

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 10th July 2026

Message from Mr Pope

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a couple of weeks we have had in school! At this time of year, we firmly believe that enriching our curriculum and giving the children extra opportunities is vital to their enjoyment and appreciation of school. The children have had some brilliant experiences over the past two weeks and I am so grateful for the hard work and dedication of the team here for making them happen. Mrs Morgan, Mr Churchill and Mrs Doyle have been working very hard behind the scenes to organise and facilitate these events. A special thank you also to Scott Walker for delivering a day of football and Mr Filer for his tennis events. The staff team also got to play at the courts in what is now dubbed as "The Poppleford Classic" and the winning pair of Miss Winkler and myself took the crown (Mr Churchill will have to wait another year). The teacher's race was also hotly contested but Mrs Dowsing retained her title!

Tribe awards have also been in full effect and the children have been able to enjoy their achievements – we await the award for summer term which take place a week on Monday. This year's Sports Day went to the Green team which has given them a bit of a boost in the run in. Inclusive practice alongside healthy competition is rightly a part of our physical education and sport offer. A special mention also needs to go to three of our intrepid year 6 pupils who have taken the opportunity in walk to school week to travel 2 and half miles along the River Otter to start their day at school. Well done!

Parents will also receive their reports today and it has been a pleasure reading about the hard work and achievements of the children in their learning across the year. We are very proud of them and they are the shining light of our school. Each and every one of them has applied themselves this year and deserve a lot of credit for their efforts.

We welcomed a very talented, engaging and inspiring author to our school last week. Christopher Edge took us through a fantastic assembly and question and answer session. The children were also lucky enough to have their books signed and got to speak to him individually. An award-winning author he has also written books about how to be a writer so is well versed in supporting pupils. His website is below for further inspiration. The school is launching its summer reading challenge shortly and we would love for you to join in and make this summer one of reading.

<https://www.christopheredge.co.uk/about>

www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

01395 568300

✉ admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

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

Message continued from Mr Pope

Next week the children have Art Week and this year we welcome Chloe Farrant to do workshops with children across the whole school and we are very excited to see this creative opportunity come to fruition. We are also excited to welcome parents in to see their efforts. Not to mention the Year 6 play.

We hope you have a restful time in the sunshine over the weekend – the warm weather is staying with us. Finally, I wanted to say once again a huge thankyou to the PTFA for supporting all our events and enrichment – without them and their hard work the school simply would not be able to afford to have such an amazing offer. The giant inflatables were a huge hit and this is only a tiny fraction of what they give us. We are so grateful!

Best Wishes,

Mr Pope



To complete the challenge:

- ★ Read one book from each genre.
- ★ Ask an adult to sign your sheet.
- ★ Bring your completed challenge to Mr Pope or Mr Churchill.
- ★ Earn your Reading Challenge

Badge! 🏆

[SEND](#)



Sports Week



Year3



River Trust—Visit

The children took part in hands-on activities, testing water quality and learning about the invertebrates that live in the river. By identifying these tiny creatures, they discovered how they can be used to indicate the health of a river, developing their understanding of ecosystems, biodiversity and environmental conservation.



Oral Health visit

Today, some of our classes enjoyed a visit from [Fair-field House Dental Surgery](#) to learn all about looking after their teeth. The children learnt how to brush their teeth effectively, why it is important to remove plaque, and how good oral hygiene helps to keep their teeth and gums healthy. They also used plaque disclosing tablets, which highlighted areas of plaque so they could see where they needed to brush more carefully.

Reception

Road Safety in Barn Owls

On Monday, Reception Class spent time during their PSHE lesson learning about the importance of staying safe near roads.

The children explored different types of road crossings and learnt about the Green Cross Code, sharing some thoughtful discussions about why road safety is so important.



To reinforce their learning, they completed an ordering activity before acting out the steps for crossing a road safely. It was fantastic to see everyone demonstrating such a good understanding and working together so enthusiastically.



Author visit—Christopher Edge



Budleigh Music Festival



Year 5



Last week, Year 5 enjoyed drawing flowers from our allotments and around the school playground. The children carefully observed each plant, paying close attention to the finer details and the different parts of the flower before creating their drawings. It was a fantastic opportunity to develop their observational skills while appreciating the natural world around them.

Year 6



Year 6—Transition days

Year 6 had a fantastic time at their new schools

Year 1



This week, Year 1 enjoyed a tasting session to help them decide what they would like to include in their smoothies!

The children sampled a variety of fruits, discussed their favourites and thought carefully about which flavours would work well together.

We can't wait to see the smoothie recipes they create

Pre-School

We hosted our annual Mini Olympics last week!! 🏃 🏃 It was lovely to see so many parents who came to watch what we have been practising. Also thank you to the Year 6 students who came and helped as well!! 😊



PTFA



Newton Poppleford
Primary School
PTFA

**SEPT 2026-
SEPT 2027**

**BE PART OF
SOMETHING
SPECIAL**

JOIN THE PTFA

COMMITTEE ROLES AVAILABLE:

- ✓ Chair
- ✓ Deputy Chair
- ✓ Treasurer
- ✓ Secretary
- ✓ Sub committee role available- speak to Georgia to find out more

• Make a real difference

• support your children

• meet new people

• flexible roles







NP PTFA

**We need
YOU**

Help Our School Allotment Grow!

Our wonderful school allotment needs a few extra pairs of hands. Whether you can spare an hour or a morning, your help makes a real difference - no experience needed!

**PTFA
FREEZY
FRIDAY**

5th June
12th June
19th June
3rd July
10th July
17th July

to the playground after school

50p each

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£60m
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ARE YOU READY FOR

**MR FILER'S
TENNIS CLUB**

Every Thursday

17:30-18:30
NEWTON POPPLEFORD TENNIS COURTS

**£1
PER CHILD**

Everyone welcome

**Donation to
PTFA for every
booking made!**

With Jo White at Travel Connections

2% of total holiday value donated to PTFA for any families or individuals from Newton Poppleford School (up to £100 per booking)

Over 20 years experience, no extra charges, all types of holidays covered, fully protected holidays and 3 penalty free cancellations. Plus, together we can do a little to help our awesome school!

Jo White@TravelConnections.com
WhatsApp 07967756543

Dates for the Diary

Dates for the Diary	
13/07/2056-17/07/2026	Art Week
14/07/2026	New Reception children (Sept 2026) Teddy Bears Pic-
15/07/2026	Year 6 Production
16/07/2026	Reception and Pre school Outing
21/07/2026	Last Day of Summer Term
3rd and 4th Sept 2026	Inset Days - non pupils
7th Sept 2026	Pupils return to school

ART WEEK
Monday 13th July to Friday 17th July

We are delighted to announce that we have an exciting Art Week planned for the children!

Throughout the week, the children will take part in a range of creative activities and will be working alongside a **visiting artist** to create a special piece of artwork for the outside of the school building.

Each child will create their own **sketchbook** and fill it with a variety of activities, artist studies and creative ideas developed over the course of the week.

WE ARE COLLECTING RESOURCES FOR THE WEEK!

If you have any of the following items that you no longer need, we would be very grateful to make use of them during our Art Week:

- Different types of paper for our sketchbooks, such as wallpaper, local newspapers, maps, or any textured or coloured paper.
- Chalk pastels
- Plasticine

Thank you in advance for any donations – they will help to make the children's creative experiences even more exciting and varied!

YOU ARE INVITED!

To celebrate their hard work, we would like to invite parents and carers to join us

Friday 17th July

to view the wonderful artwork created by the children and our visiting artist.

3:00pm – 3:30pm

The school will be open from 3:00pm to 3:30pm.

During this time, you are invited to collect your child from their classroom and enjoy the opportunity to visit their classroom gallery, where they will proudly share the artwork they have created throughout the week.

We are very much looking forward to a fantastic week of creativity and hope you will be able to join us in celebrating the children's achievements!

THANK YOU!