School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 13th November 2026

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a lovely first fortnight back after the half-term break, and the children have returned ready to learn and full of news from their holidays. There is lots to share in this edition and lots to look forward to in what is always an enjoyable but busy half term. Pre-School's visit from the police to Year 5's bridge building and a fantastic basketball tournament result are just a few of the wonderful experiences for children in our school in autumn 2.

Remembrance

On Wednesday, we marked Armistice Day, and the children joined the rest of the nation in an assembly and silence to remember all those who have served and lost their lives in conflict. They showed great respect and maturity, and I was very proud of them. You can see some of Reception's beautiful poppy artwork inside.

Children in Need

Today the children have come to school in their own clothes for Children in Need. Thank you to every family who has made a donation – if you would prefer to give online, please use the QR code on the Children in Need poster inside.

Anti-Bullying Week and Autumn Hikes

Next week (16th–20th November) is Anti-Bullying Week. It begins on Monday with Odd Socks Day, so please send your child in wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes each of us unique. Classes will also be heading out on their Autumn Hikes across the week, please check the Dates for the Diary for your child's day.

School Improvement update

We welcomed members of EYFS teams from 5 other schools this week to engage in collaboration and development across this year. Miss Calloway and Mrs Raffell both attended and it was a great event. I will be meeting with the heads of these schools to work together on development plans and wider evaluation work to ensure best practice. We are also attending a writing moderation event with 6 schools as a staff team on Tuesday next week and involved with the Sidmouth Learning community which happens next Tuesday. All of which are and invaluable part of our drive to partner, collaborate and be outward facing in our approaches to Teaching and Learning.

Finally, the PTFA have a busy few weeks ahead, with the Year 4 cake sale next Friday, Tropic Night on Friday 27th November and the Christmas Fair on Saturday 5th December. Please see the PTFA page for all the details.

We wish you all a lovely weekend as always.

Best Wishes,
Mr Pope

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

IMPORTANT

Please can parents NOT operate/open the gate to the KS1 area when dropping off or collecting children but instead wait for a member of staff to open the gate to allow entry.

PARKING

Please can we urge parents to park considerately outside school. Please do not park on the corner or on the yellow lines outside school, and do not block the line of sight for other road users.

Children in Need & Anti-Bullying Week

Today is Children in Need Day! Children have come to school in their own clothes for a small donation. If you would like to donate online, please scan the QR code below.

Monday 16th November – Odd Socks Day

Anti-Bullying Week starts on Monday. Children are invited to come to school wearing odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique.



Pre-School

Last week Pre-School had a visit from two police officers 😊 They talked to us about how the police help us and showed us the equipment they carry on their police vests. Each child got to do a fingerprint and put it in a key ring to bring home. We looked inside their police van and got to try some hats on!! They also showed us the lights on their van and played the siren for us!! 🚨 🚙










Reception

Reception have been learning about the brave men and women who fought to keep us safe and why we celebrate Remembrance Day.




Year 4

In PE this half term, Year 4 have been learning gymnastics. The class have explored a range of individual and partner balances, developing their strength, balance and coordination. They worked collaboratively to create counter balances, weight-bearing balances and creative group sequences, while also learning about key gymnastic shapes and the muscles used in movement.





Year 5

Year 5 are learning about Bridges in Design and Technology this term. In the first lesson the children learned about beam and arch bridges, and built them using cardboard. They strengthened them using corrugation and lamination, and tested them with weights.






Sporting Activity

On Wednesday 11th November, six of our Year 5/6 pupils enjoyed a fantastic afternoon of basketball at Sidmouth College.

After taking part in some coaching and developing their skills, the children put their talents to the test in an exciting 3-on-3 cross-court tournament against several teams from two local primary schools. They played brilliantly, winning every match apart from one, which ended in a draw!

All six players demonstrated fantastic teamwork, enthusiasm and determination throughout the afternoon. To round off an already brilliant performance, one of our Year 5 pupils was awarded Player of the Tournament.

A huge congratulations to all six players – a fantastic team effort and a performance to be proud of.





Afterschool Clubs

A reminder there is no Oddizzi Club after school on Tuesday 17/11/2026

Clubs this week

Club	Day	Time	Dates
Table Tennis — KS2 (Mr Filer)	Tuesday	3.20pm – 4.20pm	03/11/2026 to 08/12/2026
Dance club – KS1 and KS2	Monday	3.20pm-4.20pm	03/11/2026-07/12/2026

PTFA

The PTFA have lots going on in the run-up to Christmas – please take a look at the posters below.









PTFA (continued)













Dates for the Diary

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 Year 1 Autumn Hike
18/11/2026	Year 3 and Year 5 Autumn Hike
19/11/2026	Year 4 and Year 2 Autumn Hike
20/11/2026	PTFA Year 4 Cake Sale Year 6 Autumn Hike
27/11/2026	Year 5 and 6 East Devon Cross Country (selected children only) PTFA Tropic Night (7pm)
05/12/2026	PTFA Christmas Fair (2–4pm)
08/12/2026	Reception and KS1 Christmas Performance
09/12/2026	Reception and KS1 Christmas Performance
10/12/2026	KS2 Christmas Performance
15/12/2026	Choir Trip
16/12/2026	School Christmas Dinner
18/12/2026	Last Day of Term
04/01/2027	INSET Day – non-pupil day
05/01/2027	Children return to school

In the Community

Some events from local organisations that families may enjoy over the festive season.



