

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 6th December 2024

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents/Carers,

The last two weeks in school have been very busy for the staff team and I am really grateful to them for their hard work and dedication. On the 26th and 28th of November, we have taken part in two evaluations of our core curriculum areas. Maths on the 26th November and English on the 28th with our new school advisor Julie Stevens. Julie is an experienced member of the school effectiveness team with a background as an English advisor and specialist. Both of the above activities showed real strength in our provision and some of the new undertakings that we have introduced (weekly in-depth feedback sheets; retrieval practice and left hand, right hand page scaffolding approach; diving deeper questions and mastering number) were seen to be having a really positive impact on children's learning. Some of the comments made on the day and in our report were:

"Children have what they need to access learning."

"A really clear and consistent approach and strength in terms of structure, sequence and clarity of progression."

Coding club has been brilliant and the children have been amazing – some of the knowledge on display from many of the children is very impressive and a certain member of Year 6 clearly has a bright future in programmable technologies. The children have all made programmable buggies and in the Spring term will be our resident experts. Children across the school will have opportunity to make and code their own buggies as part of our computing enrichment.



The two weeks of Christmas are now upon us and the PTFA have been amazing, as always, preparing for the Christmas Fair. We have very high gusts of wind forecast on Saturday, which will affect all of our outdoor areas so please be careful when you are coming to the site. The event will have to take place inside the school buildings but it will still be amazing and my thanks go out to them all for organising everything.

We have the pantomime trip, performances, Christingle and singalongs all taking place in the next two weeks. There is lots of excitement in the air and we are very much looking forward to seeing all of you in school.

Best Wishes as always,
Mr Pope

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

SENDCO

Winter Drop In for All Parents 10/12/2024



We will look into ways to save money during the winter months. This will be together with a representative of the PTFA, who will have some previously loved uniform and toys available as well as a representative from the Community food larder. The community food larder shares out food from local supermarkets to stop it from going to landfill and to reduce food waste in the community.



Besides this, we hope to offer lots of information about local events and projects that are set up to help all parents save money during the winter months.

WINTER HIKES

This week we have been out and about on our autumn hikes as part of our Outdoor Adventurous Activities PE provision. Children showed great perseverance, particularly those classes that hiked all the way up to Harpford Common and back! Thanks again to all of our helpers that came along to support us, it is much appreciated!

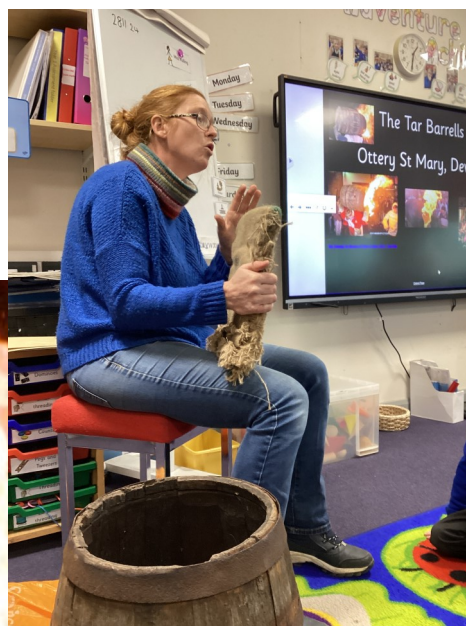


Pre-School



Year 1

On Thursday 28th, Year One were joined by Carly, a Tar Barrels veteran who has been taking part in the Ottery St Mary November tradition since she was ten. Carly generously gave up her time to answer our (many) questions about what it is really like to run through the streets with a flaming barrel on your back! She even let us try on the handmade protective gloves and to feel the weight of one of the smallest Barrels (which was pretty heavy for us!). Thank you so much Carly!



Year 2

Year 2 had a visitor from the MET office, who had recently been to Antarctica. She helped us recap our learning from last term on the cold continent bringing in with her the clothing we would need to wear if visiting and the weather equipment she used to forecast the weather in Antarctica. We would definitely have to wrap up warm!



Year 5 & 6 Girls Football

On Wednesday 4th December, a team of Year 5 and 6 girls took part in an indoor Rotational 5-a-side football tournament at Sidmouth College. They played two rounds of matches and finished in second place. Well done girls!



Christmas Reminders



Christmas Performances

The school gates will open 15 minutes before the scheduled performance times.

Except the 2nd KS2 performance, when parents will be allowed into the hall once vacated from the earlier performance.

Christmas Panto

Please ensure all children are wearing school uniform

Please provide each child with a healthy snack for the interval (no nuts or sesame seeds, please)

The coaches will leave the Panto at 3.10 pm so we hope to be back at 3.45 pm.

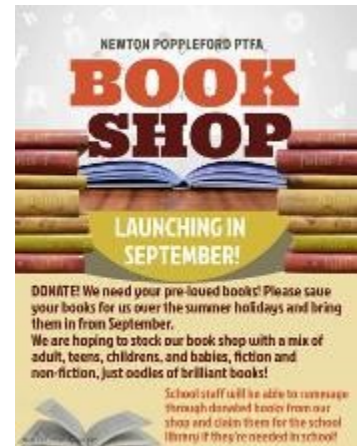
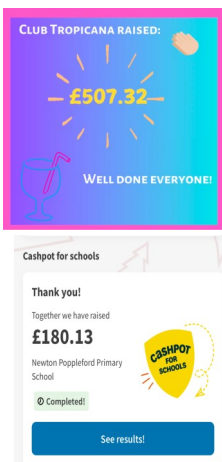
PTFA

SAVE THE DATES: More info to follow, but here's a heads-up for PTFA events for this term.

7th DEC - Christmas Fair (afternoon)



Money Raised Recently



We're thrilled to kick off our crowdfunding campaign to build new play equipment for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Your support will make a huge difference in making playtimes more enjoyable and engaging for the pupils. Every contribution, no matter the size, brings us closer to our goal. Please donate and share our page to help spread the word!"

Below is the link to the page where you can donate :

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/newton-poppleford-school->

Coop- choose Newton Poppleford School PTFA

We have some exciting news to share! Newton Poppleford School PTFA has been chosen as one of the three local causes for the Coop! By simply signing up as a Coop member for just £1, or logging in if you're already a member, you can select Newton Poppleford School PTFA as your chosen cause.

Your support will make a huge difference to our children, helping to make their outdoor playtime even more enjoyable. Thank you for being a part of this positive campaign 🙌

Wanted



We are looking to build up our stock of LEGO bricks to support a variety of creative and educational activities in the classroom. We would be extremely grateful if you could consider donating any unwanted LEGO sets or pieces that you may have at home. Your contributions will be used for a wide range of activities across the different year groups. If you are able to donate any LEGO, please feel free to send it into school with your child, or drop it off at the school office. Any amount—whether large or small—it will be greatly appreciated.

Polite reminder for parents:

When returning book-banded reading books to school, please ensure that books are put in the correct colour boxes.

PTFA --A PLEA ON BEHALF OF THE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF NEWTON POPPLEFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

OUR BOOK SHED

You might have noticed that our book shed is currently out of action.

Unfortunately, last week's storm has damaged the shed beyond repair. We salvaged the books that we could, but many were too wet to save. We are hoping to have a temporary book shed up and running next week.

As a more permanent solution, we are desperately searching for a new or used replacement shed that can house our book shop going forward.

All ideas welcome!



School Admission Arrangement 2026-2027

School Admission Arrangements 2026-27, Admissions Relevant Area 2027-29 and Education Transport Policy and Post-16 Transport policy 2026-29

Devon's annual admissions consultation is now open and will close on Friday 10 January 2025. It will be of interest to parents of children aged 2-18.

The consultation

Details of the consultation can be found at: [Admissions, transport and relevant areas consultation – Education and Families](#) Comments in response are invited from interested parties.

The consultation includes the co-ordinated admissions schemes for the LA and individual school policies for all state-funded, mainstream schools within Devon and the academies in neighbouring LA areas that are listed below.

The key dates for the consultation

Devon's consultation ends 10 January 2025

Admission arrangements to be determined by 28 February 2025

Admission arrangements to be published at [Education and skills websites - Admissions and Transport policies - LA - All Documents](#) and [Education and skills websites - Admissions policies for individual schools - All Documents](#) by 15 March 2025

Deadline for formal objections to the School Adjudicator 15 May 2025

(The consultation regarding The King's School, Ottery will run from 15 November to 10 January 2025)

A list of all schools including proposed Published Admission Numbers

[Education and skills websites - List of Devon schools and Published Admission Numbers - All Documents](#)

Catchment area maps

Maps of catchment areas as proposed for 2026-27 can be viewed at [School designated \(catchment\) areas – Education and Families](#)

Proposed changes to school admissions policies

Responses must be submitted either by email to schoolsadmissionpolicy-mailbox@devon.gov.uk or in writing to School Admissions Consultation, Devon County Council, Room L60, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QG by Friday 10 January 2025. They can also be sent to the schools themselves.

All responses will be shared with schools and considered.

A report will be presented to Devon County Council's Cabinet meeting on Friday 14 February 2025 for determination including the individual admission policies for community and voluntary controlled schools.

Governing Bodies and Trusts responsible for determining the policies of academies, foundation and voluntary aided schools will meet in late January or in February.

The LA co-ordinated admissions schemes and Fair Access Protocol are published at [Education and skills websites - Admissions and Transport policies - LA - All Documents](#)

School admissions policy documents are published at [Education and skills websites - Admissions policies for individual schools - All Documents](#)

Dates for the Diary

6th December	Year 1 Winter Hike Adventure Island 10.50-12.15 Year 2 Winter Hike Adventure Island 1.30 -3.00
7th December	PTFA Christmas Fayre
9th December	Year 5 Swimming Lessons (5 of 6)
10th -11th December	Rec and KS1 Nativity 2.15pm
10th December	Parent drop in
11th December	Year 3 & 4 Multi skills Festival Pre School Nativity @ 11.00am
12th December	KS2 Christmas Concert 1.25-2.10pm & 2.30-3.15pm Christmas Jumper Day - Whole School
13th December	Whole school trip to the Panto
16th December	Year 5 Swimming Lessons (6 of 6)
17th December	Whole school Christmas Dinner
18th December	Menu change Fish fillet or Spanish Omelette (No jackets)
19th December	Brass Band in school Menu change - Sausage and Mash or Jacket Potatoes,
20th December	Menu change - Party food for school Last day of Autumn Term
7th January 2025	First day of Spring term—Pupils Return to School
14th January	Parent drop in
27th January	Yr3 Trip