



Newnham News

Friday 17 March 2017

Headteacher: Mrs S Williams

Attachments:

- NCPS response to funding
- Basketball Easter Club

Dear Parents, Carers and Children

This week Years 3 and 4 performed their play, The Jungle Book, to the school and their families. It was a wonderful show! The children worked really hard learning all their lines, songs and dances. Their performances were confident and very enthusiastic. As with all our school productions the learning was on many levels; children learning to perform on a stage to an audience, to work together as a team and to improvise and support each other when things don't go according to plan. Well done to all the children and thank you to the staff who worked hard too – Mr Jach for putting up the stage, Mrs Burke and Ms D'Oyly who did all the props and back drop, Mr Ferguson and Mrs Cullen for working with the children, Mrs Turner who directed the play and adapted the script and Mrs Onatskaia for the songs and choreography. Thank you for your donations and thank you to Ms Noble for making such delicious snacks to sell, £270.50 was raised for WWF (World Wildlife Fund), a very suitable charity to fit with the eco theme of the play.

This half term we are using Makaton for our greetings.

Next week the assembly music will be Vivaldi's The Four Seasons, Spring.

Hello	
Good morning	
Goodbye	

Next week our assemblies include Cambridge United's Kick It Out assembly with the theme of racism taking inspiration from the organisation 'Kick It Out' which tackles racism in football and a philosophy assembly with Mr Ferguson.

Parents are invited to come and see some of the children's learning in the following future assemblies:

- Tuesday 28 March 9.10 Year 6 dance display
- Wednesday 29 March 9.10 music assembly – choirs and recorder groups
- Thursday 30 March 10.10 Year 4 gym assembly

Staffing

Sadly Mrs Meredew, one of our teaching assistants, has resigned. She has really enjoyed working at Newnham Croft and we very much appreciate all that she has done during her time with us, we wish her all the best for the future.

Information Meeting for Year 2 Parents and Carers

Mr Goller, Miss Garrison and I will explain the Year 2 statutory assessment process on Tuesday 21 March at 9 am

in the school hall. If you are unable to attend the meeting you will be able to view the presentation on the school website and staff will be happy to answer any questions.

Parent Governor Election

Ballot papers should be returned no later than 23 March.

School Funding

You have probably heard about proposed changes to school funding and are wondering how they will affect Newnham Croft. The Government have been consulting on a new National Funding Formula for schools. At the moment there is a huge difference in the amount of funding that schools in different parts of the country receive. The government said that the new formula would make funding fairer. Cambridgeshire has long been one of the worst funded education authorities in the country; we have been campaigning for fairer funding for years. We had expected to see a large increase in our funding so we could do things like repair our school roof and hall floor.

However instead of making funding fairer, the current proposals mean our children will get much less money spent on their education than most other children in the country.

- Newnham Croft will see a fall in our funding by £10,000 for 2018-19.
- Almost one third of primary schools in Cambridgeshire **will actually see their funding fall**
- Small schools will be particularly badly hit.
- The average amount of funding per pupil in Cambridgeshire will be **£340 less per pupil than the national average**.
- That amounts to **£10,200 less funding than the national average for every class** of thirty children. This is enough to pay for a teaching assistant to work in every class every morning and half of every afternoon;
- **Cambridgeshire would receive £2,451 less for every child than the highest funded local authority.**

Furthermore, Cambridgeshire's funding would rise on average just 1.8% at a time when the Institute for Fiscal Studies are predicting that **costs to schools will rise by 8% over the next three years**. This means Newnham Croft's annual budget could be reduced by £70-90,000 or the equivalent of 3 teachers' salaries. We believe that this poses a real threat to the quality of education that our children will receive.

There are three changes we would like:

1. Schools cannot function if funding does not cover their basic operating costs. The formula needs to increase the basic amount of funding that every pupil in the country receives to cover these costs.

2. Protect small schools by having a bigger lump sum of funding for every school. Cambridgeshire used to give every school £150,000. The proposed new formula gives just £110,000
3. Remaining funding can then be used to target issues such as poverty and deprivation.

Our local MPs are supporting our campaign. You can help us by:

- Writing to Justine Greening, the Secretary of State for Education.
- Responding to the funding consultation by visiting: <https://consult.education.gov.uk/funding-policy-unit/schools-national-funding-formula2/> You can use our response (attached) if you wish.

You may think that responding to such consultations achieves very little. We are assured that this is not the case, i.e. numbers do count. It is absolutely vital that the voice of Cambridgeshire is not lost when all local authorities in England are arguing for additional funding, including those in better funded areas.

Tag Rugby

Last Thursday we took two teams to the tag rugby tournament at Shelford Rugby Club. Both teams played brilliantly. Congratulations to our A team who won the tournament and are now the Cambridge champions! They go to the County finals next week. Thank you to Mr Bull for coaching the teams. *Thank you also to Miss Holliday for organising the team!*



Science Day

As part of National Science week the children across the



school spent this morning investigating how hot air balloons fly and how simple animation works. Much fun was had and many interesting questions, predictions and theories were discussed. *Many thanks to Mr Goller and Mr Pinnock for organising the activities.*

Next week we will be carrying on with extra science; Year 5 and 6 are going to a chemistry lecture and Year 5 a rocket launch pad workshop. **On Wednesday 22 8.30 am**

in the hall there will be a Year 6 science investigation exhibition – details below.

Year 6 have been working in groups to plan, carry out and write up their own investigations. Subjects varied from 'does sight affect taste?' to 'does colour of font affect reading speed?' Please join us in the hall from 8.30 am on Wednesday morning to look at their findings. **Everyone welcome!**

Footballs

No footballs or other balls from home to be brought in please! It is simpler if children just use the school balls.

Hedge Laying

Over the years, the hedge line between the playing field and the forest school area has become in places overgrown and in places thin. Rather than cut it down low and replant, we decided to inflict some traditional hedge-laying techniques on it. By cutting the stems most of the way through close to the ground and then bending them down, farmers have for centuries created a thick, living, stock proof fence that is also a haven for wildlife. With the ecological value of so many hedges downgraded through poor management over recent decades, we thought that we should try to improve the school's hedge as both barrier and habitat. The hedge-laying will be undertaken over the next week and we are hoping that children will have the opportunity to watch the work and discuss it with Hodge the hedger.

Red Nose Day 24 March 2017

Next Friday is Red Nose Day. Year 6 children will be coming on daily rounds with Red Noses for sale (£1) and we are hoping to run a cake stall on the day - something that has always proved very popular and very effective at raising money. Obviously, a cake stall needs lots of cakes, so please bake or buy lots of delicious delights for the children to bring in on Friday morning. Many thanks for your support.

Reception Learn About the Jewish Festival Purim

The children in Reception found out about the Jewish festival of Purim. Mrs Steiner, Idan's mum, talked to the class about the festival and how it is a time to have fun! Children dress up and wear masks during the festival. We learnt a song and found out that by making lots of noise we could scare away the evil Haman. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Steiner who came in this week.



Nature Photography Competition

A reminder that the closing date for this competition is 27 March. Children can take photographs anywhere but they must be of something related to the environment. Named entries should be submitted to the office. Good luck!

TEACHING ASSISTANT 1-1 contract for a named child with the possibility of some class teaching assistant time

Level L2 depending on experience (£16231-£17372 per annum pro rata, or £9.58-£10.25 per hour)
Part time post - hours to be discussed.
Required for 19 April 2017 or as soon as possible thereafter.

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and motivated Teaching Assistant to join our dedicated and supportive team who can assist in the preparation and delivery of an individual programme of support as outlined in an Educational Health Care Plan for a named child in Reception with Global Development delay.

The ideal candidate would...

- Have a desire to help children learn and reach their potential
- Want to make a difference to the lives of children
- Be a team player with a sense of humour
- Have enthusiasm, patience, be caring and understanding
- Work closely with the class teachers and have experience of working in a primary school
- Model and expect high standards of behaviour and achievement
- Communicate effectively with children and adults

Closing date for applications is 3.30 pm Monday 27 March 2017.

It is anticipated that interviews will take place on Wednesday 29 March 2017.

Please contact the school by e-mail or telephone for further information and application packs. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed. Please contact Mrs Bracey in the school office on 01223 508737 to make an appointment.

The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. The appointment is subject to a receipt of satisfactory references and enhanced DBS check..

Lunchtime Supervisors

We need more lunchtime supervisors as some of our casual staff have moved on! The job involves facilitating and supervising the children's play outside, encouraging them to eat our delicious school dinners and a little bit of sweeping up and wiping tables. The pay is £7.90/hr - £11.85/day. Please contact the office if you are interested.

School Meals

The school lunch menu next week will be Week 2.

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

Sharon Williams, Headteacher

Diary Dates

Years 5/6 Chemistry Lecture 1pm	20 Mar
Y2 parents information meeting 9am	21 Mar
Y5 swimming	22 Mar
Y4 to Stibbington	23 Mar
Y5 to rocket Launchpad workshop 10am	23 Mar
Parent Governor ballot closes	23 Mar
Parent Governor election results announced	24 Mar
Red Nose Day	24 Mar
Y4 return from Stibbington	24 Mar

Community News

Basketball Camp

Wednesday 5th April 2017, 10am to 3.30pm at Swavesey Sports Centre, Gibraltar Lane, Swavesey CB24 4RS
School Year 3 to 6. Poster attached. Book online at www.scambs.gov.uk/sportscamps