

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 27th June 2025

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this week's newsletter you will find your children's new teachers for next year below:

Class Structure for 2025/26

Reception – Mrs Raffell

Year 1 – Mrs Hall (3 days per week)/Mrs Singfield (2 days per week).

Year 2 – Mrs Turner/Ms Pulling (1 day per week).

Year 3 – Ms Pulling (2 days per week) / Mrs Morgan (3 days per week).

Year 4 – Mr Morison/Mrs Laureys (1 day per week).

Year 5 – Mrs Bradley and Mr Pope (on Wednesday mornings)

Year 6 – Ms Winkler

Transition day will take place on Wednesday 02nd July and will involve all classes across the school. We know that bike ability is also taking place on this day and please be assured: adequate arrangements have been made to take this into account and ensure a robust transition. The teachers on this day are very much looking forward to getting to know their new classes and do some fun and engaging activities. The teachers will share some information about themselves, do some team building activities as well as informing the children of the way things work in the new year groups. This day is a great opportunity for the classes to start building the relationships we value so much in our school. I very much hope the children enjoy these days and make the most of the time with their new teachers.

I would also like to welcome all the new children and families who will be joining the school in September. Mrs Raffell has thoroughly enjoyed visiting you all and we cannot wait for your children to join us in 'big school' in the new academic year. A huge welcome to all of you.

This week in school has been a celebration of The Windrush Generation and the I have been impressed with the children's application to their learning. All year groups have taken part and some of the learning and skills on show have been very impressive. From gestural drawing in year 3 based on Denzel Forrester to Notting Hill carnival in Year 1 and not to mention some impressive biography work in Year 4 all the children have engaged so well with this important topic.

www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

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✉ admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

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

We would also like to let everyone know that on the last Tuesday of the term (22nd July) we are inviting in parents to join us for an end of term celebration at 2pm until the end of the day. We will be sharing the children's work and giving some opportunities to perform. We also hope to have a picnic with all classes as we have done in previous years.

I want to end with some recognition and thanks to those that organised both The Summer Fete and The Sri Lankan Curry Night. These events were both fantastic and we are so grateful for the time and effort put into making them so successful.

Have wonderful weekends all and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Best Wishes

Mr Pope

Please note a change
in date for the drop in
meeting—15th July



FREE online talk



Supporting Healthy Screen Use

Screens are here to stay.
What are the potential harms and
how can we reduce them?

To book your place
go to the **PARENTS** page (facefamilyadvice.co.uk)



Year 1



Year 1 had a great adventure into Exeter on the public bus. We visited the RAMM and had a walk around the city. The children all behaved brilliantly and were praised by the bus drivers!



Pre-School

We have done some junk modelling this week. The children have been really imaginative making things like handbags, wobbly octopuses, cars, dinosaurs, lions and even a chair for a bear!! They used a range of media and materials to create their masterpieces!!"



Year 1



As part of our learning about Windrush this week, we have been talking about the Notting Hill Carnival as a celebration of Caribbean culture. Miss Pulling arranged a zoom call with her former colleague Morris (AKA DJ T21, part of the Sweetboyz crew) who told us all about his experiences DJing at the Notting Hill carnival every year since 2008. He told us he plays over 400 songs over the weekend, that it's so loud you can't hear yourself speak, so busy you can't even see the floor - and he even taught us a little bit of DJing! Thank you Morris! Ole Ole Ole... oi oi oi!

Year 3



As part of Arts Week, Year 3 have been looking at the work of Windrush artist Denzel Forrester. The class listened to reggae music while they carried out some 'gesture drawing' using charcoal and pastels.

Sporting Events

A super Year 5 and 6 girls cricket team entered a Dynamos Schools Cricket tournament against 11 other local schools from East Devon. They were brilliantly behaved throughout the day and enjoyed competitive cricket in a great sporting atmosphere. All girls got to bowl and bat and learn about the game. Results wise, the team were great - They won two games; lost a very close game by 6 runs; and were beaten by a very good school who went on to qualify for the next stage.



Most importantly, all of the girls had fun, played brilliantly and were very respectful of other schools' teams at the end of games. Thank you so much to all the girls who took part

Mr. Morison



On Wednesday 18th June, two teams of Years 5's & 6's took part in an Ultimate Frisbee tournament at Sidmouth College. The teams were introduced to the rules of Ultimate Frisbee before playing in a tournament against two local schools. Both teams showed teamwork, resilience, and growing confidence with each match and they should be proud of the spirit of participation and sportsmanship they displayed.



PTFA Update

Dates for the diary

- Thursday 10th July—School Disco



Eco Council Notice



Subject: 📧 Growing the Smartphone-Free Childhood Movement – Our Next Steps

Dear Newton Poppleford School Parents and Carers,

Thank you so much for the incredible support since we launched the **Smartphone Free Childhood** campaign at Newton Poppleford School. As a group of parents passionate about protecting childhood, it's been inspiring to see so many of you share our concerns and commit to open, honest conversations around smartphone use for our children.

We're writing with a quick update and to share what's next!

🔊 What's Happening Now?

We've been thrilled to see more families joining the conversation – both here at school and across the UK. Our campaign is part of a growing national movement led by smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk, which encourages parents to work together to delay smartphones until at least the end of primary school – or longer.

“When we act together, it's easier to set boundaries – and stick to them.”

🌟 High-Profile Support

The movement has garnered significant attention, with several celebrities publicly endorsing the cause:

- **Benedict Cumberbatch** and **Paloma Faith** have pledged not to provide smartphones to their children until they are at least 14 years old, joining a growing list of public figures supporting the initiative.
- **Dr. Rangan Chatterjee**, a well-known GP and author, has highlighted the detrimental impact of smartphones on children's mental and physical health, further emphasizing the need for such initiatives.

These endorsements have helped amplify our message and demonstrate that the desire for a smartphone-free childhood transcends demographics.

📺 The Impact of *Adolescence*

The recent Netflix drama *Adolescence*, co-written by **Jack Thorne**, has sparked widespread discussions about the influence of smartphones and social media on young people. The series, which follows a family's struggles after their 13-year-old son is arrested on suspicion of murder, delves into the dangers of digital culture, including cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content.

In response, Thorne has publicly supported the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign, advocating for stricter regulations on children's access to smartphones and social media.

🗣️ Let's Keep Talking

In our first survey, many of you said **peer pressure** and **not wanting to be the "only one"** were major concerns. That's exactly why this movement exists. It's not about judging anyone's choices — it's about making it easier for parents to say **"not yet"** when it comes to smartphones.

If you haven't already, check out the **Parents' Pledge** on the national website. Signing it is a simple way to show your support and connect with other like-minded families.

✍️ [View the Pledge & Resources »](#)

📅 What's Next?

- **Community Q&A Evening** (Date TBC): We're planning a relaxed get-together to share experiences, discuss challenges, and support one another. More details soon!

The Smartphone Free Childhood campaign is a grassroots movement in the UK aiming to protect children from the detrimental effects of early smartphone use. As a collective we are seeking to delay smartphone access until at least age 14, advocating for a return to childhood experiences centred around play, imagination, and real-world connections.

If you'd like to get more involved — help organise events, spread the word, or share your own experience — just email us on grhilton@hotmail.com. We'd love to hear from you.

Together, we really can change the culture.

Warmly,
The Newton Poppleford Smartphone-Free Childhood Team
(A group of parents supporting childhood, together)

📧 WhatsApp Group Invite

Dates for the Diary

	Dates for the Diary
30th June - 4th July	Year 5 Bikeability Sidmouth college Transitions Days
1st July	Year 1 Trip Pre School Mini Olympics
7th July	Year 1 Swimming lessons - (6 of 6) Year 6 School Trip
9th July	Sports day (KS1 am/KS2 pm) Year 5 and 6 Mixed Kwik Cricket - selected children only
10th July	Back up for sports day PTFA School Disco
11th July	Reception and Year 5 Summer walk
15th July	Year 5 Trip Pre School and Reception Picnic in the Park Parent Drop - SEND
16th July	Year 6 School Play Year 3 and 5 Summer Hike
17th July	Year 4 and Year 6 Summer hike
18th July	Year 1 and 2 Summer Hike
23rd July	Last Day of Term



SIDMOUTH COLLEGE JOB VACANCIES

Associate Teacher vacancy

If you are looking to start a career in Teaching
we would love to hear from you!

Here at Sidmouth College we are recruiting
for an Associate Teacher to join our team
from September 2025.

For more information visit: www.tedwraggtrust.co.uk/vacancy
Or contact: amy.baxter@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk