

Newnham Croft Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr E Ferguson



4 September 2023

Year 4 – Mrs Cullen and Mrs Palmer

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your family have had a wonderful summer break and are looking forward to hearing about it when your child returns to school on Monday 4th September.

The topic for this half-term is Volcanoes and the children will learn that the Earth is constructed in layers, and the crust is divided into tectonic plates. They will study the formation and distribution of mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes and use Mount Etna to identify how human interaction shapes a volcanic landscape. Our topic for the second half-term will be Ancient Egypt and we are planning to visit the Fitzwilliam Museum to bring this topic to life for the children and enrich their learning. We will send you details regarding the trip nearer the time. If you are an expert in either of these areas and would like to come into school to share your knowledge with the children, please come and speak to us before or after school. We would also appreciate any books or resources you may have to help us.

Start and end of the school day

The children will continue to arrive in the school playground between 8.30am and 8.45am. The bell for the start of the day will be rung at 8.45am when parents/carers will leave the playground and the children will be taken into the class by their class teacher. The children will be in the playground for collection at 3.15pm. We would be grateful if you could ensure that your child arrives promptly for the start of the school day as this avoids disruption. If your child is late, please sign them in at the office.

School dinners / packed lunch

Payment for school dinners is made via SchoolComms, if you decide to select this option for your child. The school dinner menu is displayed in the school kitchen window and on the website and is emailed with the weekly newsletter. You may prefer instead to send your child in with a packed lunch, which needs to be placed on the trolley in the playground at the start of the school day.

Communication

If you would like to talk to us about any aspect of your child's schooling, we will be on the playground at 8:35 to talk to parents on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Alternatively, teachers are available and happy to meet with parents every day after school. If you would like a longer meeting on specific date, please feel free to contact the office to arrange an appointment. You can also email us via the office (office@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk) and we will respond to emails within one working day.

Mrs Cullen's days in school are Monday – Wednesday

Mrs Palmer's days in school are Wednesday – Friday

Snacks and water bottles

Healthy snacks can be supplied from home and, as drinking water regularly during the day helps your child to stay hydrated, we would be grateful if you could continue to send your child's labelled water bottle to school each day.

PE times and active wear

Our PE slots for this term are Wednesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Please could you ensure that your child has suitable clothing and footwear (in line with the school's active wear policy) not just on these days but for the whole of the week as PE times may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Long hair should be tied back for PE. Active wear means clothes and footwear that are comfortable and appropriate for physical activity (not sandals). No jewellery or nail varnish should be worn in school.

PPA cover

PPA will be covered on Wednesday afternoons by Mrs Onatskaia (Music) and Premier Sports (P.E) in order for us to carry out planning, preparation and assessment activities.

Forest School and outdoor classroom

The children will be using the areas outside the classroom to extend their learning as well as Forest School sessions. We will confirm our date for Forest School for the Autumn Term by email to you as soon as possible. We ask that you provide a waterproof coat, trousers and wellies on Forest School days but also ensure that your child is suitably dressed on other school days so that we can enjoy the outside space around the school, whatever the weather.

Reading

We hope you have enjoyed reading with your child over the summer. It is so important to spark a love of reading at this age and to encourage them to discuss what they have read. It is highly recommended that you listen to your child read every day for about 10-15 minutes and then to talk about what they have read with them. Every Thursday, your child will have the opportunity to select a few reading books they wish to take home for the week. We will encourage the children to choose a variety of books across different genres.

Spellings and times tables practise

On Fridays, a list of spellings will be sent home for your child to practise in preparation for a spelling test the following Friday. Please encourage your child to practise these spellings at home by writing sentences containing them. If you have any questions about strategies for learning spellings, please do not hesitate to ask us.

Your child also has a login for Times Tables Rockstars and it would be helpful for them to practise the multiplication facts up to 12x12 regularly at home in preparation for the Y4 Multiplication tables check in June 2024 and to aid them with quick recall in maths lessons. We will also be practising spellings and multiplication facts at school. For further information about the Multiplication tables check see the link below, or please do not hesitate to ask us.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1116420/2023_Information_for_parents_Multiplication_tables_check_Nov_22_PDFA.pdf

Parent consultations

Parent consultations will be held in October during the week beginning 16th October. The school office will send out booking details nearer the time.

Booknic

On Tuesday 26th September, we will be holding a year 3/4 Booknic (book picnic) where you can join your child after school from 3:15pm to 3:50pm on the field to read and picnic. Please bring some snacks and a book and enjoy sharing it together outside. There will also be books available at school for you to explore. The Booknic is a chance for us to celebrate the joy of reading with you and your child. We look forward to seeing you then!

Diary dates

Meet the teachers: Wednesday 6 September, 9:00-9:20am.

Booknic: 26 September, 3.15-3.50pm

Open Afternoon: Monday 9 October, 3:15-4:15pm

We are very much looking forward to working with your child over the coming year and to the start of an exciting new term.

Warm regards,

Mrs Cullen and Mrs Palmer

Year 4 Class Teachers