

Newnham Junior School



14th February 2025

Dear Parents & Carers

I hope you are well. Thank you to everyone who attended this week's open evening. As I mentioned last week, it makes a huge difference to your child to know that you care about their education and their future. It's been a very positive half term as always and we look forward to seeing everyone after the break.

The Pantry menu is due to change imminently and this may take place during half term. Please check your orders before we return after half term **as anything ordered on the current menu will be cancelled** ready for you to order off the new menu. Do not automatically assume that your meals are booked as once the change is implemented all pre-existing meals will be cancelled.

Cable recycling 10th February -14th March – A lot of parents and carers might already know that I do like a competition. It's great to see that our cable recycling bin is filling up, but my wife thinks that the school she works in will beat Newnham. So even if you're indifferent to recycling, please put any unwanted or broken cables in the pink bin by the willow tree. If you work in an office where they might have lots of spare cables, this would be an ideal time to get rid of some clutter.

Children's Sleep Awareness Month 1st – 28th February 2025 - Quality sleep is essential for children's growth and development. A decent night's sleep will help them to do better at school, allow them to react more quickly to situations, have a more developed memory, learn more effectively and solve problems, plus it will make them less susceptible to colds and other minor ailments, less irritable and better behaved! Sleep deprivation causes increased hyperactivity and other behavioural problems, as well as damaging physical and mental development. Poor sleep habits from an early age can lead to long term sleep problems. For further information on why sleep is important for your child click on this link: <https://thesleepcharity.org.uk/information-support/children/>

Eco news – Please remember to cancel hot lunches if your child will not be eating them

| Eco-Team Food Waste Update | LAST WEEK | THIS WEEK | COST TO THE SCHOOL |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------------|
| Junior meals ordered but not served | 41 | 52 | £125.32 (£2.41 each) |

Cartridge/battery recycling - We are collecting used batteries along with empty inkjet and toner cartridges and the recycling containers are in our school lobby.

Book Week

World Book Day - Thursday 6th March - After half term, we will be celebrating reading for Book Week. As usual, we would like the children to dress up as a book character for World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March**. Please remember that this does not have to be expensive and that there are lots of wonderful homemade costume ideas online!

World Book Day - Costume drop – As part of our commitment to recycling, we are asking for donations of dressing up clothes to be sent into school. If your child has any outgrown costumes, please send them in after the half term break. These donated clothes will be available to all parents to come and view after school on Thursday 27th February (ready for World Book day on Thursday 6th March). Anything left over will be donated to charity.

Special Visitor - Thanks to FONJSA, we are lucky enough to have an award-winning illustrator: Steve Smallman (whose books include the brilliant Maggie Sparks novels and Poo at the Zoo!) to come and visit our school. He will be running workshops with all of the children in their year groups where he will: discuss the process of illustrating and writing a book, answer questions, create new characters based on the children's ideas and give them a drawing lesson! His books will be available to purchase and you will receive further details on how to do this.

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Art news - The deadline for the Royal Academy competition is fast approaching. If children have an entry they need to bring it in the first week back after the holidays to ensure its submission. We will be submitting the ones we have next week.

The Fourth Plinth Schools Awards 2025 is currently open for entries and will close on Friday 14th March. Entries can be in all forms including drawing, painting, sculpture, collage and digital designs. There's no limit to the number of entries from each school and both group and individual entries are welcome. You can view all submitted artworks in the fourth plinth website and if you have any questions please contact : fourthplinth@london.gov.uk. Again Ms Wilson will oversee the entries to this as she has registered the school. This might be a project the children want to work on over half term. Please follow the website link for inspiration: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/arts-and-culture/current-culture-projects/fourth-plinth-traffic-square/fourth-plinth-schools-awards-2025>

Musical News

Indian Songs - Sri and Rishaan have been busy sourcing Indian songs for us to add to our Singing Practice repertoire. This week, they performed two songs *Chitti Chilakama* and *Barish Aaye Cham Cham Cham* and taught us the melodies and pronunciations so that we could join in. What a joy to hear such tremendous confidence in our young singers. *"The music was so powerful; you could hear all the tones that you wouldn't be able to hear on instruments. I really enjoyed this special experience"*. Amaru

Ukuleles - Once again, our enthusiastic ukulele players performed in assembly. Mrs Lovelock commented on how much the children had progressed since September. Keep an eye out for an opportunity to hear our ukes LIVE after school one day, when the weather picks up.

Year 5 Lunchtime Concert - Our series of lunchtime concerts are now a regular feature in the school calendar. Alongside today's pianists and string players, we were delighted to introduce Paarth who treated us to a mesmerising tabla performance. The music room was jam-packed with a highly attentive audience. Thank you to our six music prefects who organised every part of the event.

FONJSA news – we would like to thank FONJSA for donating a HUGE £12,600 so far this academic year which has been put towards ICT equipment, furniture, sports equipment, pantomime, Year 6 Chessington tickets, classroom books, medals, classroom materials and rechargeable stopwatches. This donation couldn't happen without your support over the year. Why not come along to the next FONJSA event the upcoming Race Night on Friday 28th February to help raise more vital funds for the school. Payments are on the Gateway for tickets, food, family raffle and to sponsor a horse and the deadline to pay is Sunday 23rd February. Your support is much appreciated. Our upcoming projects include fundraising to help refurbish the school hall, science equipment and a new drum kit.

FONJSA Krispy Kreme Doughnuts – Any pre-ordered doughnuts will be given today. If you missed the deadline to order there will be a limited number for sale after school today. You may pay with cash or card.

Dates for your diaries - See below. Further details will follow in due course.

| DATE | YEAR OR CLASS | DETAILS | TIME |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|--|---------|
| FEBRUARY | | | |
| Friday 14 th | All | Pre-ordered Krispy Kreme's given out/sale after school | 3.15pm |
| 17 th - 21 st | All | Half Term | |
| Sunday 23 rd | 6 | School Journey - 4 th payment due | |
| Sunday 23 rd | All | FONJSA Family Race night deadline to pay | |
| Monday 24 th | All | School restarts | 8.45am |
| Thursday 27 th | 4CH | Visit to Tower Bridge | All day |
| Friday 28 th | 4BF | Visit to Tower Bridge | All day |

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| Friday 28 th | All | FONJSA Family Race night | 6 - 9pm |
| MARCH | | | |
| Monday 3 rd | 6 | Secondary Transfer Online Offers Made | 5pm |
| Monday 3 rd | 3H | Indus Valley Class Museum | 2.15-3.15pm |
| Tuesday 4 th | All | Hillingdon Parent/Carer Forum Coffee morning | 9am |
| Tuesday 4 th | 3C | Indus Valley Class Museum | 2.15-3.15pm |
| Wednesday 5 th | 3LM | Indus Valley Class Museum | 2.15-3.15pm |
| Thursday 6 th | All | World Book Day | |
| Friday 7 th | All | Illustrator Visit | |
| Monday 10 th | 6 | Support Plan Meetings | All day |
| Tuesday 11 th | 4 | Support Plan Meetings | All day |
| Tuesday 11 th | 6 | Junior Citizens event at Brunel University | PM |
| Wednesday 12 th | 3 | Support Plan Meetings | All day |
| Wednesday 12 th | 6 | District Netball Tournament (Silvers) | 1pm – 4pm |
| Thursday 13 th | 5 | Support Plan Meetings | All day |
| Friday 14 th | All | Comic Relief Red Nose Day | |
| Monday 17 th | 5P | Trip to Manor Farm | 9.30 – 12.00pm |
| Thursday 20 th | 5S & 5BC | Trip to Manor Farm | 9.30 – 12.00pm |
| Thursday 20 th | | Netball Tournament (Midnight & Storm) | 1 - 4pm |
| Friday 21 st | All | Odd sock day | |
| Sunday 23 rd | 6 | School Journey - 5 th payment due | |
| Sunday 23 rd | All | FONJSA Easter Disco Gateway deadline | |
| Tuesday 25 th | 5P | Class Assembly (parents/carers welcome) | 9 – 9.30am |
| Wednesday 26 th | 5BC | Class Assembly (parents/carers welcome) | 9 – 9.30am |
| Wednesday 26 th | 6 | Borough Netball Tournament | 1pm – 4pm |
| Thursday 27 th | 5S | Class Assembly (parents/carers welcome) | 9 – 9.30am |
| Thursday 27 th | 5 & 6 | Maths Challenge | 3.45 – 5.15pm |
| Friday 28 th | 3 & 4 | FONJSA Easter Disco | 3.30 - 5pm |
| | 5 & 6 | FONJSA Easter Disco | 5.30 - 7pm |
| Monday 31 st | 6 | B Team Netball Tournament (Burgundy) | 1.00 – 4.00pm |
| Monday 31 st | All | FONJSA Break the Rules Gateway deadline | |
| APRIL | | | |
| Tuesday 1 st | All | FONJSA Break the Rules Day | |
| Tuesday 1 st | 5P | Last swimming lesson | |
| Wednesday 2 nd | 4UW | Class Assembly (parents/carers welcome) | 9 – 9.45am |
| Wednesday 2 nd | 4CH | Class Assembly (parents/carers welcome) | 2.30 – 3.15pm |
| Thursday 3 rd | 4BF | Class Assembly (parents/carers welcome) | 9.00 – 9.45am |
| Friday 4 th | All | Last day of term | 1.30pm |

Community news

Year 5 and 6 study group – As previously advised, Mr Kent and Mr Frape will be delivering small group sessions (SATS preparation classes and preparing Year 5 children for Year 6). The sessions will take place during the first week of the Easter holidays – Monday 7th – Friday 11th April from 9am to 1pm. The sessions will be charged at £30 per day or £120 for the whole week and numbers are limited to a maximum of 24 children. The sessions will be broken down into three 1 hour sessions covering SPAG, Maths and reading. Two short breaks will be built into this time. Please complete the following form to reserve a place by Friday 7th March - <https://forms.gle/rFtU25p75t1GBXL26> Please note that Mr Frape and Mr Kent are doing this as an individual enterprise and are not being paid by the school for these sessions.

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Mr Mullens private football sessions - Individual or small groups of up to 4 children. Available during half term at 3.30-4.30 pm from Tuesday 18th - Friday 21st February. Available after half term on weekdays from 4.30-5.30pm. Sessions will take place on the school astro. Email mrmullens@hotmail.com or follow @mrmullensfitness on Instagram and private message to book or ask any questions.

Junior Bake Off - Applications for the 11th series of Channel 4's Junior Bake Off are now open. Budding bakers between 9-14 years old can apply and applications close on Sunday 23rd March 2025. Interested bakers can apply online at - www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

Half Term activities

- Learn Hillingdon Spring Activities [WFL Flyer Spring 25 Sessions \(PDF, 126 KB\)](#)
- Evolution Netball Camp (held at Newnham) – 17th – 19th February
- PSD Funweeks (held at Newnham) – 18th -21st February

Yours sincerely

Mr N Wilkey
Headteacher