

Newnham News

From the Headteacher of Newnham Croft Primary School:
Mrs J Jones (office@newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk)

September 25th 2009

Dear Parents

It was good to see those of you who were able to come to the informal 'meet the teacher' evening on Tuesday 15th. Our thanks go to the PTA who kindly organised refreshments. You should have all received curriculum letters last Friday outlining what we will be doing in each class. We believe that working in partnership with parents is an essential component in our provision and would encourage you to come and chat to us if you have any queries or concerns. We have parent consultations on the 20th and 21st October, which is an opportunity to discuss how your child is settling into school. As I mentioned in my last newsletter we will be having an official opening to celebrate the exciting new build. The date for this special event is 27th November. There will be a 'cutting of the ribbon' to mark the official opening of KS2 and an open house afternoon; please do put the date for this special event in your diary.

Parental Feedback

It was useful to have parental feedback in the annual Ofsted parental survey, carried out in July. Your comments were helpful in enabling us to reflect on how we can continue to cement our home school relationships and further develop and refine our provision. 61 questionnaires were returned and the response was overwhelmingly positive. You all felt that children enjoy being here and most parents were extremely positive about our provision, the range of activities we offer and the way we manage our school. In response to the feedback from your questionnaires we have decided to consider the use of an online learning platform as a mechanism for further developing home school dialogue.

Sports News

There was a football match v the International School team on 17th September. *"We had an astonishing first half. Will scored the first goal then a few minutes later Tom scored, then it was half time. Next we were drawing 2:2. Harry made two amazing saves and Jamie scored so it was 2:3 to us."* By Harry Y5

Thank you Mr Goller for organising this.

Student Council Meeting

There was a student council meeting on Friday 18th September, led by Miss Turner our KS2 Co-ordinator and Miss Holliday our Y6 teacher. In response to pupil request for a house/team system last year our new house system was discussed with the children. Miss Turner and Miss Ward have worked together to oversee this for the children.

"Dear Parents, We've thought of a house point system. We have decided to use the names of some Cambridge Colleges.

Kings is red, Clare is yellow, Darwin is green and Trinity is blue. Our teachers will award house points for good behaviour, good work, being helpful, being a good friend and tidying up the classroom. We will have a house point cup." By Millan, Alex and Amelia.

Our next topic of discussion will be the pupil survey data and an action plan to address any issues raised by pupils.

Early Morning Start

We are encouraging children to become independent as they come into school in the morning. It would be really helpful, to your child and your child's class teacher, if you could also encourage and support your child to come into class on their own each day. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Job Vacancy

We are still looking for members of staff to work with us at lunchtime to look after our children. The job will be for up to five days a week but could be part-time. We can offer you a friendly working environment and the opportunity to work with our delightful children. For more information please contact either Jacqui Browning (mid-day co-ordinator) or I.

University of Cambridge Festival of Ideas

Look out for the Festival of Ideas running from Wednesday 21st October to Sunday 1st November. It is the first festival of its kind to celebrate the arts, humanities and social science and is an opportunity for visitors of all ages to come to the many free events (over 150). The events explore topics such as where do ideas come from, Islamic geometry and making an orchestra from living plants. For more information visit www.cambridgefestivalofideas.

Breakfast Club

I am currently collating questionnaires surveying your views about the need for a before school breakfast club. I would be grateful if all questionnaires could be returned by next week.

Children's Safety

I have had several concerned parents in to see me regarding parking at drop off and collection time. We had a near miss on 22nd September with a car mounting the pavement outside school and narrowly avoiding a parent and several children. We would be grateful if motorists could avoid parking in the vicinity of the school at this time. Thank you.

Monthly Beginners' Djembe Drumming

3 October, 10.30-4.30pm, Mill Rd Baptist Church, Cambridge. This fun and energising class uses the djembe, a West African drum which has gained in popularity in Britain over the last ten years or so. Workshops are held up and down the country and never cease to provide participants with immense fun and enjoyment. Course content includes rhythmical exercises and basic rhythms which are very easy to pick up. Drums can be provided (only 15), so book early to avoid disappointment. For more information or bookings contact Daniela on 07881 960259 or 01223 515168, or email: danmcdrum@hotmail.com.

Harvest Festival

Please could any donations of tinned goods, dried foods, winter clothing, toiletries and blankets for our harvest service on 6th October be brought into the hall on 5th October. As I mentioned in my last newsletter all donations will go to Jimmy's shelter for homeless adults in the city.

Craft Club

Some parents and I are hoping to set up a craft club after half term for KS2 children. More details will follow before half term. We would be very grateful for any unwanted knitting and/or darning needles and scraps of fabric and wool.

Percussion Drum Lessons

Taster percussion/drum lessons are available in school run by our Cambridge Music percussion teacher. Collect application forms from the office.

Book Fair

Thanks go to all of you who supported our Book Fair last week. Our thanks also go to Michelle our Chef, who organised the event. Michelle will also be organising a colouring competition. I will keep you posted on this.

Head Lice

Please be advised there have been several reported incidents of head lice in school. Please check your child's head regularly. If you require more information and advice about treatment and prevention of head lice, please do come and see our school nurse Desda during one of her drop in surgeries.

The Croft Magazine

Over the years, parents have helped to produce a school magazine called The Croft. The magazine provides a great opportunity for children to contribute in all sorts of ways: creative writing, artwork, articles on things that really interest them, and not forgetting bad jokes. The magazine is usually balanced with some articles of local interest and is distributed throughout west Cambridge as a way of raising the school's profile. We have had excellent support from local advertisers to help fund the issues. We need a new team for 2009/10, and are looking for around 5 volunteers for editing, production, and advertising. Contributions by way of ace reporting would also be welcome. If you want to help make this happen, please send an e-mail by Monday 5th October to thecroftmagazine@gmail.com, or drop a note with your contact details into the school office marked 'The Croft Magazine'.

Paul Haines

Diary Dates

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| Harvest Festival | Oct 6 |
| School nurse drop in surgery..... | Oct 8 |
| Individual Pupil Photos..... | Oct 9 |
| Parental consultations..... | Oct 20-21 |
| Half term..... | Oct 26-30 |
| Staff training | Nov 2 |
| Children return to school..... | Nov 3 |
| Mrs McPhee's trip to Folk Museum | Nov 9 |
| Arts Week..... | Nov 9 |
| Y5/6 to British Museum..... | Dec 2 |
| 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 |
| <u>Spring Term 2010</u> | |
| 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 |
| <u>Summer Term 2010</u> | |
| Staff training day | April 19 |
| Children return to school..... | April 20 |
| Half term..... | May 31-June 4 |
| Close of summer term..... | July 22 |

Kind regards from Jacqueline Jones and Staff