

SCHOOL MATTERS

THE FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER FROM NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

Friday 1st March 2024

A Message From Mr Pope

Dear Parents/Carers,

The half term has got off to a fast start and we have seen some fantastic lessons and experiences across the curriculum. Year 2 brought in some really interesting and exciting toys – it was lovely for them to have a window into the other children's family experiences and they loved seeing the memories that were shared. Thank you for supporting that so brilliantly. The Lyme Regis trip for year 3 was fantastic and they found some real treasures including a Victorian pendant and an abundance of fossils and ammonites (with some fool's gold thrown in for luck). The children were very excited and eager to show off their finds and explain what they had learnt.

A focus on maths fluency:

After the success of our recent maths problems solving, we have a new instalment that you should have received today. There are three problems for the different age groups in the school and we are very interested in seeing some more exciting entries. We are also holding a TT Rockstars battle for the next two weeks that has started today. The years 3 and 4 will be facing off against each other as will the years 5 and 6.

In maths, we focus on teaching pupils their number facts and times tables and to be fluent in their mental strategies. This focus is always on understanding the underlying structures and building a deep conceptual understanding. This leads them to 'automaticity'- the automatic retrieval of basic maths facts. We think this is vitally important as automaticity enables children to work on more complex problems more easily. By doing additional practice at home in these facts, you can help us consolidate this understanding for your child by giving the children lots of practice. TT Rockstars is a really fun and engaging way to achieve this. There are also tools for younger children such as the White Rose one-minute maths app. If you want to see it and try it out with your child, just follow the link below and use the three words net-bob-bug to gain access to a web version (look out for the hint button if your child needs support. <https://whiteroseeducation.com/digital-tools>)

Although we have had a blip with the reading shed, we are well on the way to re-organising the books and restoring things. Please bear with us and thank you for your patience. As we look ahead to the next few weeks, we are very excited to be holding World Book Day on the 7th March. As a school, we will also be using that week as our storytelling week and the children will engage in lots of sharing of stories with each other.

We have also recently hosted some more visitors to our school to ensure we continue our focus on improving the provision for our children. We continually strive for a culture of success that relies upon a cycle of improvement, reflection and refinement of practice. These visits have highlighted some key strengths such as in phonics where: 'teacher expectations at key milestones are now higher'. Or in history and geography where: 'effective, well-structured teaching in both subjects was observed across the school' My thanks go out to the staff team for their efforts in developing our teaching and learning at Newton Popleford.

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

School Uniform—a polite request

Uniform on PE days and trainers on other days – please can I ask that all parents ensure children wear appropriate uniform. All children are expected to wear their school jumper on PE days (a personal sports hoodie or tracksuit is not part of our uniform policy). When children do not have PE or forest school, they are also expected to be in black school shoes. Children must not wear coloured trainers on days when they are expected to wear uniform. We feel we have a good balance with our uniform policy of supporting pupil well-being but we also ask that the school's uniform expectations are met.

What is Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) and who is E-DLD?

Engage with DLD – E-DLD - aims to connect people with DLD and their families to academic research and they hold regular online events for both professionals and families.

There is an upcoming Family and Friends Information and Q&A Event on Tuesday 19 March 2024, 7 to 8pm. This free online event aims to help families understand what DLD is and what it means for them/their child. Stephen Parsons (a speech and language therapist and chair of NAPLIC) will join the E-DLD team for an easy-to-understand explanation of DLD followed by a Q&A. Please find event details here. <https://www.engage-dld.com/whats-on>

Pre-School Lifecycle Of A Frog

Pre-School have caught frog spawn and are enjoying watching it grow and learning about the life cycle of a frog.



Reception Class Jack In The Beanstalk

Reception Class have been looking at Jack In The Beanstalk this week. We read the story, planted some beans, made our own beanstalks and wrote about what else was on the giants table in the castle!



More Beanstalk photos



Year 2 Toys

This half term, Year 2 are exploring toys. The class have been comparing toys from the past with toys now. Amazing toys from parents & grandparents were brought into class to see as a source of toys in the past along with great write ups on the toys their family members used to play with then they were younger.



Year 3's trip to Lyme Regis

Year Three had a fantastic trip to Lyme Regis on Thursday. We went to the Lyme Regis Museum to look at their amazing fossil collection and learn more about Mary Anning. The museum is built on the site of the house she once lived in. We also visited her statue and her grave, which we all found very interesting. Finally, in the afternoon, we became fossil hunters and found lots of fascinating fossils on the beach.



Sporting success at Newton Poppleford

This week, some of our year 5 and 6 students attended a Basketball tournament at Sidmouth College. We played 3 v 3 matches and entered two teams. Our teams ended up taking 1st and 2nd place. Great result!



Before half term, year 6 attended a Netball tournament at Sidmouth College. We had a great time learning a little bit more about the rules and tactics of the game.



THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS AND CARERS FOR SUPPORTING THESE EVENTS AND FOR TRANSPORTING THE CHILDREN TO AND FROM SIDMOUTH COLLEGE.

Adventure Island



Year 6 had a great session exploring Anderson Shelters as part of their topic on World War 2. We particularly enjoyed testing their strength by dropping bombs (big stones) and we were very impressed with how sturdy some of them were. The shelters that were securely dug into the ground fared the best!



Individual School Photos

The school photographer will be in school the morning of Wednesday 6th to take individual and sibling photos of the children. Please can all children come to school wearing school uniform. If they are due to have adventure Island or PE, please send the children to school with a bag containing these clothes.

For parents of preschool children, who are not attending Little Popples on Wednesday, there will be an opportunity to come in early to have photos taken. More details will be sent out at the beginning of next week.



Thank you Gliddons!

A big thank you to Gliddons in Sidmouth for helping to support Lego Therapy for pupils at our school. Gliddons kindly got in contact with the Lego Store in London, who have kindly donated to the school lots of Lego packs. This is hugely appreciated & we would like to say a big thank you to them all!

Thank you Christine!

A very big thank you to Christine from Newton Poppleford village, who has kindly donated a nearly-new Yamaha keyboard to the school. This will be of much use during choir and music lessons.



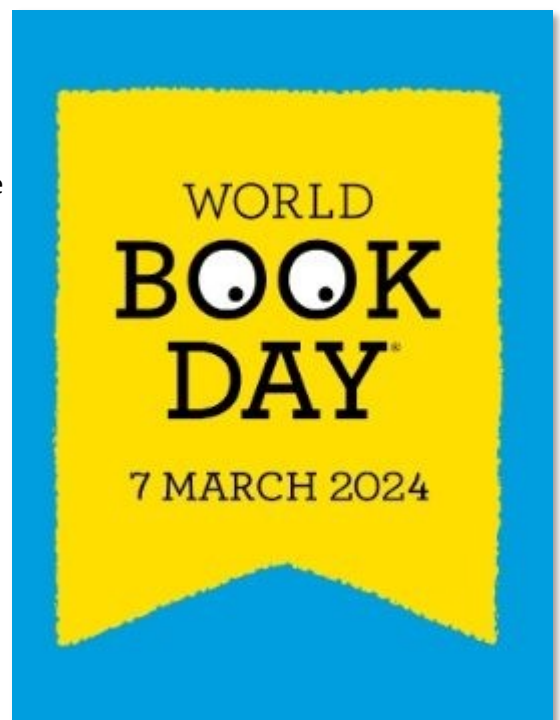
PTFA

Our TROPIC PARTY! Will take place on Friday 15th March. Make sure to save the date.



World Book Day 2024

World Book Day will be held on Thursday 7th March. Children are invited to come into school dressed as their favourite book character. On this day we will celebrate all things books! Pupils will also be given their book voucher on this day to take home to spend. We can't wait to see all the fantastic costumes!



Important Reminder:

Our school is a NUT & SESAME SEED FREE.
This includes hummus as well unfortunately .
Thank you for keeping our school safe!

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Dates for Your Diary Until The Easter Holidays

Tuesday 5th March:	Year 5 Trip
Wednesday 6th March:	Individual School Photos Year 5 & 6 Girls Football (selected children)
Thursday 7th March:	World Book Day
Friday 8th March:	Reception Class Mothers Day Tea Party
Monday 11th March-Friday 15th March:	British Science Week
Monday 11th March:	Year 2 trip Greek Day in year 4
Tuesday 12th March:	Resource Future Workshops
Wednesday 13th March:	Year 6 trip Parent Online Safety Workshop
Friday 15th March:	PTFA Tropic Party
Tuesday 19th March:	Spring Hike Year 2 & 4
Wednesday 20th March:	Spring Hike Year 3 & 5
Thursday 21st March:	Spring Hike Year 1 & 6 Year 2 cake sale Parent consultations (timings tbc)
Monday 25th March—Thursday 28th March	Parent consultations (timings tbc)
Wednesday 27th March:	Years 3- 6 Church and Easter Bonnet Parade for KS1 and R
Thursday 28th March:	PJ Party Reception & Pre-School Break up for Easter Holidays
Monday 15th April:	Inset Day
Tuesday 16th April:	First Day Back For Pupils
Friday 26th April:	Swimming lessons start in Year 3