

SCHOOL MATTERS

THE FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER FROM NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

Friday 27th January 2023

A Message from Mr Pope

Dear All,

The school has seen a calm and purposeful environment over the last two weeks. The children have been really focused on their learning as a result. Classes have excelled in many areas including the challenge of long multiplication in Year 5 and challenging features of poetry like onomatopoeia in Year 1. Forest School continues to go from strength to strength and the children have embraced the cold weather. In the next few weeks, there will be some disruption to schools due to strike action and we are no exception. However, the first day's action which takes place on Wednesday of next week (1st February) will have relatively minimal impact on the school's provision. All classes will receive a full day of lessons. There may be some changes to teaching staff on this day but if this is the case we will let you know in advance for your individual class. I will update you closer to the time on subsequent strike days as soon as I am able to.

The School's approach to tutoring is changing this term. In the afternoons, we have adopted the best practice model laid out in the guidance provided by the DfE and the Education Endowment Foundation. If your child is involved in these additional tutoring sessions we will provide you with a letter in the coming days. We are sure that this will really support the development of our pupils and be extremely beneficial.

As always, I hope you all enjoy your weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Best Wishes,
Mr A Pope.

Pre-School

The children at Little Popples have had a great start to the Spring Term. They have enjoyed exploring Adventure Island and joining in with fun PE sessions, alongside activities both inside and in our outdoor area.



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

Adventure Island

This week, classes have enjoyed a range of activities in Adventure Island including bug hunts and team building fun. Year 3 have been learning about magnetic forces so we had a go at making our own compasses using a needle, a magnet, a leaf and a tub of water; a fantastic survival skill to have. Year 5 had a go at using wattle and daub to build a wall, just like the Vikings did when they built their homes. We weaved wood through hazel poles and then used wet mud to fill the gaps. We would like to continue building next week but we need more long bendy sticks (like willow or any other pliable wood.) If you are able to collect any over the weekend, please bring them in and drop them by the gate to Adventure Island, thank you!



Accelerated Reader Whole School Word Count

Whole School word count, for this academic year 23,357,202!

Class: Tawny Owls - 53,553

Class: Kestrels - 725,280

Class: Buzzards - 690,722

Class Kites - 483,148

Class: Eagles - 1,379,930

Gentle Reminders

- **Pick Up:** Please don't allow your child/ children to start playing football after school on the main playground. We have had some very near misses with balls being kicked powerfully near parents & carers. This could result in an injury.

Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week 6th -12th February 2023.

We have lots of lovely things planned at school to support and celebrate Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is **'LET'S CONNECT'**.

The children we be taking part in lots of activities within the classes throughout the week, we hope they share these with you and if they don't, we ask you, to take the time to ask them.

We will be sending home details on activities for you to take part in as a family during this week. (Look out for these, nearer the time).

We will also be taking part in the *Dress to Express, or come as you are, day on Friday 10th February.* The Children can use clothing to express themselves by Dressing to Express or coming as they are. We have decided this year donations will go towards well-being and Mental Health resources for our school community. If you would like to make a donation these can be made on the School Gateway, which will be going live next week.

Home To School Transport Consultation

Devon County Council is consulting on its arrangements for home-to-school transport. Currently Devon County Council charges £600 per annum (with £30.00 discount if the full-year cost is paid in full) for concessionary seat passengers and post-16 passengers. This annual charge is a contribution towards the cost of the transport we provide.

We are consulting on increasing these charges at £800 per annum from September 2023. Full details are available at <https://www.devon.gov.uk/haveyoursay/consultations/home-to-school-transport-consultation/>

The changes, if approved, would apply to all new and existing passengers. Please submit all comments by the closing date of **2nd March 2023**. A survey for responses is available as part of the Home To School Transport consultation via the weblink above. For alternative ways of responding please see the weblink above.

Flu Immunisations

The School Aged Immunisation Team have now finished visiting Primary Schools to deliver the nasal flu vaccination. The flu season continues until the end of March, and we are already seeing high levels of infection and hospital admissions as a result of the virus. This year the vaccine is an extremely good match to the circulating virus, and it remains of benefit to your child, their family and the community in which they live, to receive the vaccination throughout the flu season. If your child has not yet received the flu vaccination and you would like them to be vaccinated, please use the link below to book into a community clinic in your area.

<https://schoolimms.hcrgcaregroup.com/flu/2022/bookdevon>

If you have any queries or would like support, please contact our immunisation SPA on **0300 247 0082** or email on vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

Dates for Your Diary Up to Half-Term

Tuesday 31st January:	Glow In The Dark Dodgeball With Sporty Stars
Wednesday 8th February:	Year 5/6 Hi 5 Netball
Thursday 9th February:	PTFA Year 2 Cake Sale
Friday 10th February:	Last Day of Half-Term
Mon 13th—Fri 17th February:	Half-Term
Monday 20th February:	First day back for Pupils