

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 27th February 2026

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, apologies for the slightly later than normal newsletter this week. The second half of Spring term has felt like Spring is finally arriving. This week, we have been able to allow the children back onto our grassy areas (albeit, still a little muddy) and our play equipment has been used again for the first time in what has been a soggy winter period. The children have been really excited and happy to be back in these areas of our site and it has been lovely for them. I want to say a big thankyou in advance to the parents who are coming along tomorrow after school to help with the school site – we are very grateful to you. If anyone does have 20/30 minutes to spare, we would welcome you popping along also (anytime between 15:30-16:45pm - ish would be welcome).

Excitement has been the word of the week this week especially around books and reading. KS1 and 2 have been energised by the new books we have been able to invest in and our plans continue to keep updating our reading stock and create the enthusiasm and love for reading that we want our children to have. Behind the scenes, the staff team and I are also looking at our reading spine (the books we read to the children in school) to keep this current and ensure a good breadth and depth of reading across our curriculum. We encourage you to read nightly with and to your children in all years but especially younger years as it is such an important part of their reading development. A huge thankyou to Mr Churchill for his efforts and energy in driving this development. We cannot wait to see everyone on Thursday for what is always a brilliant day.

A note on attendance – a reminder that for children and families where we are concerned about attendance the school will always act and apply our statutory duty – please expect this. Holidays and unauthorised absence; excessive, repeated and multiple periods of illness; lateness beyond registration and lack of communication from parents will always prompt a response for the school. The school is pragmatic and reasonable in its approach but we also need parents to ensure that children are here when they are able to be and should be. We also request that those with low attendance are very mindful of this and every effort is made to improve.

The school has set a date for parents evening – these will be in the week beginning the 23rd March. Please expect the booking to open for these on Monday 9/03/2026 @ 4pm.

Teachers will all offer two later evenings until 6pm in this week. We would ask that if you are able to attend an earlier appointment you do try to book in earlier as this helps those that are unable. If there are problems regarding finding a time you can attend our staff are flexible and we will ensure we find a time for this important meeting.

Thank you to everyone for their ongoing support of the school. The book fair is open for the remainder of the week. Next week, the children have science week to look forward to with lots of exciting and inspiring experiments and investigations planned across the school.

Best Wishes,

Mr Pope

www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

01395 568300

✉ admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

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

PTFA World Book Day

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

Every book you buy earns **FREE BOOKS** for our school!

Discover books from **£2.99**

COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR

AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!

MORE NEW BOOKS YOU'LL LOVE!

Includes 4 free mini figures!

All books subject to availability.

DISCOVER MORE BOOKS ONLINE!

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Payment at our Book Fair

Please check with your school for the best way to pay for your books.

- You may pay by card at the Fair via card reader machines if your school has one or by using the online payment link at www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gap and simply selecting your school from the drop-down menu.
- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £30. Go to www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you aren't around the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List – please ask your school for details.

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over 63,281 worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.

*These books are subject to terms and conditions. Please contact your Book Fair Organizer or Scholastic Book Fairs for details.
All books subject to availability. Book image may vary. > Warning: Not suitable for children under 3. Small parts.

Our Book Fair is happening THIS WEEK! Check out the leaflet above to see just some of the books that will be on offer. You can also see a complete list of all titles available on our order form here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWysE0KkSCAx_8cj_2wgAGKp7QBklyQp6rTYyOffoYsd-8gw/viewform?usp=header Use the order form if you want to buy a book but can't come along to the Fair, or if the book you want isn't available when you visit (or if you simply want to guarantee getting your hands on a particular title!). Please note, all books ordered via the form will be delivered to school W/C 9th March, so after the Book Fair itself. Remember, every penny you spend puts new and exciting books directly onto our school shelves for the children to enjoy

Also taking place at the Book Fair: World Book Day Costume Swap – come and help yourself to a costume, and/or leave a pre-loved costume for someone else to enjoy. There is no charge for costumes. World Book Day Cafe – visit the Book Fair on Thursday 5th to enjoy FREE tea, coffee and biscuits while you browse the selection We can't wait to welcome you to this year's Book Fair

Year 2

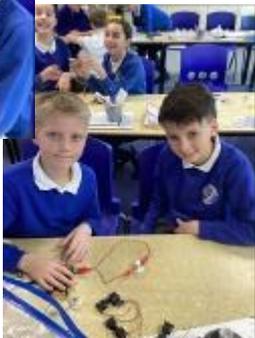


Year 2 finished their topic on comparing an African village to our village by exploring the food we eat here and in the country of Zambia. Mixed reviews on their dish - nshima, which is made with maize but most enjoyed the African vegetable stew and queued for seconds! The class also produced fantastic artwork using carbon copy paper to create mono prints based on the African savannah.

Year 5



Year 5 have started learning about circuits in D&T, and this week revised how to make a circuit including a light bulb or motor.



We are learning about Evolution and Inheritance in Science, and have learned about Charles Darwin in English and Guided Reading.

In Geography the class are learning about the physical and human geography of North America.



Year 4



Year 4 have started to explore mechanical systems by building a prototype car. We had to think about the chassis and how best to attach our wheels. We then tested the prototype using an inclined plane.

Year 3



This week in Science, Year 3 began their new topic on plants by identifying the different parts of a flowering plant and learning about their functions.

The children carefully dissected real lily flowers and daffodils, observing each part closely. They then produced detailed, labelled scientific diagrams, showing great care and accuracy in their work.



Reception



Play Projects happen weekly in Reception and are linked to Drawing Club. We were making houses for The Three Little Pigs and their friends!

Pre-School



Pre-School have been learning about Lunar New Year.

We tried some rice, noodles and prawn crackers as part of our snack this week and we tried using chopsticks to eat them!!



24.02.26 - 02.04.26



Spring Term 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

| | | |
|--|--------------|---|
| TUES 24 TH FEB | All month | Fund Raisin A fun challenge to do at home- more details to follow |
| THURS 26 TH FEB | After school | Year 2 Cake Sale |
| 2ND - 6TH MAR | After school | Scholastic Book Fair Books available all week to purchase, costume swap and World Book Day Cafe |
| THURS 26 TH MAR | After school | Year 1 cake sale |
| WEDS 2 ND APR | After school | Easter Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt, rainbow raffle and class stalls |

Newton Pop PTFA

Fund Raisin

Challenge

2ND MARCH - 27TH MARCH

WRITE YOUR NAME AND CLASS WHEN RETURNING THE BOX

Ideas to help you raise money:

- Wash the car
- Chores for change
- Sell old toys
- Dog walking
- Anything you like!

The class to raise the most wins extra Adventure Island time!

Eat some raisins, yum, yum, yum!
Keep your box when your snack is done.
Ask for coins, fill it high,
Bring it back—we'll count, oh my!

HELP US RAISE MORE MONEY WITH MATCH FUNDING!

What is Match Funding?
It is a fantastic way to double the money we raise at school events — at no extra cost to you! Many employers offer to match the funds raised by employees for charities like us. If you volunteer at a PTFA event or help raise funds, your company might match the amount we raise — £100 becomes £200!

Which employers offer Match Funding?
Here are just a few well-known companies that participate:

M&S First sky
HSBC ASDA British Gas

If you're not sure, ask your HR dept - they'll tell you if you're eligible.

How can you help?

- Volunteer at one of our events (see just an hour!)
- Check if your employer offers Match Funding
- Apply through your workplace — it's usually a simple form

Who it matters
With Match Funding, we can support school with more resources for our children — without asking families to donate more.

Charity Number: 303333

Enter our **Super Draw**

Win a **£1,000 Aldi Gift Card**

OR **£1,000 CASH PRIZE**

ALDI

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

Donation to PTFA for every booking made!

With a view of Fundraising!

100% of all profits raised donated to PTFA for the benefit of the school.

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SUPPORT STEM, SPARK INNOVATION!

With the support of the school, we are looking for...

- Support for the school
- Support for the school
- Support for the school

100% of all profits raised donated to PTFA for the benefit of the school.

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

Raise funds for your school or organisation the easy way.

- No Startup Fees
- No Admin
- Zero risk

Raise funds for us for FREE with easyfundraising

ALDI

£60m

£0

WE ARE INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL TO THE DEVON CLINTON ESTATE FOR THEIR KIND £500 DONATION TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR NEW STEM CLASSROOM.

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- Gutter Cleaning

10% All bookings that mention the PTFA will receive a 10% donation!

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Dates for the Diary

| Dates for the Diary | |
|---------------------|---|
| | |
| 26/02/2026 | PTFA Year 2 Cake Sale |
| | |
| 02-06/03/2026 | PTFA Scholastic Book Fair |
| | Mock SATS week |
| 03/03/2026 | School Photos |
| 04/03/2026 | Year 6 Trip |
| | Year 3 Trip |
| | Year 5 & 6 Sidmouth college event (Selected Children only) |
| 05/03/2026 | World Book Day |
| 09-10/03/2026 | Science Week |
| 25 + 27 /03/2026 | Spring Hikes |
| 26/03/2026 | PTFA Year 1 Cake Sale |
| | |
| 02/04/2026 | Spring Hikes |
| 02/04/2026 | PTFA Easter Eggstravanza |
| 03/04/2026 | Easter Holidays start |
| 20/04/2026 | Start of Term |
| | |