

# SCHOOL MATTERS

THE FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER FROM NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

## Friday 15th March 2024

### A Message From Mr Pope

Dear Parents & Carers,

The start of Red nose day has been great fun and has been lovely for all to see the children and community working together towards a good cause. Thank you for the donations that you have made. Last week also saw an opportunity for dressing up but on that occasion for a more celebratory event. Well done to everyone for some amazing costumes. I was sent pictures and updates through the day and it was fantastic to see some of the outfits. More importantly, we were able to celebrate our children's reading and the love of reading that as a school we try so hard to nurture in them. We are going to be giving opportunities to extend this with a mystery book choice box in the near future so that children can help one another choose the books they love. Well done to our winners of the 'Where we love to read competition' – there were some fabulous entries and thank you to everyone who took part. Some of the children were also interviewed by our pupil leaders and gave some excellent recommendations.



This week has been science week and my thanks go out to all the teachers for organising and pulling together whilst Mrs Bradley our science lead is away to make this week happen and run so smoothly. There have been a variety of experiments from learning about how our brain works to rocket launching that have really enriched the children's education.

A further thank you to those of you taking part in the big plastic count – this year the school council's number one goal is to: **Improve the school's approach to environmental issues by joining the WAR on WASTE initiative and help us to achieve the eco flag award.** Something we are on the way to achieving.

Today the TTRockstars battles come to an end if you did not get chance to enter this one then look out for the next one that starts in the second week after half term. I just wanted to remind everyone especially in years 3,4 and 5 of the importance of practice in times tables and that children are regularly practising at home – we recommend 10 minutes at least 4 times a week.

[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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Each newsletter I try to include an explanatory note on an aspect of teaching and learning. In the run up to parent's evening, I wanted to write to give you insight into assessment and how we do this in school. Fundamentally and overwhelmingly the most important aspect of this is formative assessment (teacher speak for: the little moments that teachers build into the everyday). Asking a question in a lesson – checking pupil work, listening to their learning conversations related to a problem, low stakes quizzing etc... the list goes on. Fundamentally, this is teachers knowing their children's learning needs and adapting to them. The other aspect is summative assessment – this is the more traditional type. These happen termly in our school and look very different depending on year groups and the time of year especially for younger children whose experience looks very different. These assessments allow us to benchmark against national standards and track through statistical data how pupils are getting on. This is through a 'standardised score' which gives a banding in which pupils sit. We are fully aware of and take into account children's different needs relating to assessments – we are a school that want children to feel safe and comfortable. We seek to raise self esteem and empower at all times even when faced with challenge – growth mindset and the learning pit are powerful analogies we use to help children feel confident. Our star characteristic of positivity is also a powerful vehicle for this. In summary, at parent's evening, the judgement that your teacher's make is based on the combination of these things but fundamentally takes into account everything they know and discuss with you about your child.

**Online safety:** Thank you to all the parents who attended the workshop run by the NSPCC on Wednesday evening. We hope it was informative and useful. The key advice is included later in the newsletter.

In the last two weeks of term, we have the school Spring hikes to engage the children in map skills and offer an opportunity for physical exercise, our play and fun leaders are busy organising another PE enrichment day and The Dog's Trust are visiting.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Best Wishes,  
Mr Pope

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## Important Information

### SEND

As part of the Devon SEND transformation project new systems and processes are being developed to try to alleviate the pressures on the system and improve the provision. The newsletter below can give some insight into these developments and allow you to gain insight into the 'county picture'.

The Devon SEND partnership newsletter can be accessed here:

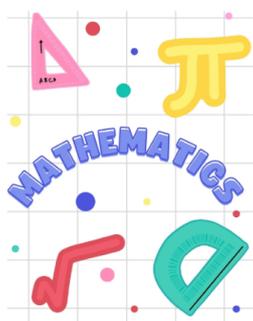
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/devon-send-partnership-news-january-2024/>

### Parking

Please can parents refrain from parking on the double yellow lines directly outside the school. We know these have faded but they remain in place. Parking here is dangerous as it blocks the eyeline of others and makes crossing the road dangerous. We will be focusing effort on raising awareness around parking issues in the coming days and we are once again liaising with the council to try to rectify the double yellow lines. We also now work in closer partnership with the police and hold regular meetings.

### Maths Challenge

Please don't forget also this half term's March.



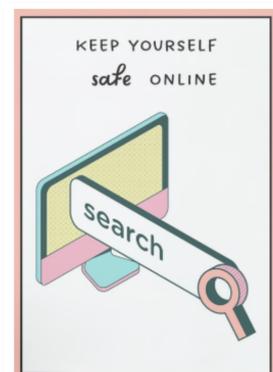
maths challenge which end on the 26<sup>th</sup>

### Online Safety

Thank you to all the parents who attended the NSPCC online safety workshop on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Here are some key pieces of information;

- Monitor what your child is accessing/viewing = Set Parental controls on all devices - mobile and device providers can provide information on how to do this or there is advice via the NSPCC website below.
- Ensure computers, tablets etc are used in communal rooms where you can see what your child is accessing. If possible share your child's online experience talking to them about what they are doing or playing an online game.
- Be aware of what you are sharenting - Sharenting refers to the practice of parents, caregivers or relatives sharing information about their children (underage) online, typically on some online platforms. This can include photos, videos, personal stories, and other updates about the child's life.



The NSPCC website with the Online safety information can be found at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

If you are worried or want advice about something online you can contact the NSPCC. Call us on 0800 800 5000, email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) or fill in our [online form](#) to get advice and support from safeguarding experts. Alternatively you can call the School Office and ask for a member of the Safeguarding Team to contact you. Fiona Pyle, our Parent Support Advisor is also able to offer help and information please contact her via our School Office or directly on 07495540415 or 01395 514823 ext 234 Working hours 8.30-4.30 Monday-Thursday 8.30-12.20 Friday. Please share the Childline number below with your child. They can phone this number free if they are worried about anything they have experienced online or other general worries. <https://www.childline.org.uk/get-support/contacting-childline/> You can talk to us about anything. No problem is too big or too small. Call us on 0800 1111 or chat to us online.

## Pre-School Science Experiment

We took part in a science experiment for Science Week. A thin layer of milk was put in a tray to which we added drops of food colouring. This created swirly patterns which we thought looked like a jelly fish and a brain! We used a cotton bud dipped in washing up liquid to create further patterns and saw new colours appear.



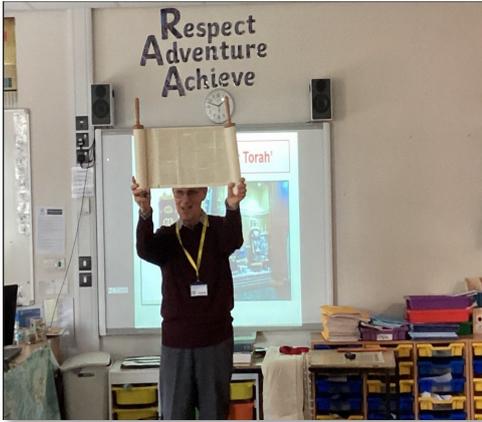
## Year 2 Visit From Sidmouth Toy Museum

Year 2 had a visit from the Sidmouth toy museum this week. It helped answer lots of questions they had about toys from the past which is their topic this half term. They even got to have a go with a Victorian viewfinder.



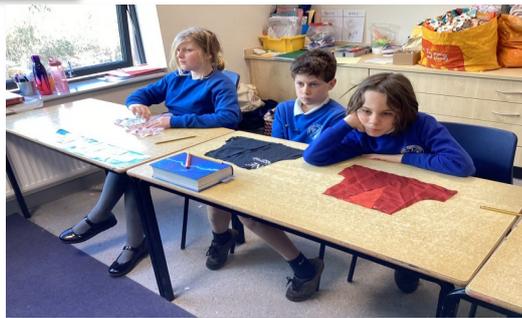
## Year 5 Visit From Exeter Synagogue

On Friday 8th March, Year 5 had a special visitor from Exeter Synagogue as part of our RE topic about Judaism. The talk focused on the Jewish Bible or 'Torah' and we also learned about Jewish beliefs, clothing, food, and special celebrations and festivals.



## Year 6 Sewing

In year 6, we are sewing waistcoats. Last week, we designed them and this week we sewed them. We are so excited to add our finishing touches next week!



## Year 6 RAMM Museum Trip

Year 6 had a great time at RAMM Museum. We looked at Air Raid shelters, some interesting artefacts and wrote our own postcards as evacuees. It was great seeing the children excited about WWII and I was so impressed with all of the information they could recall.



## Sporting Success At Newton Poppleford

Last week, girls in years 5 and 6 attended a football tournament at Sidmouth College. We won our first two games and went to the finals. We narrowly lost in the end but all the girls had a great time and showed amazing sportsmanship!



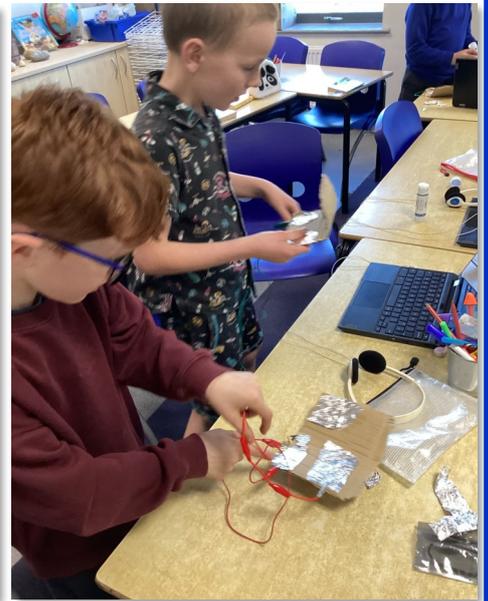
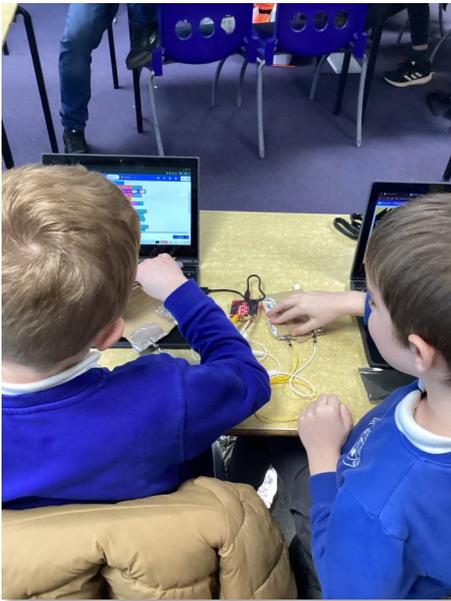
## Adventure Island

This week years 2-6 explored forces to celebrate science week. We watched a bottle rocket launch and then had the opportunity to make and race balloon rockets. We experimented with different ways to make our rockets as fast as possible!



## Coding Club

Coding club has been lots of fun! We learnt how to write code and then programme mini computers (microbits). In the last week we made a reaction game and programmed the microbits to show an A or B depending on who reacted fastest. Thanks for joining in everyone!



## Exmoor Challenge

The Exmoor Challenge practice is going well and is being brilliantly organised. The children have completed three walks so far with lots of keen parents. So far they have learned compass navigation, map reading, and following instructions.

All the children have taken it in turns to lead the group and walk at a pace to complete the legs of the walk in a set time. This photo was taken at one of the practice walks at Wellington Monument.



Newton Pop PTFA

# EASTER

**EGG HUNT**  
**28th March 2024**  
**After school**  
In the school playground  
**£2.50 per child, chocolate egg prizes!**  
Pay via School Gateway, or cash on the day

Newton Pop PTFA

## RAINBOW HAMPER RAFFLE!

We need your help to make our **Rainbow Hamper Raffle** a massive success!  
Can you contribute something matching your class colour?  
(We'll happily take anything you're offering even if it's not your class colour!)  
Get creative next time you're in the supermarket or raid those cupboards!

Here's some ideas!

Please bring into school the last week of term (w/c 25<sup>th</sup> March)  
to the office or your class teacher

Rainbow Raffle tickets on sale and draw after school on  
Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 in the playground!

<b>RED</b> Year 6	Maltesers, McVities digestives, ready salted crisps, Family Circle biscuits, Kitkats, Skittles, Celebrations, Bournville chocolate, Pimms, Pom Bears, Fox's biscuits, Munchies, Coca-cola, strawberry flavoured or red label beverages
<b>PINK</b> Year 5	Pink fizzy drinks, marshmallows, raspberry laces, pink wafers, Peppa Pig, strawberry Fruitellas, bath bomb, raspberry flavoured or pink label beverages
<b>ORANGE</b> Year 4	Chocolate orange, Revels, Haribo tangfastics, fudge, toffee crisp, orange clubs, orange shower gel, mini cheddars, Fanta, J2o, Doritos, orange juice, Jacobs Crackers, orange flavoured or orange label beverages
<b>YELLOW</b> Year 3	Cadbury flakes, Cadbury Caramel, post it notes, jelly tots, Toblerone, Custard Creams, Twix, jelly babies, pasta, Quavers, Skips, lemon Fanta, lemon slices, yellow book, lemon flavoured or yellow label beverages
<b>GREEN</b> Year 2	Matchmakers, After Eight, Appletizer, Rowntrees sweets, mint Aero, apple juice, salt & vinegar crisps, sour cream Pringles, mint shower gel, green label drinks
<b>BLUE</b> Year 1	Roses chocolates, Walnut Whips, party rings, Haribo, Oreo, Milky Bars, chocolate hobnobs, Heinz baked beans, Blue Dragon foods, Tetley tea, Bounty, cheese and onion crisps, bubble bath, blueberry flavoured or blue label beverages
<b>PURPLE</b> Reception	Quality Street chocolates, Dairy Milk, Cadburys hot chocolate powder, Chocolate fingers, Ribena, Vimto, bubble bath, nail varnish, purple label beverages
<b>GOLD</b> Preschool	Forerro Rocher, Lindt chocolates, gold bars, chocolate coins, popcorn, nail varnish, gold blend coffee, Caramac, gold candle, gold label or fizzy beverages

## Dates for Your Diary Until The Easter Holidays

<b>Friday 15th March:</b>	PTFA Tropic Party
<b>Tuesday 19th March:</b>	Spring Hike Year 2 & 4
<b>Wednesday 20th March:</b>	Dogs Trust Spring Hike Year 3 & 5 Year 4 Greek presentation to parents
<b>Thursday 21st March:</b>	Dogs Trust Spring Hike Year 1 & 6 Year 2 cake sale Parent consultations
<b>Friday 22nd March:</b>	Dance Club Parent Performance
<b>Monday 25th March—Thursday 28th March</b>	Parent consultations
<b>Wednesday 27th March:</b>	Years 3- 6 Church and Easter Bonnet Parade for KS1 and R
<b>Thursday 28th March:</b>	PJ Party Reception & Pre-School Menu Change Break up for Easter Holidays
<b>Monday 15th April:</b>	Inset Day
<b>Tuesday 16th April:</b>	First Day Back For Pupils
<b>Friday 26th April:</b>	Swimming lessons start in Year 3