



Newnham News

Friday 23 September 2022

Interim Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Attachments

- KS1 choir
- Lunch menu
- Letter from Comberton VC

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we all learnt a little about the beliefs of the Bahai faith in Thursday's assembly - a message of unity and looking for what makes us similar, which is always such an apposite message.

As you can read below, the children have been busy expanding their minds, sometimes with a practical application (in KS1 science, they have been preparing for the wetter months by looking at what materials are waterproof!).

The school has been a little emptier with the Year 6 children ensconced in Norfolk, enjoying their residential trip to Hilltop. This has meant an opportunity for the Year 5 children to fulfil some of the Year 6 roles and responsibilities, which they have done brilliantly (and enjoyed – especially the simple pleasure of sitting on the benches in assembly).

In other news, several parents and members of staff have mentioned a building friction between parents in cars and those who use bicycles/walk during morning drop-off. Please could I ask that we all try and channel a bit of the Bahai teachings? The list of things that we all share (children at the school; wanting to get them there on time; busy lives and **always** busy mornings; occasional disasters that throw the morning routine out of the window) is surely a longer list than the differences that seem to be causing conflict (mainly, driving versus walking).

We would ask that, if you drive, please try and park somewhere away from Chedworth Street. This still applies even if the morning has been a bit chaotic or if traffic has got in the way and you have to arrive late. As long as it's not a regular occurrence, the school completely understands that life with small children can sometimes go awry. If you have you no other option other to park on Chedworth Street, then we would ask that you limit your speed to 5mph or less, especially if you can see the street is full of pedestrians. A little patience as the pedestrians move out of the way would also be well received.

Equally, if you are a pedestrian, please be aware that for many of our parents there is more than one child to get to more than one school. We have a parent who drops at a secondary school 18 miles away due to not being able to find a place at a school in the city. Whilst all the parents who drive make

efforts to park elsewhere, there will be occasions when they don't have that choice. If you are chatting in the middle of the road (which is obviously a lovely thing to be able to do) and a car comes along, a friendly smile and stepping aside seems more likely to be well received and have a more positive effect than anything confrontational or disapproving.

It is down to all of us to be both understanding and considerate. As the excellent quote says: be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle (especially if they have young children*).

Finally, we are conscious of the amount of emails that are sent out and have decided to try and limit the amount of 'pings' cluttering your inbox. As a result, we are going to trial attaching all class messages/letters/requests etc. to the weekly newsletter (there is one concerning the KS1 choir attached to this one). Obviously, there will still be some that have to go out at different times, and it will take time for us to figure out exactly how this works, but it should definitely reduce the quantity of messages we send out.

However, this also means that we are relying on you to check the newsletter each week. We will endeavour to title the messages clearly, so you can see which ones apply to you, but parents will need to be conscientious (and possibly remind each other) to stay on top of things.

Apologies for the length of this section – it won't happen again,

Kind regards
Eddie Ferguson

* Added by E Ferguson, but surely Plato would have included it if he'd had them.

Harvest Festival

Parents and carers are invited to attend this year's Harvest Festival assembly on Monday 10 October at 9.45am. The children in KS1 and KS2 will be singing songs and as in previous years, we will be collecting non-perishable food items for Jimmy's night shelter. Donations can be dropped off first thing in the morning. Parents of Reception children are welcome to attend, though the children won't have learnt the songs.

Midday Supervisor Vacancy

We are looking for a midday supervisor to join our friendly team of lunchtime staff who support children during lunchtime. The hours are 11.30am-1.30pm, Monday to Friday (negotiable) and rate of pay £9.79 ph. Please speak to Mr Ferguson or the office staff for more information.

Classroom News:

Reception

We have started the teaching of phonics this week with our new scheme, 'Little Wandle'. We are looking forward to sharing more with you about this at our curriculum workshop on Wednesday 28th September at 9.15am, in the hall or via Zoom at 6pm. We have also started the teaching of maths and have been learning to count accurately and working on recognising numerals. Mrs Marroncelli talked to the class about Harvest and we thought about reasons to be thankful. This week, parents in Reception will have received an invitation to join Class Dojo. Please do ensure you join us online so that you can see photographs and more information about our current learning.

We would welcome donations of story CDs suitable for Reception age. Thank you in advance!

Years 1 and 2

In English, we are starting to focus on some of the features of fairy tales. We read the Gingerbread Man story, acted it out in a group and answered some questions about it. In Phonics and Reading, Year 1 are recapping Phase 3 phonemes and Year 2 are learning the Phase 5 phonemes and alternative sounds through the Little Wandle scheme. In Maths, Year 1 have been investigating teen numbers and learning about ordinal numbers. Year 2 have been learning about partitioning 2-digit numbers into tens and ones and how to write place value addition and subtraction number sentences. In Science, we tested whether certain materials are waterproof and we practised different balances in gymnastics. Thank you in advance for helping your child to practise reading their ebook (decoding, prosody and comprehension) on a daily basis and please send your child's completed reading log in to school on Mondays and Fridays, so they can be awarded their reading at home certificates as soon as possible.

Year 3

Year 3 have worked really hard throughout the week. In maths, we have continued to focus on place value. The children learnt how to write amounts in pounds and pence (£1.04 and £1.40) and compared these using the < and > signs. In English lessons, the children enjoyed listening to *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura and used their story boards to retell the story in the correct sequence. In spelling sessions, the children enjoyed creating spelling pyramids to help them learn the tricky parts of each of this week's spelling words. In computing, the children enjoyed uploading images

onto their slides and selecting ways of transitioning from one slide to another. In our history lessons we continued to focus on the stone-age and what a people who lived during this period might have needed to have near them to survive.

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have been writing stories set in the Stone Age and have started a new book in English, *Stone Age Boy*. In maths, we have been doing subtraction by counting up on a number line to find the difference between two numbers and comparing this to other methods. In science, we have been creating our own classification keys to sort animals by their characteristics. In PSHE, we have been thinking about why it is important that our comments about the physical appearance of others should be positive and kind.

Year 5

This week in Year 5 we have finished reading the book, *A Medal for Leroy* by Michael Morpurgo, where secrets within the plot were revealed. Through our connections with the characters involved, we were able to empathise with their experiences of the First World War and understand the motives behind their behaviours. We began looking at Fractions and Decimals in Maths, working to multiply and divide numbers with 2 decimal places by 10 and 100. We set out to test whether we could clone a chrysanthemum in Science by carefully taking a cutting and hoping roots will grow. Within spelling lessons we've looked at strategies for learning to spell words with 'silent' letters such as autumn, honest, numb and write.

Year 6

We are writing this live (on Friday morning) from the Hilltop archery range where our group are practising our Catniss Evergreen/Robin Hood impressions. Yesterday, we did the assault course and the massive, free-fall, air jump which was really scary but really fun! Speaking of Catniss Evergreen, the game we played in the forest last night (Owls and Mice) felt like the Hunger Games (in a fun way). Our time has also been spent doing the super swing (which Erik described as his soul leaving his body) and climbing a huge climbing wall. So far, we have had lasagne and fish and chips for dinner; both were pretty good. At the moment, one of our groups is on the beach learning about coastal erosion. So far, Hilltop has been extremely exciting, scary and fun and we've still got a day to go before we come back on Saturday.

By Cordelia, Marianne, Nefeli, Erik, Charlie, Natalie, Luciana and Monty S.

School Meals

Next week will be week 1 of the menu cycle (attached). 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

Diary Dates

Y6 swimming.....	28 Sep
Reception parent workshop 9.15am in school hall.....	28 Sep
PSHE parent workshop 8.30-9am in school hall.....	4 Oct
Y6 swimming.....	5 Oct
Harvest Festival assembly 9.45am	10 Oct
Open afternoon for parents 3.15-4.15pm.....	10 Oct
Pupil individual photographs	11 Oct
Y6 swimming.....	12 Oct
Parent consultations face to face 1.30-4.30pm	17 Oct
Parent consultations via Zoom, 3.30-6pm (tbc)	18 Oct
Y5&6 cross country, Grantchester Meadows	18 Oct
Y6 swimming.....	19 Oct
Y6 swimming.....	26 Oct
Half term week.....	24-28 Oct

NEWNHAM CROFT PTA NEWS

Fireworks Night - Saturday 5th November 5.30pm start

All parents and children of the school are invited to the PTA Fireworks Night on Saturday 5th November. We hope you will be able to join us for an evening of fun and food and drink. We will be selling tickets online and from the office the week commencing 10th October 2022.

These events can only happen with the help of all our wonderful parent and teacher volunteers. We will shortly be sharing a schedule of volunteering where parents can sign up to do their bit, have fun and meet other parents. Watch this space and keep the date free in your diary....

Thank you for coming to our first PTA meeting of the year! We covered a lot of things and it was great to see some new faces. If you missed it, catch up via the minutes which Shannon, our secretary, will post on Classlist in the coming days.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Cancellation of Stagecoach Bus no 18 to Comberton

Please see the attached letter from the Head of Comberton VC regarding the cancellation of this service and a link to a petition if you wish to object.

Bottisham Girls Football Team

We currently have four Girls teams and are passionate about expanding on this. We have space in all of our current teams for more players and are particularly looking for girls in Years 4 to 9. However, we welcome enquiries from all age groups. We have recently worked hard to win a large grant for Girls football at our club. This will not only secure the future of Girls football with us but will provide the girls with extra opportunities and better facilities/equipment. Most of our girls train on the 3G at Bottisham Village College, on Thursday evenings (U10s train Tuesdays) and have matches on Saturday mornings. For any further information please do not hesitate to contact via our club website (www.bottishamfc.co.uk), social media or contact our Head of Girls Football, Bryan Brasnett direct Brasnettbryan@gmail.com

Newnham Social Club event

We are delighted to be welcoming Deep Blue back to the club this **Saturday 24th September** starting at **8pm**. Deep Blue plays soul, blues, jazz, funk, rock and world music and as a Newnham-based band has a strong local following. There is no charge for entry but there will be a collection for donations in aid of **Red Balloon of the Air (RBAir)** a charity providing support for children who are not able to attend "bricks and mortar" education.

<https://www.redballoonlearner.org/locations/red-balloon-of-the-air/>

We do hope the evening won't just be about listening to great music .. for those wanting to .. the dance floor awaits you!

Newnham Social Club Committee