



# Newnham News

Friday 8 September 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Maths/calc policy](#)

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

Dear parents/carers,

We have had a happy first week back (though there were definitely a few staff, children and possibly parents shaking a little rust off the school-routine cogs).

On Tuesday, you should have received a letter from your child's teacher and an overview of the skills that they will be learning over the coming weeks; hopefully you found these useful. We will continue to include a review of the week in the newsletter for each class (see below).

I am aware that some parents have previously asked if it would be possible to be informed about the learning in the coming week and I wanted to address this a little in this message. Whilst we are ever-grateful to parents who support their children's learning, it isn't necessary or helpful for children to be pre-taught the learning by parents. At best it means that the child will already know the information and therefore the lesson won't be as interesting; at worst, and this is especially true in maths, we often have to unpick what has been taught at home, as the methods used do not reflect the current methods used in education. It is one of the key skills of being a teacher to adapt and differentiate the learning in our lessons to suit the varying skill levels in a class, both for the less and the super confident.

If your child has struggled with an area of learning during the week, your teacher will let you know and suggest ways you can support them. If you have questions or concerns, then please get in touch with the teacher - it is the only really effective way to address a problem. Obviously, I and other members of the Senior Leadership Team are always available as well.

We will be including a link to the topic overviews, home learning and maths/calculation policy at the top of each week's newsletter so you can look at the 'what' and 'how' of your child's learning more closely.

Have a very lovely weekend,

Kind regards, Eddie Ferguson

## **New SENCo role for Mrs Turner**

Although many of you may know me already, I wanted to introduce myself and explain my new role at Newnham Croft. This year, I am moving from a class teacher role to be the school's new SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) alongside being the Mental Health Lead. I will be in school on

Mondays and Tuesdays (and teaching in Year 5 and 6 on a Friday) although you can contact me through email at any time. If you have any concerns about your child's learning, behaviour or their mental wellbeing please speak to your child's class teacher initially. I will be working closely with all members of staff to support children and keeping communication clear and open is a priority. My email address is [jturner@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:jturner@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk) if you would like to ask me anything or arrange a meeting.

## **Schoolcomms**

A reminder to set up your Schoolcomms (School Gateway) account. Please see the email sent to all parents on 30 August with instructions on setting up an account. As with Pay360, the system allows you to pay for school meals and school trips, as we no longer accept cash or cheques.

## **Maths/Science Problem Solving Club - in English:**

For **Year 4-6** (siblings welcome). **08:00-08:40 before school on Wednesdays** during term time.

£120/family for the 12 sessions this term. After costs deducted, the money will be donated to a charity (usually our school). We made a total donation of £1085.62 to our school last year thanks to the club families! Please email Dr Yudan Ren: [yudan.ren@protonmail.com](mailto:yudan.ren@protonmail.com) if you are interested.

## **Classroom news:**

### **Reception**

It has been wonderful meeting our new Reception children and their families this week. The children were invited to familiarise themselves with the classroom in small groups throughout the week and then finally, on Friday afternoon, they had the chance to meet each other, all together as a class. We can tell it is going to be a wonderful year, with so much more to find out about each other.

### **Years 1 and 2**

What a great first week back we have had in KS1! The children have been settling in to their new classes and routines and coping well with this wonderful weather. In English, we have been enjoying our new book What makes me a ME? by Ben Faulks. The children have been thinking about feelings and what makes them happy, excited, sad and angry. In Maths, Year 2 have been ordering numbers and Year 1 have been working on writing numbers and one to one correspondence. The children had their first gymnastics lesson and we focused on traveling movements. In Science, we started our Materials topic and looked at materials that could be stretched, twisted, bent and squashed!

Library books will be changed every Friday, so please remember your home-folders and books every week.

### Year 3

Year 3 have made a really good start to the new year. In our Geography sessions, the children started to discover how the earth is made up of layers. In English, the children enjoyed listening to stories by Michael Foreman. In our Maths sessions, we have focused on placing 2 and 3 digit numbers along number lines. In our Science lesson, the children had lots of fun sorting sweets into different groups. In our Art lesson, the children mixed hot colours using watercolours.

### Year 4

We are all settling back in to the rhythms and routines of school life brilliantly. In English, we've been reading and discussing *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes and we will be using the powerful language to inspire our own writing. In Maths, we placed numbers on a 0-10,000 number line as well as recapping time and converting analogue time to digital. We learnt about the layers of the earth in Geography and compared and grouped rocks according to their properties in Science. In PE, the children were cross country running and leaping and jumping in gymnastics. Your child will be sent home today with a copy of their Times Table Rockstars password and the Year3/4 spellings list. We appreciate your support in helping your child to practise their spellings and quick recall of multiplication facts, as well as encouraging them to read daily.

### Year 5

Year 5 have had an excellent start to the school year. We kicked off our Ancient Greece topic with independent research about a god or goddess and then made our own shields inspired by one of them. In Maths, we are looking at place value of five digit numbers and rounding to the nearest 10, 100, 1000 and 10,000. In English, we have looked at different travel writing texts and identified the key features. This is to prepare us for writing our own travel text about Ancient Greece.

### Year 6

This week in History we started our Ancient Greece topic and in English we started planning and writing our travel guides to Greece. In Maths we were rounding and our activity in PE is cross country. *By Nour and Noam*

### Ballet Assembly

A big thank you to Harry, a 15 year old who is studying at the Royal Ballet School. Harry joined us at the start of the awards assembly today and the children asked him questions to try and guess what he did (they got close). This was followed by an impressive demonstration of the skills he spends 8 hours-a-day perfecting during his schooling.

### New Morning Club at Newnham Nursery

Newnham Nursery are starting a 'Morning Club' for: Reception, KS1 & KS2 from 8:00 am to 8:40 am, during term

time, providing a supervised and welcoming environment. Please visit our website for more; information, registration, information and fees:

<http://www.newnhamnursery.co.uk/morning-club> or please email Susan at [morningclub@newnhamnursery.co.uk](mailto:morningclub@newnhamnursery.co.uk)

### School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week will be week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

### PTA

A big welcome back to school from the PTA!  
Our first order of business is to set up Class Representatives for each class. If you're able to take on a few responsibilities for your child's class over the year, let us know. It's mainly passing on messages from the PTA and setting up end of year cards for the teacher. Don't worry if you've never done it before, we will guide you through. Contact us on Classlist to volunteer.

If you haven't joined us on Classlist yet, follow this link to get started: <https://classlist.page.link/3ebf7efP4ZBErgh76>  
It's a secure platform for parents and carers where we can all communicate quickly and easily. Any questions or issues, contact [newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com](mailto:newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com)

### Diary Dates

Y5 and Y6 to Fitzwilliam Museum .....	15 Sep
Y6 start weekly swimming on Wednesdays .....	20 Sep
Y3/4 Booknic 3.15-3.50pm .....	26 Sep
Early Years coffee morning 8.45am .....	27 Sep
Early Years coffee morning 8.45am .....	27 Sep
Early Years curriculum parents meeting 9.15-10.15am.	27 Sep
Y3/4 to Natural History Museum .....	2 Oct
Open afternoon for parents 3.15-4.15pm .....	9 Oct
Pret a Portrait pupil photos .....	10 Oct
Y6 cross country run .....	12 Oct
Y6 evening event for parents and children .....	13 Oct
Parent teacher consultations.....	17-19 Oct
Half term .....	23-27 Oct
Flu vaccinations whole school .....	21 Nov
Rec and KS1 performance 2pm.....	12 Dec
Rec and KS1 performance 9.30am .....	13 Dec
Last day of term .....	20 Dec

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).

### Community News

**Drama Kids** - Please see the flier attached.

**Tiska Karate** Join a fun community for children, adults and families and discover the amazing benefits of Tiska Karate. Parkside Community College, Wednesdays at 5pm. Free 2 week trial [www.tiskakarate-cambridge.co.uk](http://www.tiskakarate-cambridge.co.uk), 07941 829187