

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 31st January 2025

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a two weeks in school we have had! The children have enjoyed some fantastic experiences across the age range including Clive Pig, special visitors, trips to the orchestra and mosque and not to mention the epic Break the Rules Day. I was so impressed with the way the children and staff handled themselves on this day

I would like to draw everyone's attention to our recruitment at the moment. We are looking for a teaching assistant to work with us as well as continuing to look for people who would be willing to supervise play at lunchtimes. Our lunchtime role is more flexible and need not be every day.

We have some exciting projects being worked on with the community such as the allotments, the play equipment plans, the amazing willow dome that has appeared not to mention all the PTFA events coming up such as Mr Filer's quiz night. We also received some good news recently around our school Reception intake for the next academic year. We have more children coming in to the school. This is not something, I would usually draw attention to but I feel it important to recognise when families are being attracted to our school which is of great benefit to all when the birth rate is so low. We appreciate everyone who has spread the word about us and our wonderful school community. Like anything, it is the people that make a place and we are very grateful to all of you for being so supportive and working together.

Coming up we have Mental Health Week which will be themed around a different area each day. The theme is **Know Yourself, Grow Yourself**. We are going to be looking at a different aspect each day including:

Mindfulness Monday, Talking Tuesday, Wandering Wednesday Thinking Thursday, Feel-good Friday

We also have Safer Internet Day on the 11th February. The school is running a competition for pupils this year which will be launched in Monday's assembly. This is entirely pupil led as it is one of the pupil leadership teams key priorities this year: **"To ensure that children know how to keep themselves safe online."** Please watch this space for further details coming up from our children.

As a senior leadership team, we conduct weekly coaching activities across the school in our efforts to continuously improve and over the last two weeks we have conducted some learning visits in pre-school and our forest school. These have been really fruitful, joyous and positive experiences. I extend my thanks to the staff members that make these aspects of our school so beneficial and supportive for our children. We strive to focus on all aspects of children's development in our school and these areas of our curriculum provide a real opportunity for a forward-thinking approach to learning through play and children's wider personal development.

Don't forget to look out for your class's Rock up and read sessions that teachers are organising as mentioned in the last newsletter. We will also have maths workshops dates in the coming half term.

Many thanks again to everyone.

Kind regards - Mr Pope

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

SENDCO



Safer internet day will be 11th February.

You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. Our advice and resources are here to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibility and positively.

Please us the link below for help and advice

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Year 1

Year 1 were lucky to have Caroline from Exeter Synagogue in class today talking to them about Shabbat - the Jewish Sabbath. There was lots of singing, blessings and artefacts to look at. They even got to try some (pretend) wine and challah bread.



Story Telling with Clive Pig



Today, Reception, Year One and Year Two were treated (thank you wonderful PTFA!) to a fantastic morning of stories from our international storytelling friend, Clive Pig. He captivated the children with his interactive tales of wonder and even popped in to Year One for a storytelling workshop too where we created our own cheese-eating, children-gobbling, hairy characters! So much fun! Thank you for coming, Clive!



Year 3



Year Three visited the Mosque in Exeter on Monday 27th January as part of their current topic 'How do festivals and family life show what it is to be a Muslim.' The Imam showed us around the different parts of the Mosque, including the washing area and the Prayer Room. The class asked lots of interesting questions and learnt a lot about Islam and life as a Muslim.

Pre- School



Pre-School have enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year with some different activities, like making lanterns, trying noodles, rice and prawn crackers, colouring and trying to write some Chinese letters

Reception



Reception have had a really lovely week exploring Chinese New Year. They learnt about 'The Great Race', made woolly snakes, used chopsticks, had a go at some Chinese writing, dressed up and learnt to say hello, goodbye and thank you in mandarin.



Year 3 and 4 Sporting Activities



On Wednesday 22nd January children from Years 3 and 4 took part in an after school multi-skills festival at Sidmouth College. The activities were led by some of the college sports leaders and included basketball, parachute games and giant noughts and crosses. The children all had a great time and enjoyed working together in teams to complete the challenges.

Year 6 Sporting Activities

On Wednesday 29th January a group of year 6 children had a brilliant time trampolining at Sidmouth College. They explored a range of skills such as straddle jumps and full turns with the assistance of some excellent sports leaders from the college. A great time had by all!



PTFA

Since the Christmas holidays, the PTFA has been hard at work organising and fundraising. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Teddy Raffle—we raised an amazing £67.10!

The children had a fantastic time during "Break the Rules Day," which was a huge hit and raised £ £146.50 Thank you for your continued support. We're excited about our next event, *Mr. Filer's Quiz Night*! We hope to see you there!



The Scholastic Book Fair Returns: Monday 17th–Friday 21st March!

Bookworms, mark your diaries and set your alarms! The Scholastic Book Fair is returning to our school, and it's set to be bigger and better than ever!

You can browse some of the titles that will be available by following [this link](#). The full collection will be displayed in the school hall from 17–21 March and available for you to buy every day after school.

Every purchase you make at the Book Fair earns **FREE BOOKS** for our school! Last year, book sales were over £600, with 40% donated back to us to choose new titles for the school bookshelves. This is incredible, and we'd love to add even more wonderful books to the school selection this year. Please come along and support us!

Dates for the Diary

31st January	Y3 and Yr5 Trip
3rd February	Year 1 Visit
5th February	Reception Walk Year 6 Sporting Activity (Selected children only)
6th February	Reception Rock up and Read
7th February	PTFA Quiz night
10th February	Year 5 Transition Event Reception walk
13th February	Year 3 Rock up and Read Fun Run
12th February	PFTA School disco Pre-school to year 6
17-21st February	Half Term
24th February	Children back to school Year 3 Swimming (1 of 6)
26th February	Year 4 Rock up and Read
27th February	Year 2 Cake sale
3rd March	Year 3 Swimming (2 of 6)
10th March	Year 3 Swimming (3 of 6)
17th - 21st March	PTFA School Book Fair
17th March	Year 3 Swimming (4 of 6)
24th March	Year 3 Swimming (5 of 6)
27th March	Year 1 Cake sale
31st March	Year 3 Swimming (6 of 6)
3rd April	PTFA Easter Egg Hunt