

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 27th March 2026

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Easter holidays are soon upon us and the school has been a very busy place over the last two weeks. We want to extend our thanks to all our parents for supporting their children's education so well and engaging with our staff team in these conversations. The staff are very grateful to you all for your partnership and support. The staff have worked incredibly hard over this period to prepare and deliver parent's evenings and ensure assessments have been carried out and formative judgements made to give you the best possible information and feedback to support your children's learning. I know that attendance has been exceptionally high and almost without fail parents have attended these meetings or rearranged if there has been a problem. Thank you very much to those parents in year 3 who experienced an issue with their booking on Monday. We really appreciate your understanding and patience.

The last two weeks have seen a number of activities and enrichment. Of note is the Year 4 Greek Day which was a really enjoyable and fun event for the children. They thoroughly enjoyed putting on their togas and all of the arranged activities. Year 5 put on a wonderful djemba drum performance for the school. A big well done for them as I know they have been practising hard to keep in time and keep the beat together. Year 1 visited the church and a big thank you to Reverend Ward for his time and energy. Clive Pig visited our pre-school with his usual enthusiasm. It is always lovely for staff to see the awe and wonder he promotes in our children and thank you to the parents that attended. Our Spring Hikes have also taken place which take a lot of work to organise so thanks to Mrs Dowsing (luckily, they have been largely dry as well) and all parent volunteers that attended.

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.

Message from Mr Pope Cont.....

Please can I make polite requests regarding the three areas of school life that are ongoing contentious issues: Firstly, that all parents are mindful that children are not allowed on the play equipment before and after school as it is not supervised during this time. Similarly – children are not allowed to play ball games before and after school as there are parents and young children walking past. Finally, please consider the surrounding area when parking as this can cause a real risk to children crossing the road as well as complaints from local residents to the school where people are parking inconsiderately and blocking driveways. We would really appreciate you being mindful of these three things.

This year is the National year of reading and we are really encouraging this over the Easter break. In assembly today, we have launched an “Extreme Reading challenge”. This challenge will pitch class against class and the winning class will be able to order 1 Non fiction book and 5 fiction books of their choice. There is also a staff competition and parent competition running alongside (a caveat on this is please do not do anything unsafe, especially if like some individuals on our staff team, you have a strong compulsion to win) which will earn a certificate and recognition. Please take on photograph of each entry (child or parent – joint entries are fine) and submit it via e-mail marked in the subject line: *Reading challenge. F.A.O class teacher name*. Alternatively, you can print it out and simply hand it in to your teacher. Good Luck and we can't wait to see your efforts. The children will have an opportunity to take an extra book from our library to support this. Please can we ask that over the weekend parents and carers have a look to see if there are any books at home or in nooks and crannies that belong to the school and return them to us.

The PTFA Easter Egg hunt is planned for next Wednesday after school. We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to join in.

Many thanks and best wishes as always,

Mr Pope



Year 1

Monday 23rd March 2026

Year 1 visited the local church as part of our history topic, 'Am I History?'. The vicar kindly welcomed us and showed us a baptism register that is over 150 years old. We were amazed to spot the names of some of our own school friends recorded inside! Afterwards, we walked to the village war memorial, where we learned about local people who had fought in the war and reflected on their bravery. We then explored the cemetery, looking at some of the most interesting and historic graves, which helped us understand more about the past in our own community.



Year 3

Linking with their topic of the Jurassic Coast, Year 3 had a fantastic time creating cast fossils in Adventure Island. The children used shells to press moulds into plasticine, then carefully filled them with plaster of Paris. After patiently waiting for the plaster to set, they revealed their very own fossil casts—just like real palaeontologists!



Year 4

Year 4 had a fantastic time on their Ancient Greek Day! The children made mosaic tiles, painted Greek symbols on tiles and carved soaps as offerings to the Greek gods.



Pre School



Pre-School went on a bug hunt in Adventure Island



Using our magnifying glasses and bug boxes, we had a great search .



Year 2



This week Year 2 had the Sidmouth Toy museum visit our class. They shared lots of toys from the past with us that helped us with our history topic on toys from the past.

Year 5



In Design and Technology we are about to make the Wobble Bots we have designed. In English we have started a new book called The Hidden Forest, which has some fantastic artwork.

Year 5 have performed to the school in assembly, playing djembe drums. They have been learning the different techniques for playing the drum, and have composed short rhythms which we made into a larger piece for performance. We taught the rest of the school a 'Welcome' song, and they sang with us.

Your Scomis Online Safety Newsletter

Please find the March Scomis Online Safety newsletters attached, these newsletters can be accessed via the links and placed on your websites, links can then be sent electronically to parents/carers and staff.

[Online Safety Newsletter for Parents](#)

Welcome to the March 2026 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Schools

Reminder for School Leaders—Is your school's data Free Cybersecurity Benchmarking Tool for Schools

School Senior Leaders (SLT), Governors and Trustees should consider the following questions:

- How safe is your school's data?
- What would you do if a key member of staff is unavailable (Data Manager/Network Manager) at the start of next term?
- **Do you have a Data Security Policy and does it include provisions for homeworking/anytime/anywhere/access?**
- Would you know if your school experienced (or has experienced) a Data Security Incident?
- **How resilient is your school's IT network?**
- Is your school's network protected from internal and external threats?

The [DfE's Cyber Security Standards](#) (updated February 12th 2026) provide schools and Trusts with essential advice and guidance to help organisations protect their data and systems. Check the [6 Core Standards](#) you should be working towards for 2030.

Be aware!
Schools and Trusts have been and are, prime targets for cyber-attacks from ['phishing'](#), emails to ['ransomware'](#). School leaders need to take their organisation's cyber-security seriously.
Incidents or attacks will often be an intentional and unauthorised attempt to access, change or damage data and digital technology. They could be made by a person, group, or organisation outside or inside the school or college and can lead to:


- safeguarding issues due to sensitive personal data being compromised
- impact on student outcomes
- a significant data breach, compromising GDPR compliance
- significant and lasting disruption, including the risk of repeated future cyber incidents and attacks, including school or college closure
- financial loss
- reputational damage

Check the [National Cyber Security Centre's](#) dedicated webpage of resources (NCSC) for schools:

- [Governing boards & senior leaders](#) 8 questions for school leaders and governors to start cyber security conversations
- [Staff](#) includes free training resources and video
- [IT teams/procurers/providers](#) includes free online resource to find out how resilient your organisation is ['Exercise in a box'](#)
- [Other useful resources](#) including how to report a school cyber incident

[Secure Schools](#) introduces their free to use, global framework [Cyber Score](#) to benchmark your school's Cybersecurity position.


The scoring system is tailored to specific regional and national standards, helping schools to benchmark their cybersecurity progress. Use [Cyber Score](#) to start benchmarking your school it is completely free to use, you can start to complete statements immediately.



Online Safety resources for children with SEND

The NSPCC partnering with [Ambitious about Autism](#), have created online safety tips, advice and activities for parents and carers of children with SEND, including children with dyslexia, autism and speech and language difficulties. Resources include:

- [Sharing personal details](#)
- [Friendships online](#)
- [One-page profile](#)
- [Cyberbullying for children with SEND](#)
- [Talking to people online for children with SEND](#)



Free education resources

Childnet's [free education resources](#) for all ages and SEND to help teachers and professionals encourage children and young people to help shape the future of online safety support.

[UK Safer Internet Centre](#) Explore a wide range of Resources based around this year's Safer Internet Day theme based around the theme ['Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'](#).


[Education resources](#)
[Top Tips for Young People and Quizzes](#)
Download the [Social Media Toolkit](#)

Helpline dedicated to children's workforce

Don't forget! The Professionals Online Safety Helpline (POSH), operated by SWGfL. Review their video on how the Helpline works and how they can help [here](#). Tel: 0344 381 4772

Looking for further support?
Children—call [Childline](#) 0800 1111
Older children [The Mix](#) offers free and practical advice. Essential support for under 25s.

For more information contact
E: scomis@devon.gov.uk
T: [01392 385300](tel:01392385300)





We raised
£82.00 for
Comic Relief
last week

Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
25 + 27 /03/2026	Spring Hikes
26/03/2026	PTFA Year 1 Cake Sale
30/03/2026	SEND Parent consultations
	Reception and Pre school - Outing
01/04/2026	SEND Parent Consultations
02/04/2026	Spring Hikes
02/04/2026	PTFA Easter Eggstravanza
03/04/2026	Easter Holidays start
20/04/2026	Start of Term



Thursday 2nd April

Year 2 have been learning all about **perseverance!** They've been practising their times tables and are inviting everyone in the school to join them in a day of challenges and battles. Keep going, don't give up, and persevere as we all build our confidence with our times tables and number facts!

Come dressed as a rockstar (Year 2 and KS2), a numbot (Year 1 and Year 2) or the colour of your favourite numberblock (Reception).

