

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 13th March 2026

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, we have been immersed in our science week and the children have been enjoying lots of scientific learning including experiments, STEM links, famous scientists and advocating for our environment and the world around us. The children have approached this week with real enthusiasm as always and we are very proud of them. A special mention to Mrs Doyle for her efforts in organising this event.

An important notice regarding dogs.

Unfortunately, due to another incident on our site related to a dog that has bitten a member of our school community - **dogs are now banned completely from the school site** - including the bin area and must not be tied to any part of the school. Please do not bring dogs into the school on leads or otherwise. It has now become a foreseeable event and we cannot risk this happening to a child.

We are looking forward to welcoming our Reception mums in today for their Mother's Day tea party. The children are very excited to see you all and celebrate and appreciate how wonderful mums are and all you do for your children!

Last week, I was lucky enough to join the Year 3's in their trip to Lyme Regis and was so impressed with their behaviour and respectful attitudes. Their enthusiasm to learn and curiosity was also wonderful to see and something that all the children should be very proud. Positivity towards learning is a hugely important part of our school's ethos and expectation and they showed this in abundance during the day. Year 6 were similarly brilliant on their trip to The RAMM museum in Exeter – being proud of their school and setting an example in the community is something for us all to celebrate so well done to those classes.

www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

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

Message from Mr Pope Cont.....

This week, many classes are finishing our whole class English unit on Change sings poetry. I have seen some fantastic, creative examples of writing and witnessed the real buzz around the school as staff and children have applied their learning to this. Similarly, another TT Rockstars battle comes to an end today as Year 4 and 6 have been healthily competing to win the accolade of best class in this latest round.

This week, the whole teaching staff team took part in some specially organised training with the school at Clyst St Mary regarding maths problem solving, oracy and chains of reasoning. It was an interesting, informative and beneficial session – many thanks to Miss Winkler for organising and supporting this professional development for our team.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to thank again those members of our community who helped us with the school site recently– it really was beneficial and has helped us immensely. The fit out of the KS2 shed deserves special mention and will really benefit our play times into the future. Thank you again!

We hope you have wonderful weekends and look forward to welcoming you all to parents evening in the next two weeks.

Best Wishes,

Mr Pope



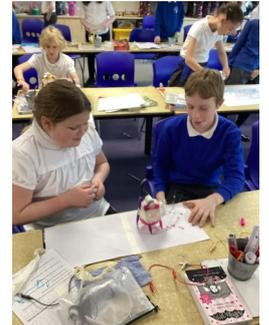
Year 5



Year 5 have enjoyed their cricket sessions and, so far, have practised their bowling and batting skills. They have demonstrated great teamwork.

In D&T the children have created circuits using motors, to make 'wobblers' that draw random lines on paper. This involved a lot of problem-solving!

We have enjoyed reading the whole-school book 'Change Sings' and creating our own, inspirational poetry in our English lessons.



Year 2



Year 2 had a great day on World Book Day. Fantastic costumes and our day was full of enjoying and sharing stories.

Reception



Barn Owls really enjoyed World Book day last week and loved having their parents and grandparents in to 'Rock Up and Read' at the end of the day too!

Year 3



Lyme Regis Trip – Wednesday 4th March 2026

Year 3 had a wonderful trip to Lyme Regis on Wednesday 4th March. The day began with a short introduction where the class learned how fossils are formed, how to find them on the beach and why Lyme Regis is such an important location for fossil discoveries.

Guided by an expert geologist and palaeontologist, the children explored Lyme's famous East Beach, searching for fossils among the rocks and pebbles. They were very enthusiastic as they searched for their own fossils and were thrilled to discover specimens they could take home.

After heading back to the museum, the class learned about Mary Anning and her life in Lyme Regis. They discovered how she became one of the most important fossil hunters in history and the significant role she played in helping scientists understand prehistoric life. The children were fascinated by her story and the incredible fossils and artefacts on display.

Year 4



Year 4 have been exploring different experiments as part of British Science Week. On Monday, they learnt about chromatography and used it to identify who had written a ransom note!



Year 6

Last week, year 6 went on a field trip to RAMM. We had a great time looking at different artefacts, talking about evacuees, exploring an Anderson Shelter dressing up in WW2 clothes. We learned so many new and exciting things!

Year 1



Year One had a fantastic World Book Day in their amazing costumes. They particularly enjoyed sharing their favourite books with their Year Six buddies. We also read some of the fantastic new books Mr Churchill has ordered for the school.

Year One had a fantastic afternoon trying out playing the djembe drums. We watched a video of them being played in Mali and then had a go at trying different rhythms ourselves. After a bit of practise, the children were brilliant at following the rhythms as a class. Well done Year One!



Pre-School



Pre-School enjoyed celebrating World Book Day last week.

This week, we have done some activities for Science Week.



Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
09-10/03/2026	Science Week
18/03/2026	Year 1 and 2 Multi Skills Event
19/03/2026	Kitchen closed due to New Oven -(Free School Meals and KS1 prebooked meals provided only)
20/03/2026	Year 4 Greek Day
23/03/2026	Year 1 outing
23-26/03/2026	Parents Evenings
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

HAF HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
EASTER HOLIDAYS

St John's School
Sidmouth

Tuesday 14th - Friday 17th
April 2026

9am - 1pm
12.30pm - 4.30pm

AGES 5 - 12
INCLUDES A HOT LUNCH
MULTI-ACTIVITY HOLIDAY CAMP