



Newnham News

Friday 8 March 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

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Dear parents/carers,

It was lovely to welcome some of the Reception parents to lunch on Monday and Wednesday this week - our first trial of parents coming to eat with their child.

Inevitably, excitement levels (both child and adult) were high and the children really enjoyed showing their parents how lunch time works. Feedback from parents was positive and we look forward to welcoming Year 1 parents for lunch during the week starting Monday 25th March.

We had more parents in for an assembly on 'Time' on Tuesday, which was full of interesting philosophical points. We are also looking forward to welcoming the Y3/4 parents to their children's performance next week.

I am looking forward to a positive last two weeks of this short Spring term. Enjoy the weekend.

Kind regards
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y6 leave for Hilltop <i>arrive at school normal time</i>	20 Mar
Y5 swimming	20 Mar
Y3/Y4 production - matinee	20 Mar, 1.30pm
Y3/Y4 production - evening <i>children at school for 5pm please</i>	21 Mar, 5.30pm
Forest school Year 5	23 Mar, morning
Forest school Reception	23 Mar, afternoon
Y6 return from Hilltop <i>expected around 3.30 - 4pm</i>	23 Mar

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

Our language of the month is Polish. Please see the words we have learned in the attached file.

British Science Week

This week, we have celebrated British Science Week (8th - 17th March). This year's science week celebrates 30 years and follows the theme of 'Time,' which was introduced in Monday's assembly. In the afternoon, we had a whole school

science afternoon, where all children got into their Council House groups and did 3 different science activities; a balloon powered car; a bottle



rocket and chromatography using skittles and hot water. All children were asked to think about how 'time' could be found in the activities they were exploring. The following day, we were very fortunate to have two Year 1 parents; Marta Correia, a scientist, and Matt Farr, a philosopher of science, to come and talk to the whole school about how time can be found in science. All the children really enjoyed their talks and had many questions for them. Thank you both so much for such a brilliant morning.

Music Festival 27th March

We are delighted to announce our Spring Music Festival, which will take place at 6.30pm 27th March in the school hall. Featuring the Newnham Croft Orchestra, any child that is learning an instrument in school or privately is welcome to play to our friendly audience. To sign up or for more details, follow [this link](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Z1JFujPwwFywFYAEI4JjAyCbNoKtgQ2AhVh_3dBGtjM/edit?usp=sharing):
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Z1JFujPwwFywFYAEI4JjAyCbNoKtgQ2AhVh_3dBGtjM/edit?usp=sharing

ECO NEWS

This week, the Eco Committee met with Angela Potter to talk through the garden designs she had come up with following her visit last term. Angela's designs took into consideration the brief provided by the children as well as suitability of plants due to soil and light. The hope is to turn the grounds outside the front of the school into a garden that various members of the community can enjoy: the children and parents of the school, pre-school and after-school club, staff and members of the local community. All of Angela's designs consider the social aspect of the garden, biodiversity and the need to create a calming space. The designs are included for you to look through and children will discuss them during a

school council meeting. Once a design is chosen, we'll start looking for quotes to carry out the work and some fun ways to fundraise. We welcome any comments so do get in touch if you have any thoughts.

Classroom news

Reception

Money has been the focus of our maths activities this week. Last week, we looked at recognising coins and found out that 100p is the equivalent to £1. This week, we have been using money in role play. Ms Mangera was the shopkeeper and the children were able to purchase great offers, such as a pan for £2, paint for £3 and a box of K'nex for £18. There are so many maths skills involved in using money, such as counting in 2s and 10s and we have been using them in our learning this week.

KS1

The children in KS1 have enjoyed a busy week, starting with a BANG for British Science Week. We all enjoyed working in our House groups to complete three science experiments. It was wonderful to see so much scientific thinking buzzing in the classrooms and had two KS1 parents speak in assembly on Tuesday. In maths Year 1 have been estimating and measuring weight. Year 2 has been learning to multiply and divide using arrays.

We continue to discover more about the Great Fire of London and are using our historical knowledge to prepare to write our own historical stories. We have been learning new vocabulary and story structures to ensure we write entertaining and informative stories. In science we have learnt about features of trees as we learn to use scientific questioning and observation skills. In art, we are learning to draw using line and pattern before we turn our drawings into printing blocks!

Year 3

Year 3 has had another busy but enjoyable week. In our maths sessions we worked on problems involving money. The children added different amounts of money and used number lines to calculate how much change they should be given. In our reading sessions, we have continued to look for clues in the texts we have shared together to help support the character profiles of the main characters in *Wind in the Willows*. In DT, the children enjoyed making their chocolate bark using their designs. In science, the children worked on identifying plants that they have found growing in our local area and started to research plants that are commonly seen in the UK but not native to this part of the world. The children ended the week by sharing their favourite jokes as part of Red Nose Day.

Year 4

We are getting really excited about our upcoming production. Well done for bringing in costumes and for

working so hard on adding expression and actions to your lines. In English, we have been looking for evidence about the character of Toad in the next chapter of 'Wind In The Willows.' In our topic work, we have been finding out about Mayan food. This included chocolate of course! In design and technology we enjoyed creating chocolate bark and added lots of different toppings, according to our plans. Hopefully they tasted delicious and everyone at home got to try some. In maths we have revised written calculation methods and continued working on decimal numbers as well as trying to understand the very advanced but rather confusing Mayan number system. Please find attached spelling words making a 'soft c' sound using ci.

PS - We are still looking for an old fashioned bonnet and a hobby horse for the play. If you have one we can borrow, please let us know. Thank you.

Year 5

In maths, we have learned that angles on a straight line add up to 180 degrees and angles around a point add up to 360 degrees. We then used these facts to calculate missing angles. In English, we have learned to identify direct speech versus reported speech and the uses and benefits of each. In science, we explored physical similarities between parents and their offspring and learned that we get half our genes from each biological parent. We then had a go at breeding our soft toy dogs, drawing what the puppy of each pair would look like. In swimming, we had our water safety lesson where we learned how to rescue someone from the side, without entering the water ourselves, and how to enter unfamiliar water in an emergency.

Year 6

This week Year 6 have been celebrating British Science Week by getting into our school council groups and helping the younger children to make different science related inventions. Also Year 6 had forest school while also being very excited about the upcoming Hilltop trip. On Friday, it is Red Nose Day and we had a treat stall at break time.

by Gray and Filippas

School Meals

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week's menu will be Week 1. 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Film night 20th March 6.30pm

The Friends of Paradise invite you to a screening and Q&A of the film *Pure, Clean Water* with Director Tony Eva in the school hall on 20th March. Having featured at the 2023

Cambridge Film Festival, the film focusses on our local watercourse known as Hobson's Conduit, which for 250 years diverted a natural spring to provide Cambridge with its main source of drinking water. As demand is now causing springs to dry up and precious chalk streams to disappear, the film asks whether water companies, regulators, businesses, land owners, consumers and the government can come together to ensure Cambridge has a reliable water supply without further damaging the environment. This 1 hour film is suitable for Key Stage 2 children and up, with friends and families all warmly invited. No booking necessary. A suggested donation of £5 per person can be payable at the door.

PTA NEWS

Daffodil Day

Join us on Sunday 17th March, 12pm - 3pm to see the daffodils planted by parent volunteers last year. Once you've toured the grounds, stop in our tearoom for a cup of tea and a scone while the kids do some colouring in. Free entry and open to everyone, so bring a friend, family member or neighbour.

If you can lend a hand or offer up some home baking to sell in the tearoom, sign up here:

<https://www.slottr.com/sheets/18282233>

Easter Holiday ideas

Please find attached some leaflets on local activities happening in Easter.

Yoga Class in the Scout Hut

New yoga classes will be for years 1/2/3 on Thursdays straight after school (during term time) beginning Thursday 18th April to Thursday 18th July from 3.15pm to 4.45pm in the scout hut. Price includes use of a yoga mat and a snack. Sessions will cost £12 booked termly. Visit Lou's website and get in touch via the contact form to book:

www.bluebirdyoga.co.uk