



Newnham News

Friday 28 April 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Dear parents/carers,

We had our penultimate Full Governing Body meeting this Wednesday, which once again highlighted the enormous amount of work that this group do for the school. The link-governor for Science also came in for a monitoring visit with our Science lead, as part of the ongoing oversight of our curriculum that the governors undertake throughout the year. So a thank you, as always, to the governors for all their efforts (and the support they offer me).

Attached to our newsletter are two posters that might be of interest. Both give information about the support, services and events that are available for families in the local area.

Finally, two bits of Wraparound Care news. The New Croft after school club is expanding its provision to better serve those parents who require after school care. Please contact Maureen if you would like to know more.

Meanwhile, the Newnham Nursery team have enquired as to the possibility of running a Reception/KS1 activity club from 8 to 8.45am each school morning. At the moment, the idea would be to have Lego and other craft activities, although the ideas are still being developed. If you are interested in this, please complete this short [form](#) so the team can gauge if this would be popular/feasible.

Enjoy the Bank Holiday weekend,

Kind regards
Eddie Ferguson

Classroom news:

Reception

As part of our topic, we have been looking at minibeasts and their habitats. We discussed how all minibeasts are invertebrates and insects have six legs and two antennae. We also found out that earthworms have bristles to help them move. Then we went on a minibeast hunt at the back of the school field. Surprisingly, we didn't find many minibeasts, can you help to explain why?



Years 1 and 2

This week, Key Stage One have been very busy planting cress seeds and forming experiments to work out why plants need water, sunlight, room temperature and soil to grow, as part of their Science lessons. The Year 2s had their first session of swimming at Parkside Pools and did brilliantly. They were all assessed by the swimming instructors in preparation for their next lesson on Tuesday. Thank you to all parents for making sure your child arrived early to school. Year 1s spent Tuesday morning with Miss Wakelen building on their football skills, learning how to dribble the ball carefully and kick it to their partner. In English, in preparation for their minibeast fact files, Year 1s have been exploring the suffixes, 'est' and 'er' to add to root words and then they looked at using commas in a list. Year 2s placed statements about different types of books under the headings, 'always,' 'sometimes' and 'never' to help them understand the features of a non-fiction text. Year 2s then went on to write sentences containing coordinating and subordinating conjunctions. In Maths, Year 1s have been working on adding and subtracting multiples of 10 and near multiples of ten, whereas the Year 2s have been recapping multiplication and division and exploring the inverse relationship between the two calculations. Year 2s finished the week reviewing fractions, 2-D and 3-D shape. Well done for a hardworking week Key Stage One. Please find attached the 5 x tables for Year 2s to be tested on next Friday and spellings explored throughout the week.

Year 3

Year 3 have had another action-packed week. In our Maths sessions, the children started off by solving subtraction problems using the column method. Later in the week, we moved onto looking at unit fractions, comparing and ordering them according to their size. In English lessons, the children planned and started to write a story based on the idea of a 'wishgranter'. On Wednesday, the children had their first swimming session at The Leys pool and on Friday took part in a dance workshop. In our Science session the children set up an investigation to look at what plants need to grow. For next week's Art lesson we require lots of newspaper, so if you have old papers you can bring in we would appreciate it, thank you.

Year 4

This week, in English, we have been writing the story of the short animation, The Wishgranter, and planning our own versions inspired by the video. In Maths, we have been learning to simplify fractions and recognise equivalent fractions and their decimal form. This has included writing

numbers as both fractions and decimals and, in some cases, improper fractions and mixed numbers. In Science, we planted flower seeds, the progress of which we will be tracking over the coming weeks. The children also enjoyed their first swimming lesson of the term, working very hard and showing brilliant perseverance.

Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been demonstrating their excellent collaborative skills whilst writing their play script for our performance on 17 May. On Monday morning, all we had was a vague idea of a plot and by the end of Wednesday we had made decisions about scenes and characters, allocated parts, chosen songs, written an (almost) fully cohesive script and had started rehearsing. The cooperation, kindness, support, creativity and effort has been exceptional and something we're looking forward to seeing even more of next week while we're on our residential at Thorpe Woodlands.

Year 5 Maths Challenge

After school on Wednesday, 4 children from Year 5 took part in a heat of the Year 5 Maths Challenge at a school in Histon. They competed against 11 other teams, answering a range of questions as a group. The competition had different rounds ranging from complicated number problems, estimating, a memory round and 'quick thinks'. Although challenging, it was really enjoyable, and great to see how the team worked together.

Year 6

In Maths this week, we have been revising fractions, percentages and decimals. We have also been retelling the story of Christianity and the seven days of creation in RE. In Computing, we have been making vector drawings. Vector drawings are drawings that are made of lines and shapes. In PE, we have been practising rounders for the up and coming tournament and we also practised reflexes and catching. In Music, we have been using Garage Band to make our very own songs. We worked with our partners and chose to play whatever instruments we wanted! *By Danielle, Cordelia, Aman, Monty W, Diogo and Henry*

School Meals

The three-weekly cycle of menus is attached; next week will be Week 3. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

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 AGM

Join us on Wednesday 24th May, 7pm at the school and on Zoom (link to follow) for our AGM. This meeting will focus on electing committee members for the next academic year as well as planning future events. Everyone welcome - hope to see you there.

Diary Dates

May Day bank holiday – school closed 1 May
Y5 to Thorpe Woodlands 3-4 May
Y3 and 4 swimming 3 May
Coronation bank holiday – school closed 8 May
Y4 to Grafham Water 11-12 May
PTA AGM 7pm at school 24 May
Half term week 29 May - 2 June
Staff training day – school closed 5 June

COMMUNITY NEWS

Maths/Science Problem Solving Club

At school 08:00-08:40am Wednesdays during term. It is aimed at Y4-6 children, though Y1-3 siblings are welcome. Starting from 26th April, 10 sessions, £100, deduct cost, money will be donated to school. Contact: Yudan Ren, yudan.ren@protonmail.com

Pool assistants wanted

Sheep's Green Learner Pool is recruiting Poolside Assistants for the season. We have had some excellent assistants from the local community in the past and the success of the pool depends on being able to staff it for the season, so please do help spread the word of these vacancies. Any questions, please ask Dani dani@meepphone.com. Ideal for post A-level or university students looking for summer jobs and responsibility in an enjoyable, flexible, customer-facing role.