

The Newcroft Club

Newnham Croft Primary School, Chedworth Street,

CAMBRIDGE CB3 9JF

NEWSLETTER: November 2019



thenewcroftclub.co.uk

Dear Parents,



Already it's the 2nd half of Autumn term which brings with it that sense of time speeding up now that the clocks have gone back and darkness descends an hour earlier... The festive season calendar has started with Diwali over half term and children's favourite scary fest Samhain/ Halloween is going to be rocking the neighbourhood tonight - It's all go at the club and we are busy planning lots of fab crafts and activities to take us all the way through the timeline of Guy Fawkes, Remembrance day, Thanks giving, Advent right up to the culminating excitement of Hanukkah and Christmas!



Cookery real (Foil wrapped potatoes and marshmallows) and imaginary (Soup)

Eco Awareness: Our challenge these days is to have fun and make stuff but with greater awareness for the environment and so we are constantly looking to source things like corks, bits of wood offcuts, non-toxic dried seedpods, shells and stones and beach glass, pinecones, twine and raffia etc. I am amazed at how much children of all ages and abilities enjoy our 'naturals' drawer! It is consistently the most popular of the junk modelling drawers and inspires wide ranging and very creative play. If you have any of this sort of thing looking for a home we would accept it gratefully!

Of course Winter is a time when traditionally we look to brighten things up with a bit of sparkle The club still has a fair amount of glitter as well as some straws, polystyrene and other less environmentally friendly bits in our stocks. We do not intend to purchase any more of these resources but will continue to use what we have from time to time because otherwise we would be wasting it and for most children glitter is part of the fun and magic of the season.

Staff News: having bid a partial farewell to Phoebe (she hopefully will return during Holiday club when it coincides with her university breaks) we are so pleased to welcome Zanna to our team at afterschool club for 2 afternoons per week and Sami who is helping out on Thursdays for this term. Both Zanna and Sami used to attend the club when they were at Newnham Croft and both undertook the volunteering part of their Duke of Edinburgh award with us also. This means they have an excellent understanding of our ethos and in depth knowledge of all the play opportunities on offer to the children.

Adam recently attended PARS Masterclass Training and he joins myself in having attended this advanced and inspirational course. Grounded in the philosophy of the original Adventure Playground pioneers of the 1970's, PARS is a unique form of Playwork practice which is very concerned with shrinking childhoods and the loss of children's freedom. The PARS model of Playwork practice enables adults to make decisions about whether and how to compensate children for the presence of adults in their time and space. Please ask either of us if you are interested in knowing more about this approach.

Lost Property: Please make sure that you have all your child's belongings at collection time as space restraints mean we cannot store forgotten items. There is a helpful checklist on the front door to quickly read through on your way out. Please mark all items including water bottles and lunch boxes as many children have the exact same one. This means that mistakes can happen when the wrong coat/bag/ bottle is taken home in error and it is very difficult for the club to trace such items when this happens unless the item is returned to its rightful owner promptly. Please double check you have the correct things before leaving and in case of a mistake please contact us immediately so we can pass on the message to the other family thereby avoiding any distress.

Parent's and children's questionnaires: It is time for a new questionnaire and in the past we have always sent them out during this term. On reflection however we have decided to change the timing to next term from now onwards. This is so that families who only joined us in September have settled in properly and had enough time by the springtime to be able to answer the questions in an informed way which in turn means the whole exercise is of greater value to us. In the meantime, if you have any queries, suggestions or wish to discuss any issues please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Christmas Holiday club: The dates fall in an interesting way this year. We plan to be open on Friday December 20 and Monday December 23 before we close for our Christmas break. We reopen again on Thursday January 2, Friday January 4 and Monday January 5. We do need a certain number of children attending holiday club for it to be viable however so if you could let me know if you are interested in good time I would really appreciate it. You have up to 2 weeks before attendance date in which to cancel your booking without incurring expense.

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