

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 10th October 2025

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the Year 6 children have had a wonderful tie on their residential. The staff at the site and our own have all commented on what a credit to our school they are. They have had week filled with adventure and fun and we are very proud of them for overcoming the challenges they have faced and approaching the week with such enthusiasm and enjoyment – they really are super stars. A huge thank you to Miss Winkler, Mrs Venables, Mrs Rorke, Mrs Mcqueen, Mr Morison and Mrs Laureys for accompanying them at various points. Not to mention the administration team for the organisational and logistics effort to make it all happen!

It has been a really busy time in school. We have enjoyed a number of visitors and engagement activities these past two weeks across the school. Philly our dance teacher did a wonderful job during our two dance enrichment days and she always engages the children. Clive Pig caught everyone's attention in Reception, Year 1 and Year 4 with his wonderful storytelling. He really brings the different curriculum areas to life and sparks their imagination. Today's years 4 and 5 have engaged in a robotics STEM workshop delivered by Hyett education. We applied and were granted the fully funded workshop through Defence Nuclear Enterprise. It has been really impressive and the children have thoroughly enjoyed an experience they would not normally have access to. The equipment and facilities that brought provided a wonderful opportunity for our children to engage and deepen their understanding of robotics.

We also welcomed governors into the school last week as they spent the whole day with us to gain deeper understanding and insight into the day to day life of the school. The governors play such an important role in support and strategic oversight. It is a big commitment in time and energy and we are grateful to them for their insight and skill set.

Each year, the school sets a number of goals in our school improvement plan. It is important that we share these with parents. The school has a strong commitment to continuing professional development and improvement and we always strive for better:

- 1: To make significant progress towards closing any writing attainment gaps.**
 - 2: To implement targeted tasks for pupils with SEND that realise their learning plans more effectively and accurately.**
 - 3: To further improve and embed the work done with oracy specifically related to transcription, oral rehearsal and sentence dictation.**
- initiatives).

Cont..

www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

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For any Twilight after school club matters, please phone the main school number.

Message from Mr Pope Continued

4: To continue to focus on the relationship, interaction and dialogue in the Early Years to improve outcomes in EYFS for under-resourced and double under-resourced children (in line with National government

5: Develop key (recurring) foundational knowledge across the curriculum for children with SEND.

The above will be a focus of our professional development, targeted support and coaching that all professionals will be working on throughout the year.

We will be sending out the dates for autumn term parent's evenings early next week so please look out for those.

I hope everyone enjoys their weekends and you spend some time in the sunshine.

Best Wishes,

Mr Pope

A blue rectangular poster with a light blue background featuring a subtle pattern of white dots. The text is centered and reads: "Newton Poppleford Primary School" in bold black font. Below it, "Open day for children starting in September 2026" in bold black font. A smaller line of text in parentheses says "(born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022)". Then, "Tuesday 4th November from 1:30pm to 2:30pm" in bold black font. Below that, "or" in a smaller font, followed by "Friday 14th November at 09:30am to 10.30am." in bold black font. A paragraph follows: "If you have children starting school next year, please come along and take a look around our school and meet our great team of staff." Below that, "The pre-school will be open too." Then, "Please email admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk if you are attending stating which day , so that we know how many to expect." At the bottom left is the school's circular logo, which features a harp and the text "NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL".

Newton Poppleford Primary School

Open day for children starting in September 2026

(born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022)

**Tuesday 4th November
from 1:30pm to 2:30pm**

or

Friday 14th November at 09:30am to 10.30am.

If you have children starting school next year, please come along and take a look around our school and meet our great team of staff.

The pre-school will be open too.

Please email admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk if you are attending stating which day , so that we know how many to expect.



Apply for a secondary place

Applications for year 6 children to start in year 7 at secondary school in September 2026 open on 1 September 2025 and close on 31 October 2025.

Please go to The Devon county Council Admission page to apply

Reception



In Reception we have been using our 'fast eyes' to notice amounts of things without having to count each one. It is called 'subitising' and we noticed groups of 1, 2 and 3 objects.

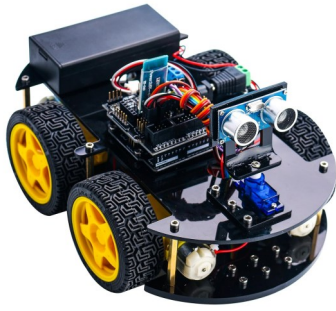
Our reception class have loved Hello Yellow Day



Year 2



Year 2 had a visitor from the Met Office to talk about their topic on 'Hot and Cold places'. The children found out what it is like in the coldest continent on Earth, how you would forecast the weather and what you pack if you were visiting Antarctica. They asked lots of questions to help them with their topic on one of the coldest and windiest places on Earth



Robotics STEM workshop



A huge thankyou to Hyett education for delivering our robotics STEM workshop today. A really inspiring and well organised workshop for our children. They are thoroughly enjoying every aspect!

Sporting Events

Mixed Football Event



On Wednesday the 8th of October we competed in a year 5/6 mixed football tournament at Sidmouth College. We fielded a team of year 5s, as our year 6s were away on residential, and they did us proud! We had some tough games against Sidmouth and Sidbury sides but we kept positive and worked hard for each other. Billie received a certificate for excellent teamwork and encouragement. We took 11 players so almost had enough to field 2 teams. Please encourage your children to take part in these events, they really are a great opportunity to represent the school and play as part of a team

Year 3 and 4 6 –A-Side Football



On Wednesday 1st October, two teams of Year 4 and Year 3 children took part in a mixed 6-a-side Football Tournament at Sidmouth College. Both teams fought hard against teams from Sidmouth Primary and Sidbury and were complimented on their teamwork and perseverance. The final result found the 'Green Vipers' team in 3 place, with the Black Panthers team in 4th place. Congratulations to everyone that took part.

Year 3 and 4 Cross Country



On Tuesday 23rd September a team of Year 3 and Year 4 children took part in a Cross Country event at Sidmouth College against teams from Sidmouth Primary and Sidbury School. They ran over 1200 metres around the Byes and school grounds and cheered each other on throughout the event. The team came third overall and should be proud of all of their efforts over such a long distance.

Pre-School



Pre School collected apples from Adventure Island this week and used them to make mini crumbles to take home and enjoy. We learnt about the ingredients we needed to make the crumble topping and how to use our funky fingers to rub the butter, flour and sugar together.

Year 3



On Wednesday 1st October Year 3 took part in a 'Dance Around The World' enrichment session lead by dance instructor, Philly Rule. Their focus country was Spain and they learnt choreography to build up towards their final performance of the 'Paso Doble'. The whole class took part and according to head judge Mrs Morgan, their final dance was definitely worth a 10!

Apples wanted!!

We have been lucky enough to borrow the apple press from Wild East Devon again this year so next week we will be busy making juice in our Adventure Island sessions.

If you are able to collect any windfall apples over the weekend that would be amazing! Please leave any donations in the crates on the bridge by the office (from Monday)

Thank you!



PTFA Update

PTFA Update

We've got some exciting events coming up in the run-up to Christmas – here are the key dates for your diary:

- **Thu 23 Oct** – Year 5 Cake Sale
- **Fri 7 Nov** – Harpford & Newton Poppleford Parish Council Bonfire Night & PTFA BBQ
- **Thu 20 Nov** – Year 4 Cake Sale
- **Fri 21 Nov** – Non-Uniform Day: *Dress Down for Donations*
- **Fri 21 Nov** – Adult Social: Tropic Night
- **Sat 6 Dec** – Christmas Fair

Village Bonfire Night – Friday 7th November

Organised by Harpford & Newton Poppleford Parish Council, with PTFA support. The PTFA will be:

- Selling advance tickets in the playground (**20–24 Oct & 4–7 Nov**)
- Providing stewards at the event
- Running the *Best Guy* competition (Reception make the body!)
- Raising funds for the school with our BBQ, kindly supported by **The Cannon Inn**
- Delivering flyers around the village to spread the word

Elfridges is back – bigger and better!

Our magical children's Christmas shop returns, giving pupils the chance to choose and wrap special gifts for their loved ones.

To make it possible, we're holding a **Non-Uniform Day on Friday 21st November**. Children can wear their own clothes in exchange for donating a **new, unused gift** to help stock the shop.

Suggested donations include:

- Pamper treats & toiletries
- Candles
- Cosy socks
- Small games or toys
- Chocolates or sweets
- Any other little treasures you'd love to give or receive

Waitrose Community Matters Appeal

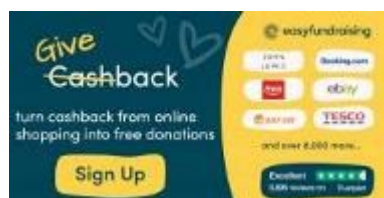
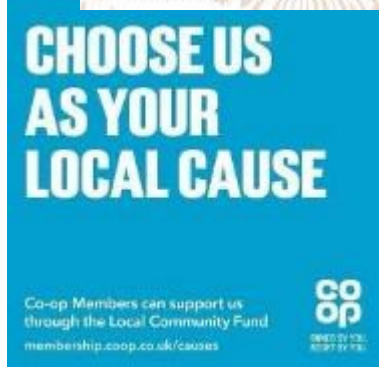
We're delighted that Newton Poppleford Primary School has been chosen as part of Waitrose's *Community Matters* scheme. Over the next 3 months, shoppers can use their green tokens to support one of three local causes.

1st place receives **£1,500**

2nd place receives **£1,000**

3rd place receives **£500**

Please support us by adding your green tokens to the **Newton Poppleford Primary School** section whenever you shop at Waitrose. Every token counts towards helping us raise vital funds for the school.



Dates for the Diary

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15/10/2025	Joe Thompson - PE Event year 1-6 (PE or AI Kit)
16/10/2025	Year 3 and Year 6 East Devon Country Side rangers
22/10/2025	Year 1 + 2 Multi-skills Festival
	Year 5 Road to RIAT STEM challenge
27-31/10/2025	HALF TERM
04/11/2025	Open Day for Reception Class - New starters Sept 2026
05/11/2025	Year 3 Trip - Details to follow
07/11/2025	Year 5 Swimming Lesson (1 of 6)
10/11/2025	Mini Police Year 6
12/11/2025	Year 5 and 6 Basketball (selected children)
14/11/2025	Year 5 Swimming Lesson (2 of 6)
17-21 /11/2025	Maths Week
17/11/2025	Mini Police Year 6
19/11/2025	Year 4 Trip - Details to follow
21/11/2025	Year 5 Swimming Lesson (3 of 6)
	Non Uniform Day - Elfridges PTFA Event
	PTFA Event Tropic Night
24/11/2025	Mini Police Year 6
28/11/2025	Year 5 Swimming Lesson (4 of 6)
05/12/2025	Year 5 Swimming Lesson (5 of 6)
12/12/2025	Year 5 Swimming Lesson (6 of 6)

Be a Chorister for a Day



Saturday 29 November | 10:45am - 4:45pm

Be a Chorister for a Day is an experience for children aged 7 to 10 (school years 2 to 5) who love to sing.

This free-of-charge event will be led by the Cathedral's Director of Music, Mr Timothy Noon, and his team and includes:

- Singing practice in the Song Schools
- A chance to discover more about the Cathedral through a special guided tour
- A creative workshop led by Ms Zoe Cooper, Exeter Cathedral School's Head of Art and Cathedral Choir Chaperone
- A snack and lunch (free-of-charge)
- A final performance alongside the current choristers
- A named certificate recognising each attendee's participation in the ancient choral tradition of Exeter Cathedral

For more information and to book a place –go to the website

<https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/be-a-chorister-for-a-day/>