

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 15th May 2026

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has seen **SATS WEEK** take place and we are so proud of our year 6. They have been incredible and taken each day in their stride. For some children, they thoroughly enjoy these tests but for some it can add (an often hidden) stress and the school tries to manage that as best it can with various different endeavours. These early starts, daily breakfast and strong relationships with adults (to name a few) are so important for the children's well-being across the week and I am grateful to all our staff for putting this together. Special mentions go to Miss Winkler and the year 6 team, the staff who came in on non-working days and our kitchen staff who have all done an amazing job. Regardless of any results, the children have been a credit to school the community!

Communication

An area I will keep returning to: The school has put together a road map for improvement and consistency across next year. We will be looking at developing this with parents in the coming weeks. One key issue is how we communicate the school diary and children's teaching and learning activities. The MCAS app that the school has to use does not enable this so we will be turning to a different method in the next academic year. This is also tied in to Marvellous ME discontinuing. We will update you further as we prepare for September.

In school we have now held two of our **class assemblies** related to our school values. The most recent of these being Year 4's assembly on positivity. As part of this they have created some positive messages on stones which you may see/find out and about in the village. Part of these assemblies, is the learning about our impact and actions beyond the school gates – to take care of our community and beyond. I know other classes are working towards similar objectives and we are excited to see their outcomes.

You may have seen the school is currently **recruiting** for positions in our teaching team. Please do share these if you know of any suitable applicants that may like to join our wonderful school.

As we head into the last week of the half term, we have some exciting things happening including Bikeability for year 5, an aquarium visit for year 2 and not to mention the school disco!

As always we wish you all the best for the weekend ahead and look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best Wishes,

Ant Pope

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

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

SEND

Dear Parents and Carers,

On Wednesday 3rd June, there will be an information session around 'How to support children with their worries and anxieties', hosted by Charis Hughes, trainee Educational Psychologist, who has been supporting our school throughout the school year.

We are aware that lots of parents experience their child being anxious or worried about school at some point and that children express this in different ways. For all parents this is often a difficult time to navigate. During this session we hope to give insight into what anxiety is, what anxiety can feel like for primary school children and the different ways it can present itself. Most importantly, we would like to give practical advice on what you can do as a parent to support your child at home and in the transition to school or secondary school.

The session will be offered online, on Wednesday 3rd June 4-5pm. Please follow the link below: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/398623782940454?p=5giytjtM6WQa9PABD5>

Meeting ID: 398 623 782 940 454

Passcode: BA3US7DJ

We would also like to offer the opportunity to follow the session here in school, for those of you who prefer this or struggle to get online. We will meet in the year 4 classroom at 3.45 pm. We will provide coffee, tea and biscuits. If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs. Laureys via sendco@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk or leave a message in the office and we will get back to you.

We hope to see lots of you there!

Year 1 were very lucky to have an online session with Nick from the National Archives in London. The children explored the lives of inspiring women from history. They investigated clues about a nurse, a pioneering pilot and a defender of a medieval castle using real historical evidence. The children examined sources such as wax seals, newspapers, passenger lists and census records to find out more about each woman's achievements. They also discussed why it can sometimes be difficult to learn about women from the past.

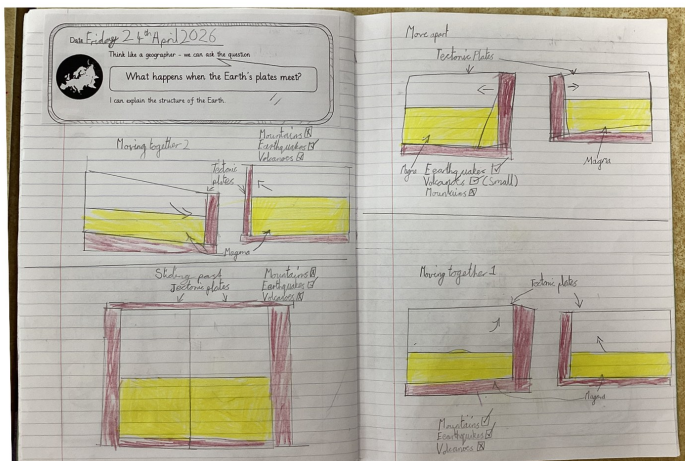
Year 1



Year 2

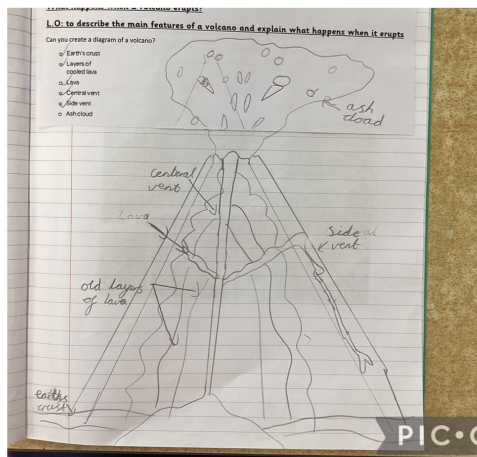


The year 3s and 4s who attended Art club have created a joint masterpiece. Inspired by the artwork from 'Where the Wild things are' they used pen and ink to create background details before using pastels to add colour. Then they created living creatures to add life to their artwork. A fantastic piece of art!



Year 4

Year 4 have been doing some wonderful learning on tectonic activity and volcanoes. In Adventure Island, they investigated how man-made barriers might be used to deflect lava flow, while in class they have been thinking about what causes volcanoes and their structure.



PIC-COLLAGE

Year 3



Year 3 carried out an exciting experiment as part of their science topic about skeletons and muscles. The children designed and built their own 'bionic hands' using cardboard, straws, string, and tape to explore how our hands move and work together.

Pre-School



We had a Stay and Play session in Pre-School this week and it was lovely to see so many parents attend. We also received some new guttering to play with, thanks to the wonderful PTFA!! Some of us put them to good use straight away and created a long, long track for our cars to roll down. We tried chasing the cars to see how fast we could run and beat them to the bottom!!



Year 6



Last week, Year 6 took part in a bug hunt to help us practise classification in Science. We went outside onto the playing field and explored different areas of the school grounds in search of mini beasts and other wildlife. We discovered lots of different types of invertebrates, including beetles, worms, spiders and woodlice, and used our classification skills to group them according to their features. Our most exciting discovery was a toad hiding in the compost pile, which caused a lot of excitement!



Year 5

Year 5 have enjoyed some fantastic Adventure Island sessions, including learning about what it was like to be a child in Victorian times!



They took part in a role-play, being factory workers.

Mrs Dowsing and Mrs Cuffley were also in role!

The children have also been practicing more shots in Volleyball.



Year 6 + Year 5 Sporting Activities



Year 5 and 6 took place in a football tournament against other local schools. Both teams showed great sportsmanship and resiliency throughout the entire afternoon. Both teams played incredibly well and should be so proud of their efforts. Some absolutely brilliant goals were scored!

NAVIGATING CHANGE

TRANSITIONING FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY

Skills Workshop with Parental Minds

An interactive online workshop exploring the journey of our young people transitioning from primary school to secondary school. Together we'll discuss practical strategies and highlight effective ways to offer meaningful support while our loved ones navigate this new chapter in their lives.

Parental Minds Community Interest Company:
Developed through families' experiences, with
input from professionals & researchers.



Online, Zoom

Monday 18th May 2026
7.15pm - 8.45pm

Sign up here:
bit.ly/PMSWChangeMay26



Newton Poppleford PTFA SCHOOL CALENDAR

COVER COMPETITION

- Draw something that represents our school
- A winner from KS1 and KS2 will be selected to feature on the front cover of the school calendar.
- please hand your named entries into the school office by **Monday 1st June**

Our School, Our Community

NEWTON POP PTFA
WEDS 20TH MAY
SCHOOL DISCO
 SQUASH AND COOKIE INCLUDED £4 A TICKET FOR KS1 AND KS2
 -PRESCHOOL & RECEPTION: 2:00PM- 2:45PM
 -KS1: 3:30-4:15 PM
 -KS2: 4:30-5:15 PM

NEWTON POP PTFA
SUMMER FETE
 AT NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL
FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 15:20-17:20
FREE ENTRY
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
 BOUNCY CASTLE - DANCERS - FACE PAINTING - BBO - CANDYFLOSS - GAMES - RAFFLE PRIZES & MANY MORE...

UPCOMING EVENTS
 Summer Term 1 2026
 Monday 20th April- 23rd May

WEDS 29 TH APRIL	Summer Fete Planning meeting The Cannon Inn 20:00
THURS 7 TH MAY	Reception Cake Sale Top playground afterschool
WEDS 20 TH MAY	School Disco Different Key Stages- more info to follow

NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL
 Newton Popleford Primary School PTFA
SEPT 2026- SEPT 2027

BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL
JOIN THE PTFA

COMMITTEE ROLES AVAILABLE:

- Chair
- Deputy Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Sub committee role available- speak to Georgia to find out more

- Make a real difference
- support your children
- meet new people
- flexible roles

NEWTON POP PTFA
SCHOOL DISCO
DISCO PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED!
 Have you got any new and unused gifts that could be used as disco prizes?
 Please hand them in at the school office before Wednesday 20th May.
 Thank you for your support!

NP PTFA
We need YOU
Help Our School Allotment Grow!
 Our wonderful school allotment needs a few extra pairs of hands. Whether you can spare an hour or a morning, your help makes a real difference - no experience needed!

TESCO
COMMUNITY GRANTS
 NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL
SIDMOUTH & SEATON STORES

WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE TESCO COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

Don't forget to get your BLUE TOKEN and pop it into the NEWTON POPPLEFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA slot, in the Sidmouth and Seaton store, from 28 APRIL until the end of JULY.

Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
18/05/2026	Year 2 Trip
19/05/2026	Reception children Parents Meetings
20/05/2026	PTFA School Disco
	Year 5 and 6 Quad Kids (Selected Children only)
01/06/2026	First Day back to School
	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (1 of 6)
02/06/2026	Year 5 - Transition Event Sidmouth College
04/06/2026	Reception class school trip
08/06/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (2 of 6)
10/06/2026	KS2 Swimming Gala (Selected children)
11/06/2026	Year 5 Trip
15/06/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (3 of 6)
16/06/2026	Year 5 and 6 Sporting Event Sidmouth College (Selected Children only)
17/06/2026	Climate Care Workshop - Wear Green Day
22/06/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (4 of 6)
23/06/2026	Year 5 Music Event
26/06/2026	PTFA Summer Fete
29/06/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (5 of 6)
01/07/2026	Transition Day
06/07/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (6 of 6)
06/07/2026-10/07/2026	Sports Week
08/07/2026	Sports Day (Provisional Date)
13/07/2026-17/07/2026	Art Week
15/07/2026	Year 6 Production
21/07/2026	Last Day of Summer Term

