

# School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

## Friday 1st May 2026

### Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

The start of the summer term has seen some fantastic weather and the children have loved being outside. The play equipment has come back to the forefront of school life and the children have loved using it on a daily basis.

Since the last Newsletter myself and Mr Churchill have been fortunate to attend the English Hub Conference. This was a really informative event that has re-assured us that we are on the right track with our English curriculum and teaching strategies. The conference also gave us useful insight into what may be coming in the new English curriculum. Currently, and into next year our adaptation of the curriculum will be a key focus for us as a school. Sentence building and sentence joining are key aspects of our approach in the lower years and an area of school development we want to build on. I was also lucky enough to visit an outstanding EYFS setting in Torquay as part of a DFE organised event which was similarly beneficial as we always seek to innovate and stay up to date with current educational thinking to develop our practice.

Currently the school is reviewing our communication platforms and how we deliver information to parents. This is always a contentious and problematic area and I know many schools share this. We are well intentioned in when and how we do this. We know that this year has been problematic with Marvellous Me and the roll out of the new MCAS app. Some of this is beyond the school's control but we recognise this has impacted parents. Thankyou so much for your patience and understanding. We will also be updating our website and looking at how this can be a better reflection of our wonderful school. Although only two years old we feel this can be improved. We want to ensure we do this with a long-term view (within the financial restrictions we have) and not make knee jerk decisions related to current problems. I am grateful to all parents for their patience with this as we want to get it right for the long term.

[www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk](http://www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk)

01395 568300

✉ [admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk)

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

Message from Mr Pope Continued .....

I also have a polite request regarding trips, visits and sporting events even if you cannot attend. We would ask that parents try to respond to these as quickly as possible if invited. The office staff need to make follow up contact with multiple parents on each occasion. This is especially true of sporting events and Wednesday evening events. We would also ask that commitments to these events are firm as on many occasions children have dropped out at the last minute which is very difficult.

There are lots of dates for the diary coming up and the summer term is always a very busy one so do please take a look – these include Sports Week (and day), Reports and ART Week to name but a few.

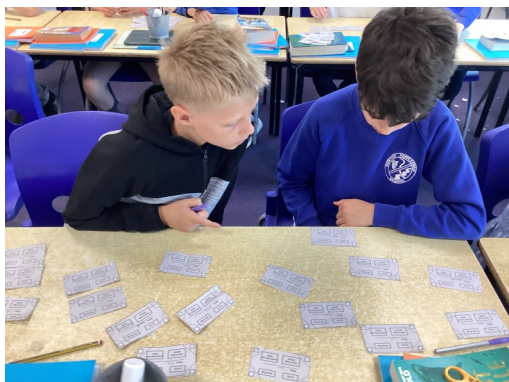
We hope you all have a very enjoyable weekend.

Best Wishes,

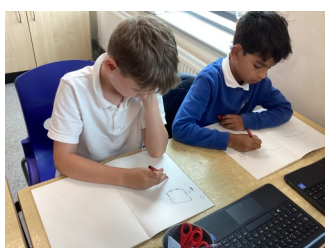
Mr Pope



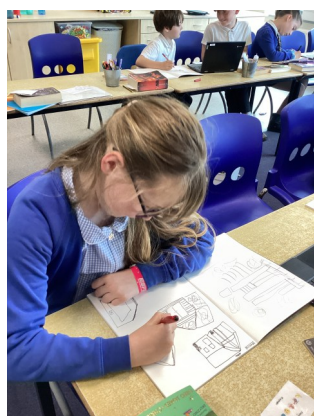
## Year 5



Year 5 have started learning about databases, which began with sorting paper records.



In Art we are learning about Architecture, thinking about the purpose and designs of homes, and drawing the structures and forms we see in grand houses as well as 'tiny houses'.



Our PE focus is Volleyball, learning different shots such as the serve, dig and spike.



## Adventure Island

Summer Term in Adventure Island - what to wear?

Please ensure children wear old, comfortable clothes and always have a rain coat and wellies in school, just in case! Due to brambles, stinging nettles and the risk of ticks we advise thin long sleeves and long trousers.

Children can always bring these clothes to change into in warmer weather. Wearing a sun hat and applying sun cream before school is also advised. Thank you for your continued support!



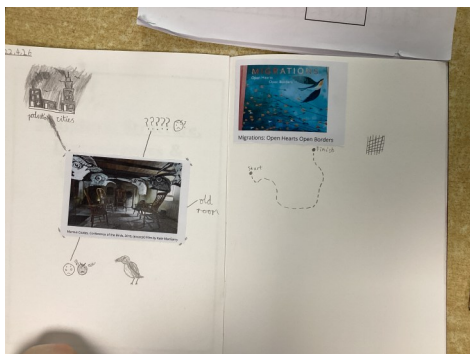
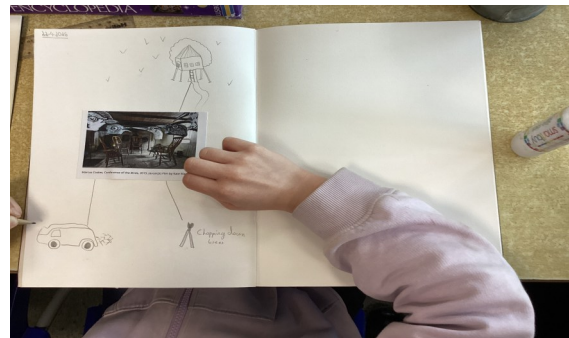
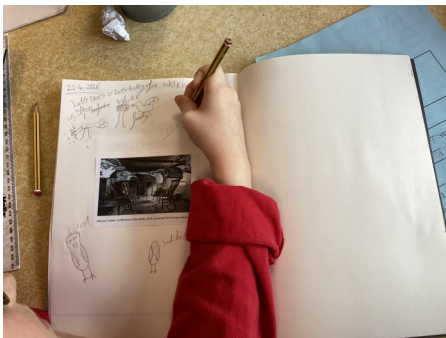
## Year 3



### Year 3 Ancient Egyptian Experience

Year 3 had a magnificent day with Time Traveller, Neil Heasman, on Monday. He transported us back in time through role play, storytelling, incredible artefacts, games and performance. We were fully immersed in Ancient Egypt. We wrote our names in hieroglyphics and learned all about the mummification process which was great fun - thank you to Olivia for being such a great sport in letting us mummify her!

## Year 4



Year 4 have been exploring the way that artists use nature as sources of inspiration. We have looked at the [Migrations: Open Hearts, Open Borders](#) artistic project curated by the University of Worcester's International Centre for the Picture Book in Society. The children thought about what was meant by the term migration and linked it to migration within the natural world.

## Pre School



This week we are introducing our caterpillars to all the children. This will enable them to watch the lifecycle as we will eventually re-lease them as butterflies



## Sporting Achievements



On Wednesday 22nd April, 7 Year 3 and 4 pupils took part in the Quad Kids Athletics event at Sidmouth College.

They competed in a range of activities, including the 60m sprint, 400m run, vortex throw and standing long jump. They all gave 100% effort and worked brilliantly as a team, encouraging and supporting each other throughout

There were some fantastic individual results across all events, and we are very proud to share that the team finished in an excellent second place overall.

A great achievement—well done to everyone involved!

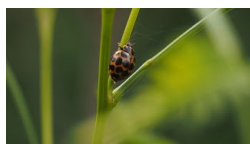


## Year 6 –Art Leaders



The Year 6 art leaders have created a superb mural that is up in school. They designed the image and combining different elements of their designs painted the mural based on the story the whole school have recently read - Change Sings by Amanda Gorman.

## Reception



Reception have been thinking about animals and their habitats. We explored where minibeasts live and then made our own minibeast habitats. We even found a slow worm in Adventure Island! Over the last two weeks, we have also been exploring odd and even numbers, children have been exploring what features even numbers have and what makes them different from odd numbers.



## Adventure Island—Spring Hike



This year we headed along the River Otter, through Harpford and up into Harpford Woods for our Spring Hike. We were lucky with the weather and we enjoyed spotting school in the distance from the old railway line. Children will now complete a map skills session back in class using a map of the route we took. Hiking is such a great way to enjoy our beautiful countryside as well as building fitness and resilience! Thanks



NEWTON POP PTFA  
**WEDS 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

# SCHOOL DISCO

SQUASH AND COOKIE INCLUDED      £4 A TICKET FOR KS1 AND KS2

-PRESCHOOL & RECEPTION: 2:00PM- 2:45PM  
 -KS1: 3:30-4:15 PM  
 -KS2: 4:30-5:15 PM

NEWTON POP PTFA  
**SUMMER FETE**

AT NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

**FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**      **15:20-17:20**      **FREE ENTRY**

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

BOUNCY CASTLE - DANCERS - FACE PAINTING - BBO - CANDYFLOSS - GAMES - RAFFLE PRIZES & MANY MORE...

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Term 1 2026  
 Monday 20th April- 23<sup>rd</sup> May

WEDS 29 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	<b>Summer Fete Planning meeting</b> The Cannon Inn 20:00
THURS 7 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	<b>Reception Cake Sale</b> Top playground afterschool
WEDS 20 <sup>TH</sup> MAY	<b>School Disco</b> Different Key Stages- more info to follow

**TESCO**

COMMUNITY GRANTS

NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

SIDMOUTH & SEATON STORES

**WE HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THE TESCO COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME**

Don't forget to get your BLUE TOKEN and pop it into the NEWTON POPPLEFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL PTFA slot, in the Sidmouth and Seaton store, from 28 APRIL until the end of JULY.

NEWTON POP PTFA

# SCHOOL DISCO

**DISCO PRIZE DONATIONS NEEDED!**

Have you got any new and unused gifts that could be used as disco prizes?  
 Please hand them in at the school office before Wednesday 20th May.  
 Thank you for your support!

NP PTFA

*We need*  
**YOU**

**Help Our School Allotment Grow!**  
 Our wonderful school allotment needs a few extra pairs of hands.  
 Whether you can spare an hour or a morning, your help makes a real difference - no experience needed!

## Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
06/05/2026	Year 5 and 6 Sporting event Sidmouth college ( Selected Children only)
07/05/2026	Reception - Cake Sale
11/05/2026 -14/05/2026	KS2 STATS Week
14/05/2026 - 15/05/2026	Reception children Parents Meetings
18/05/2026-22/05/2026	Living Streets Walk to School Week
18/05/2026	Year 2 Trip
19/05/2026	Reception children Parents Meetings
20/05/2026	PTFA School Disco
	Year 5 and 6 Quad Kids ( Selected Children only)
01/06/2026	First Day back to School
02/06/2026	Year 5 - Transition Event Sidmouth College
04/06/2026	Reception class school trip
08/06/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (1 of 6)
10/06/2026	KS2 Swimming Gala ( Selected children)
11/06/2026	Year 5 Trip
15/06/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (2 of 6)
16/06/2026	Year 5 and 6 Sporting Event Sidmouth College ( Selected Children only)
17/06/2026	Climate Care Workshop - Wear Green Day
22/06/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (3 of 6)
23/06/2026	Year 5 Music Event
26/06/2026	PTFA Summer Fete
29/06/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (4 of 6)
01/07/2026	Transition Day
06/07/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (5 of 6)
06/07/2026-10/07/2026	Sports Week
08/07/2026	Sports Day ( Provisional Date)
13/07/2026	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (6 of 6)
13/07/2026-17/07/2026	Art Week
15/07/2026	Year 6 Production
21/07/2026	Last Day of Summer Term