



Newnham News

Friday 28 November 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Topic overviews](#)

[Home learning ideas](#)

[NET donation link](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

Just a quick note from me.

Having covered in a couple of classes over the past two weeks, I've been reminded of the unrivalled intensity of being an adult in class, particularly the teachers. The hustle and bustle, the constant questions (each child only needs two questions an hour to mean there's one coming every minute), the whirligig of moving bodies and noise.

Phew, phew, phew - by the end of the day, I was pooped!

Now, things would have been a little easier if I had been more familiar with the individual classroom routines, but there is no doubting the extraordinary demands placed on adults in the classroom. So to all the staff working at the coal face, I applaud your resilience and salute the optimism that enables you to turn up every day and to find joy and satisfaction within that most marvellous of maelstroms.

Enjoy the rest of the newsletter and have a very lovely weekend.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y6 bake sale	3.15pm	Fri 5 Dec
PTA Xmas tree pick up		5 & 6 Dec
Y3/4 trip to Fitzwilliam Museum		Tues 9 Dec
Christmas Jumper Day		Thu 11 Dec
Eat lunch with your Y5 child (sign up here)		Thu 11 Dec
PTA Winter Fair	2pm	Sun 14 Dec
Rec & KS1 festive show		16 & 17 Dec
Festive Singalong for all families	3pm	Thu 18 Dec

Please check the school calendar on our [website](#), which is updated regularly.

Whole school news

Poppy Appeal

Our school raised **£94.73** for this year's Poppy Appeal which went towards the **£2175.73** raised by Cambridge schools – thank you. To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit rbl.org.uk/Poppyappeal

Children in Need

We raised £83.00 for Children in Need 2 weeks ago - many thanks for your donations.

Spring club list

The timetable for next term's extra-curricular clubs is now live - see our [website](#).

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

In Reception, we have been busy exploring numbers to 20, practising careful counting and investigating the ideas of "one more" and "one less." We have also begun learning a poem for our Christmas performance. The class is working hard to remember the words and actions, and we are excited to share it with you soon. In art this week, the children have been creating



self-portraits. They looked closely at their features—eyes, nose, mouth, and hair—and produced wonderfully detailed drawings.

We have also spent time talking about friendship and what it means to be a good friend. The children are thinking about kindness, sharing, and including others as they continue to build new friendships within our class.

Year 1

This week, Year 1 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Cambridge Science Centre, linked to our current science topic on Materials. The children travelled in two groups by minibus, with Mr Ferguson as our driver for the day. Once at the centre, everyone had the chance

to explore a wide range of hands-on activities — from testing how far their paper aeroplanes could fly to designing and building their own mazes. After exploring, the children took part in a fantastic workshop all about man-made materials. They



investigated which materials burn easily, which ones conduct heat, and—most thrilling of all—watched what happened to a container of marshmallows when the air pressure changed! It was a wonderful day full of curiosity, learning, and excitement and we'd like to say a huge thank you to our parent helpers as well as our driver.

Year 2

This week, we welcomed a fantastic visitor, Mrs Pigot, who shared her memories of school from when she was a child. We asked the questions we had prepared and learned all about the games she played, the lessons she had, and the rules she followed at school. She even brought along some wonderful photos and pieces of her own schoolwork for us to explore.

The children showed excellent oracy skills as they confidently asked their thoughtful questions.

Another highlight in history this week was our trip to the Museum of Cambridge for a Victorian childhood workshop. We had a great time investigating historical sources and becoming fully immersed in what life was like for a Victorian child. Year 2 has truly impressed me this week - well done, Year 2!

Year 3

Year 3 has been working really hard on using the column method in maths to subtract 2 and 3-digit numbers (with and without borrowing). Later in the week, we turned our attention to trying to find what the missing numbers were in each of the columns and used our knowledge of inverse to create check calculations. In English lessons, the children learnt about the

different rules that apply to punctuating direct speech. They enjoyed writing their own conversations between Plop and his parents and thinking about different synonyms for 'said' and how the punctuation used can affect these choices. In history, the children learnt about the importance of gods and goddesses to the Ancient Egyptians. In RE lessons the children learnt about how Muslims and Hindus use both positive and restrictive guidance and how this compares to other world views.

Please note in the calendar that Y3 and Y4 will be visiting the Fitzwilliam Museum on Tuesday 9 December. Please ensure your child is dressed suitably for the weather and has a packed lunch and water bottle on that day. Email to follow soon.

Year 4

This week in maths, we celebrated Fibonacci Day by drawing spirals based on his famous sequence and started doubling and halving 2 digit numbers. We also practised adding and subtracting 1-digit numbers from 3- and 4-digit numbers. In English, we looked at non-fiction texts about Ancient Egypt. In RE, we looked at information about Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh scriptures. In science, we began making information booklets about our different types of teeth and how to look after them. In PSHE, we talked about places that we go regularly, what kind of risks may be present there and how to manage and reduce these risks. Spellings this week end in -lly.

Please note in the calendar that Y3 and Y4 will be visiting the Fitzwilliam Museum on Tuesday 9 December. Please ensure your child is dressed suitably for the weather and has a packed lunch and water bottle on that day. Email to follow soon.

Year 5

Year 5 has had another very cold yet productive week. In English, we continued our work on biographical writing. The class created a success criteria and began comparing the lives of the female scientists, Mary Anning and Mae Jemison. In maths, Year 5 has continued to explore division, focusing on converting numbers with remainders into fractions and then into decimals. In science, Year 5 explored solutions. They observed what happens when water is combined with sugar, flour, sand, food colouring and tea. Do the substances change colour? Do they dissolve? Finally, in geography, we looked at how people use deserts. Well done for a hardworking week, Year 5! Thank you to all of those who have joined us for running club. If your child is interested, we do still have places available. It is on Thursday morning at 8am.

Year 6

This week in Year 6, we finished our LAST ever swimming lesson and Y6 did their FIRST school council. The Newnham Code was revealed. The timetable:

Monday: normal.

Tuesday: Last swimming lesson.

Wednesday: Normal

Thursday: First school council (and in science, Mr Ferguson didn't blow any bulbs)

Friday: Normal

By Calian

A reminder that the deposit for the Hilltop residential is due by the end of the month. Please make a payment of £82.00 on SchoolGateway to secure your child's place.

PTA news

Christmas Trees

Thanks to everyone who ordered a Christmas tree! We sold 99 trees/wreaths and collected around a dozen additional donations, and the money raised will go directly back to the school. Don't forget to pick up your tree next Friday from 3:15-3:30, or Saturday from 9:00-12:30.

If you're looking for an easy way to recycle your tree after Christmas while supporting a local charity, check out [JustHelping](#), which will collect your bare tree from your doorstep.

PTA Winter Fair - Sunday 14 December

Come along at 1400 and join in some Christmas crafts, sing a song, drink a hot chocolate and throw a snowball. The PTA is not ticketing this event, but asks parents to 'bring a dish' to sell on our behalf (usual rules apply about highlighting allergens please). Volunteers to help setting up, running activities and clearing up most welcomed. Let your class rep know if you are happy to be involved in any way.

Community news

School music festival

The Christmas music festival will take place on 12th December in the school hall (4:30 - 5:30pm). It will feature a performance from the Newnham Croft orchestra followed by solo performances by the school's budding musicians. Any child is welcome to perform independently of their level. Please fill the following form if your child would like to be included in the list of performers: <https://forms.gle/uq41LJFjLB5Aoh77A>

Scouts fundraising

In two weeks time on 4th December it's Bingo night in Newnham, hosted by the fantastic Scouts in the lodge. Everyone is welcome, and we're collecting for a very good cause, namely our minibus, which went kaput earlier this year. This is not only used by the Scouts but by the school too, and plays a huge part in our community programmes. Tickets are on sale now for £7.50, which includes a hot dog and your first six games. It'd be super to have parent's support to help us get back on the road.

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/bingo-43>

St Mark's Advent Fair

Please see the attached flyer for an advent fair on Saturday 29 November, 3 - 6pm in St Mark's Church.