

# School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

## Friday 21st March 2025

### Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents/Carers,

The highlight of the last two weeks has got to be the fantastic Science week. Although Mrs Bradley is not in school currently, she has played an enormous part in organising, preparing and arranging all of the activities that the children took part in across the week. The week was organised far in advance and I want to extend a special thank you to her. There were so many exciting and stimulating science experiments. Children across the school learnt about a range of topics both from the primary curriculum and beyond. I would also like to say a huge thank you to Jon Ball and his team of volunteers. Again, there were some fantastic experiments and experiences that the children would not have had without their input. The rocket cars were a particular



highlight. Jon also commented on how inquisitive and positive the children were about their engagement and application to their scientific learning – he was extremely impressed with our learners which was lovely to hear.

We were also treated to a musical performance from the children who are learning instruments with both Vanessa and Sam. A huge thank you to them for giving their time and support. It gave the children an opportunity to perform and

showcase their learning. We have some very talented young musicians at the school who are learning a range of instruments and we are sure will continue to go from strength to strength.

There are still two days left for the book fair so please do take the time to visit. Thank you for our wonderful PTFA who are kindly manning that for us. We believe there has been lots of interest and it will greatly benefit the school.

We would also extend our thanks to all parents and carers who have booked in to attend parent's evening. We always have an exceptionally high engagement with this in our school which is testament to our entire school community. For those parents whose meeting dates have changed we are very grateful to you for your understanding and we will ensure you have the same opportunity to discuss your child's learning.

The Spring Hikes have been happening this week and the children have really enjoyed this important aspect of their curriculum. I hope that you have an opportunity to enjoy the outside over the coming weekend and we look forward to seeing everyone on Monday morning.

Best Wishes,

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

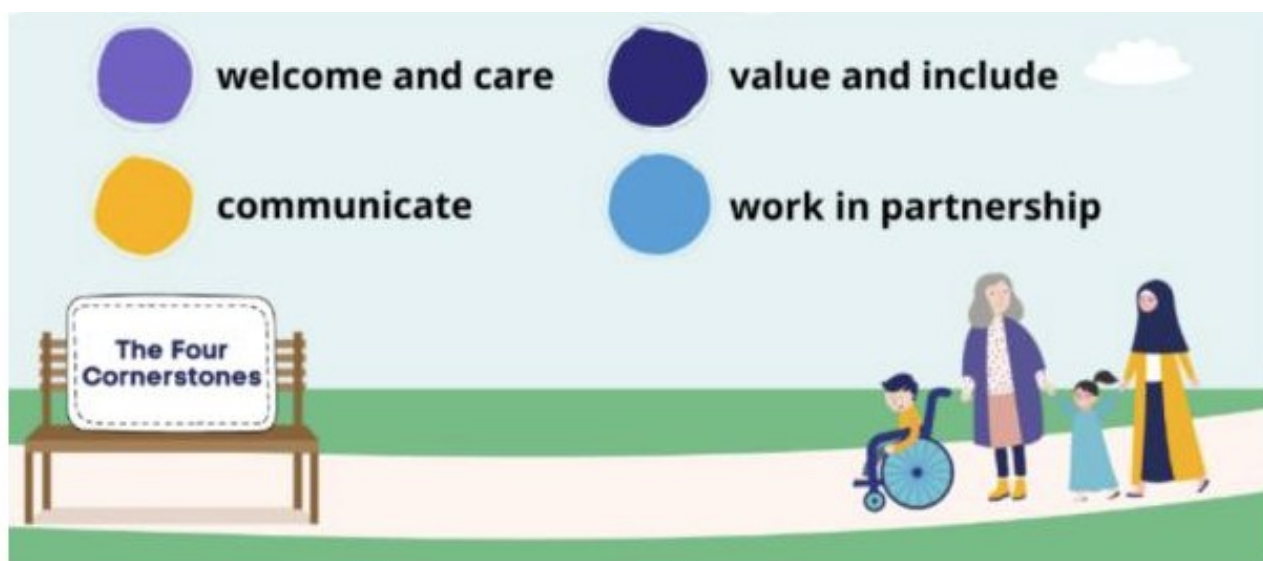
☎ 01395 568300

✉ [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.

## SENDCO

**Add your voice to the direction that SEND provision is happening in Devon.**



**We are changing how we do things so that we can improve the outcomes and experiences for children and young people with SEND and their families in Devon.**

**Your voice is valuable, so to make sure we're making the right changes, we want to hear about your experiences of our health, care and education services (including schools, colleges and other settings).**

We're working with Genuine Partnerships, a not-for-profit community interest company from Rotherham made up of practitioners, parent carers and young people working together as equal partners. They developed 'The Four Cornerstones Approach' based on research involving children and young people with SEND and their families. It's known to help build the trust needed for good quality co-production, so we're using it to help us embed a new culture which focusses on positive relationships. You can find out more about this in the new Devon Local Area SEND Strategy here - [devon.cc/sendstrategy](https://devon.cc/sendstrategy)

***This form asks you consider your experience based on The Four Cornerstones (the questions explain what these are), and share with us any comments or examples of what went well and what needed to be better. Your feedback is invaluable to us, and because this form is anonymous, you can share your thoughts openly and honestly without reservation. We really appreciate you taking the time to do this, thank you.***

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## Year 6



In Adventure Island this week, year 6 made smores. Next week, we will be writing instructions based on what we have done!

## Year 1

### Year 1 Design & Technology : Constructing a Windmill

In Year One we have been learning all about windmills – the history of them, how they work and what they can be used for. Over the last few weeks we have been having a go at making our own. We've had to follow design criteria, make a stable structure, make functioning sails/blades that attach to the supporting structure and... after testing them today... next week's job will be to improve our windmills!



## Adventure Island



This week we have been on our spring hikes enjoying the sunshine; a great opportunity for children to practise map skills. Thank you to all of our parent helpers and I look forward to hiking with year 6 next week.



## Year 2

This week in Year 2 we tasted foods from each of the food groups that make up a healthy and balanced diet. In Science and PSHE we have been looking at why we need to eat a balanced diet and designing our own meals that have a variety of foods. We even created our own works of art inspired by the artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo that included a variety of foods that make up a healthy balanced meal.



## Year 3 Trip to Lyne Regis

Year Three had a fantastic trip to Lyme Regis to learn all about the amazing Mary Anning. First, Kieran, the Education Officer, showed us some different types of fossils that we might find on the beach. Then, we spent over an hour on the beach hunting for fossils. The children did a great job of searching carefully through the rocks and Kieran and Penny (a volunteer) were on hand to help identify their finds. Everyone found something, including fools gold, ammonites and even poo fossils! After lunch, we went to visit Mary Anning's grave and had a look around the museum to learn more about Mary Anning. The children all really enjoyed the trip and their behaviour was a credit to the school. A big thank you to all the adults who came to help.



### Year 5 Science Week

Year 5 had great fun doing lots of activities in science week. We made rocket cars. We also used camouflage to hide in adventure Island and enjoyed balloon fun with the whole school.



### Pre school—Science Week



Pre-School joined in with Science Week and did some experiments. We made Cloud Dough using flour and baby oil, which looks crumbly but when you squeeze it, it moulds into a shape. Then we made Magic Milk where we added food colouring to milk, dipped cotton buds into washing up liquid and then dipped our buds in to watch the colours swirl. We learnt that an orange is buoyant when placed in water with the peel on but sinks to the



## Exmoor Challenge



The training continues for our intrepid Exmoor explorers.... on Sunday they covered over eight miles of Exmoor's terrain... over grassland, up steep hills, over (and sometimes slightly in!) rivers, past iron age ram-parts and all in the name of challenge. Our squad have shown real determination and resilience so far. We're all very proud of them. Thank you so much to Kelly and Ruth for organising us!



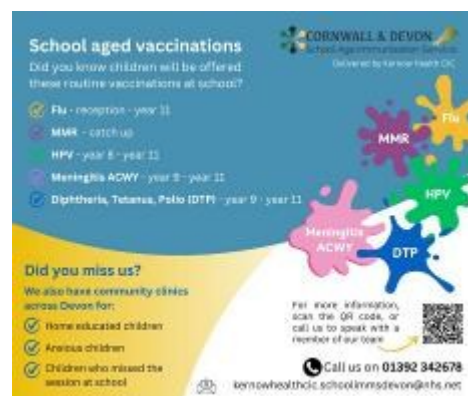
School Council—Eco Awareness

## PTFA Update

- 24th February-7th March- Penny Wars
- All week from 17th March- Book Fair
- Thursday 27th March- Year 1 cake sale
- Thursday 3rd April- Easter Egg Hunt
- Thursday 8th May-Reception cake sale
- Friday 16th May- The Rainbow Rush colour run



## School Notice Board



## Menu Change

- 23rd April—Butternut squash macaroni, Vegan sausage or Jackets
- 24th April—Oven bakes sausage and Yorkshire pudding, Roast Veg Tart or Jackets

## Dates for the Diary

<b>24th March</b>	Year 3 Swimming (5 of 6)
<b>25th March</b>	Parent drop in Parents meeting Great Potridge House Dogs trust in school
<b>26th March</b>	Westcountry River conservation Trust Year 5 and 6
<b>27th March</b>	Year 1 Cake sale West Country Rivers Trust Year 6 Spring hike
<b>31st March</b>	Year 3 Swimming (6 of 6) Easter Experience at St Luke's
<b>2nd April</b>	Year 3 and 4 Quad kids Athletics - Selected children only
<b>3rd April</b>	PTFA Easter Egg Hunt
<b>4th April</b>	Last day of Term
<b>22nd April</b>	Inset day
<b>23rd April</b>	Children back to school  Menu Change - Butternut squash macaroni , vegan sausage or jackets
<b>24th April</b>	Menu change - Oven baked sausage and Yorkshire pudding , roast veg tart or Jackets
<b>30th April</b>	Swimming Gala - Selected children only
<b>3rd May</b>	Exmoor Challenge
<b>5th May</b>	Bank Holiday
<b>8th May</b>	Reception Cake Sale
<b>16th May</b>	PTFA The rainbow Rush Colour Run
<b>21st May</b>	Year 5 and 6 6 a side football - selected children
<b>26th May - 30th May</b>	Half term
<b>2nd June</b>	Year 1 Swimming lessons - (1 of 6)