

The Newcroft Club

Newnham Croft Primary School, Chedworth Street,
CAMBRIDGE CB3 9JF

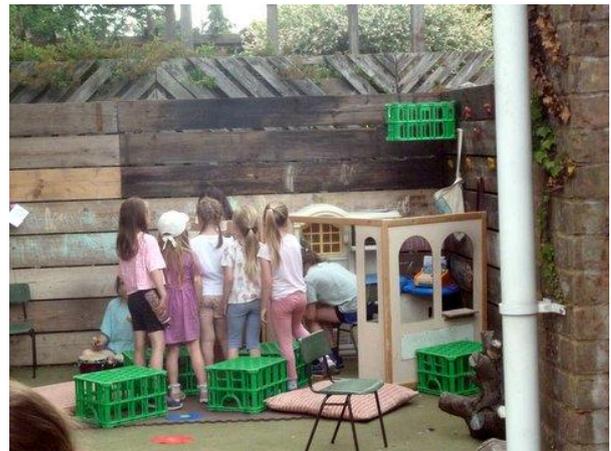
NEWSLETTER: June 2022



Dear Parents,

Midsummer Solstice yesterday and this lovely warm weather looks set to continue. It is always wonderful to see how play changes with the seasons as the children start to shrug off their coats and sweaters (lost property!) and ask for refills to their water bottles.

Loose parts really come into their own during the summer months and lately we have observed such creative play happening outside in our yard area with the green plastic crates, the little foldable house, tarpaulins, cushions, our big log and tree stump, the outside tables and chairs plus boxes, plastic guttering, containers- in fact anything that can be moved! used in so many different ways, on different days and by different groups of children. This corner, (pictured right) transformed into a restaurant was very appealing.



The recent warm weather has also brought requests for water play in all its forms. Last week we had a request for a tub of soapy water which it turned out was for making bubbles. The children began by using their hands to blow the bubbles, and then as the play developed, they started to try all manner of items including sections of bamboo, pieces of string, even a sieve! Younger children joined in and managed to work out for themselves through trial and error how to get the tension of the string correct so that they could make big bubbles too. Staff were asked for increasingly larger soapy water containers as the ideas became more ambitious: 'hey, let's try a hula hoop!' and play lasted happily all afternoon.

Ofsted Inspection: We were inspected by Ofsted during the Easter Holiday club. The inspector arrived at the start of the session and spent 4 hours with us altogether, so they had plenty of time to make required Safeguarding Compliance checks; to speak with myself about various aspects of administration and management; to speak with staff and check their knowledge of Child Protection issues as well as to observe staff interactions with the children as they led and supervised activities. The inspector had a tour of the various play spaces while they were in use (indoors and outside in the playground) and over the course of the morning was, I believe, able to get a good sense of who we are as a setting. Thank you if you were one of the parents who agreed to speak with the inspector during the rush of the early morning drop off! The Inspection report is published on our website www.thenewcroftclub.co.uk

Summer Holiday Club: I am finalising plans for this now and so please let us know if you are interested in booking any dates and please spread the word! We accept children aged 4 -11 from all schools in our holiday clubs and over the years we have witnessed wonderful friendships being forged as the children have this opportunity to broaden their social networks. One advantage of being a smaller independently run setting is that we can, to an extent, tailor activities offered on a specific day to suit the interests of children attending and so some notice with bookings really helps to make this possible. You do have up to 2 weeks in advance of attendance to make

cancellations to your booking without incurring charges. Full days and half days (or a mixture of both) are all available. We have decided to open throughout the 6 weeks+ of summer this year as we try to reform our operations post pandemic. The club will be running from Thursday 21st July until Friday 2nd September (closed on bank holiday Monday 29th August)

After School Club September 2022: Thank you to those parents who have already advised me of changes to their plans next term. I have drawn up the new registers and all spaces are now allocated. There might possibly be a further shake down when the new term starts and if so I will work my way down the waiting lists and inform you as soon as a space becomes free for your child. If you do wish to cancel your space (Y6 leavers exempt) please let me know as soon as possible otherwise in accordance with our admissions policy, your booking will simply roll over to next term and you will be invoiced as usual at the beginning of the September term

Fee Increases: Afterschool club Parents of children currently attending, and families already booked for summer have been notified about our new fee structure which will begin at the start of the summer Holiday club. This rise was already overdue but was delayed further because of the Pandemic, and since then of course, Inflation has run wild, and our running costs have increased across all areas. The new fees are as follows:

Afterschool Club: £13 per session/£12 sibling rate (£25 for 2 children, £37 for 3 children)
£ 14 per adhoc session (if possible due to space constraints)
Holiday Club: £36 per full day / £35 sibling (£71 for 2 children, £106 for 3 children)
£26 per half day/£25 sibling (£51 for 2 children, £76 for 3 children)

Items needed: Recently the children have been really enjoying junk modelling and we can't get enough nice boxes! Shoebox size are always good for crafts, but other sturdy smaller sizes will also be very welcome if you could keep them for us. Cardboard moulded packaging material also sparks the creative imagination (We are alright for eggboxes though). Other crafty bits and bobs we are always happy to accept include ribbons, buttons, beads, broken bits of costume jewellery, sequins etc. We used to get a lot of these types of things from the Cambridge Community Scrap store but sadly it has now closed.

We also need a couple more pairs (ages 5, 7 and 9) track suit bottoms for our spare clothes cupboard. We find that these loose pants work well- children are not comfortable wearing jeans or trousers which do not belong to them but are content enough to slip on a pair of these. We have seen recent demand for these rise lately as the hot weather brings out water play games. Should your child use any of our spare clothes, please remember to return them washed and ready for re-use.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. 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:

- Phone/text us on mobile no. 07812798195
- email Maureen at thenewcroftclub@gmail.com
- Telephone 01223 311437 during club hours.
- Further information including all recent newsletters and Booking and Registration forms may be found on our website www.thenewcroftclub.co.uk

Best Wishes,
Maureen