



# Newnham News

Friday 6 October 2017

Headteacher: Mrs S Williams

## Attachments

- PTA calendar of events

### Dear Parents, Carers and Children

Welcome to four trainee teachers from the Faculty – Hannah Vidal-Hall and Diane Fitzmaurice (based in 1/2C); Zhra Dhalla and Sonia Berglund (based in Y6).

This week has been very exciting and busy in school with Year 5 and 6 visiting the museum of classical archaeology, Y2 taking part in multisports on Parkers' Piece, Y3 and 4 visiting the mosque and the Raptor Foundation delivering a workshop for Rec and R/I in the hall.

Next week we look forward to our International Evening on Tuesday 4-5.30 pm (your child should have brought their shoe box into school today!) and our harvest festival at 10 am on Thursday.

Our greetings this half term are in German.

Hello	Hallo
Good morning	Guten Morgen
Good afternoon	Guten Tag
Goodbye	Auf Wiedersehen

Next week the assembly music will be Dvorak's Slavonic Dance No.3.

### Parent Workshops

Thank you to all the parents who came to our Writing and Forest Schools workshops this week – we hope you found them useful. Thank you to Ms Mangera, Miss Holliday and Mrs Bicknell for making them so informative.

Don't forget the other parent workshops we have planned for this term:

- Friday 20 October 9 am Online Safety workshop
- Friday 10 November 2 pm Maths workshop

If you were unable to attend the writing workshop you can find the slides on the school website. Also if you would like a copy of the key spelling words for your child's year group there are some copies in the office. The final slide was about supporting your child at home:

Listening to your child read can take many forms. First and foremost, the aim should be to develop an enjoyment and love of reading.

- Enjoy stories together – reading stories to your child at KS1 and KS2 is equally as important as listening to your child read. Reading improves writing and spelling!
- Talk about the story before, during and afterwards – discuss the plot, the characters, their feelings and actions, how it makes you feel, predict what will happen and encourage your child to have their own opinions.
- Look up definitions of words together – you could use a dictionary, the Internet or an app on a phone or tablet.

- All reading is valuable – it doesn't have to be stories. Reading can involve anything from fiction and non-fiction, poetry, newspapers, magazines, football programmes, TV guides.

- Visit the local library – it's free!

Spelling Games: Pass the Bomb! Scrabble, Boggle, Bananagrams, ghost, word searches, crosswords and many others.

Practise spellings if they are sent home – use whatever technique works for your child e.g. look, say, cover, write, say, check.

### Harvest Festival Thursday 12 October at 10 am

We will be collecting donations of fruit, vegetables, canned goods, condiments and jams/spreads for Jimmy's night shelter in Cambridge. Please bring them in on the morning of the Harvest assembly. Parents are very welcome to join us; we hope that a former Jimmy's guest will talk to the children and we will also celebrate harvest with some songs.

### Class Photos

Lafayette Photographers will be in school on Wednesday 11 October to take individual and sibling pupil photographs. If you have pre-school children you would like included in group photographs please go to the school hall at 8.30am.

### Parent /teacher Consultations

The eschools online booking tool will be available from today to book slots for parent/teacher consultations on Tuesday 17 October 4-6.30 pm or Wednesday 18 October 1.30 – 4 pm. If you have forgotten your eschools password there is an option in the booking tool to re-set it. Open the website link below, from the menu choose Parents/parent logins then click 'I've forgotten my password' (see below). Reception parents and new families will have been issued with a new password today. Parents of children on the SEND register should make a separate appointment.

[www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk)

Please login... Picture Login

Username

Password

LOGIN

CLICK GOOP Internet Safety

[I've forgotten my password](#)

### Pencil Cases

We have decided not to have pencil cases in school as they are taking up too much space in drawers and on tables. All equipment is provided for the children so there is no need to bring anything in.

### Museum of Archaeology

On Monday 2 October we had the chance to go to the Museum of Archaeology. There we learnt to recognise different types of Greek statues. The Gods and Goddesses were always taller and bigger than the human statues. We also learnt different myths including the story of Pelopes and chariot racing. We recommend you visit the museum to see the Ancient Roman and Greek statues. *Alisa and Isabel*

### What a Hoot!

Reception and R/I enjoyed the opportunity to meet some raptors close up yesterday. Four birds were brought into school by the Raptor Foundation based in Somersham. We met Trevor the barn owl, Topaz the tawny owl, Goliath the white faced eagle owl and Spike, who isn't an owl, but a Harris hawk. The children had the opportunity to hold Goliath on their gloved hands and touch his feathers. We were also thrilled to watch the birds fly across the hall and land on the Miss Wakelen's and Ms Mangera's arms. Topaz the tawny owl landed on the projector on the ceiling of the hall and took some persuading to come down again!



### Persuasive Letters

Year 6 children have been writing persuasive letters to Ms Noble to request additions to our school dinner menu. So far Max has been successful with his request for Portuguese panados, which were enjoyed at lunch today! Below is Eliot's letter requesting lasagne.

*Dear Ms Noble*

*I am writing to you to explain, using a few of the many reasons, why you should permanently add lasagne to your great menu. Firstly, it is extremely nutritious – especially for growing children. This is because of the large amount of energy in the pasta. Also there are vitamins and minerals in the tomato sauce and there is lovely calcium and protein.*

*Now, just imagine the hungry children coming inside from the freezing cold of the near winter, to see sitting in front of them that mouth-watering dish. They can smell the scent of the cheesy, bubbly mix in the air. You don't want to deprive the young children of that, do you?*

*Statistics show that 74% of Year 6 absolutely love lasagne and I'm positive the rest of the school agree.*

*Therefore I'm sure it would be an amazing thing to finally have lasagne permanently back.*

*Yours sincerely, Eliot*

### Mosque Visit

Yesterday, Year 3 and 4 visited Cambridge Mosque to tie in with their work on Islam. The children were shown the various features of the mosque and found out in greater depth about the importance of them to Muslims. They were keen to share what they had learned in class and had some very interesting questions, including how Muslims are able to pray if they are on a flight. Thank you very much to all of the parents who volunteered to accompany us. We were lucky to have such beautiful weather for our walk there and back.

### Multiskills Sports Festival

Year 2 attended a multiskills sports festival on Tuesday. They enjoyed participating in activities designed to help them with their coordination, balance and agility. Thanks to all the adults that helped walk the children to and from the festival.

### Removal of the Blue Spruce tree inside the playground gates

This tree has reached a height and density of canopy which is unsuitable for its location. It is situated immediately in front of the access gate into the school and several hundred children and adults have to pass by on a daily basis as they access and leave the school.

The thick yellow pollen from the tree frequently blows across the playground, forming a dense cloud which is particularly unpleasant when the children are eating their lunches outside.

The roots have caused substantial damage to the school playground, which has created a dangerous trip hazard, and an access problem for wheelchair users, including a family who have young children at the school at present. Given the height of the tree and the extensive root damage, felling of the tree is the only permanent solution to this issue, and felling is therefore essential in order to meet health and safety requirements and in order to meet our responsibilities under the 2016 Disability Act.

The felling of this tree would be a positive step for good forestry management as outlined in the UK Forestry Standard. At present the tree is unsuitable for its location, and Newnham Croft plans the planting of three more trees in our grounds this Autumn in more suitable locations, to continue a programme of planting we have engaged in over recent years. This has included the recent replanting of an extensive stretch of hedgerow using more than 60 saplings chosen to support and encourage biodiversity.

The felling of this tree would not lead to habitat loss for wild birds as there are many other mature trees on our green site, and there are no nests visible in this tree. There would be no loss of public amenity as the green canopy and pleasant woodland aspect of the school grounds is extensive and well-maintained. Indeed, for the reasons above, public amenity would be improved by the felling of this tree.

### Apples

Our green grocer informs us that children at Newnham Croft eat more fresh apples at lunchtime than any other school they deliver to! Maybe the children would like to go to the Apple Day at the Botanical Gardens on Sunday 22 October 10 am – 4pm!

## Head Lice

Head lice have been noticed in several classes. In order to attempt to contain the problem could you please check the heads of everyone in your family and treat accordingly. Long hair should be tied back whilst in school.

## Library

A polite reminder, if pre-school siblings are in the library, please ensure they do not damage the books and that books are returned to the shelves.

## Cross Country Run to Grantchester

On Monday 6th November, Y5 and Y6 will be taking part in a cross country run on Grantchester Meadows. In order for this event to take place we will require plenty of adults to marshal the runners, so the more helpers, the smoother the event will run. We will set off from school at approximately 10:15 and will return to school before the beginning of lunch at 12:15. If you are able to join us, please contact the school office or speak to either Mr Pinnock or Miss Holliday.

## Orienteering

Parents of Years 3 and 4 last term may remember that their orienteering session was a wash out! Mrs Louth has kindly offered us another morning Thursday 19 October, free of charge for those children – now Year 4 and 5. As usual we will need plenty of adult volunteers (a minimum of 9) ideally wearing a high-vis jacket! If you are able to help for the morning 9 am – 12 noon please contact your child's class teacher or the office. Volunteers can be from any year group – orienteering is a lot of fun! Fingers crossed for the weather.

## Hebrew Speaker Required

Please contact the office if you know someone in the community who is available to support a child in class as an interpreter (15 hours in total).

## Update Your Diaries Now!

Dates for two PTA events have been changed due to clashes with scout hut users. The **fireworks** night will now be on Saturday **4th November** 5-7pm and the **Twilight Winter Market** will be on Saturday **2nd December**. Both are wonderful community events, so do put these in your diaries now!

## School Meals

The school lunch menu for the next week will be Week 3.

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

Sharon Williams, Headteacher

## Diary Dates

Y3 multi-skills festival on Parker's Piece ..... 10 Oct  
Y6 swimming ..... 10 Oct  
International Evening 4 pm ..... 10 Oct  
Individual pupil and sibling photos ..... 11 Oct  
Harvest Assembly 10 am ..... 12 Oct

## Community News

### Save our Children's Centres!

Cambridgeshire County Council is planning to reduce the numbers of children's centres from 40 to 10, with cuts of £1m. Centres where families and children come together to meet and access support and advice on early years, parenting, health, education are at risk. We must fight to stop these closures.

**How you can help** The Children's and Young People's Committee will vote on the closures on October 10th. The local Labour Party has organised a demonstration against these cuts at Shire Hall, Castle Street, Cambridge, CB3 0AJ 1:30pm, Tuesday October 10th 2017.

**Who we are** We are the Cambridgeshire branch of a network of parents that want the government to listen to our concerns about the funding situation facing state schools across England.

Find out more about it and look up your own school here:  
<http://www.fairfundingforallschools.org/act-now.html>

### Toddler and Baby Group at St Mark's Church

Toddles (toddler group) runs Monday and Thursday 9.30 - 11.30 term time. Bumps to Babies (mothers and baby) group runs Wednesday 1.45 - 3.00 pm term time.

### The Oxford & Cambridge Singing School Christmas Course

The Oxford & Cambridge Singing School Christmas Course at St Catharine's College, Cambridge runs from the 20th - 22nd December for children aged 7-13. The theme for the course will be Christmas Carols and festive music from around the world, from the Medieval to the modern. The days conclude with a mini concert to which participant families and friends are warmly invited and a longer concert on the last day. For more information and to book a space, please visit our website and our facebook page.

[www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk](http://www.oxbridgesingschool.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/TheCambridgeSingingSchool/](https://www.facebook.com/TheCambridgeSingingSchool/)

**Preschool Dance** is looking for new students. Held in St Mark's Community Centre on Wednesdays from 2-15-2.45pm, the class is open to girls and boys aged 3-4 years old. This is a lovely relaxed class that has been running in Newnham for over 20 years. Live piano accompaniment! For more information, contact Elizabeth Anderson [liz.anderson@ntlworld.com](mailto:liz.anderson@ntlworld.com)

**Friday Story Time** meets on Friday mornings during term time at St Mark's Community Centre from 9.30-11am. Messy Church for the very young! With a gentle interactive Bible story (see <http://www.godlyplay.uk/> for more information), plenty of time for child-led craft and a healthy snack, this is a quiet group with a chance to enjoy being with other parents and children. £3 per session. Drop in. For more information email [fridaystorytime@outlook.com](mailto:fridaystorytime@outlook.com)