



Newnham News

Friday 14 May 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

Attachments

- Lunch menu
- NET

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ahead of 17th May's next step in the national roadmap, I've a few changes to report in the way we will be operating from next Monday.

Firstly, the requirement for staff and pupils within bubbles to wear a face covering during lessons has been removed in secondary settings. This also means that staff in primary schools will only be wearing masks for transitional journeys within school or in communal spaces. Alongside this and the wider national changes for social gatherings, we will no longer be asking parents to wear face coverings onto the school site from Monday either. We will obviously still be asking for social distancing and for children who can come in independently to continue to do so from the school gate. Those of you who still wish to wear a mask yourself or want your child to continue wearing one in school will clearly still be able to do so, if you feel happier that way.

There are a few other changes which will now allow things such as: overnight residential trips, which is great news for the Year 4 and 6 children; interschool sports fixtures, which we are arranging for June and larger group sizes for afterschool clubs. All of which will allow us to provide new opportunities for the children.

It also seems likely that sports days and school fetes etc will be viable from after 21st June, although the news of new variants may yet push this back a little. There is also the potential for measures being reintroduced should the data locally go the wrong way.

I'm also pleased to tell you that if you are in receipt of free school meals, the voucher system will be operating again across the summer half term week. If this concerns you then you should be contacted with vouchers just before the half term break.

In the meantime, have a lovely weekend and enjoy the chance to have a hug on Monday!

Parent Governor Election

We are pleased to announce that Matthew Day has been elected onto the Governing Body. Thank you to all the candidates who stood for election on this occasion.

Classroom Round-up

Reception

This week we have begun to focus much more on writing independently. The children were given picture prompts to stimulate ideas and then were asked to write one or two sentences to go with the picture. Independent writing is a big step on from writing with an adult helping to structure the writing and the class were undaunted by the task. We will be doing plenty more of this in the coming weeks. In Phonics we have been learning to recognise the words 'so, 'do' and 'have'. We do not introduce any new phonemes in phase 4 but teach the reading and writing of more complex words. The Maths focus has been revisiting the number bonds for 10. We have been playing Ten's Tennis: If I bat 8 to you, you need to return 2 to me as $8+2=10$. Ask your child how to play this. We celebrated earning 200 smiley faces this week. That is 200 times that every member of our class did something amazing. Well done, Reception!

Reception/Year 1

This week we have been exploring Jack and The Beanstalk from each character's perspective and writing letters from either Jack or the Giant. We continue to track the progress of our own runner beans through diaries and have today transferred them into pots. In Maths this week we have been learning about halving and this could be continued at home in a practical manner with some sharing games. P.E will be taking place outdoors from now on (weather permitting), so please ensure your child has appropriate footwear on a Thursday. Have a great weekend!

Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been learning how to find a quarter of shapes and number and the importance of having 4 equal parts. We have also been consolidating subtraction. In English the children have continued to adapt their stories of Jack and the Beanstalk and started to write their own version. Thank you to Mrs Kaalund, our mystery reader last week – the children loved the story.

Year 2

Year 2 have had a great week and have enjoyed in particular learning about the Battle of Hastings. In Maths, the children worked on problems involving money. They converted pence into pounds and worked out the differences between amounts of money.

In Grammar lessons, the children worked on recognising and creating noun phrases. In Spelling sessions, the children focused on words containing the suffix -less and -ful and looked to include some of these words in their story writing. In English lessons, the children used the plans they had created the previous week to help them write their own alternative versions of 'The Paper Bag Princess'. In History the children enjoyed creating a picture board of some of the events that took place at The Battle of Hastings. Our reading comprehension work this week focused on Motte and Bailey Castles. In PE, we created an attacking and defending game based around castles. Much fun was had but there were some tired and wobbly legs at the end. I hope everybody manages to have a restful weekend.

Year 3

This week, Year 3 have continued preparing for *The Lion King* production and have worked very hard practising the songs and rehearsing the dance movements to the music as well as building on their animal dances. I've been so impressed with how well the class has worked together in teams to build on their routines and support one another. The class have also created their animal masks for the production by designing and painting the face of their animal onto card by using poster paint and black markers. Their masks look fantastic and very realistic. In English, Year 3 have carried on with their unit on play scripts and this week they wrote an alternative ending to the story of *The Lion King*, set out in the format of a play. Some of the class chose to forgive the antagonist character, 'Scar' and make him 'Symba's' deputy and some of the class chose to give the protagonist character, 'Symba' a new life away from Pride Rock, where he would build his own pride. In SPAG (Spelling Punctuation and Grammar) Year 3 have been working on the vowel diagraph ie and the class discovered words such as, 'magpie' and 'Minecraft.' In Maths, the class have been consolidating their learning on addition and subtraction column by adding three 3-digit numbers together or taking a 3- digit number away from another 3-digit number. The class also recapped tenths and equivalent fractions and learnt how to work out 5 and 7 tenths of an amount. Lastly, in Geography, the class observed the different European climate zones, and they spent the lesson researching the climate of their chosen European country. Well done for a very busy and hardworking week Year 3!

Year 4

This week in Maths we have been learning how to use number lines to round decimals to the nearest whole number. In English, we looked closely at stage directions and how adverbs are used in play scripts. We used our imaginations and knowledge about the features of a play script to write an alternative play script ending to the Lion King. We are fine-tuning our acting skills and have enjoyed seeing our production take shape. Thank you to everyone who has been involved in helping the children to learn and hone their acting, dancing and singing skills!

Year 5

In English/Geography, we have planned and written a fiction and non-fiction piece of writing: we wrote a prequel to the mysterious short story, *Hunted*, and an explanation text about river systems. In Maths, we started looking at percentages: learning what they represent, their relationship with fractions and how to find % of amounts. We also continued to look at how fractions are used in short division. In Science, we hypothesised about what conditions would cause a nail to rust most quickly, and designed investigations to test our theories.

Year 6

This week we have been doing revision for our SATs. In PE, we have been practising bowling in cricket and playing tennis. In Music, we have been singing 'Born to be Wild'. In French, we are learning school subjects and things in the classroom. In Geography, we learnt about erosion. In English, we also wrote poems about water. As well as the revision and poems, we also wrote descriptions about sea creatures that could be real, mythological or made up by us. In RE, Adam and Alia have been teaching us about Eid and we made Eid cards or henna designs. *By Paolo, Eden and Alia*

School Meals

The school lunch menu for 4-28 May is attached; next week will be week 3 of the 4 weekly cycle. The cost of a school meal is £2.40 per day.

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

PTA website: <http://www.newnhamcroftpta.btck.co.uk/>

Yours faithfully,

Andy Matthews
Headteacher

PTA NEWS

Fundraiser for new iPads

The PTA is asking for your support to help fund new iPads for the school. Several years ago, the PTA bought the current iPads, and now these are very slow and practically unusable - we would love to help the school replace half of them (16 iPads) this term.

New iPads will benefit all age groups in the school, enabling day to day online research, allowing access to times tables and spelling apps plus supporting the more creative side of the curriculum such as photography, programming and music. The total cost to replace and install 16 iPads is approximately £5500.

For the next 2 weeks, we are asking you for donations of any size to put towards this cause. If you can donate *any* money at all, then please transfer an amount to the Newnham Education Trust and fill out the attached NET form, returning it to the school office. The form ensures the money is allocated to the correct cause and enables us to claim Gift Aid where possible (an extra 25p for every £1 on UK taxpayers' donations).

The details are:

Account name: Newnham Education Trust A/C

Account number: 65836853

Sort Code: 08-92-99

More information is available on the attached NET form or you can get in touch with us at newnhamcroftpta@gmail.com.

Every little amount helps and no donation is too small.

Thank you in advance for your support and a special thank you to those who have already donated.

Half term holiday club The Newcroft Club (aka after school club) still has some spaces available in our second bubble for this half term running from Tuesday June 1st -Monday June 7th in the school grounds. As usual we will be offering a variety of arts and crafts activities, some cooking and lots of free play opportunities both indoors and outside. Price is £34 per day (minimum booking 2 days) and we are open from 8.45am to 5.45pm though you may arrive or leave as suits you within these times. Please contact Maureen if you are interested: email thenewcroftclub@gmail.com or phone/message 07812 798195. More information about us can be found here: www.thenewcroftclub.co.uk