



Newnham News

Friday 21 March 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear parents/carers,

This half term, every class has been working on a child-led project designed to develop engagement, independence, collaboration, and organisational skills.

Rather than following a pre-planned structure, teachers provided a topic title and challenged the children to design their own learning. They decided what they wanted to explore, how they would research it, and how they would present their findings.

Naturally, different ages bring different levels of knowledge and skills. As this is our first trial of this approach, it has been fascinating to see how much older children have absorbed about structuring learning and identifying key areas of interest. Meanwhile, younger children, with less experience, have needed a little more guidance—though always with a light touch to foster the independence we aim to develop.

So far, the response from the children has been really positive. If the project proves successful, we hope to introduce more opportunities for children to take ownership of their learning.

Ask your child about their project—hopefully, they will be able to share what they've been working on!

Have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y6 residential to Hilltop	9.15am	Sun 23 Mar
Y5 trip to science lecture		Mon 24 Mar
Y5 swimming (and every Tues this term)		Tues 25 Mar
Y3/4 performance	1.45pm	Tues 25 Mar
Y6 return from Hilltop	approx 4pm	Wed 26 Mar
Y3/4 performance	5.30pm	Wed 26 Mar
Reception forest school	morning	Fri 28 Mar
Y1 forest school	afternoon	Fri 28 Mar
PTA disco		Fri 28 Mar

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly.

Whole school news

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached. The menu next week will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.65.

Classroom news

Reception

Reception has been busy both outside and inside this week. As we slowly head towards spring, all children were taken on a spring walk to look for signs of visible changes from winter to spring, such as daffodils and snowdrops and the sound of more birds singing. We also had our first of three sessions of forest school and Reception were very happy to be back in the forest, listening to birds and other sounds of wildlife surrounding them, investigating insects and climbing trees. In Phonics, Reception recapped Phase 3 sounds: 'ur,' 'igh,' 'oa,' 'ow,' 'oo,' 'ai,' 'ar,' 'ear,' and the tricky words: "he" "we" "me" "be" "was" "you" "they" and "all." In maths, we have been exploring one more and one less and finally in Literacy, all children had a go at retelling a story based on the class book, *Is There a Dog In This Book?*

Year 1

In English Year 1 has been looking at the rhyme and repetition you often find in poetry. After reading and studying the poem *The Food Train* by Julia Donaldson, we wrote a class poem based on the same structure. Our poem is called *The Play Train*. Each section of the poem needs to be read at an increasing speed, so the poem actually sounds like a train starting off slowly at a station and picking up pace until it ends with a whistle, which in our poem is the word SUN!

The Play Train

Boun-cy, boun-cy, boun-cy, boun-cy

Sliding and swinging, sliding and swinging, sliding and swinging, sliding and swinging

Run and jump, run and jump, run and jump, run and jump

Cats and dogs, cats and dogs, cats and dogs, cats and dogs,

cats and dogs, cats and dogs, cats and dogs

SUN!

Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have been busy exploring different methods of subtraction. The children have been using number lines to count on and count back, helping them build confidence in finding the correct answers. In English, we have been researching our chosen animals and planning our non-chronological reports. The children have been enthusiastic about gathering facts and can't wait to put their reports

together! Our art lessons have been particularly exciting as we experimented with hatching and cross-hatching techniques to create depth and shape in our drawings of humpback whales. The children showed great creativity and attention to detail! In geography, we have been comparing Kenya and the UK, discussing the differences in climate, landscape, and daily life. We have also been making the most of the beautiful sunshine, enjoying our PE and circuit training sessions outdoors. The children are working hard each week to improve their 'personal best' and are showing fantastic determination and enthusiasm! Well done, Year 2, for another fantastic week of learning!

Year 3

Early in the week, Year 3 went to the West Road Concert Hall and really enjoyed watching students from the University of Cambridge perform a selection of songs from well known musicals and films. In our maths sessions, the children sorted shapes and numbers using Carroll diagrams. In English, the children worked on correctly punctuating direct speech. Rehearsals for next week's performances have continued to go well. Towards the end of the week the children enjoyed helping the City Rangers pick up rubbish on Lammas Land and taking part in the sponsored dance-a-thon on Red Nose Day.

Year 4

We have been very excited to try out our play on the stage this week. In maths, we have been spotting mistakes in subtraction calculations to help us with common misconceptions. We have also been working on times tables. In English, we got into character as one of the Jumblies and wrote a new Jumblies poem. For history, we continued our own projects about the Vikings with lots of different activities such as animation, power points and posters being produced. Friday was a very enjoyable and busy day as we had great fun doing Bikeability and the Red Nose Day dance-a-thon. Spellings this week again have 'au' making an 'or' sound. Please focus times tables practice on 12x.

Year 5

In English, we planned and wrote an epilogue chapter for *Kensuke's Kingdom*. In maths, we finished our topic on shape by learning how to calculate missing angles using the rule that angles on a straight line add up to 180 degrees and angles around a point add up to 360 degrees. We then practised using protractors to draw different types of polygons. In PSHE, we discussed different types of family structures and how family structures can change over time.

Year 6


We started our new English topic *Macbeth* and in the afternoon we did more work on our history topic about the Tudors. We did math revision about prime numbers and what they are. We also did writing warm-ups practising correcting mistakes in a text. On Wednesday some of the boys in Year 5 and 6 went to a football tournament and came third. On Thursday we wrote letters in the style of Shakespeare. Today we will be doing the danceathon.

By Rowan A and Khalil


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


 School Disco – Tickets & Helpers Needed! 🎵

Our 2025 School Disco is just around the corner, and we can't wait to see the kids having fun on the dance floor.

 Grab your tickets here: [Classlist Event Link](#)

 Event Details: Friday 28th March

 Reception & KS1: 6:00 – 6:45 PM

 KS2: 7:00 – 7:45 PM (*Parents, please pick up your child, even if they're a 'big kid,' unless arranged with the PTA in advance!*)

We also need helpers to make this event a success. If you can lend a hand, we'd love to have you on board! Sign up on Classlist event.

Community news

Orchestra Competition

Congratulations to the Newnham Croft Senior Orchestra who performed outstandingly at the Cambridge Community Music Festival on Sunday. Competing against



well-established adult groups, they really impressed the judges, being praised for their immaculate timekeeping and team playing! As the icing on the cake, they have been selected to perform at the Celebration Concert at St John's College Old Divinity School in April. Well done!

Music Festival - sign up now open

All musicians are invited to sign up for our Spring Music Festival on Thursday 3rd April. The Junior and Senior Orchestras will be performing, which is always a treat and any small groups or duets are also welcome to perform. Full details [here](#):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tdg2nBHXu76RJnM8ejlNmh1VO6mKXLRbg-njX4pV504/edit?usp=sharing>