

The New Croft Club

Newnham Croft Primary School, Chedworth Street,

CAMBRIDGE CB3 9JF

NEWSLETTER: November 2018



Dear Parents,

Remembrance Day this year has been especially poignant as we commemorated the centenary of the First World War. I was impressed by how informed and involved the children were. Some were inspired to make poppy field cards and others talked about the school assembly and the long line of leaves representing the 10 million fallen soldiers which the year 5's had collected and placed on the school field. Our craft idea used wax crayons melted on to heated stones to create poppy paperweights /garden decorations and it was very popular with all age groups.

Playwork conference: At the weekend several members of staff attended this year's playwork conference held at Swavesey Village College. The theme was 'A Playworkers day out' and we each attended 3 workshops on a range of play related topics such as working together to create large scale 3D art; non-equipment games; understanding psycholudics and the play cycle; improvisation using dressing up clothes; painting without brushes; drama games and exploring what factors to consider when designing the perfect play space. The conference was organised by veteran play worker Meynell Walter and in his key note address he explained the differences between the various professionals who look after children (Early years educators/ teachers/TA's/ forest school leaders/ youth workers) and how Playwork differs in that (in its purest form) it has no adult-led agenda. It is not the business of the Playworker to teach children anything or to change them in any way – it is for the child to do what they want to do, when and in the way that they want to do it. Therefore the Playworker's job is to provide a 'rich play diet' so that children can access a wide range of resources and have the opportunity to engage with all the different play types. This leads naturally to development and learning and helps children to reach their potential and feel a part of society.

At the club we practice a blend of child initiated free play ideas and some (optional) adult-led activities such as cooking and certain crafts plus occasional organised games activities. We strive to be as versatile and flexible as possible with daily schedules which requires lots of resources on hand 'just in case'. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who have given us donations recently- the outside shed has new bikes, the toy cupboard has new puzzles and games and our art cupboard is filling up with egg boxes, jars and other bits and pieces for future projects. To make space, we recently had an afternoon of carpentry and woodwork. Determination and effort was needed to use the saw, yet this was the most popular tool which just goes to prove how children don't look to make their play easy. The sense of achievement when mastery was finally achieved over that block of hard wood was lovely to see!



Have you moved house or changed your contact details? Is the information on your child's registration form still current? Please let us know if we need to update the contact information we have for you and the information you originally gave us about your child. It is important that we are aware of any new allergies or food intolerances and it can be helpful to keep us abreast of other developments too which may affect your child such as changing play interests for instance. You are welcome to ask any member of staff for your child's registration form to check that everything is correct and up to date.

Christmas Holiday club: We will be open on Thursday and Friday December 20 and 21. We then take a break for Christmas and reopen again in the New Year on Wednesday January 2 until Friday January 4. Thank you to all parents who have already booked, many spaces remain so please let me know if you would like to book so that I can start planning fun crafts and things to do!

Afterschool Club waiting lists: These remain long and we apologise for inconvenience caused. I am in the process of updating the lists however and have been in contact with some families higher up the lists to check if they are still interested. Please contact me to reregister your interest if you have not heard from me as it may be that the lists are looking longer than they really are and that in some cases families may have now put alternative arrangements in place or only require specific days.

Harmanli Refugee camp Playschool appeal: Gil Clasby and her daughter Sadie Clasby-Jarrou (part owner of the New Croft Club and Summer Holiday club Playleader respectively) are still meeting the needs of thousands of refugee children at the Play school which they set up in Bulgaria in November 2014.

Sadie writes: "We currently support refugee children from a range of different backgrounds (Afghan, Iraqi, Syrian, Arab, Kurdish, Yezidi and Muslim) who have all experienced different levels of trauma. This includes children who fled Isis; children whose parents died on the journey to Europe; children whose parent's mental health is deteriorating because they have been stuck living in the camp for years with various document problems; children who have only known life in war zones or refugee camps and children whose families have been torn apart. Every day we witness signs of this trauma in their behaviour. Our play school provides a safe, therapeutic environment in which these children can play, relax, learn and forget about the grown up worries that they spend so much time exposed to. New Croft Club parents, past and present, have been brilliant in providing us with support over the years - from donating to our fundraisers and sending us essential items, to providing us with our first TV for cinema sessions! Thank you so much to everyone who has helped us in the past! We are now fundraising to keep our play school open for its fifth year. Please help us to continue supporting the many refugee children who will pass through Harmanli Refugee Camp this year. Thank you!"

https://www.gofundme.com/harmanlirefugeecampplayschool3?fbclid=IwAR2MAz2GF8Z6Af58YGT_foeyELNNPL7ckaCVj36UD0yIHvAeSwgddsRGDww

Thank you for reading this newsletter. Please remember that all our recent newsletters can be found on our website along with other useful information about registration and booking , school term and holiday club dates and other useful stuff! If you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us either by catching our attention at the end of a session or by any of the following ways:

- Leave us a message in the message book in the school office
- Phone/text us on mobile no. 07812798195
- Telephone 01223 311437 during club hours.
- email Maureen at thenewcroftclub@gmail.com
- email Maureen via the contact form on our website www.thenewcroftclub.co.uk

Warm regards,

Maureen

