

# SCHOOL MATTERS

THE FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER FROM NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

## Friday 28th April 2023

### A Message From Mr Pope

Dear All,

This term we have again begun with some more curriculum enrichment for different year groups. The Year 3 children have enjoyed their trip to the RAMM museum to learn about Ancient Egypt and children in Year 4 were lucky enough to have some very informative sessions on volcanoes, which you can hear about below. Reading in the school continues to go from strength to strength and more children are reading regularly. We really appreciate your help and support in maintaining this and encouraging children to enjoy their reading as much as possible – as a school we hope that children will read for 20 minutes at least five times a week.

You will have seen myself, Mr Morison and our Year 6 pupil leaders at the gate recently raising awareness of the parking issues around the school. We appreciate the actions of those parents who have taken steps to ease this problem and ensure they park responsibly and legally. We are going to be launching a campaign to encourage healthy habits for the children and increase their exercise. This will be called the Stride to School Campaign. We really would encourage as many parents to take this up as possible. It will involve tracking how many times the children walk (cycle or scoot) to school each week and keeping a record which will earn a small recognition. We will be sharing the details with the children in school during an assembly so the campaign can begin on the 15th May.



On **Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> May at 14:15pm**, we will be holding a **celebration event for the King's Coronation**. We hope that you can join us on this day and I would like to thank the PTFA for their contribution towards this for all the children. We will provide further information about this but please save the date in your diaries.

Thank you to everyone that have responded to our recent consultation around the extension to the school day from the start of the 2023 academic year. We are now moving to the next stage of this by consulting with staff and continuing to liaise with the school governing body. We shall update the entire school community as these consultations reach a conclusion.

**I hope that you all enjoy your Bank Holiday weekend and we look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday**

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

## Visitors to Year 4

Year 4 had a visit from Lucy King, a volcano expert from the Met office this week. We found out lots about volcanoes and their features, which links with our Geography topic this half term on Volcanoes and Earthquakes.



## Adventure island

We now have an established tool station and, thanks to a grant from the Alpkit Foundation (a charity that supports schools to get children outdoors and experience wild places), we have a set of tools to use. Children in pre-school had great fun using the bow saw to make their own log dogs! In future sessions, children will have the option to come to the tool station and experience the joy of woodwork.



We are all keen to support the wildlife within our school grounds and we are planning to build a bug hotel. Year 3 have made a start by sawing up bamboo and drilling holes into pieces of wood. If you have any of the following that you could donate, it would be greatly appreciated. These items can be left inside the gate of the allotment: Terracotta pots, pine cones, plastic pipes (1m or less), old roofing slates or tiles. Cardboard tubes (kitchen towel size, pringle etc) can be handed in to the office.

*Thank you!*

### **Adventure Island Reminder:**

As the weather is still very changeable, children need welly boots in school **every day** and if possible water proof trousers. Children also need to have their arms and legs covered to reduce the risk of ticks, so on warmer days, they will need to wear thin long sleeves and trousers.

## Little Popples Pre-School

Pre-School were fascinated to meet some quail chicks that were just two weeks old! They were able to hold and stroke them.

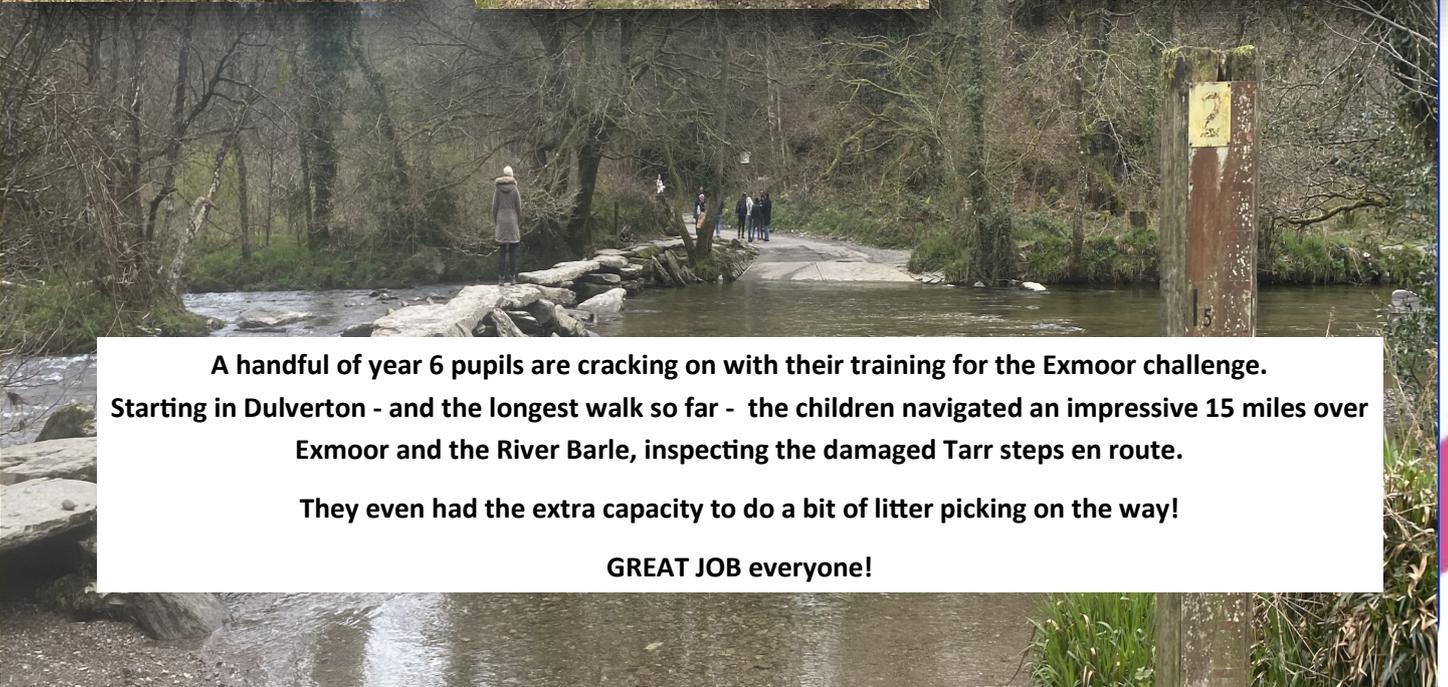


## More quails in year 5

Year 5 displayed such caring attitudes when the little quails visited the children, who also showed much interest in the upkeep of these sweet creatures. Calm befell the class 😊



## Exmoor Challenge—Walk 5



**A handful of year 6 pupils are cracking on with their training for the Exmoor challenge. Starting in Dulverton - and the longest walk so far - the children navigated an impressive 15 miles over Exmoor and the River Barle, inspecting the damaged Tarr steps en route.**

**They even had the extra capacity to do a bit of litter picking on the way!**

**GREAT JOB everyone!**

## Job opportunities at Newton Poppleford Primary School

Newton Poppleford Primary School are looking for multiple, caring, Mealtime Play Assistants (MTPA) who can lead play, interact with the children and undertake the responsibility of supervising and ensuring the safety of the children at all times. You will be required to work for one and a quarter hours per day, Monday to Friday (days negotiable if more than one candidate wishes to share the role) . More details about this role as well as an application form can be found on the school website. Please submit your application by Friday 12th May.

We are also looking for an organised and competent individual to provide administrative support and advice to our Governing Board and Chair of Governors in the role of Personal Assistant. This is a fantastic role for the right candidate looking for flexibility in their working hours and the ability to manage their own time. This role allows working predominantly from home (there is a requirement to attend half termly governing body meetings and occasional ad hoc committee meetings) and the successful candidate will be provided with equipment to enable them to do so. Further information can be found on the school website. If interested, please submit your application by Friday 2nd June.

Monday 15th May



### Care Café

On the first Monday of every month come and share our warmth, hot drinks, and cakes. Support is available if needed from our Parent Support Advisor, Pastoral Lead & SENDCO. With or without reason we welcome you to our Care Café. The next one will be held on Monday 15th May. The changes to dates are due to upcoming Bank Holidays. Then the Care Café will run on 12th June & 3rd July 2023.

## Dates for Your Diary Up to Half-Term

<b>Monday 1st May:</b>	Bank Holiday
<b>Tuesday 2nd May:</b>	Strike Day (School open)
<b>Wednesday 3rd May:</b>	Year 3/4 Mini Red Tennis (selected children)
<b>Thursday 4th May:</b>	Reception/ Year 1 Trip
<b>Friday 5th May:</b>	Celebration event for the King's Coronation 2.15pm. All welcome! Boo To A Goose Pre-School
<b>Monday 8th May:</b>	Bank Holiday For The Kings Coronation
<b>Tuesday 9th May:</b>	SATS Day 1
<b>Wednesday 10th May:</b>	SATS Day 2
<b>Thursday 11th May:</b>	SATS Day 3 PTFA Reception Cake Sale
<b>Friday 12th May:</b>	SATS Day 4 Year 3 Swimming
<b>Monday 15th May:</b>	Care Café
<b>Monday 15th—Friday 19th May:</b>	KS1 SATS Week
<b>Wednesday 17th May:</b>	Year 5 /6 Quad kids (selected children only)
<b>Friday 19th May:</b>	Year 3 Swimming
<b>Saturday 20th May:</b>	Exmoor Challenge
<b>Thursday 25th May:</b>	Year 5 & 6 Finance and sustainability workshop PTFA Pre-School Cake Sale
<b>Friday 26th May:</b>	Last Day Of Term Year 1 trip Year 5 & 6 Finance and sustainability workshop Year 3 Swimming (Last one)