



Newnham News

Friday 10 December 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Lunch menu
- Spring term list of Clubs

Dear Parents and Carers,

This will be our last newsletter before the Christmas break, so let me take this opportunity to wish you all a lovely festive holiday. We all know that public restrictions will be tighter over Christmas, but I hope you get time to spend with your wider families and loved ones. Our Covid cases in school remain thankfully low and hopefully that will continue for the next week. I do understand that some families who are planning journeys or seeing elderly relatives have taken a stance to remove the children from school for part of next week. I'm sure you know that I can't officially authorise the absence, however I really do appreciate your reasoning in the present climate.

For our KS1 children we will be enjoying some Christmas songs on Tuesday 14 December after school. There will be a stage set up on the playground for this event with some mulled wine and mince pies. Please wrap up warm for this event (we're praying that the weather is helpful, and it certainly looks like it will be warmer than this week) as the performance will be about 40 minutes long.

Some children have also been enjoying baking gingerbread houses at Michelle's baking club; look how great some of them look.



Yesterday, you should have received the school's feedback from the parental questionnaire. Thank you for taking the time to complete this last term, it is a very helpful tool for us to use in our monitoring of school performance. If you have not received this then please get in contact with the school.

Attached to this newsletter you will also find the clubs list for next term's school clubs. Please contact the relevant person or group to book your places. There is no need to contact me regarding the coding club. This club is for the benefit of all those children who didn't get to take part in the club this term. I already have that list of names, so if you were told earlier this term that you would have a place in January, then your child is already allocated a place.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind parents about the contents of packed lunches. Some children have been arriving in school with fizzy drinks, sweets and chocolate bars on a regular basis. These products are not appropriate for consumption in school at meal times and should not be included in packed lunches. Ideally, a packed lunch should consist of some sandwiches (or equivalent savoury product), some fruit or vegetables, some healthy snack product, yogurt or cheese. If you want to provide a sweet biscuit or flapjack style product, twice a week would match how often school meal children receive a baked pudding.

The school meals menu for the first three weeks in January is not attached to this newsletter, but will be sent out separately during next week.

I'd also like to remind everyone that our term finishes on Thursday 16 December, as the Friday is a staff training day. It's been a really long term for both the children and the staff, and both deserve a wonderful and relaxing break. I hope that you also manage to get one too!

Classroom Round-up:

Reception

This week, we have been busily preparing for our Christmas concert and look forward to seeing you in our audience next week. In Maths we have been taking our first look at number bonds for five. So, in different ways we looked at how 5 can be made up by adding $5+0$, $0+5$, $4+1$, $1+4$, $3+2$ and $2+3$. We used fingers, counting beans, pegs on hangers and dominoes to support our learning. Some of the children have even started playing a game called 5's tennis, where the opponents call out the pairs of numbers which total 5. In Phonics, we have started phase 3 and have learnt the phonemes 'j', 'v', 'w' and 'x'. We just need to find out about the final 2 phonemes before we will know the entire alphabet! Thank you for your support with reading at home - it is really apparent in the progress the children are making.

Year 1

Unfortunately Miss Wakelen was not available to supply text for the newsletter this week. She will send something out to her class next week.

Class 1/2N & 1/2C

This week, as well as doing assessments in Maths and Reading, we have been busy practising our songs for the KS1 Christmas Concert (next Tuesday at 3.30pm in the playground). In Geography some of the children have been learning to locate the 5 oceans of the world and in ICT some have been continuing to work on following algorithms and debug them. Mrs Cullen's and Mrs Palmer's class enjoyed their visit to St Mark's church in Newnham on Monday. We met the Vicar, Rachel, who let us thoroughly explore the Church, as well as telling us about Advent and being a Christian and answering all of our questions. Thank you, Rachel! Unfortunately, Mr Goller's class visit to St Mark's planned for Monday 13 December is now postponed until the New Year. In Art, we have been finishing our seascapes, using as many tones as possible and in DT, we began to make a raft which will stay afloat and carry a weight. On the last day of term (Thursday 16 December) we will be celebrating the end of our Pirates topic and are inviting all the children to come to school dressed up as pirates. Don't worry if you don't have any clothes you can use for dressing up, as we will be making some simple pirate props at school with your child. Thank you for your support with your child's learning this half-term and wishing you all a happy holiday.

Year 3

Year 3 have spent this week learning about how jobs and inventions from Ancient Egypt influenced life today. The class enjoyed learning about how the Egyptians invented toothpaste, toothbrush and breath mints. They also drew connections with the jobs that existed then, such as farming, fishing and writing are still just as important and take place now. We shall be finalising our *Ancient Egypt* topic next week with a day dedicated to it on Tuesday, where we shall be creating some crafts and doing a bit of sand dancing. In English, as part of our reading session, the class answered retrieval questions on *The Wizard of Oz*. They then wrote an alternative ending to the fairy tale, using paragraphs and extending their sentences using one of the conjunctions we've been working on. In SPAG, the class have been practising spelling Common Exception Words and applied this to sessions of Handwriting. In Maths, Year 3 have been revising addition and subtraction number sentences, multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100 and using their skills in problem solving and reasoning to solve some subtraction challenges. In Science, the class have been exploring translucent, transparent and opaque. The class are also looking forward to their session of Forest Schools this afternoon. Well done Year 3 for a very hardworking week

Year 4

This week Year 4 have been continuing to learn about Ancient Egypt and historical artefacts in particular. Mrs Palmer taught the children about the objects we are able to study in order to learn about the life and culture of Ancient Egypt. In Science we have been learning about the difference between transparent, translucent and opaque materials and we are beginning to create some shadow puppets for our Ancient

Egyptian shadow theatre next week. In Maths we have been reviewing our assessments and in English we have been learning about the life of the author David Walliams as well as finishing off our unit of work on Mr Stink.

Year 5

In Year 5 this week, in Maths we have been looking at converting mixed numbers into improper fractions and vice versa, and solving reasoning problems associated with this skill. In History, we have been completing our assessment piece, writing about the significance of the Ancient Greeks in our modern world (democracy, philosophy, mathematics, architecture etc.). On Thursday, Neil O'Donohue from Cambridge School Sports Partnership came in and the Year 5s completed their 'Playleader' training. From now on, 4 Year 5s will be leading activities every lunchtime, aimed at helping those children who might find themselves a little isolated or at a loose end on that day.

Year 6

This week we have been doing Masterchef (festive biscuits) and today we have been decorating and judging them. In Music we have been making films about the Greek myth Perseus and Medusa, using Video Editor, which we've been using a lot. Throughout PE this half term we have been learning new skills and finished with some football matches. Over in Maths, we have been finding volume and 3D shapes. Today we were making shapes and writing them down in our books. In Science, we have been writing about Charles Darwin on the computers. In English we have writing myths and lastly in Art we were mixing colours with watercolour paints.

By Otto, Fin and Hannah

School Meals

Next week will be the week 4 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

As we draw to the end of the year, the PTA would like to thank you for your continued support which has not only brought us together as a community, but also raised a huge amount of money which is being spent in the school. Since September, we have funded a new shed, a new mud kitchen and stage for the KS1 children and have freshened up the playground with several tons of bark, as well as various other things that help our teachers and children on a day-to-day basis within the school.

Bonfire Night was a roaring success and not only did Mr Pinnock and Mr Jach blow us away with the fireworks display, the volunteers fed and watered us well and we raised £1.8k. Our fresh local Christmas trees have brought festive cheer into our living rooms as well as over £2k into the PTA coffers. This money will benefit all of the children at school greatly, so thank you!

Next year, we have much to look forward to but in the mean time, if you are Christmas shopping via Amazon, why not use Amazon Smile to donate a small percentage toward the PTA or use Easyfundraising to do the same - both of these schemes give us back a portion of your spending, at no extra cost to you. Further details are on Classlist.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the Christmas raffle - click [here](#) to buy entries and potentially win some tasty treats for the festive period. Winners will be announced on Wednesday 15th December and prizes will be collected from school. Good luck!

Wishing you all an enjoyable Christmas break.