School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 2nd October 2026

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week the school has had a real energy and buzz around us as we have carried out our annual poll and voting for the student leadership roles. Year 6 have been busy writing applications for our Head Pupil roles and interviewing with Miss Winkler and I. It has been really impressive and we could have chosen any of the children who applied. This was record year for applications! We are very proud of all the children for their commitment and effort that went into this. Well done all.

All the children in Year 6 have taken on a role and this year, they have chosen to create new roles in digital leadership and music leadership as they are areas of the school they are passionate about. We are very excited to see what they have in store for us.



The school council has been renamed this year to be our School Parliament and the Eco-council will sit separately from that. Well done to the children from all the classes who took the time to give speeches and share their manifestos. The children will now come up with the four new priorities that we will be working towards.

For our Eco-council the 5 missions we will be working on are listed below:

Mission 1	Mission 2	Mission 3	Mission 4	Mission 5
Leading the Way	**Cutting Our Carbon**	**Wildlife Wonders**	**Learning for Our Planet**	**Ready for Any Weather**
How our school leads eco work	Saving energy, travel and waste	Looking after nature	Lessons and green jobs	Coping with heat, rain and storms

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This week, we have also conducted interviews for teaching assistants which will also carry into next week. The role of the teaching assistant is so important in school and we are looking forward to welcoming new team members to join us.

I want to take the opportunity today to say a thank you to Richard Henderson (Military cadet force Instructor) for joining us this week in school. The children have really enjoyed their sessions and it has been a real pleasure to hear about their sessions. Also, a big thankyou to Chantal who came in to visit our Year 1 and talk to them all about the role of The Met Office and see some interesting experiments.

Thank you so much to all parents for using our meal booking system it has been a great success.

Enjoy your weekends and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Best wishes,

Mr Pope

Uniform

Thank you so much for the efforts made with uniform – a great start to the year. Please can I ask that we continue to ensure children are in black shoes when they are not taking part in PE.



Reception



These are Receptions hexagons for the Sidmouth Science Festival based on Julia Donaldson's new book - Gruffalo Granny! All their own work!

Year 3



We have done some fabulous learning over the past few weeks. A highlight has been learning all about rocks in Science. We did an experiment where we explored the properties of four different rocks: marble, granite, chalk and flint. We carried out a range of tests to compare their hardness, durability, waterproofness and reaction to acid. We scratched and sanded the rocks, added water and used vinegar to observe how each one reacted. We carefully recorded our observations and findings in a table. We discovered that chalk was the weakest rock overall. It was the easiest to scratch and wore away much more quickly than the other rocks. We really enjoyed being scientists and investigating the different properties of these fascinating rocks!





Year 1









Year 1 worked together to make 'bashers' during a boot camp session with Richard Henderson.



Science Festival



Each class has taken part in the Art exhibition as part of Sidmouth Science Festival this year. Their fantastic art will be displayed at Kennaway house. See details attached.

Sporting Activity

Football





On Wednesday 30th September, two teams of Year 3 and 4 children represented the school at a football tournament at Sidmouth College.





Both teams played brilliantly, showing great teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout. Our Year 4 team had an exciting penalty shoot-out to secure their place in the final and went on to finish an impressive 2nd overall.

Our Year 3 team faced some tough matches and finished joint 5th overall. We were also delighted that one of our Year 3 players was awarded Best Team Player of the Tournament for his fantastic teamwork and support for others.

A huge well done to everyone who took part and represented our school so brilliantly!



Cross Country







On Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd September, we sent several teams to Sidmouth College to compete in the Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 Cross Country competitions.

Everyone ran brilliantly and represented the school superbly. We were particularly proud of our Year 5/6 boys' and girls' teams, who both finished in first place!



This fantastic result means that they have qualified for the East Devon Cross Country Final at Bicton in November. Alongside our team success, we also had some fantastic individual performances, with several of our runners achieving 1st and 2nd place finishes.

A huge well done to everyone who took part. The children showed fantastic determination, effort and team spirit, and we wish our qualifiers the very best of luck at Bicton!

Year 4





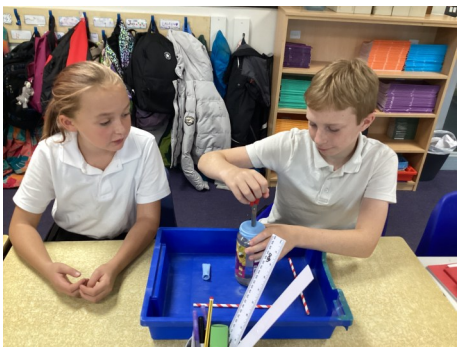


This half term, Year 4 have been developing their tag rugby skills during PE lessons. The class have been learning how to pass accurately using a 'pop pass' and practising how to dodge defenders while keeping control of the ball.

Year 6







Year 6 have been getting to grips with how the heart works and exploring how it pumps blood around the body!

Using jam jars, straws, water and tape, they created their own working models to investigate how the heart pumps and moves blood around our bodies.

To bring their learning to life, they created their very own blood models using marshmallows, raisins, Cheerios, red food colouring and yellow food colouring!







PTFA





NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL 2026-27

Meet your PTFA

The committee supporting our school.



CHAIR

Georgia Trengrove

Strategic leadership, school relationship and oversight of PTFA events and projects.

DEPUTY CHAIR

Hannah Haines

Leadership and coordination of subcommittees.





SECRETARY

Donna Johnston

Governance administration and organisation of official records and documents.

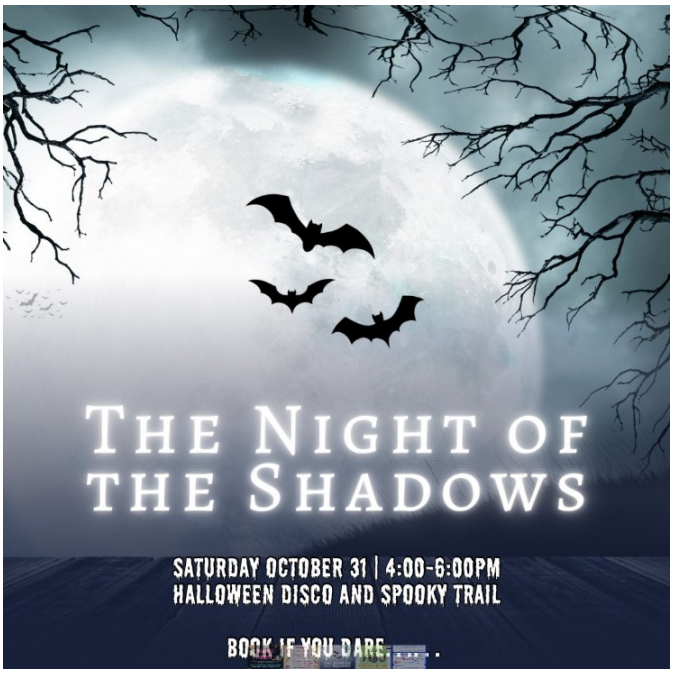
TREASURER

Kirby Whittock

Financial governance, looking after the finances and keeping track of funds raised for our school.



Together, we make a difference.





Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
06/10/2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons (4 of 5)
07/10/2026	Year 5 and 6 Mixed Football (Selected Children only)
09/10/2026	Hello Yellow Day - World Mental Health Day - (Children wear something yellow).
13/10/2026	Year 5 Swimming Lessons (5 of 5)
15/10/2026	Year 5 Trip
16/10/2026	Wear Red Day - Show Racism the Red Card (Children wear something red)
19/10/2026-22/10/2029	Parents evening Week
20/10/2026	Diwali - Celebrated in School
22/10/2026	Year 5 Cake Sale
26-30 /10/2026	Half Term
31/10/2026	PTFA Proposed Halloween Disco
02/11/2026	Children back to school
05/11/2026	Fire Work Assembly
11/11/2026	Armistice Day
13/11/2026	Children In Need Day - Children to wear their own clothes for a small donation
16/11/2026-20/11/2026	Anti Bullying Week
16/11/2026	Odd Socks Day (Children can wear odd socks)



SAM PRITCHARD
DRUM TUITION
TUITION | MAINTENANCE | SESSIONS

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Sam Pritchard our external Drum teacher has a few spaces left this year on Thursdays at school.

If you are interested , please get in touch with him.