



Newnham News

Friday 21 January 2022

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Lunch menu
- Installation of AED at Co-op
- Music workshop at St Marks
- Kapla Club

Dear Parents and Carers,

Much as I would like to be able to use this letter to share lovely things about your children's education, I'm afraid I've got a Covid update for you instead. As you will have heard during the week, next week there will be a national easement in the Covid measures being taken in the wider public. We have been in discussion with the local authority about how we balance the changed guidance against the very clear evidence in schools (not just here, but all over the city) that rates of transmission remain very high. Between the weeks of 3 January and 10 January cases in Cambridgeshire schools doubled, and this trend will only have continued in the last week, and we currently have more than 1 in 10 pupils with Covid. Having spoken to Public Health England this morning, the perceived fall in cases nationally is due to cases not being reported to the NHS following positive LFT results, so in arriving at our response we have kept this in mind. I'd also remind parents to please report all positive LFTs on the NHS report a case website, as this really does help provide an accurate picture of data for policy makers to be guided by.

Therefore, from next week there will be some reductions in some of the measures being taken in school, and a continuation and strengthening of other measures to try to limit cases rising as much as possible. From 27 January, parents will no longer be requested to wear face coverings onto the school site, or when visiting the school office. This is in line with the removal of this requirement in public places and public transport. Parents will of course have the choice whether to continue to do so for their own personal reasons. Staff will also no longer be requested to wear face coverings in classes and communal areas from the same date, however some staff will continue to want to do so. We are also mindful that some parents will want to continue to send their children into school with a face covering too. This remains a personal parental choice and one that the school will support at the current time.

As cases are high we will be continuing with virtual assemblies for the next few weeks, but we will review this position if numbers do start to fall. We will also be continuing with a policy of keeping classrooms well ventilated, encouraging good hand hygiene, cleaning of touch points in classrooms etc. We will await more detailed guidance on these school measures before relaxing them.

From next week we will be asking children from the same class to sit together in the lunch hall and will slow the school meals process to keep a maximum of three classes in the hall at any one time. This is another temporary step that we will relax as soon as numbers in the school start to reduce.

We do have the option to move to steps such as isolating certain classes where numbers are very high, but we are trying to avoid needing to take that step.

I hope that this stance makes sense. Our local knowledge of our Covid position is at odds with the spirit of the new national guidance, and I'm sure that you'll understand why we are being cautious at the moment in protecting pupil and community health.

Classroom Roundup

Reception

In Literacy this week, we continued with our learning linked to the book 'I Will Not Ever Never Eat Another Tomato', by writing about foods we do not like. Now, you might think that we are creating fussy eaters, but we found out that even though some of us have some types of food we might not enjoy, none of us in Reception are as fussy as our book character, Lola. In fact, we found out that Lola did eventually enjoy those foods, once she allowed herself to try them and by giving them creative new names, which is what we did! In Maths we have been looking at number bonds to 10 (pairs of numbers that make 10, such as 9+1, 8+2 etc). In Phonics we have learnt the phase 3 digraphs 'ng', 'ai' and 'ee' and the trigraph 'igh'. We also learnt to read the phase 3 tricky words 'he', 'me', 'be', and 'we'. Can we please remind parents/carers to return library books so that new ones can be issued and do continue with the reading on Big Cats each day.

Year 1

This week in English we have been learning to use the conjunction 'and' to extend our sentences. In Geography we have been learning about the capital cities in the UK. In Science we have been looking at different types of weather and linking them to the seasons. In Maths we have been learning to use our number bonds to do addition and subtraction. In DT we have been designing and tasting toppings to make bread rolls. In History we have been looking at how the Great Fire of London spread and how it was finally stopped.

Class 1/2N and 1/2C

In Maths, Year 1 have been consolidating their knowledge of teen numbers and learning to add 2 numbers quickly (e.g 6 + 9) by making 10 using tens frames and counters. They also had fun working on an investigation using symmetry and different combinations and measuring objects in the classroom and comparing them. Year 2 have been learning how to recognise wholes and fractions (halves, quarters and thirds) and how to use grouping to solve division problems. In Phonics, Year 1 learnt some alternative pronunciations of the graphemes 'ie' (field/relief) and 'ea' (head/bread/ready) and how to spell 'any,' 'saw,' 'thought' and 'do'. It would be great if you could help your child spot and recognise some of these graphemes and words in their reading at home. Year 2 learnt how to add the suffix 'est' to adjectives ending 'y' (funniest/funnier). In History, English, Art and DT, we enjoyed another week of immersing ourselves in the story of the Great Fire of London. In P.E, we practised putting a sequence of movements together to music with a partner to retell the start of the story. If you ask your child, they can demonstrate mixing and kneading the bread in the bakery on Pudding Lane and the flickering flames spreading across London as the fire took hold! Your child will have been sent home with a highlighted 'Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words' sheet this week. The highlighted words are the words they could spell correctly at the end of last term. Please encourage your child to continue to work on their spelling. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have been learning more about the various states of matter and we did an experiment to see which solids could melt when heated and which could freeze or change to a gas when placed in the freezer or boiled. The class really enjoyed observing a caramel chocolate bar melting. In Geography, Year 3 have been learning about the lines of latitude and longitude on a globe. They learnt that these lines help them to work out specific co-ordinates for the location of countries and oceans. The class then practised working out these co-ordinates using a set map and referring to their learning of the different hemispheres, the week before. In English, we've started exploring the book *Fantastic Beasts* and each child created their own version of a fantastic beast and used expanded noun phrases to describe it. In Maths, the class has been working on fractions. We explored how to place fractions on a number line by making sure that each part of the number line was equal and reflected the denominator. The class also practised ordering fractions and making a whole using bar models. The class have also been building on a dance routine which links to our topic, *Magic, Potions and Spells*. Well done Year 3 for a very busy and hardworking week.

Year 4

The focus in our Maths this week has been multiplication and division using 'fact families' and arrays. In English, we have been reading Newt Scamander's journal and his descriptions of fantastic beasts! We have designed our own magical beasts

and used expanded noun phrases to describe them. Within Geography, we have been looking at maps of the world and using lines of longitude and latitude to find coordinates of countries and places special to the children in our class.

Year 5

This week, in Science we looked at gravity and the difference between weight and mass. In Maths, we estimated and measured mass, reading scales and converting grams to kilograms and vice versa. We also looked for patterns in square numbers and practiced different mental methods of multiplication. In R.E. we explored Justice, using a Buddhist story to explain how it showed us about being fair and reasonable, whilst in topic, we wrote a persuasive piece about why it is right/wrong to return treasures to their country of origin (in this case, the Benin Bronzes).

Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been working hard and continuously at their schoolwork, faster and more efficiently than ever. But, while their numbers are diminishing at an alarming rate due to the virus, the spirit and atmosphere of the class are essentially the same. As well as that the lessons are also fundamentally the same, with forces for Science, embossing for Art, and the class book called Warhorse – enjoyed by many – to boot. *Nadav and Deniz*

School Meals

Next week will be the week 1 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 the PTA reawakens for 2022, we prepare for our next meeting. This will be on Wednesday 2nd February, 8pm on Zoom. Links will go out the week before. We will be having a quick chat about our bank balance, funding requests from school and upcoming activities and events. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to join.

COMMUNITY NEWS

AED installed in Newnham

Thanks to fundraising in the local community by 11th/9th Cambridge Scout Group and St. Mark's PCC a new AED has now been installed next to the entrance to Newnham Co-op. Please see the attached flyer for further information.

Music workshop at St Mark's for Year 1 – Year 3 aged children. See poster attached.

Kapla Club 4 February – see poster attached.