



# Newnham News

Friday 7 May 2021

Headteacher: Mr Andy Matthews

## Attachments

- Lunch menu
- NET leaflet

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a short week, but a lovely one in school. The weather may have been blustery at times but it has allowed the children to enjoy a 'snowfall' of blossom from the playground trees. The Year 5s have been out being adventurous in Thetford Forest and the rehearsals of the Lion King in Year 3/4 are coming on really well.

I've been able to get back into classroom to watch teaching recently and I must say that it's been wonderful to see your children so engaged, and thriving in such enjoyable lessons.

This week Mr Pinnock and the Forest School team have been clearing around the pond in the Forest School area and that is looking really lovely again (having been quite overgrown). I hope that lots of children will get to enjoy that space as we move into the warmer months.

Just a brief note about Covid: I'm pleased to say that rates locally have not increased as feared during the past 7 days, however we are still being asked to keep our in-school measures in place for the time being. We are still hopeful that we may soon be in a position to relax our measures a little, but that won't be during the next few weeks.

From next week I'm going to restart using my school Twitter account. If you started since the pandemic please follow me ([Head@NewnhamCroft](mailto:Head@NewnhamCroft)), this will be a closed group for parents/carers only, I will accept all requests to join from school parents/carers. It acts as a very direct way for me to share school events and photos from trips etc in real time. If you don't use Twitter, this feed will be built into our soon-to-be-released new school website, allowing everyone to see these messages on the homepage as well.

## Maths Workshop Zoom 14 May 9.30am

This is just a reminder that Mr Ferguson and Mrs Cullen, our maths' leads, are running a Zoom workshop for parents at 9.30am next Friday, May 14th. They will be going through the renewed Maths and Calculation Policy. If you are unfamiliar with any of the mathematical methods that we use in school, or would like to get an overview of the school approach to teaching maths, please join them - the zoom link will be shared next week. There should be time for questions, and we will be recording the session for any parents/carers who can't make it.

## Classroom Round-up

### Reception

This week we wrote our own version of the Gigantic Turnip which we called the Gigantic Potato! Each child contributed a page or two towards the book, writing and illustrating their part. In Maths we have been learning about the equivalence of the numbers 6 and 7. So, we know that  $7 = 0+7$ ,  $1+6$ ,  $2+5$ ,  $3+4$  etc. Mrs Marroncelli has planted beans with the class and the children have been keeping a bean diary, checking the progress of their plants each week.

### Reception/Year 1

This week in Reception/1 we have been continuing to work on Jack and the Beanstalk. We have completed story maps as well as explored the characters in more detail by role playing being Jack and the Giant. We tried to understand their actions from their respective point of view. In Maths we have been learning about sharing/grouping equally, and finding different ways of equally grouping various amounts. In Science we have been tracking the progress of our own beans which were planted last week and are beginning to see the signs of growth with some roots starting to emerge.

### Year 1

This week in Year 1 we have been continuing to look at the Jack and the Beanstalk story and enjoying hot seating the characters. The children have also adapted the story to make their own versions. We have been watching our bean experiment closely and recording what has happened. In Maths we have been halving shape and number. In PE we have been enjoying playing 3 Tees cricket – we have some great cricket players in Year 1!

### Year 2

It has been a busy but really productive week in Year 2 this week. In Maths we have continued to focus on money. The children made comparisons using the  $=$ ,  $<$  and  $>$  signs and ordered amounts from smallest to largest. In English the children really enjoyed planning their alternative versions of 'The Paper Bag Princess' by Robert Munsch. In spellings we have focused on adding the -ful suffix to root words to turn them into adjectives (help to helpful) and also looked at the rule that applies to adding the suffix to words ending in 'y' (beauty to beautiful). In Science the children continued to explore different uses of materials. In RE the children enjoyed learning about the life of Guru Nanak and answering questions about him. The children also continued to enjoy

learning about castles and are looking forward to our trip on 27 May to Mountfichet Castle (details of which have been emailed to you).

### Year 3

Year 3 have worked very hard to build on their production of *The Lion King*. The class have continued rehearsing the songs and coming up with more dance routines to go with the music. In English, we have continued to work on play scripts and Year 3 took their favourite scenes from *The Lion King* and re-wrote it as a play, with a few changes to the story. In SPAG (spelling punctuation and grammar), the class were revising the vowel diagraph (ee) and discovered words such as 'belief' and 'concrete.' In Maths, the class have been using the grid method to work out multiplication of 2- and 3-digit s by 1 and 2 numbers. Year 3 have also been working on division by chunking. The class enjoyed applying knowledge of their times tables to help them to work out how to divide a 2- or 3-digit number by a 1 or a 2-digit number. In Geography, Year 3 have been exploring capital cities across Europe. They picked 3 cities and have started researching these places and exploring their most famous monuments. Lastly in Art, the class completed their projects on screen printing and have started learning about some famous European artists. Well done for an excellent week Year 3!

### Year 4

This week we have been practising our production of the Lion King. We've thoroughly enjoyed learning the moves to accompany the songs and have now all got a printed copy of the script with our lines highlighted. All we need to do now is to learn them and polish off our acting skills! The rehearsals have brought the class together in a fun, creative and focused way. It has been heart-warming and inspiring to see the children's enthusiasm and dedication to this joint project. In Maths, we have practised multiplication and division facts, learnt how to make a whole using hundredths and tenths and how to compare and order decimals to two decimal places. In Science, we identified electrical appliances and the risks linked to them. In English, we focused on proofreading and editing and recognising the features of play scripts. In Computing, we learnt some programming and created



shapes with different angles on Turtle Academy <https://turtleacademy.com/>. In Art, we have started making the masks for our Lion King costumes. The picture in the previous column is an example of our Impressionist blossom art work.

### Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy, active week with swimming, two days at Thorpe Woodlands and Forest Schools today. Here is a report from Lola about our two days away:

This week our class visited Thorpe Woodlands Activity Centre to take part in fun outdoor activities and to make up for our missed Year 4 residential. The trip was to help us step out of our comfort zone and have fun!

Once we got there we met the instructors and were split into 3 groups of 10 or 11 – in group 2's case, 11. Then we went off to our first activity. I was in group 2 and we did climbing first. During climbing there was an activity called Power Fun which was basically jumping off a 10 metre tower! After lunch we did 3 team challenges to build our teamwork. In the first one we had to swing across to a small board and we had to fit everyone on the board. Then we played 'floor's lava' and 'hook the object' games. After that we did canoeing, which was a bit of a disaster because half way through the session it started raining and the wind picked up. In the end we had to hold all the boats together to get back safely!

The next day we came back and sorted into our groups. Group 2 started with zip-wiring and it was really fun (the hardest part was stepping off the tower).



Then we did tree trekking but 3 people didn't to this (including me) but it looked really fun. Our final challenge was archery which was very enjoyable and I was really good at it, though it randomly snowed half way through! Then we gathered all our stuff and went home.

#### **Year 6**

This week, Year 6 have spent a lot of our time revising and getting ready for our tests. We have all done an amazing job. We have also been writing character profiles for our English book, Flotsam. We have learnt about erosion and oxbow lakes in geography. Year 6 also played tennis matches and games of crickets in PE. We are getting ready for a photography project, which everyone is looking forward to.

*By Noa and Julia Year 6*

#### **School Meals**

The school lunch menu for 4-28 May is attached; next week will be week 2 of the new 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](http://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 3 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](mailto: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 - we already have over £1000!