



Newnham News

Friday 14 November 2025

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Next Friday, our teachers will be taking part in something a little different — a Teacher Swap Day!

For one day only, staff will be stepping out of their usual classrooms to spend time teaching and learning in a different part of the school. The idea behind this is simple: to give teachers a fresh perspective, share great practice, and strengthen our sense of whole-school teamwork.

A teacher who usually works with our youngest pupils might spend the day in upper Key Stage 2, while another who teaches older children might join the Early Years team. It's a wonderful opportunity for staff to see the curriculum in action across all year groups, understand how learning builds from one stage to the next, and bring new ideas back to their own classrooms.

For the children, it's a fun and positive experience too — a chance to learn from a different adult, share what they know, and show off their skills and independence.

We're looking forward to a day full of curiosity, collaboration and fresh ideas — all of which help us make our teaching even better for every child at our school.

Have happy weekends everyone.

Kind regards,
Edward Ferguson

Diary Dates

Y3&4 VR workshop - return consent please	Mon 17 Nov
Y6 swimming	Tues 18 Nov
Y5/6 cross country	Thu 20 Nov
Coming up.....	
Y6 swimming - last session	Tues 25 Nov
Y1 trip to Cambridge Science Centre	Wed 26 Nov
Y2 trip to Cambridge Museum	Thurs 27 Nov
PTA Xmas tree pick up	5 & 6 Dec
Y3/4 trip to Fitzwilliam Museum	Tues 9 Dec
Christmas Jumper Day	Thu 11 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

Mice wanted!

Mrs Kivisild, our computing lead, is asking for any donations of wired computer mice. We now have our excellent new laptops, but it's important for children to continue practising mouse skills, so if you have a spare mouse in your house, please consider donating to the school. Many thanks in advance.

Reception and KS1 festive performance

There will be 2 performances of the Reception and KS1 Christmas production - Tuesday 16 December at 2pm and Wednesday 17 December at 9.30am. Each family will be allocated 2 tickets - collect from the office from Friday 21 November onwards. More details coming by email.

School Meals

The weekly menu is attached and [online](#). The menu next week will be Week 2. The cost of a school meal is £2.75.

Classroom news

Reception

This week, we learned about why we buy and wear poppies at this time of year. The children enjoyed making their own poppies using red paint and the technique of pointillism. As part of our Children in Need 25 celebrations, we've also been thinking a lot about kindness. The class has been busy recording all the kind things happening each day — it's been wonderful to see so many caring actions! In maths, we have started exploring subtraction from 6 and how this links to our number bonds. In phonics, we have been learning the digraphs ff, ll, ss and the phoneme j.

Year 1

In science this term, Year 1 has been learning about materials and their properties. The children began by identifying and naming a variety of materials such as wood, plastic, metal, glass, and fabric. They have enjoyed becoming 'Material Detectives', exploring objects in their environment and discussing what they are made from. We have also been developing our understanding of the properties of materials, using descriptive words such as hard, soft, rough, smooth, shiny, and dull. More recently, the children have investigated which materials are

absorbent and which are not. They made thoughtful predictions and carefully tested their ideas, recording what they discovered. *Please note in the calendar that Year 1 is visiting the Science Centre on Wednesday 26 November. Please make a payment of £8.75 on the SchoolGateway app and bring a booster seat on that day.*

Year 2

This week in Year 2, we have been busy learning and achieving across all our subjects! In English, we used connecting words such as *and*, *or*, and *but* to join statements, and practised punctuating both questions and statements correctly. In science, we built on last week's learning to recognise the difference between things that are alive, were once alive, or have never been alive. In art, we explored and described different textures through touch and rubbings, while in history we worked collaboratively to write questions that will help us investigate what schools were like in the past. In gymnastics, we practised our rolls and began linking movements together to create simple routines. In maths, we explored number bonds to 20, working systematically to help with three-number addition, and used our number facts to support both addition and subtraction. We also showed great teamwork and kindness as we worked hard to complete 25 Acts of Kindness as a class for BBC Children in Need!

Please note in the calendar that Year 2 is visiting the Museum of Cambridge on Thursday 27 November. Please make a payment of £5.00 on SchoolGateway.

Year 3

Year 3 has continued to enjoy their topic on Ancient Egypt and some of them have been lucky enough to be a pharaoh for the day. In our maths sessions, we have continued to focus on fractions. At the start of the week the class worked on finding halves and quarters of differing amounts. Later in the week, the children learnt how to add and subtract fractions with common denominators. In our English sessions, the children have been really engaged when writing their non-chronological reports on barn owls. In history, the children learnt about the importance of the River Nile to the ancient Egyptians and what things it was used for. In our science session, the children enjoyed taking part in various challenges that required them to use contact forces to move a table tennis ball.

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

In maths, we used place value to decide if a calculation can be done instantly or whether it requires working out and we also completed an end of unit place value assessment. We also started learning about line graphs, including reading, interpreting and drawing them. We looked at common mistakes, such as not putting labels on the line, not labelling axes and not leaving equal spaces between intervals. In English, we read a narrative poem *How The Tortoise Got Its Shell* by Judith Nicholls, acted out the next part of the story and revised our punctuation for direct speech. In science, we began the first lesson of our new science topic, *Digestion and Food*, by looking at the

different parts that make up the human digestive system. In RE, we started work on sacred texts, thinking about different ways beliefs can be communicated. Spellings this week are some more words ending in -ation.

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Year 5

Year 5 has had another busy week getting to grips with their new geography topic. This week, they have been using maps to locate where in the world deserts can be found and have compared the different temperatures during the day and night in these various types of deserts. In maths, we have been adding and subtracting fractions and solving problems involving fractions. In science, we looked at sieving, and the class used a sieve to separate sand and chunky pieces of glitter. Next session, we will be using magnetism to work out how to separate soil and iron filings. In English, to conclude our work on classical poetry, the class wrote their own versions of Hilaire Belloc's *Matilda*. Some of the children chose to use rhyme and inject a little humour into their writing. Well done for a hardworking week, Year 5!

Year 6

This week in Year 6 we have been learning things from deserts to electricity. We have also been planning our Greek restaurant to end our Greek topic. We have made nearly 60 napkin ducks!

By Ralph and Lyra

PTA news

Get your Christmas tree from Newnham Croft this year!

Buy your freshly cut Christmas tree from Newnham Croft this year to support the PTA (and a local farm!). Order your tree via Classlist by 26 November for collection from the school from 3:15-3:30 on 5 Dec, or 9:00-12:30 on 6 Dec. Please share the link with your neighbours and local friends and family - the more trees we sell, the more funds we raise for our school!

<https://bit.ly/NewnhamCroftXmasTree>

Community news

Scouts fundraising

The Newnham Scouts are fundraising to buy a new minibus - please see the attached file for more information.

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 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>

Chess team

The new chess season started on Sunday with our A-team setting their sights on promotion to the upper division after coming close last season. They won all four matches, being our B-team, Perse Prep B, St Alban's B and St John's A, all by the same score of 4-2. They are 4th, just one place behind the promotion spots. Our Bs impressed too, thumping Trumpington 5-1, drawing with St Alban's B, and losing narrowly (3-2) to Perse Prep B, despite playing every game one player short! Thank you to Evan's Dad for helping on the day. The league table can be seen here:

[Cambridgeshire Chess Championship | League Table.](#)

Flute Lessons with Paulo - One slot available!

Learn to play the flute in a fun and inclusive environment, at school! Open to everyone, lessons last 30 minutes or 20 minutes (great if you want to join one of the two school orchestras in the future!). Get in touch for a trial lesson at pauloghi@gmail.com or ghigliaflutestudio.com