



# Newnham News

Friday 12 January 2024

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Maths/calc policy](#)

[Topic overviews](#)

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Dear parents/carers,

Along with our usual assemblies (reading and awards) this week, we had two assemblies looking at choices and resilience.

In the first one, we talked about how our choices are "the brushstrokes of our self-portraits". Whether through what we choose to study and the job that prepares us for or our choices of behaviour and kindness, each decision adds and assembles our portrait to the world.

For our resilience assembly, we discussed what resilience is, how we can develop it and how it fits into the [Newnham Code](#). We contrasted an image of an elephant, something that is strong but can yield, with glass, which is hard and brittle.

In both assemblies, the focus was on empowering the children, highlighting the ownership they can, and must, take of their lives. The popularity of blame and victimhood in our world seem to be an increasingly persistent threat to their mental and emotional wellbeing.

I also wanted to share another way we are seeking to develop the children's resilience in school. Classes introduced a session each Friday afternoon reviewing what each of us (adults and children) have failed at that week. This is aimed at normalising and endorsing an approach to risk taking and mistakes, so as to nurture a culture that embraces the deep learning that comes from taking a chance and moving outside our comfort zones. Although at an early stage, there has already been encouraging feedback about the children's engagement with these sessions.

I hope you all enjoy your weekend and that 2024 has begun positively.

Kind regards  
Eddie Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Y5 swimming (every Wed this half term) .....17 Jan  
PTA Coffee and Chat.....19 Jan  
Open afternoon 3.15 – 4pm.....5 Feb

## Healthy snacks

A reminder to all that we aim to be a healthy and eco-conscious school, therefore please do not send children into school with biscuits, crisps or sweets. Please also try to avoid

individually wrapped snacks, like Yoyo Bears, as they create a lot of litter. Fruit, vegetables or breadsticks are just a few alternative ideas of finger foods that can be easily eaten outdoors.

## Book Launch

Thank you to the parents/carers from Reception, Year 1 and invited Year 2 that were able to attend the launch meeting for the home reading books. The books were bought with the funds raised by parents, so thank you once again. Parents will now be given the choice of whether they would like their child to read a paper version of the book they have read in school or an e-book version, as currently issued. If parents would like to have the paper version, please contact your class teacher who will share the procedures and expectations for issuing/returning the books each week. For parents who were unable to attend the meeting, please see the attached letter.

## Open afternoon

As you may have read in your child's curriculum letter, the school will have an open afternoon **on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 3.15 – 4pm**. All parents and carers are invited into the classrooms to allow your child to share their learning with you.

## Classroom news:

### Reception

In Reception, we have started our new topic 'Healthy Me' and enjoyed the first readings of our class book, *The Gigantic Turnip*. It is amazing how such a tiny character can make all the difference to an outcome. The class produced story maps linked to the tale with the help of our two trainee teachers, Mrs Whitelaw and Miss Williams.

### KS1

It has been lovely welcoming all of KS1 back and hearing all about their wonderful Christmas holidays. This week, we've introduced the children to their Spring 1 topic *Amazing Animals* and each class went out on to the field or into Forest School and went bird watching, using a tally chart to identify which birds were most commonly spotted. In English, all the children have been exploring letter writing. We explored different types of letters and what features make them a formal or an informal letter. In maths, Year 1 have been looking at 1 more and 1 less and 10 more and 10 less using a 100-grid square. In Year 2, the children have been rounding 2-digit numbers to the nearest 10 and remembering that if the one in a 2-digit number is less than 5 that you round

down, but if the ones number is 5 and above, you round up. In geography, all classes have been exploring the difference between physical and human features. We went outside to work out what features are physical, such as the large trees in the far corner of the field and human features, such as the climbing frame. In PE, we've started doing circuit training and this week we focused on changing directions. All e-books have been added to the Big Cat Portal and any child who has signed up for an actual book will receive these from next week.

### Year 3

Year 3 have made a good start to the new term. In maths, we started the week by using number lines to solve division problems. Later in the week, the children placed 3-digit numbers with increasing accuracy along a number line. In our English lessons, the children enjoyed learning about kennings and haiku poems and enjoyed writing and presenting the poems they had read and written themselves (see below). In our geography lessons, the children learnt about how lines of longitude and latitude can help pin point an exact location around the world. We also touched on what the word 'climate' means and where in the world different climate zones can be found.

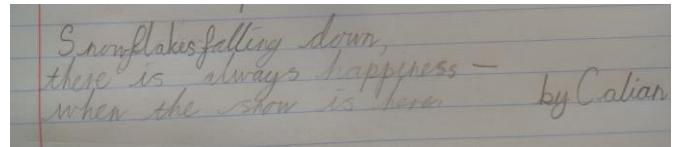
#### Who am I?

People scarer  
Silent swimmer  
Ferocious biter  
Ocean cruiser  
Hungry hunter  
Deep diver  
Penguin chaser  
Slow glider  
Fast flipper  
Strong and smooth under the water

by Jack D

### Year 4

Well done to Year 4 for an extremely hardworking and enjoyable start to the term. In maths this week, we continued our division work, and also practised adding and subtracting one digit from larger numbers. In English, we really enjoyed reading, reciting and writing different forms of poetry such as kennings and haiku (see below). For geography, we started our Antarctica topic by learning about different areas of the world and lines of longitude and latitude. The attached spellings this week include some words that will be useful for our topic. In science, we began work on states of matter by thinking about what makes something a solid, liquid or gas. We found that some, like flour, are more difficult as you can pour them!



### Year 5

We have had a brilliant first week back and had lots of fun in our first swimming lesson of the term. We have been writing our own poems to complete our poetry English unit and have created a class anthology containing all of them. There is excellent variety, which shows our different personalities and taste in poems. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting 2-place decimals, multiplying and dividing them by 10, 100 and 1000, and rounding them to the nearest tenth and nearest whole number. In science, we have started our new topic, *Forces*, by exploring whether balls of different sizes will hit the floor at the same time when dropped from a height.

### Year 6

This week we have been studying decimals in maths. In science, we have been learning about the laws of gravity and how the mass of an object doesn't affect the speed it falls. In English, we have been studying the links between characters in our class book *Clockwork* and in history we have learnt about the ancient Benin civilisation.

by Lily and Rebecca

### Parenting Courses

We have had a couple of parents asking about family support, so we thought it would be helpful to let you all know about the free parenting courses that the local authority provide. They can be useful if you're interested in finding out about extra help or information to better equip you to deal with parenting issues. The local authority offer a range of free programmes to help you and your family.

Parenting programmes can help you learn effective parenting strategies, how to promote a child's development and how to manage common child behavioural problems. It helps build strong positive parent-child relationships, reduces harsh discipline and increases positive behaviour with attention, praise and encouragement. Parents learn how to monitor children after school, set rules regarding TV, computer and drug use, support children's homework and partner with teachers to promote the child's academic, social and emotional skills.

You can register for a local parenting course by contacting your local [Child and Family Centre](#).

### Grassroots Activity Grant

Funding of up to £250 is available to support local low-income families to access community sports and dance opportunities. See attached flyer for more details.

### **Morning Club**

There are still a few places available at 'Morning Club' for Reception, KS1 & KS2 from 8:00 am to 8:40 am, 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)

### **Premier Sports**

Multisports after school club this term is under subscribed and at risk of being cancelled - if you were thinking about signing up your child, please do so soon. See the attached flyer for more details.

### **Over & In Saturday football training**

A reminder that Over & In provide football development sessions on Saturdays on the school grounds. See attached flyer for more details.

### **School Meals**

The three weekly menu rota is attached. Next week's menu will be Week 2. 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](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk).

### **PTA News**

#### **Coffee and Chat**

As we settle into this term, the PTA invite all parents and carers to stay back after drop off on **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January, 8.30 – 9.30am** for a hot drink, a sweet treat and a catch up in the playground. No charge for drinks but donations welcome.