

# School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

## Friday 12th September 2025

### Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a really positive start to the academic year and have loved seeing many new families and faces in our school community. Thankyou to everyone for being so welcoming. For the children in Reception, these first days and weeks can be a big adjustment especially at the start of the day but they are settling really well in class. The year 5 children have been so excited to see their new buddies and build those relationships with them.

You may have seen a familiar face over the last two days in Mrs Smith (formerly Miss Gaston) who has returned for a period of time to teach our year 5 children. It has also been lovely to welcome back a familiar face. The year ahead is set to be filled with lots of exciting activities and curriculum endeavour. You will receive the normal curriculum overviews via the school website at the start of week beginning 22nd September to inform you of the learning children will undertake in the half term ahead. Last year the school achieved the Silver School Games Mark for PE and we built on our Eco Schools award and achieved a Distinction. Thanks to Mrs Morgan and Mr Morison for their hard work!

Next week, we will be electing our school council members for the academic year and children will be asked to present their ideas for moving the school forward (manifestos in KS2) so that they can be voted for. We will then hold our ballot in the hall and children can vote with their slips. I have asked all staff to hold these on Wednesday and Thursday of next week and children can have up to 2 minutes. I know it is very important to lots of children so we wish them luck. If children were on the student council last year, they will not be able to stand in this year.

I want to extend my thanks at the start of the year to Rebecca Layman who has been a fantastic asset to our school serving as a governor as well as Mary Raffell our wonderful reception teacher who will also be stepping away from a role in governance. The PTFA have had some changes and Teri Murphy – who has been incredible in her role as chair has passed the baton to the safe hands of Georgia Trengove. Thanks also to Janine Rudling for her role and efforts. It was hard not to see the play equipment and sensory garden that was installed over the summer thanks to the efforts of those above and everyone in the PTFA. We are still humbled by the generosity and effort that has gone into achieving something that has made a really tangible and visible difference to our school. The children have started to use it and will do so more in earnest next week as we have very recently received the final sign off and put into place the necessary safeguards and staff awareness. Thank you for making sure children are not playing on the KS2 equipment before and after school – unfortunately we are unable to allow children on it at these times for insurance and health and safety reasons.

The school's key priorities for the year ahead have been set and the INSET days have enabled us to reflect on what has been a really positive time for the school in the last academic year. We always look to continually improve and develop as practitioners and although we know our school is strong in its practice and curriculum - we always seek to develop. This year, we have set a number of professional development activities related to writing and oracy as well as a number of other areas.

Cont. overleaf .....

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

01395 568300

✉ [admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk)

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

## Message from Mr Pope ....

Finally, and most importantly, the children have once again been so fantastic. They are a credit to our community and it has been joyful to see them return in such a happy and positive way.

I hope you all have a well-deserved rest this weekend, as always we know there will be lots of tired children after a busy and fun first whole week in school.

Best Wishes, -

Mr Pope

## Message from Mrs Raffell

Please help me collect empty toothpaste tubes and ring pulls from cans for The Purple Community Trust Charity. The empty tubes and ring pulls get sent to the Philippines and are turned into bags, purses, Christmas decorations and lots of other brilliant things!

Please drop them off to the school office or bring them to me in school.

Thank you!

Mrs Raffell



## SEN Coffee Morning

Are you a parent/carer of a child with Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

Do you work in a profession that supports individuals with disabilities?

This is a Great Opportunity to:

Meet other parents, carers and professionals in the SEN community.

Share experiences, Resources and Support.

Gain valuable information on local services and upcoming events relevant to individuals with SEN.

Date: Tuesday 16th September, then every Tuesday thereafter

Time: 9:30—11:30am

Location: Wesley's, Fore Street, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6NH

Refreshments: Tea, Coffee and Cake Available



## Free School Meals

### please apply if you may be eligible

If you are in receipt of the following benefits then you may be eligible for free school meals for your child. This not only allows your child to have a free school meal each day that they are in school but you will also have access to the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, and the school will receive additional funding to support your child. We would encourage you to apply whichever year group your child is in (even if they are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and are receiving a free meal in school anyway). Currently the qualifying benefits are as follows:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance • Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

More information can be found on the following DCC web pages: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/education/school-meals/> and <https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/education/school-meals/applying-for-free-school-meals/>

## Breakfast/Twilight Club

Just a reminder that you can now book Breakfast/twilight club in MCAS—this is no longer bookable in School Gateway.

The deadline for booking online is midnight on the Tuesday of the week before the session takes place. The system will allow you to book after this time but we ask that you don't do this as we will not guarantee late bookings made online. If you need a booking after this deadline then please email the school office: [admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk) and we will check availability.

Equally if you have any questions then please don't hesitate to email the school office.



## Pre School—Little Popples



We have enjoyed welcoming back some children from last year and a huge welcome to our new friends who are now joining us!! We will enjoy spending time getting to know each other and look forward to having another great year at Little Popples!!

## Reception



Our new Reception Class loved meeting their new Yr 5 Buddies in Adventure Island. Throughout the year they will have lots of opportunities to spend time together and have fun! The Yr 5 Buddies will play with Reception every lunch time, go on walks to Farthings, do play projects and enjoy Buddy reading together.





## Adventure Island



Year 4 spent their first session recapping the play parameters that keep everyone safe in Adventure Island. Children then spent time catching up with friends, building dens and making all sorts of tasty creations in the mud kitchen. They also enjoyed picking the bumper crop of apples, pears and plums!



## Year 1



Year 1 have had great fun making use of the new sensory and story telling areas!



## PTFA Update

We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are enjoying being back at school—made even better by the exciting new additions!

Thanks to last year's fantastic fundraising efforts, we're delighted to have provided the new **Key Stage 1 and 2 play equipment** and created a beautiful **sensory garden**.

A very special thank you goes to our **Sensory Garden Working Party**—Kirsty R, Carly P, Dave H, Henry O, Stuart, Dan P, Kirby W, Anna T, Teri M, and Chris T—as well as to all the children who patiently (and enthusiastically!) 'helped' with the topsoil and compost.

Looking ahead, we have lots of exciting plans for the year. Our next big project is fundraising for a brand-new **STEM classroom**, and we can't wait to get started.

Thank you, as always, for your amazing support. If you'd like to get involved and be part of the fun, please speak to **Georgia** or email us at [chair@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:chair@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com).

### **PTFA AGM Update**

Thank you to everyone who attended the **PTFA AGM**. We're pleased to introduce the new **PTFA Committee for 2025 –26:**

**Chair:** Georgia Trengove (Year 5, Year 3, Reception)

✉ [chair@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:chair@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com)

**Deputy Chair:** Henry Odbert (Year 5, Year 3, Reception)

✉ [ptfa@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ptfa@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com)

**Treasurer:** Anthony Tribble (Year 5, Year 2)

✉ [treasurer@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:treasurer@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com)

**Secretary:** Kelly Rogers (Year 6)

✉ [secretary@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:secretary@NewtonPopplefordPTFA.onmicrosoft.com)

And a big welcome to our new **Class Representatives:**

- **Preschool** – Tanisha Ellis & Grace Kubaczka
- **Reception** – Hannah Haines & Donna Johnston
- **Year 1** – Carly Pugsley and Rebecca Burdus
- **Year 2** – Vanessa James & Sarah Robertson
- **Year 3** – Claire Harvey & Lydia Tett
- **Year 4** – Rachael Hailstone & Lindsay Frankland
- **Year 5** – Caroline Odbert & Mikyla Tribble
- **Year 6** – Helen Partridge & Gemma Joyner

### **Fairy Roles** ✨

A huge thank you to the wonderful volunteers taking on our special "fairy roles" this year:

- **Recycling Team** (uniform shop, book shop and clothing bank)– Kirby Whittock, Jasmine Toms, Amy Sweet & Jo White
- **Green Team** (Allotments, sensory garden and willow dome) – Anna Trossell (Lead), Mikyla Tribble, Jake Green, Joy Petley & Jen Best
- **Handy Heroes**- Henry Odbert
- **Cake Sales** – Rachael Hailstone & Hannah Haines
- **Freezy Fridays** – Kirby Whittock & Jasmine Toms
- **Book Fair** – Caroline Beck & Kelly Rogers
- **Calendar** – Kelly Rogers & Jasmine Toms
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We're looking forward to another brilliant year of fundraising and creating special memories together as a school community.



## Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
<b>September</b>	
<b>17/09/2025</b>	Budleigh Salterton Festival - Children's Literacy Quiz
<b>23/09/2025</b>	Year 3 + 4 Cross Country - Selected Children only
<b>24/09/2025</b>	Year 5 + 6 Cross Country - Selected Children only
<b>October</b>	
<b>01/10/2025</b>	Dance Around the world
	Year 3 + 4 mixed 6-a side football ( selected children only)
<b>02/10/2025</b>	Dance around the world
<b>08/10/2025</b>	Year 5 + 6 Mixed 6-a side Football ( Selected children only)
<b>16/10/2025</b>	Year 3 and Year 6 East Devon Country Side rangers
<b>22/10/2025</b>	Year 1 + 2 Multi-skills Festival
<b>27-31/10/2025</b>	HALF TERM

### Apply for a secondary place

Applications for year 6 children to start in year 7 at secondary school in September 2026 open on 1 September 2025 and close on 31 October 2025.

Please go to The Devon county Council Admission page to apply

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/children-families-education/education/school-admissions/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place/>

 

September 19th, 20th & 21st

## DadFest Devon

Location: Berry's Campsite, Bessac, Devon. TQ7 2BW  
Awarded 'Best Small Event in the UK'  
& the only festival just for dads & their children  
Dads make cakes with children of all ages welcome

- campfire stories & songs • archery • hot walk •
- Forest School • star-gazing • circus skills • stroke a lobster • art & craft space • wrestling show •
- slip n slide • green wood working • beach fishing •
- soccer skills • music workshops • kids disco •
- food & beers • World Dad Dancing Championships

**Fri. 19th - Sun. 21st September 2025**

DadFest2025 tickets must be bought in advance

Dad + 1 child (all ages):	£105	
Dad + 2 children (all ages):	£115	
Dad + 3 children (all ages):	£125	

Ticket includes camping & all activities - nothing more to pay  
Concessions available - please contact the organisers  
Get food tickets too: £40 (dad): £30 (children)  
= all meals & drinks all weekend!

To book see QR code or search for: 'ticketrator DadFest Devon'  
or email: [info@bidenetwork.org](mailto:info@bidenetwork.org)



## Sidmouth College

*believe • inspire • succeed*

**Open Morning**  
Wednesday 24th September  
**9:30am-11:00am**

**Open Evening**  
Wednesday 24th September  
**5:00pm-7:30pm**

- Please arrive at the College in time for the Headteacher's welcome talks at 9:30am and 5pm or 6pm
- College campus tours and the opportunity to meet with staff and students
- Telephone: 01395 514823 for more information

Booking essential. To book a place call the College on **01395 514823**  
[www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](http://www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)  
Primley Road, Sidmouth EX10 9LG



## WHOLE SCHOOL OPEN MORNING

Saturday 20th September 2025  
9.30am

**REGISTER VIA**  
[www.maynard.co.uk](http://www.maynard.co.uk)

**"UTTERLY HAPPY"**  
THE GOOD SCHOOLS GUIDE