

# School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

## Friday 12th December 2025

### Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful week we have had in school with all our Christmas performances. It has been so lovely to see everyone who was able to make it come in and join us. The children and staff work extremely hard over the weeks leading up to it to rehearse, arrange costumes and ensure all the children get the most out of their performances as they can. I have the privilege of going into the classrooms before and after them and the delight and excitement for the vast majority of our children is really palpable. They thoroughly enjoyed it and we hope you have too. I would like to take the opportunity to thank those staff members and others who have supported these including Mrs Smith (previously Gaston) who brought her energy and enthusiasm to the KS2 show. Mrs Raffell, Mrs Dance and others who supported the Reception performance. Mrs Singfield and the amazing Beth for preparing our choir and not to mention Mrs McQueen who spent her own time preparing and creating props and staging including the brilliant Christmas Recipe book that was front and centre.

Coming towards the end of the Autumn term, the school is very mindful we have some significant changes ahead to our school teaching team. Mr Morison and Mrs Bradley will both be leaving the school at Christmas and Mr Churchill and Mrs Doyle will be joining us in Years 4 and 5 respectively. Mr Churchill has already spent some time visiting us and Mrs Doyle does so on Tuesday. These visits are really important to aid our transition arrangements and allow some time for them to get to know our wonderful children. Both Mr Morison and Mrs Bradley are much loved by staff and children and they have been incredible assets to our school. I cannot thank them enough for their contributions over many years to so many children and families. I know that many people have contributed to say good by and my thanks to all those who have done so. We are also continuing to collect via the school office (and social media) for those that would like to show their appreciation in whatever form that may take.

Message From Mr Pope Continued .....

[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 .....

Over the last two weeks of term we have been working on one of our whole school writing roots (planning sequence). Children across the school have been working on writing linked to The Polar Express. Some of the children's progression across the autumn term has been fantastic to see. Writing continues to be a strong focus for the school's improvement endeavour and we appreciate your support in this. To this end we will be launching a writing competition for the Winter holiday break with a prize for the children who offer the best examples (we will be mindful of where the children are in their writing journey and award this based on effort as well as excellence).

Next week, the children will be enjoying a number of events we have The Christingle celebration in the church on Monday, Christmas dinner on Tuesday and our sing-along with the East Devon brass band on Thursday. Children will also have their class based events over the last days of term for rewards.

I would also like to extend my thanks to the PTFA for their amazing Christmas fair on the 6th December. The children are so excited and look forward to it every year - it is such a well run and well organised event that wouldn't happen without the ongoing hard work of our volunteers. We also found out this week they have secured a grant of £2000 for PE equipment which will make a huge difference to our offering. We are so grateful.

We hope that everyone enjoys the upcoming week in school and when we get there that all families have a wonderful Christmas and restful break.

Best Wishes,

Mr Pope

### **Thank you for addressing Lateness**

To many families we would like to express our thanks and gratitude. We have seen a positive change which has made a difference to the school. To those families and children who have made this effort and been able to enact a change we are very grateful to you.

Where families or children are facing challenge for whatever reason we will continue to be in touch and support where we can.

### Pre -School



Pre-School did their Nativity play this week and all the children were amazing and did some great singing!!

### Reception



Barn Owls have been enjoying making Christmas Trees using loose parts. Every time one is made it's totally different to the one before!



Barn Owls also enjoyed their first 'Rock Up and Read' with over 25 adults who came and read Christmas stories to their children. We look forward to more 'R and R' sessions in the New Year!



## Sporting Activities



On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December team of 6 girls from Year 5 and 6 took part in a rotational 5-a-side tournament at Sidmouth College against two other local primary schools. The girls played with grit and determination and ended up coming 2<sup>nd</sup> overall. Well done girls!



On Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December, children from Year 3 and Year 4 took part in a multi-skills festival at Sidmouth College. 16 children took part in a range of fun activities including corn hole throwing, basketball and parachute games. Much fun was had by all!

## Year 2

Year 1 and 2 were all aboard the Polar Express last week. Dressed in their comfy pyjamas, the hot chocolate chef served them with a warming chocolatey drink in exchange for their Polar Express ticket. Fantastic writing from the children was then produced recounting their experience of stepping aboard the train. Very Christmasy!



### **Dates for the Diary**

Dates for the Diary	
16/12/2025	Christmas Dinner
19/12/2025	Last Day of Term
05/01/2026	Start of Term
05/01/2025	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (1 of 6)
06/01/2025	School Visits for Reception and Pre school Children
08/01/2025	Open wide step inside Dentist Workshop year 2
12/01/2026	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (2 of 6)
14/01/2025	Year 3 Trip
15/01/2025	Deadline for Primary School Applications
19/01/2026	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (3 of 6)
26/01/2026	Year 3 Swimming Lesson (4 of 6)
30/01/2025	KS2 Trip



### **Change of Menu Reminder**

Tuesday 16.12.25—Christmas Dinner—Pre booked only

Wednesday—17.12.25 Breaded Fish Stars or Jacket Potatoes

Friday—19.12.25 Hot Party Food or Jacket Potatoes



### [PTFA Update](#)

A huge thank you to everyone who was part of our Christmas Fair! The PTFA raised a fantastic £2,793.20.

These events simply wouldn't happen without our amazing volunteers — from the planners and organisers to everyone who helped set up and tidy away. We appreciate you all so much.

Thank you also to our generous donors for the luxury hamper and the brilliant game prizes.

A special shout-out to all the pupils — both current students and those who returned to help. Well done, everyone!

We'd love to hear your thoughts. Any additional feedback is greatly appreciated:

[Feed Back form](#)

#### **Funds Raised – Autumn Term**

- Halloween costumes – £29.50
- Bonfire Night – £1,082.39
- Tropic Night – £585.00
- Preschool raffle – £176.16
- Christmas cards – £0.00
- Christmas Fair – £2,793.20
- Cake sales – £885.42
- Co-op Local Cause – £1,706.66
- Optimal Fitness donation – £50.00
- Jo White Travel Consultant – £0.00

**Total Raised Since September 2025: £7,308.33**

#### **PTFA Funding Allocated – Autumn Term**

- Reception – £127.33 (miscellaneous classroom resources)
- Reception, Year 1, Year 2 & Year 4 – £295.00 (Clive Pig storyteller)
- Year 4 – £991.00 (Roman Baths trip)
- KS2 – £451.00 (Orchestra visit)
- Whole School – £75.00 (Brass Band performance)
- Preschool – £20.00 (Christmas books)

**Total PTFA Funding Allocated: £1,959.33**

Thank you for another fantastic term of fundraising. Merry Christmas and we hope you have a restful break!

## PTFA

### Waitrose Community Matters Appeal – Keep It Going!

A huge thank you to everyone who has already supported our Waitrose Community Matters Appeal! Newton Poppleford Primary School was chosen as one of the local causes — and your green tokens are really adding up.

The appeal runs for the next few months, so please keep going! Each time you shop at Waitrose, pop your green tokens into the Newton Poppleford Primary School section.


#### Prizes:

- 1st place – £1,500
- 2nd place – £1,000
- 3rd place – £500



### Important Information

E&JW Glendinning Ltd, on behalf of Devon County Council, will be carrying out a flood prevention scheme on the A3052 Four Elms Hill, east of Newton Poppleford, between Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026. Traffic management will include weeknight closures between 20.00 and 06.00 to allow the works to be safely carried out. 2-way manually controlled temporary traffic lights will be in place to protect the site outside of our working hours.



## Welcome to the December 2025 Scomis Online Safety Newsletter for Parents and Carers

### Remember—Set up devices!

With Christmas almost upon us, Scomis would like to take this opportunity to remind you of some important safety points to consider if your child is likely to receive a:

- SMART device (TV, Speaker)
- new mobile phone
- games console
- tablet PC

**Check:**

- the device is working correctly
- the device is fully charged
- the parental controls
- the safety settings
- filtering is applied to your home's Wi-Fi

**Finally:**

- Don't leave setting up the device before you wrap it up!

Check the [UK Safer Internet's 4 tips](#) for giving tech gifts this Christmas including:

**Discuss your expectations**—make sure everyone understands the importance of staying safe.


**Create a family agreement** - a brilliant way:

- to think about how your family uses the internet,
- to help make sure that everybody understands the importance of staying safe and being responsible online.

**You could include:**

- daily screentime allowances
- where the device is kept at night
- approving friend requests
- permission to download or purchase apps
- use of social media – Remember most social media sites have a minimum age of 13!

**Check Childnet's** free family agreement template available for download [here](#) (examples for different ages)



Visit the following websites for sound advice and guidance:

- [Childnet Key Topics for Parents](#)
- [Online Issues and social media guides on UKSIC](#)
- [Keeping Under-Fives Safe Online](#)
- [Common Sense Media](#)
- [Ask About Games](#)

### Reminder—Be a good digital parent

- Keep passwords safe and **do not** share them
- Schedule notifications to turn off for certain times of the day
- Talk about things you read online with your children
- Think about what **you** are sharing online
- Give practical tips for dealing with unwanted content or contact
- Show your child how to take screen shots
- Reassure your child that they can talk to you or another trusted adult to ask for help

**Need help?**  
Visit the following websites for more guidance:  
[Vodafone's Digital Parenting](#) Helping your family live a happy and safe digital life  
[Childnet's](#) Parent and Carers [Toolkit](#) Three resources offering practical tips on keeping your child safe online  
[UK Safer Internet's Centre's Advice on online issues](#) includes guidance on how to report, when to report and where to report.  
[Internet Matters](#) [Helping parents keep their children safe online](#) includes guidance on buying new tech

### Internet Connected Devices

**Did you know many devices now connect to the Internet?**

- Internet connected devices can send and receive data
- respond to voice commands and be controlled remotely using a smartphone app.

**Examples of internet connected devices include:**

- Doorbells, CCTV
- Toys, robots, drones and much more

**If not set up properly, the risks include:**

- Developers or hackers may be connected to your device without your knowledge
- Baby monitors, children's tablets, drone toys, can be hacked and used by people outside of your home.

Find out how to keep you and your family safe and visit the [NSPCC's website](#)

### HELP IN THE HOLIDAYS!

**Don't forget!** advice is just a phone call away from the NSPCC helpline **0808 800 5000**  
Childline **0800 1111** email: [childline.org.uk](mailto:childline.org.uk)  
Websites to check:  
[Childnet's Parent and Carer's Toolkit](#)  
[ThinkUKnow's advice for Parents and Carer's](#)

Have a happy safe Christmas! **SCOMIS**  
Your ICT Partner