

# School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

## Friday 30th January 2026

### Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I write this, the school has arrived safe and sound to listen, watch and engage with a live orchestra. I know this will be a rare and memorable event for the children that we hope will inspire them and pique their interest in music in all its forms. Mrs Singfield has put a great deal of time and effort into organising things and we would like to express our gratitude to her for putting the event together for our children.

Last week we held our annual Break The Rules Day. We were all immensely proud of the children for the way that they handled themselves and entered into the spirit of things. Children in our school take pride in how they are and how they treat one another and it was no different on this day. It was nice to let them be 'a little bit naughty' and we hope they all enjoyed the day.

As we pass the mid-point of the half-term we have begun the task of preparing our book stock and library areas for our new reading resources. Mr Churchill has introduced some fresh ideas and endeavours into our school curriculum and more will follow on this. Some exciting developments we have been looking at include the use of schemas to aid long term memory recall and retention and various endeavours across our English writing curriculum. Please could we ask everyone to have a look at home to see if there are any school books hiding in nooks and crannies that could be returned to us as we have an audit to assess and give us recommendations for our book stock. This week we are also launching a story writing competition in the lead up to World Book Day and our Book Fair. Please see the poster later in The Newsletter for details and how to enter.

An area of increasing national interest and scrutiny affecting young people's lives is the amount of time they are spending on screens. As a school, we are very mindful of this and the effects on our children. Most children are balanced in this and we help educate them on what is a healthy amount of time to be spending and what other activities we can do. The school is doing this now as it is especially prevalent when we have such wet weather and more time is potentially being spent indoors. Internet matters is a good source of advice and guidance for parents.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/>

Continued over leaf .....

[www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk](http://www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk)

01395 568300

[✉ admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk)

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

Message from Mr Pope continued .....

We will also be sending a screen time tracker home with all children in KS2 next week. Please could you take some time to complete this with your children so we can raise awareness and collect the information for an assembly and discussion in the following week.

Finally, the school would also like to reach out with best wishes anyone who may have been affected by the recent floods or have family members that have been affected.

We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday.

Kind regards

Mr Pope



## Pre – School



Pre-School have enjoyed exploring musical instruments this week. We sang the “Music Man” song and the children joined in with their instruments. We talked about playing them fast and slow and also quietly and loudly



## Reception



Reception really enjoyed a visit from our community PCSOs last week.

They showed us all the different equipment they carry in the police vans, let us sound the siren and we even got to go in the back of the van! We then tried on their uniform and

## Year 5



Year 5 have been learning about fractions in Maths, multiplying them by an integer and finding a fraction of a quantity. In English we have started reading 'The Ever-Changing Earth' by Grahame Baker-Smit, using noun phrases and conjunctions in our writing. In Adventure Island, the children have been making maps of the area. They will use these maps to create their own orienteering challenges in the upcoming weeks. Luckily the weather held off whilst we enjoyed the outdoors!

## Year 3



As part of Year 3's Geography topic on mountains, the children were treated to a talk by parent Rebecca Layman about her amazing climb to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro.

She shared a presentation filled with photographs from her journey, helping the children to really picture the experience. The class learnt all about the kit she needed to pack, the food she ate, and the washing and sleeping arrangements along the way. Rebecca also talked through her ascent to the summit, where she watched the sun rise. The children asked some fantastic questions and voted that most of them would love to climb the mountain themselves one day!

Year 3 would like to thank Rebecca for giving up her time to come in and talk to the class.

## Year 2



Year 2 have been comparing how the river Zambezi is used in Zambia to how our local river is used. We enjoyed making the different parts for both rivers to compare their uses.

## Year 4

Over the last few weeks, we have been exploring the countries of Europe and thinking of the landscapes that make up these countries. Year 4 have also been working extremely hard to produce their own version of the Selfish Giant, with a real focus on using descriptive noun phrases and figurative language. In music, the children have been exploring percussion through some fantastic drumming!



## Sporting Activities



Over 20 Year 5 and 6 children took part in an after school trampolining festival at Sidmouth College on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January. They all had a fabulous time and loved the opportunity to use the equipment in



Year 5 and 6 attended a football tournament at Sidmouth College. We displayed incredible sportsmanship and teamwork skills throughout the entire tournament. We came second place and scored loads of great goals.



Three Year 5 and 6 children took part in a Boccia event at Bicton on Friday 23rd January. They had never played the game before (similar to bowls) but it didn't matter - after a couple of games, they were already applying tactics and showed some excellent team work, coming third in their group and winning their playoff game. One of the Year 6 children also earned an extra certificate, being recognised for showing respect.

## PTFA

EVENTS SCHEDULE	
	
<b>Spring Term 1</b> <b>5th January- 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>FRI 23<sup>RD</sup> JAN</b>	Break The Rules Day for a £2 donation, children can break selected school rules
<b>THURS 29<sup>TH</sup> JAN</b>	Year 3 Cake Sale 15:20 All money raised goes directly to year 3.
<b>FRI 6<sup>TH</sup> FEB</b>	Quiz Night 19:00 Hosted by Quiztopher Day-Kerry and Fact Finder Filer
<b>THURS 12<sup>TH</sup> FEB</b>	Crealy Takeover 17:00-19:00 Soft Play at Crealy with Drakes School
 For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website: <a href="https://www.pta-events.co.uk/newtonpopptfa/index.cfm">https://www.pta-events.co.uk/newtonpopptfa/index.cfm</a>	
	

WE ARE INCREDIBLY  
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Your 10% goes to [PETA](http://www.peta.org)

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

07447675172

## Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
02/02/2026	Year 3 Swimming Lessons (5 of 6)
04/02/2026	Year 5 & 6 "Bee" Netball ( Selected children) Sidmouth college
06/02/2026	PTFA Big Quiz Night
09/02/2026	Year3 Swimming lessons (6 of 6)
11/02/2026	Year 5 Trip
	Year 3 & 4 Indoor Football ( Selected children)
12/02/2026	PTFA Crealy Takeover
16-20/02/2026	Half Term

02-06/03/2026	PTFA Scholastic Book Fair
03/03/2026	School Photos
09-10/03/2026	Science Week



## LOVE WRITING STORIES?

Fancy winning a £5 voucher to spend at our Scholastic Book Fair in March?

We'd absolutely love to read your original creations! To get your creative juices flowing, Mr Churchill has provided the following story prompts:

**For children in Key Stage 1:**  
 "Everything changed early one morning as I sat down by the beach. The gentle waves lapped against the shiny pebbles and the sun shone softly across the turquoise sea. Just as I was getting ready to head back home, I heard it..."

**For children in Key Stage 2:**  
 "As the sun rose up into the sky, it seemed that today was going to be just another normal day. Another day of waiting for something interesting, exciting or unusual to happen. Just another normal day, until I heard the knock at the door..."

To enter, please write or type your story and hand it in/email it to the School Office by Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February.

Five overall winners will be selected by the Year 6 Pupil Leaders and Mr Churchill. (Year 6 entries will be judged by Mr Churchill & Mr Pope.)

**Key Stage 1:  
200 WORDS**

**Key Stage 2:  
500 WORDS**

**SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS**

**COME TO OUR BOOK FAIR**

AND FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE READ!

Every book you buy earns FREE BOOKS for our school!





*Dog Man*  
by *Stan Senechal*



*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*  
*PARTY PUPPIES*



*Pokemon*  
*EVOLUTION HANDBOOK*



*Corgi*  
*Kingdom*



*Tom Gates*  
*PESKY PETS PARTIES*



*The Scarecrow*  
*Weekend*

DATE: 2-6 March TIME: 3:20pm

LOCATION: School Hall

GO ALL IN.



**SWIMMING LESSONS**

Join our thrilling swimming lessons designed for children aged four months and older. Begin your journey today!

**Child swimming lessons**

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- Learn Water Safety Skills
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www.leisuredev.co.uk

# Sports Summer School

09:15 - 15:15 - Thursday 23rd, Friday 24th & Monday 27th - Friday 31st

**JULY 2026**

The Woodroffe School PE Department are delighted to be running our Sports Summer School again this year. Open to students from Years 5, 6 and 7, we have seven action packed days for all abilities.



The summer school will run for 7 days and we have places for 36 students. The cost of the summer school is £200.



**THE WOODROFFE SCHOOL**  
TOGETHER WE SUCCEED



**SIDMOUTH SURF LIFESAVING CLUB**

Is your child interested in joining our junior surf lifesaving sessions?

We are now opening new member sign-ups and invite 7-12 year olds to join our swim trials.

**2026 SWIM TRIALS**

Sunday 22nd March  
Saturday 28th March  
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
Sidmouth Pool

**FIND OUT MORE, EMAIL:** [membership@sidmouthsurf.co.uk](mailto:membership@sidmouthsurf.co.uk)

**WHAT'S INVOLVED?**

- Lifeguard training **Saturday mornings** from May to Sept
- Competition training **Wednesday evenings**
- Pool training all year round

**SPECIAL OFFER FROM MYCLOTHING**

**Save 10% on School Uniform**

Just use code MYCQ110 at checkout to enjoy 10% off your next order\*.



\*This offer excludes bundles, events hoodies and clearance items. Valid until 31.03.2026 [www.myclothing.com](http://www.myclothing.com)

**QR Code**



**Thelma Hubert Gallery**

**Half Term Family Workshop**

Tuesday 17 February  
Drop in 11am - 3pm

Join printmaker, Emma Molony, this Half Term to create your own original print inspired by the exhibition.

All ages and abilities welcome

**FREE** Donations welcome

For more details and other events, go to [thelmahubert.com/workshops-and-events](http://thelmahubert.com/workshops-and-events)

Or scan the QR code



Tuesday - Saturday, 10am - 5pm  
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