

# School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

## Friday 16th January 2026

### Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a really positive and settled start to the new term across our school and it has been fantastic to have so many children come back and tell us about their adventures over the winter break period. We have also had two new faces start with us in very important roles as our year 4 (as well as Deputy Headteacher) and year 5 teachers. Mr Churchill and Mrs Doyle have already had a positive impact and settled in really well amongst our ever - giving staff team. My thanks to all of them for being so welcoming and the hard work that it takes to ensure as smooth a transition as possible for our pupils.

This term's curriculum has also started with success and we have welcomed some visitors into school including the wonderfully enthusiastic Mutinthiny who came to share her knowledge and experience of Hinduism. She describes us as her favourite school due to the children's inquisitive nature, curiosity and behaviour which is always nice to hear. I was also lucky enough to accompany the Year 3's to the Exeter Mosque this week. Imam Ahmed answered all of our questions and adults and children learnt an awful lot. We look ahead now to Year 5's visit to the synagogue later in the year. All of the experiences are so important for the children's experience, knowledge and acceptance of the world in which they live.

I would like to take the opportunity to apologise for any disruption caused with the delay in Accelerated Reader this half term. We are working towards a solution and hope to have it up and running again next week. Please do encourage reading as you normally would and staff will support children to exchange books as normal. We have now also been given a grant from the Norman Charitable Trust for £1500 pounds which was secured by one of our governors. A huge thank you to Linda for the time and effort to do this. We will be investing in a wide range of new books very shortly which will greatly benefit everyone.

Next Friday we have Break The Rules Day – we love this day and can't wait to see the children's efforts as we know for lots of them it is a bit of a yearly highlight. I believe it is also a good opportunity to use it to talk about the importance of integrity and why we break certain rules and not others.

[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 are currently recruiting for two roles in school. Both for a clerk to our governors and also for a School Administrator. If you know of anyone who is looking or would be suitable for a role of this type please do encourage them to apply or call for a conversation.

We are also considering changing our registration period to end at 09:05am instead of the current 09:20am. Please take a moment to complete the below goggle form and share your view.

<https://forms.gle/poG92G6o9Z3fYvew8>

We hope you have a fantastic weekend and look forward to seeing you all next week.

Best Wishes,

Mr Pope

## School Life – The First Two Weeks of Term

### Year 5

Year 5 are learning about Forces in Science this half term. So far, they have learned about the difference between mass and weight, and used force meters to measure in Newtons. They have investigated gravity by creating pendulums and seeing what happens when they change one variable. Everyone was very interested to learn how gravity is different on different planets, and how the moon's gravity creates tides. There were lots of thoughtful and curious questions!



## Pre –School



Pre-School investigated ice last week 😊 We left some toys in containers of water outside overnight and we checked to see what had happened to them. We noticed that the water had frozen and the toys were stuck!! 😊 We talked about the ice melting, how it was see-through/transparent and how we could melt it quicker by pouring hot water on it. The children liked to hold the ice while we poured warm water over it, seeing closely how quickly the ice melted. We also saw ice and frost down in Adventure Island 😊



## Reception

Reception made some trails in Adventure Island using apples, stones and sticks to lead their friends to the Gingerbread house after being inspired by reading Hansel and Gretel!



## Year 4



Year 4 have had a fantastic time settling into our new half-term. They have been exploring figurative language through our text *The Selfish Giant* and have begun to learn about Greece as a European country in Geography. Within Art, the children have been looking at traditional still life. After considering the work of Paul Cézanne, the children created their own still life artwork using pen that focused on their own pencil pots. Next week, we will be looking at contemporary still life.

## Year 2



Year 2 had a visit from the dentist last week. We talked about all of the ways to keep our teeth clean and keep them strong and healthy.

## Year 1



Year 1 had fun exploring artifacts that are important to Jewish people. We got to look inside a Torah scroll and Mrs Hall was able to read a bit to us!

## Year 4

Today I went to Exeter Mosque. The Iman showed us around the mosque. We saw the bathroom and saw the place where they wash their legs, arms face before they go into the prayer hall - it's called wudu. We had to take our shoes before entering the mosque. My favourite bit was when we had our snacks.

By Arlya



I learned lots on new information on my trip to Exeter Mosque. I found out that the domed roof was there to make it echo . I also learned that people wash their hands and arms , their feet and their heads before they pray .I learned that women wear scarves and men don't. I learned that there are 5000 mosques in the UK and that 6 to 7% of the UK population are Muslims . I learned that there are 1500 to 1600 people that attend the mosque for prayers on Fridays. I now know that during Ramadan the mosque provides 400 to 500 meals when the fast is broken.

By Annie.

## Year 6



This half term, Year 4 and Year 6 were lucky to welcome a visitor who taught us all about Hinduism. We learned about a range of Hindu festivals and what they celebrate, as well as the idea of karma and how it encourages people to think carefully about their actions and choices. Our visitor also explained the importance of temples and shared insights into daily life for Hindus, helping us to understand how beliefs and traditions influence the way people live.

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

## Spring Term 1

5th January - 13<sup>th</sup> February

**FRI 23<sup>RD</sup>  
JAN**

**Break The Rules Day**  
for a £2 donation, children can break  
selected school rules

THURS  
29<sup>TH</sup>  
JAN

Year 3 Cake Sale 15:20  
All money raised goes directly to year 3.

**FRI 6<sup>TH</sup>  
FEB**

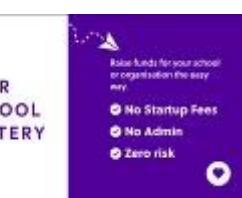
## Quiz Night 19:00

THURS  
12<sup>TH</sup> FEB

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:  
<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/newtonpopptfa/index.cfm>



## Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
19/01/2026	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (3 of 6)
21/01/2026	Year 5 & 6 Football Sidmouth College ( Selected Children only)
23/01/2026	PTFA Break the Rules Day
26/01/2026	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (4 of 6)
28/01/2026	Year 5 & 6 Trampolining Sidmouth College
29/01/2026	Year 3 Cake Sale
30/01/2025	KS2 Trip
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	Year 3 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

