

# Newnham News

From the Headteacher of Newnham Croft Primary School

Mrs J Jones (office@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk)

November 6 2009

## Dear Parents,

Well, we are all now moved back in school! Y5/6 classrooms were unpacked and made ready during half term. The new extended rooms and group rooms are tremendous and it is fabulous to see the children settled in. Thanks to the efforts of Miss Turner and Miss Holliday during half term to get rooms ready, children have hit the ground running on their return to school on Tuesday; I am very grateful to both these members of the team for their hard work.

The building project, a significant milestone in the history of Newnham Croft, has been achieved by the determined effort of everyone involved, governors, staff, parents and children and is a testament to the awesome impact of working together. Well done everyone involved.

My particular thanks go to Mr Playford, our superb site officer, who has worked alongside me throughout the project build period which spanned the second half of the summer term, two half term breaks, the summer holidays and this half term.

As I have already mentioned, we will be having an official opening to celebrate the exciting new build. The date for this special event is 27 November. There will be a cutting of the ribbon by Professor Brown, the Master of Darwin College, to mark the official opening of KS2 and an open house afternoon. Please do put the date for this special event in your diary.

## Y3 Teacher

Following interviews on 23 October for a permanent Y3 teacher for September, I am able to report that Mrs Joanna Turner has been appointed to the post. Mrs Turner is an experienced teacher and has worked in Malaysia and in the UK as a teacher.

We are all extremely grateful to Mrs Rodgers who is currently covering the post as a supply teacher until the end of term. Mrs Rodgers has worked very hard over the summer holidays to set up the classroom and move furniture and resources back in.

## Sports Matches

Our sports teams have been going from strength to strength. On Friday 23 October our children competed in the Road to Wembley football tournament at Impington.

There were 9 Y6 boys who competed and they were - Luke, Millan, Alex, Jacob, Tom, Rory, Maaran, Ben and Isaac. They played 5 teams in their category but in the whole tournament there were 21 teams (4 groups of 5 and one group of 6). Newnham were up against Queen Ediths 0-0 draw, Meridian 3-1 to us, Shirley 5-0 to us, Milton 0-1 against us, and Mayfield 0-0 draw. The games were 8 minutes long and we ended up coming 2<sup>nd</sup> in our group. Unfortunately, we did not go through

to the next stage, but good luck to Newnham in the future. The boys are also entering the inter-schools league and their first match is against St Matthews on Thursday 12 Nov - so good luck to them. *By Millan and Luke*

On 16 October there was a Y6 **netball match** against St Pauls. Luke, Alex, Ravi, Lana, Emily, Hannah, Sophie, Izzy and Bayan; all played well and Newnham won 9-0.

Also, there will be a football tournament for Y5 children at the Perse on Saturday 14 November.

## Fire Drill

There was a fire drill on 14 October. Despite Y5/6 being in temporary accommodation and a significant area of the playground being fenced off, all children, staff and visitors were evacuated in 2½ minutes. It was particularly reassuring that children who were on errands around the school and therefore separated from classmates and adults had the presence of mind to exit to the muster point via the quickest exit.

## Polar Express

Look out for the drama club Polar Express production (date to be confirmed later this term). Plans are afoot to put on another multi media extravaganza a la Pinnock Productions. Indeed Mr Pinnock has been working very hard throughout half term to produce interactive moving sets. We await the show with anticipation.

## Charity Staff Run

Well done Mrs Mahoney and Mrs Bracey who completed the 10 kilometre run for Cancer Research on Jesus Green on 18 October. Mrs Mahoney completed the course in 1 hour and 25 minutes and Mrs Bracey in a very impressive 1 hour. 1,600 people attended the event. The course took the competitors around Jesus Green, through the City centre and back again to the finish at Jesus Green.

## Newnham Croft Winterfest

Look out for the Winterfest scheduled for the 5 December. The ever popular PTA event features stalls and activities and lots of fun. We will keep you posted.

## School Nurse/Police Officer Drop in Surgeries

There will be another drop in surgery with our school nurse on 10 November. Desda Jordan, our nurse will be happy to discuss any aspect of your family's health and/or wellbeing during her surgery on that day between 11.00-12.00 noon. Our community police officer Cheryl Carter will be holding a surgery from 2.00pm onwards on 11 November.

## PTA AGM

Please be advised that the PTA AGM will be at 3.20pm on Tuesday 10 November in the school hall. All welcome.

## Student Council Meeting

There was a student council meeting before half term to discuss our new house system, data from the student survey carried out last term, homework and playtimes. It was agreed by the children that a shield should be awarded at the end of

each week for house points and that the house cup should be awarded at the end of each term.

The parent/pupil questionnaires highlighted the following issues:

Homework - one pupil suggested that pupils should be given longer to complete homework. Homework should be given out consistently on the same day. Another pupil suggested that homework takes up too much time, but Miss Holliday pointed out that homework is something that should be done. However it was agreed that children should approach their class teacher if it is taking longer than 30 minutes. One child suggested that a homework club would be a good idea if it was optional and would help children to understand homework, and give extra time if children want to spend time with family, etc. Some children suggested that children are able to complete homework in reading time.

One child suggested a mini parents' evening for each class to improve communication. Other children thought there was sufficient communication. There are two parents' evenings at the moment and reports at the end of the year. It was suggested that teachers write lots of letters but they don't always get home. One child suggested that emails should be set up so that parents can contact teachers by email. Other children agreed with this. The office is in the process of setting up an email system.

Behaviour of other children - one child suggested that children should be given chances rather than being told off straight away. If children are being disruptive they should be taken out of class. One child suggested that there should be a quiet down room to allow children to calm down or think about what they have done, etc.

Other issues - There is an apple tree near the climbing frame, and one child suggested that the apples should be used. This has already been done, but it is a great idea!

The children also thought there should be another cage rota - this will be done when the field is closed.

### **Craft Club**

As I mentioned before half term some parents are setting up a craft club for KS2 children. A letter will come home shortly about this. Thank you to those of you who donated wool and fabric; we would still be grateful for any unwanted knitting and/or darning needles and scraps of fabric and wool.

### **Healthy Schools Polite Reminder**

As a healthy school we discourage crisps and confectionary as playtime snacks and encourage healthy options for lunches. We would be grateful if you could support us with this initiative.

### **African/Brazilian Drumming Lessons**

1. Beginners classes
2. Lower intermediate classes
3. Upper intermediate classes
4. Taster sessions at Mill Road Winter Fair
  1. Starting up on Nov 2, at the Mill Road Baptist Church, Monday's 8-9.30pm. This half term (7 weeks) exercises to consolidate technique as well as delving deeper into traditional, African rhythms. There are some places left.

2. Starting up again Nov 4, at the Mill Road Baptist Church, Wednesday's 8-9.30pm. This half term, 7 weeks, we'll carry on combining the dundun with the djembe and further our knowledge of solo phrases. There are places left, but not for complete beginners. See above class for that.

3. Starting up again Nov 3, at the Bath House on Gwydir Street, Tuesday's 8-9.30pm. We'll be consolidating all we've done so far and prepare ourselves for the Nov 15 gig at the Grafton Centre. There are places left, but you must be familiar with traditional, Mandinka drumming. Each of the three classes cost £63 plus £3.50 drum hire for this half term.

4. From 2-4.30 I will be at the Mill Road Baptist church offering half hour taster drumming and percussion sessions. Times are as follows: 2-2.30, 2.40-3.10, 3.20-3.50, 4-4.30. Each half hour session costs £3 per person. Children and adults welcome!! For booking and more information contact Daniellia at [www.drumworkshops.co.uk](http://www.drumworkshops.co.uk) Tel.: 07881 960 259

### **Black History Month**

Well done to the children who carried out independent research as part of Black History Month in October and shared their thoughts with us in high flyers assemblies. Miss Bristow and I were very impressed with the effort that had gone into the work. Well done in particular to Naomi Cooper Jones, Martha Cooper Jones and Chloe Hashimoto whose work showed particular care and expressed considered arguments and opinions.

Kind regards from Jacqueline Jones and Staff

### **Diary Dates**

Mrs McPhee's trip to Folk Museum .....	Nov 9
School Nurse Surgery 11-12.00 noon .....	Nov 10
PTA AGM 3.20 pm in hall .....	Nov 10
Police Drop in Surgery 2.00 pm onwards.....	Nov 11
Remembrance Day .....	Nov 11
Y6 Football match .....	Nov 12
Y5 Football Tournament .....	Nov 14
Open afternoon .....	Nov 27
Y5/6 to British Museum .....	Dec 2
Winterfest .....	Dec 5
KS1 play dress rehearsal .....	Dec 8
KS1 play .....	Dec 9-10
Carols around the tree (all welcome).....	Dec 15
Close of autumn term .....	Dec 18

### **Spring Term 2010**

Staff training day.....	Jan 4
Children return to school .....	Jan 5
Half term.....	Feb 15-19
Staff training day.....	Feb 22
Children return to school .....	Feb 23
Close of spring term.....	April 1

### **Summer Term 2010**

Staff training day.....	April 19
Children return to school .....	April 20
Half term.....	May 31-June 4
Close of summer term.....	July 22