

Newnham Junior School



24th February 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope you are well. Another week has whizzed by and the children have continued to impress the staff with their positive attitudes to learning, excellent manners and high standards of behaviour. This is reflected in the responses we have had to the recent parent's questionnaire, where the response for every category was over 90% for either agree or strongly agree.

Parent's Questionnaire – The full results of the questionnaire are attached to this newsletter. While it is very positive, I always talk to the children about the desire to progress and improve so as a school we will strive to increase the percentage of parents and carers strongly agreeing with the statements. I do believe that it is impossible to please everyone: doing something positive for one child can be perceived differently by others and become a negative for them. Despite this I do appreciate the feedback of the small amount of those who disagree with a few of the statements.

The one area where I would like to defend is what we are achieving as a school is the amount of clubs that we offer. This category was still 92% in the positive but there were far less parents who strongly agreed. It is unfortunate that for some clubs parents have to stay up late to get a place and I know that not every single interest of the children at the school is covered. However, I also know that 70% of the children at the school attend a club, every teacher runs a club and there are over 30 clubs available. For a school of our size this is remarkable.

Industrial Action – the school will be open as normal on Thursday 2nd March as no classes in the Junior School are affected by the industrial action.

Maths Challenge – Yesterday four children from Y6 took part in the Ruislip and Northwood Maths Challenge. The children completed five timed challenges and their scores were recorded to find the overall winner. Lucas and Eva scored 62 points out a possible 78, meaning that they came in a very impressive first place. All four of the children represented the school with pride and we would like to say a big well done to Lauri and Eckvir too.

Internet Safety - I have already written to Y6 parents about this but I want to remind all of you about the importance of monitoring what your children are doing online. Please read the attached article from the Internet Watch Foundation to see the shocking statistics about the dangers of allowing your children to access the internet unsupervised.

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/news-media/news/sexual-abuse-imagery-of-primary-school-children-1-000-per-cent-worse-since-lockdown/>

Science talk - We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Butler-Cuervo who came in to talk to Y4 before half term. Mrs Butler-Cuervo works in flood management and spoke about her career, linking the water cycle work the children cover in science and the rivers work they study in geography to what she does. We were all really inspired by her talk and learnt so much about the flood management systems we have locally and in London. We really appreciate her giving up her valuable time to bring the work we do in the classroom to life.

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Book Week - As previously advised, Book Week will take place from *Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March 2023* and we have various events planned in school to celebrate.

World Book Day – World Book Day is on Friday 3rd March 2023 and the children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character (**please note this is a change to the original date**). *Please remember that you do not need to buy an outfit – get creative with what you already have at home!* There are lots of ideas on the World Book Day website <https://www.worldbookday.com/dressing-up/>

Book swap - We will be asking children to bring in books they have read and no longer need from Tuesday 21st February. They will be given a token for each book they bring and can then exchange these from the second-hand selection available.

Omushama - Over the last 10 years, Newnham Junior School has generously raised over £7,500 to support Omushana, a charity focused on supporting children and schools in South West Uganda. We have helped build and support 4 new libraries, sent donations of books, pencil cases and sports kits as well as support for nutritional programmes. This year, we are focusing on raising funds to continue to support the libraries and librarians so we are linking the fundraising to World Book Day. We would be grateful if you could donate a minimum of 50 pence (via the school gateway) to support the book swap that is happening in school. On my visit to Uganda in 2017, I saw first-hand the massive impact our donations make to these very grateful children. If you would like to understand more about the Charity and how they spend their donations (as well as see some photos of the children wearing Newnham kit!) please visit www.omushana.org. Thank you. Mrs Castle



Assemblies - Teachers and Governors will be sharing their favourite stories during the week and there will be a real focus in lessons on reading for pleasure. We encourage all parents and carers to share their favourite books growing up with their children so we can all enjoy the magic of reading.

Eastcote Library Visits - Year 3 will be visiting on Wednesday 1st March and Year 4 will be visiting on Friday 3rd March.

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Book Tokens - During the week, the children will be given a £1 World Book Day token to get a FREE book and have been shown the selection of books they can choose from in assemblies. Parents/carers can simply take the £1 book token to your nearest participating bookseller (listed below) and swap it for a World Book Day £1 book OR get £1 off any book or audio book costing £2.99 or more:

- Asda South Ruislip
- Sainsburys Ruislip
- WH Smith Ruislip
- The Works Ruislip
- The Northwood Bookshop Pinner
- Tesco Pinner
- Sainsburys Pinner

To find additional participating retailers <https://www.worldbookday.com/participating-retailers/>

Forthcoming events:

The Year 4 class assemblies will take place as follows and parents/carers are welcome to come to watch:

4UW - Tuesday 28th March 9:00am

4CH - Wednesday 29th March 9:00am

4S - Wednesday 29th March 2.30pm

Parent/carers coffee morning- 15th March at 9am - Our next parent/carers coffee morning will be on the 15th March at 9am, with a 20 minute session on acknowledging children's feelings, followed by time for a coffee and a chat. This is also a chance to chat to staff and find out a bit more about what is happening at school. We hope to see as many people there as possible! Please note we plan to hold one parent/carers coffee morning and one SEND coffee morning each term.

Reminders:-

YEAR	DESCRIPTION	PAYMENT/CONSENT DEADLINE
6	School Journey - First payment	1 st March
6	Junior Citizens trip - 15 th March	3 rd March
6	SATS Revision books	3 rd March
5	Manor Farm visit - 20/21/22 March	10 th March
4	Verulamium Museum visit - 21 st March	10 th March
All	DEC donation for Turkey & Syria	17 th March
6	School Journey - Second payment	1 st April
5	Hampton Court visit - 30 th March	17 th March
6	School Journey - Third payment	1 st May

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FONJSA NEWS

The Easter discos will take place on Friday 24th March after school – further details to follow shortly.

Lastly, we apologise for the disruption caused this week due to the phone lines not working. They are now back up and running.

Yours sincerely

Mr N Wilkey
Headteacher

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