer and writing our own poetry. In maths we have been finishing work on line graphs and time intervals plus a times tables rock stars inter-house tournament. For spelling this week we have been looking at words ending in -lly.

Year 5

In maths, we finished our multiplication and division topic by using the vertical chunking method for dividing and deciding whether to round remainders up or down depending on context. We then began our measures and data topic by converting between millilitres and litres and miles and kilometres. In English, we began our new topic on travel writing and explored various travel writing texts, identifying their features. In science, we learned about bacteria, how it spreads and how it differs from other living things. In PSHE, we discussed cyberbullying, what it can look like and what to do if we see it happening.

Year 6

This week, there was No-Pen Day where schools don't use pens to help children with their oracy skills. In English, Year 6 made puppets to create a scene from a book and performed it to help with acting out loud.

On Tuesday, Ms Wakelen did an assembly about her trip around some parts of the world and helped an orangutan charity. For 5

days, she worked with sunbears and made food for them because she can't work with the orangutans yet as they could get chest infections. On her last day working there she got to go on a boat around the islands where some of the orangutans lived.

By Bethany and Miriam

Newnham Croft Social Club. See attached flyer for more details.

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.

PTA News

Christmas tree deliveries

We could do with a couple more volunteers to help deliver Christmas trees by car tomorrow. If you can spare an hour from 10-11am and have a car, please email dani@meepphone.com.

Year 6 cards for sale

Year 6 have produced some beautiful Christmas and Festive cards for sale, as part of their fundraising efforts towards their end-of-year celebrations. Please keep an eye out for their stand in the playground over the next few weeks. Your support will be very much appreciated!

Community news

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.

ASMR study

Anglia Ruskin University is looking for children between 8 and 12 years old to take part in a study in ASMR in children. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

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_oK8Wzui9984nPt1VmPFLasFnb0/edit?usp=sharing

Hearing aid maintenance session

Cambridge Deaf Association are running a hearing aid maintenance and battery drop session on 5 December at the