



Newnham News

Friday 3 December 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Household support Fund
- Clinical trial on Myopia
- Lunch menu

Dear Parents and Carers,

As Christmas approaches, we have now put out the school Christmas post box. Your children are therefore now able to bring cards in for friends, which can be posted and then delivered by our older children each day.

The weather is certainly now becoming more wintery too, so can parents please ensure that your children have a suitable coat in school, both for playtimes and also whilst we are keeping classrooms well ventilated.

Our Covid cases remain very low, with no new reported cases this week. Please remain vigilant though, so that we can get to the Christmas break without children missing the oncoming Christmas weeks in school. Also, due to the Omicron Variant I must remind parents that if you do get a PCR test notification where this is identified the school will need to know as soon as possible, so that we can carry our contact tracing and move quickly to contain such an outbreak.

Attached to this newsletter is a letter from the Local Authority explaining the Household Support Fund for the Christmas holidays and the arrangements for School Meal Vouchers for qualifying families. Please take time to read this letter if you feel that your family will need support during the winter break.

Also attached is a letter from Anglia Ruskin University research staff looking for volunteers for a study into Myopia/shortsightedness. If you would like to take part in this trial then follow the links in the letter.

As I've spent much of this term reminding parents about traffic issues at drop-off/collection times, I thought I'd add a positive comment that I've not received any complaints about road users for the past couple of weeks. Thank you to all those parents who have made changes to their drop-off routines to support the school, it is genuinely appreciated.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and enjoy decorating the Christmas trees you have collected from the PTA.

Classroom Round-up:

Reception

This week, we have been working with the class to establish how confident they are with their knowledge of Phase 2

phonics in preparation for moving onto Phase 3 next week. Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to join the Zoom meeting about reading on Monday and do please speak to Ms Mangera if you would like more information about this. In Maths we have been finding out about 'time'. Each morning, we sing and talk about aspects of time such as the days of the week and months of the year. Ask your child to teach you these songs. In addition, we thought about how long a minute is, using a sand timer. Isaac was able to run backwards and forwards in our classroom 12 times in one minute and Kai could clap over 100 times in one minute! Today, we found out about the Jewish festival of Hannukah. After we read about the festival, we looked at a menorah, which is lit with a candle each day of the Hannukah festival and also with a dreidel. Thank you to Roni for sharing your Hannukah photos, to Noa for your lovely songs and to Avigail from Year 6 for sharing your family's traditions with the class. Hannukah Sameach!

Year 1

In Year 1 this week we have enjoyed making pirate hats and have written instructions on how we made them. Ask your child about imperative verbs! In Maths we have used subtraction to find the difference. In Science we have been investigating what things sink and float. We have really enjoyed experimenting with plasticine and finding out how to make it float. In Computing we have been learning to write algorithms for the BeBots. In Phonics we have finished Phase 5a. We learnt split digraphs 'o-e' and 'w-e' before we moved onto Phase 5b with alternative sounds.

Class 1/2N & 1/2C

In Maths, Year 1s have been learning their number bonds (within 10 and to 10) and using number bonds and part-whole models for addition. They also learnt how to recognise and name 2D shapes. Year 2s have described arrays using repeated addition and multiplication sentences. In Science we investigated sinking and floating and are using our knowledge to design a raft in DT. In English, we followed a set of picture instructions to make a pirate hat and then wrote our own instructions for making the hat. In Phonics, Year 1s have been learning to read and write words using the alternative pronunciations of 'c' and 'g' (city, advice, magic, gentle), as well as the words *who*, *because*, *out*, *made* and *came*. Year 2s have continued to recognise sentences written in the past and present tense and looked at words where the letter 'a' makes an 'or' sound where it appears before 'l' and 'll' (walk, talk, ball). It would be great if you could help your

child spot and recognise some of these graphemes and words in their reading at home. Class 1/2C enjoyed their Forest School session this morning. Mrs Cullen and Mrs Palmer's class will have Forest School next Friday morning (10 December).

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been learning about Egyptian pharaohs. They spent their history lesson using iPads and library books to research the life and importance of a chosen pharaoh. One child researched the pharaoh Narmer and enjoyed learning that this pharaoh brought the north and the south of Egypt together. In English, we spent this week retelling part of *The Wizard of Oz*. The class used a variety of sentences to write this part of the fairy tale, such as compound sentences and fronted adverbials. I was impressed with the classes use of descriptive language to talk about the setting of the story and the feelings of Dorothy as she met the Scarecrow, the Tin Man and the Lion. In SPAG, the class learnt about the g sound spelt 'gue' and the k sound spelt 'que'. Their favourite words were 'fatigue' and 'technique.' In Maths, Year 3 have been working on multiplying and dividing 2 and 3-digit numbers by 10 and using their own strategies to solve addition and subtraction number sentences. In Science, we spent this week exploring the reflection from a mirror and had a go at mirror writing and mirror mazes. Well done Year 3 for another fantastic week.

Year 4

Year 4 have continued to investigate light this week and have taken part in several practical tasks investigating the properties and uses of mirrors to play games, write codes and complete mazes. Our work on Mr Stink by David Walliams has moved into the writing phase and we have started to create our own characters and write some dialogue for them. We have revised rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000, completed our Maths assessments and finally rounded off the week with a Forest School session with Mrs Bicknell!

Year 5

In Year 5, we have been enjoying our assessments, reflecting on what we have learned over the course of this term so far. We have also been looking at Hilaire Belloc's Cautionary Tales, analysing their structure, and then drafting our own. On Friday afternoon, we have enjoyed having Liz Miller, an architect, in for a session on Greek architecture and a little model making of our own. Thank you for the donations of card, magazines etc.

Year 6

Year 6 have had a very eventful week, ranging from finishing their class book in English to football in PE. They also wrote a report on their film festival, created videos on a Greek myth in Music, and did fractions of amounts in Maths. Finally, some Year's went to a basketball tournament at Coleridge and came first, winning every game! *By Avigail and Marielle*

School Meals

Next week will be the week 3 menu (attached). The cost of a school meal is £2.40.

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

Yours faithfully,

Andy Matthews, Headteacher

PTA NEWS

Christmas Tree Collections

Thank you for all of your Christmas tree orders! The trees are here and looking (and smelling!) beautiful. If you didn't collect your tree this afternoon, then the PTA elves are at the school between 3pm and 4pm tomorrow (Saturday 4th December) for you to come and pick it up. If you have paid for delivery, this will happen tomorrow too. Once they are all set up and decorated in your homes, we would love to see them, so do share a photo with us on Classlist!

Coffee and Chat - Friday 10th December 8.45am

All parents and carers are invited to join us next Friday after drop-off for a quick coffee and chat in the playground. Bring a pound or two to buy a coffee and a pastry (lovingly prepared by Michelle in the school kitchen) and connect with your school community. Hope to see you there - drop in if you can!

Christmas Raffle

Enter this year's raffle to win a delicious prize to enjoy over the festive period - click [here](#) to buy entries and for more information. Winners will be announced on Wednesday 15th December and prizes will be collected from school. Good luck!