

# School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

## Friday 13th February 2026

### Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents/Carers,

This half term has been a soggy one. The weather has seemed relentlessly rainy at times for all of us and the traffic lights and pot holes have been a subject of much controversy and ire. Despite this backdrop, our pupils and staff have been incredibly upbeat and positive. The children have been out in all weathers and our thanks go to all the parents and carers who have braved the (sometimes) horizontal rain which has whipped across the playground when you have been picking up your children.

This week in school, we have been celebrating children's mental health week and raising the profile of healthy habits. The theme has been "This is My Place" and how we help children to feel a sense of Belonging. This is so important for our school and one of our star characteristics which permeate our curriculum and dialogue in school. When we feel that we are a part of something it helps us to build connections, feel valued, safe and happy. In turn we can help, encourage and support one another which leads to all of us contributing to the world and making a real difference. We encourage all of these things in our children and launched in our assembly on Monday. This led to many other activities across the week which classes have recorded in our PHSE floor books. A big thank you to those that tracked their screen time last week as this helped form our discussions around some of these health activities and what is good for us.

These discussions and education initiatives on being self-aware, growing resilience and mindful of our health choices help us grow strong in our minds and bodies and this extends into adulthood and life. The way we maintain these connections with dignity and grace is so important.

The last two weeks have also seen more fantastic enrichment and the children coming to the end of their units. I have seen some wonderful writing and maths from some of our pupils whose teachers have sent them to visit me and celebrate – well done to all of those children and the others who work so hard. I have also seen examples of creative excellence in art, excellent critical thinking in science and pupils who are talented sports people driving and enthusing the learning of others.

[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.

## Mr Pope's Letter continued .....

I would like to take the opportunity to also thank our wonderful PTFA again for their support and help. The school has been lucky enough to receive help and support through donations (again numbering in the thousands of pounds) to buy class room furniture and SMART boards to refit our library and wrap around area with more planned for the future not to mention the PE kit, play equipment trips and visits all funded from their incredible hard work and efforts. We are immensely grateful to all involved and I am sure our whole school community will be really pleased over the coming weeks as these items ordered arrive and the plan takes shape. Just last week the quiz night raised over a £1000 – thank you for everyone for supporting these events.

We hope everyone has a wonderful half term: embraces the rain to get outside and perhaps even find some elusive sunshine. Next half term we have Parent's Evenings, Science Week, World Book Day, Devon Cricket, Trips and Visits and many other exciting things happening in school.

Best Wishes as Always,

Mr Pope



## **Mental Health Week**

### **Lumi Nova – supporting children with worries and fears**

Children's Mental Health Week is a great opportunity to start conversations about worries and fears. Lumi Nova is an engaging intergalactic adventure game designed to help children aged 7–12 build confidence and develop lifelong skills to manage anxiety and worries. Families across Devon can gain instant access to Lumi Nova in partnership with CFHD by visiting:

[Lumi Nova - Free for families in Devon — Lumi Nova: Tales of Courage](https://luminova.com/free-for-families-in-devon)

## Year 5



Year 5 enjoyed a really interesting trip to Exeter synagogue on Wednesday. They learned so much about Judaism, and asked lots of thoughtful questions. Their behaviour was excellent, well done Year 5!



In Adventure Island the class were split into groups as 'tribes' and created a base, tribe greeting and origin story. They enjoyed defending their dens and taking on the



In Computing the groups created the fairground rides they had designed, using microcomputers called 'crumbles' to control 'sparkles' (LEDs) and



The class explored ways of abstract drawing. Previously they have used chalk and charcoal, but this week they used pen-and-wash to create abstract drawings of landscapes.

## Year 4



For Children's Mental Health Week, Year 4 discussed our differences and similarities. We thought about what mental health means and how activities that we find happy or relaxing can help us manage our emotions. We then created a mosaic of class tiles showing the activities that we like to do.



## Year 1

Year 1 had a special visitor called Caroline from Exeter Synagogue. She came to teach us about **Shabbat**, which is a special day in the Jewish religion. Caroline explained that Shabbat is a time for families to rest, pray, and enjoy time together.

She showed us special items used during Shabbat, including candles, challah bread, and a cup for Kiddush wine. We were able to try challah and Kiddush wine, which helped us understand how Shabbat is celebrated at home.

We also sang lots of Shabbat songs, did some dancing and asked Caroline questions. We really enjoyed her visit and learned lots about Shabbat.



## Year 3

### Year 3 Swimming

Year 3 have had a brilliant swimming course this half term - everyone put in a super effort and everyone made progress - even our most nervous swimmers. In fact, lots of the children achieved everything on the ticklist, from push offs and 5m glides to starfloats on our front and back - meaning they completed the award! Miss Pulling and Mrs Furzer were very proud of how they conducted themselves. Just time for a little play at the end of all that hard work

Well done Year 3!

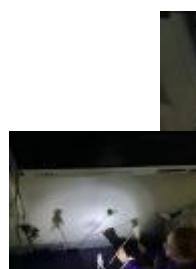
### Shadow Puppet Science Fun

As part of their science topic on light, Year 3 enjoyed creating their own shadow puppets. Working together in small groups, the children explored how shadows are formed when light from a source is blocked by an opaque object.

By moving their puppets closer to and further away from the light, the class observed how the size of the shadows changed. They used these discoveries to create a range of interesting and imaginative shadow effects.



This engaging activity helped deepen the children's understanding of light while also encouraging creativity, teamwork, and scientific curiosity.



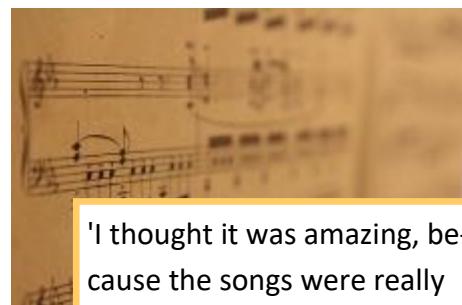
## Sporting Activities



On Wednesday 4th February, a team of seven pupils from Years 5 and 6 proudly represented the school at a Bee Netball tournament held at Sidmouth College. For some of the children, this was their first experience of playing netball, yet they quickly learned the rules and performed brilliantly throughout the competition. The team won all of their matches and only narrowly missed out on first place by a single goal. They showed fantastic determination, teamwork and sportsmanship.

## KS2 Trip to the Orchestra

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, all of KS2 went to watch Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform at Exeter University Great Hall. It was a fantastic experience for the children to watch an orchestra performing live and we were lucky enough to be sat right at the front with a wonderful view of everything on stage. They performed a number of pieces of music, some new and some more familiar and the children particularly enjoyed being able to join in with the two songs we have been busy practising at school 'Space Sandwich' and 'Four Elements'. They finished with a performance of 'Firework', which everyone enjoyed singing along with. All the children behaved very well and were a real credit to our school. A huge thank you to all the staff for your hard work, the volunteers for coming on the trip and the PTFA for paying the majority of the coach costs.



'I thought it was amazing, because the songs were really good.' Emily-Jane Y4

'It was really interesting learning about making your own music.' Freya Y4

'I really liked the string section and the violins.' Oscar Y5

## Year 6



Year 6 has been learning all about electricity. This week, we created our own quiz games by connecting wires in series. If you selected the correct answer, the circuit was complete, allowing electrons to flow and lighting up the lightbulb!

## Reception



Reception Class went on a walk around the village to see the different houses after looking at The Three Little Pigs in Drawing Club. We visited 12 of the Barn Owls houses who live in Newton Poppleford. We followed a map so we knew where to go and we saw some thatched houses as well as lots of houses which were made of bricks with slate roofs.

## Pre-School

For Children's Mental Health Week, we sat in a circle and talked about things we like and dislike. The children took it in turns to talk and held the cuddly octopus when it was their turn. Some of the



things the children liked were cuddles with Mummy, playing with babies and Paw Patrol!!



24.02.26 - 02.04.26

Spring Term 2

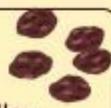
## UPCOMING EVENTS

TUES  
24<sup>TH</sup> FEB

All month

### Fund Raisin

A fun challenge to do at home- more details to follow



THURS  
26<sup>TH</sup> FEB

After school

### Year 2 Cake Sale



2<sup>ND</sup> - 6<sup>TH</sup>  
MAR

Afterschool

### Scholastic Book Fair

Books available all week to purchase, costume swap and World Book Day Cafe

THURS  
26<sup>TH</sup>  
MAR

Afterschool

### Year 1 cake sale



WEDS  
2<sup>ND</sup> APR

Afterschool

### Easter Eggstravaganza

Easter Egg Hunt, rainbow raffle and class stalls

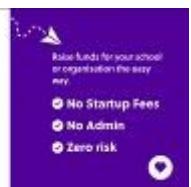


## THE PTFA QUIZ RAISED A BRILLIANT



£1008

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED  
AND A SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO CHRIS AND  
EMILY DAY KERRY FOR HOSTING THE EVENT.



## Welcome to the February 2026 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

### Protect yourself and others from Online Scams

The [UK Safer Internet Centre \(UKSIC\)](#) has advice and guidance for parents and carers which will inform you on:

- starting a conversation about how to spot an online scam
- how to respond to and report an online scam

Use these top tips to keep you and your loved ones safe online.

Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives

Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

Take online security measures seriously

Use [strong and separate passwords](#) for online accounts and [set up two step verification \(2SV\)](#) where it's available.

You may also wish to [set parental controls](#) to prevent unwanted online purchases and limit children's access to harmful content.

Look out for warning signs that someone or something online cannot be trusted

"It just seems too good to be true!" – Other common signs of a scam include contact that you were not expecting or being asked for money or personal information (think: bank or contact details, passwords, or phone numbers).

Scammers use [other tactics](#) to manipulate their victims into paying, like playing with your emotions, or building a sense of urgency so you are rushed into making a decision.

If you aren't sure it's reliable, don't risk it. Remember that anyone can be a victim of a scam

Scammers are good at what they do and will target anyone. We all need to stay vigilant and support those who are *most vulnerable including children and the elderly* by helping them recognise what to look out for.

Know where to get help if something goes wrong

If you or someone you know has been the victim of a scam online, you're not on your own. Help is available and you are not to blame for what has happened, you can report fraud and cyber crime online to Action Fraud or by telephoning:

0300 123 2040.

Remember, if you or anyone else is in immediate danger, call 999 immediately.

Don't forget to re-visit your Social Media Settings

and make sure they are up to date!

### Social Media Guides

Consider the following questions:

*Do you know if your child is using Social Media?*

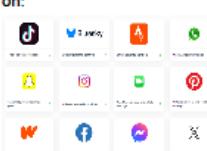
*Does your child use chat sites and/or Apps to talk to family and friends?*

*Do you know if your child is sharing selfies?*

*Have you set up parental controls?*

If you answered 'no' to any of the above questions visit :

[Internet Matters](#) and review their advice and guidance on:



**Remember** if your child is gaming online, they could be chatting and communicating with other players (strangers) or friends. [Internet Matters](#) has provided safety guides and videos to help you keep your child safe.

### Screen time

With screen time in the news, you might like to view the following videos:

[How to help your teen reduce their screen time - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Parents of under-fives to be offered screen time guidance - BBC News](#)

### Further websites to visit

Check the following websites:

[Childnet's Parent and Carer's Toolkit](#)

[ThinkUKnow's advice for Parents and Carer's](#)

[ThinkUKnow's interactive website for 4-7 year olds](#)

### Need Help in the holidays?

Remember FREE advice is just a phone call away from the [NSPCC helpline](#):

0808 800 5000

[Childline](#): 0800 1111



## Online Safety Newsletter for Parents

### Big Brush Club – Free Oral Health Webinar for Parents and Caregivers of Young Children



Link below to join the

### Big Brush Club Webinar

Saturday, 26 February, 10:00 am [Upcoming](#)

### Big Brush Club – Free Oral Health Webinar for Parents and Caregivers of Young Children

#### You're Invited

#### Big Brush Club – Free Oral Health Webinar for Parents and Caregivers

We are pleased to invite you to our [Big Brush Club Oral Health Webinar](#), designed to support families and caregivers in promoting positive oral health habits at home.

This friendly, informative session will provide practical guidance to help you feel confident in supporting your child's dental wellbeing.

## Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
23/02/2026	Inset Day
24/02/2026	Return to school for pupils
	PFTA Fund Raisin
26/02/2026	PTFA Year 2 Cake Sale
02-06/03/2026	PTFA Scholastic Book Fair
	Mock SATS week
03/03/2026	School Photos
04/03/2026	Year 6 Trip
	Year 3 Trip
	Year 5 & 6 Sidmouth college event ( Selected Children only)
05/03/2026	World Book Day
09-10/03/2026	Science Week
26/03/2026	PTFA Year 1 Cake Sale
02/04/2026	PTFA Easter Eggstravanza
03/04/2026	Easter Holidays start
20/04/2026	Start of Term

