

# SCHOOL MATTERS

THE FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER FROM NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

## Friday 10th November 2023

### [A Message From Mr Pope](#)

Dear Parents/Carers,

The second part of the autumn term has already been eventful. Even with the disruption caused by Storm Ciaran the children have been amazing as always and a credit to us. Some of you may have seen on Facebook that our pupil leaders have been busy. Our War on Waste project has begun led by our pupil council. The head pupils and representatives from year 6 spoke fantastically at the Parish Council meeting. We were grateful to receive a letter from Brian Carpenter the Vice Chair of the council that recognised how great our pupil leaders were. The school is looking forward to working in partnership with the community for everyone's benefit as much as we can. "All the children delivered their individual speeches with fluency and assurance. I am sure that the preparation which was required will have taught the children a great deal about the experience of composing a presentation and speaking to an audience which will stand them in good stead for the future. They will also have learned, at an early age, about how nice it is to receive a sustained round of applause!"

Parent's evenings have once again been positive and extremely well attended. Thank you for coming and engaging with us as we value your views and opinions. This year we are working to provide you the information about what your child is learning about in school. Please check the curriculum overviews and associated videos on our website or tapestry. This alongside your weekly Marvellous Me updates should keep you of what your children are learning on a regular basis.

Thank you to any parents who donated books to the school this week. It has been an amazing addition to our library and reading stock. We are incredibly grateful to everyone's kindness and generosity. Reading has really been a focus for us. Children across the year groups have been looking at a variety of high-quality texts such as poetry by Carol Ann Duffy in year 6, Myths and Legends in Year 5 including Outlaw by Michael Morpurgo and stories in different forms including Pippi Long stocking and Harry the Poisonous Centipede in year 3. You can also now find 100 recommended reads for your children on our website with your curriculum overviews at the bottom of the page. These books are those fiction books that the school feel would be beneficial for your child to have read in that year group.



[www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk](http://www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk)

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

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Thank you also to everyone who supported the school's scooter-thon. We raised over £300 which will help us enormously to create a reading space in the KS1 corridor for children to enjoy our books.

This week the children have been engaging in parliament week and learning all about the role of parliament and how this works. Children have learnt about Big Ben and the history of the building. The role of the speaker, the house of commons and the house of lords to name a few. We will be culminating in a vote this afternoon on what our third school pupil priority should be for the coming year. Next week we will be putting each classes questions to Simon Jupp our MP.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs McQueen who has joined us from Colyton Primary School and has already had a hugely positive impact for our pupils. Next week, we have many activities lined up around our star quality linked to positivity. We will be looking at Anti-Bullying, positive noticing and children in need all themed around taking positive action. To kick it all off don't forget to don your odd socks on Monday – we would love to receive some pictures of parents and carers going about their everyday business that we can share with the children in assembly to show everyone's solidarity! The staff will certainly be involved.

Enjoy your weekends everybody!

Mr Pope

### Important Information

#### Attendance:

School target 97% or above – this represents

The effect of persistent absence is huge on children's life chances and entry into adult society.

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed	
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons	89% or below Drastic effect on academic achievement
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons	
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons	96% - 90% Cause for Concern
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons	100% - 97% Excellent!
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons	
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons	

**Holidays should not be taken in school time.** Any Leave of Absence can only be agreed by the Headteacher and only where there are exceptional circumstances. Thank you for working in partnership with us to achieve the highest possible levels of attendance and punctuality at Newton Popleford Primary School.

**SEND:** DIAS have a dedicated team offering legally-based and easily accessible information and advice about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They support children and young people with SEND, and their parents and carers. The service is impartial and confidential.

**DiAS**  
Devon Information  
Advice and Support  
for Special Educational Needs and Disability

[www.newton-popleford.devon.sch.uk](http://www.newton-popleford.devon.sch.uk)

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### Year 3 Dancing Through Charcoal

Year Three did an amazing piece of performance art for their families before half term. We have been studying 'Gestural Drawing' using charcoal and chalk in art. For our final lesson, we put on a performance, where the children created some fantastic artwork. They all really enjoyed the process, particularly getting covered from head to toe in charcoal! A huge thank you to all the families that came to watch them.



## Year 4 RAMM Trip

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, Year 4 visited the RAMM in Exeter to spend the day learning about the Romans in England (and especially Devon). They had a tour of the museum which included the 'Seaton Hoard' Roman coin collection and had workshops to make mosaics, write in Latin, look at Roman artefacts, design a Roman oil lamp and to look at what Roman clothes looked like. It was a great day of hands on learning which the class really enjoyed.



## Tag Rugby Club

Here are a few photos from our final Tag Rugby club session. I would like to say that during the sessions, all children developed great new rugby skills including how to attack being aware of where the space is, great 'tagging' defending, hand / eye co-ordination resulting in catching passes more regularly and vital communication skills during games. Thank you to all the children for your great enthusiasm.



## Year 5 & 6 Cross Country

The Year 5 & Year 6 boys did really well in the School Games Cross Country Finals event at Bicton College. We are so proud of how hard they have all worked!



## Year 5 Trip To Escot

Last week Year 5 had a great trip to Escot! Please find below some photos of what the pupils got up to during the trip.



## Year 6 Pupil Leaders

We are so proud of our pupil leaders and the way they spoke at the recent Parish Council Meeting. They represented our school magnificently and spoke with real eloquence.

Well done all!



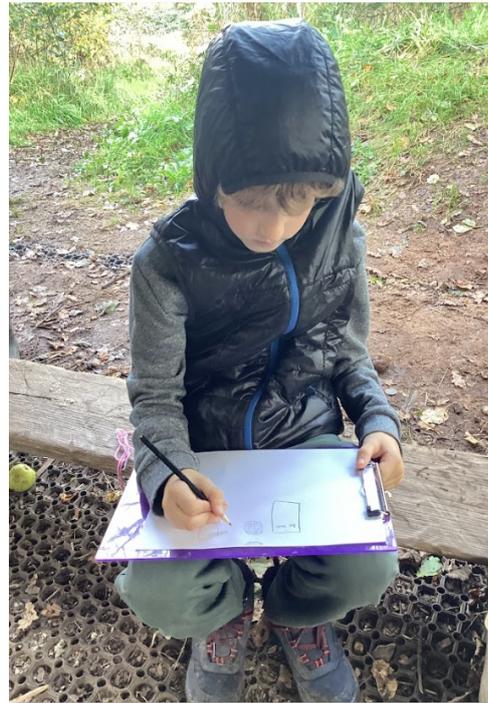
## Year 6 Police Officer Visits

This half term, Year 6 is having a police officer visiting every Tuesday. Last week, we learned about the different roles and responsibilities of police officers. We also tried on all of their uniform.



## Adventure Island

We have been busy in Adventure Island since returning to school after half term. Highlights include Year 2 building a miniature Pudding Lane as part of their topic, The Great Fire of London, they enjoyed emulating the wind using clipboards to help the fire spread! Year 3 made stone age inspired nut lamps out of pecans that burnt for a surprisingly long time and Year 6 have been working in teams to create a Scavenger Hunt for our younger children to complete later on in the term. Next week we will be working together to spread woodchip on our pathways and plant bulbs in the allotment.



## War On Waste

Our school is part of a War on Waste project this year and we had our first audit just before half term. The School Council had to collect all the waste the school produced from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October. They then had to weigh it, sort it and look at where it had come from around the school. Hannah Farnie from Resource Futures came back to give us the results and talk to us about how we can achieve our recycling goal which is 75%. In the coming weeks we will do an assembly about ways we can improve as a school!



## PTFA

Thank you so much to everyone who supported the PTFA BBQ at the village fireworks event last week. Huge thanks to The Cannon Inn for their support, the Parish Council for including us, to all our hungry customers, and especially to the very cold volunteers. This event raised a fantastic £520 for the PTFA!

Do you play the School Lottery? There's a weekly Newton Pop jackpot, the chance to win the national £20,000 jackpot, and this term there's also a PlayStation bundle to play for! Buy your tickets at <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/>



Online shopping for the festive season? Use <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> as your online shopping portal and choose us as your charity, effortless giving every time you shop!

## Lets Talk Primary

There will be two free sessions aimed at parents & cares of young people aged from 5 to 9 years olds, it is a chance hear about the challenges young people face in this ever changing world and to hear about the tools and techniques you can use to support your children. There are two sessions and the topics covered will be as follows:

- **Session 1 Tuesday 14th November;** development, anxiety landscape, family life, ever changing risks & world, and the online world.
- **Session 2 Tuesday 21st November;** relationships, gender stereotypes, positive body image & mental health.

For more information or to book these free sessions, please follow the link below.

[Let's Talk Primary - Session 1, November 2023 Tickets, Tue 14 Nov 2023 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

**LET'S TALK**  
**PRIMARY**



## Dates for Your Diary Up to Half-Term

**Monday 13th-Friday 17th November:** Anti-Bullying Week (Odd Socks Day On Monday 13th)

**Tuesday 14th November:** Glow In The Dark Dodgeball

**Wednesday 15th November:** Positive Noticing Day  
Dance Workshop

**Thursday 16th November:** Dance Workshop

**Friday 17th November:** Children In Need  
Year 5 Swimming (3 of 5)

**Tuesday 21st November:** Resource Future Workshop Year 2, 4 & 5

**Thursday 23rd November:** Fire Service Session Year 2 & 5

**Friday 24th November:** Year 5 Swimming (4 of 5)

**Friday 1st December:** Year 5 Swimming (5 of 5)

**Saturday 2nd December:** PTFA Christmas Fair

**Monday 4th December:** Christingle

**Tuesday 5th December:** Pre-School & KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal

**Wednesday 6th December:** Pre-School & KS1 Nativity

**Thursday 7th December:** Christmas Jumper Day  
Pre-School & KS1 Nativity

**Friday 8th December:** KS2 Christmas Performance

**Monday 11th December:** KS1 Church Visit

**Tuesday 12th December:** Christmas Lunch

**Friday 15th December:** Last Day Of Term

**Tuesday 2nd January:** Inset Day

**Wednesday 3rd January:** First Day Back For Pupils