

School Matters

The Fortnightly Newsletter from Newton Poppleford School

Friday 19th April 2024

A Message From Mr Pope

Dear Parents and carers,

We have had another exciting couple of weeks in school with many different events and successes, not to mention the fantastic learning and attitude all our children have shown. Just this week, a visiting headteacher commented on how much effort the pupils put into their learning and how impressed she was with the purposeful classrooms – we are very proud of all of them. In reception our new ‘rock up and read’ was a great success and many families took the opportunity to come and read with their children. We have also had our year 3 mummification event which was very well attended by parents. My thanks to all of those who organised and took part. We have also seen the launch of our new curriculum themes for this half term. Please go to the class pages for your year group on the website:

[Newton Poppleford Primary School - Newton Poppleford Curriculum \(newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk\)](http://newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk)

If you would like to look ahead or view previous curriculum overviews you can scroll to the bottom of each class page and you will now find them there. These will help you to know what your child has and will be learning.

Mrs Laureys has now taken up post as our new SENDCO and has reached out to many of you to arrange meetings. Please do reply to her letter or be in touch if you would like to talk to her. I would also like to thank parents in year 5 for being so amenable in attending our parent’s meetings through the day and evening yesterday. I hear from Mrs Bradley and Mrs Morgan that it was a very positive day.

In this newsletter’s curriculum focus I would like to offer some insight into how we have developed and are developing our approach to pastoral care and relational understanding with pupils. Over the last six months many of our staff team have undertaken training in different ways to ensure that as a school we cater for pupil’s mental health, well-being and emotional needs. In our school, we pride ourselves on all staff being responsible for this. Although this has always been the case, we now have moved to a common understanding or ‘college approach’ where we are all actively take responsibility for this. This may be through being a trusted named adult on a relational plan or delivering intervention sessions in a particular area of need. The type of training staff have undertaken include attachment based mentoring, Place 2 Be mental health training, advanced coaching, Lego therapy, PiPs (passive intervention and prevention strategies) and many others. We feel this has been beneficial for our pupils and creates a safe, happy and positive environment where children receive the support they need from all members of our staff team.

www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk

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

Looking ahead, we have SATs week coming up for our year 6 children. Although important for the school we take a lot of time to make sure the children are comfortable and confident. Our SATs week breakfast is always a great start to the day so we will encourage as many as possible to attend this. We also have trips to the Golden Hind in Brixham and MYBank workshops for children to enjoy.

I hope that everyone enjoys the Bank Holiday weekend and you manage to enjoy some rest and relaxation. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday.

Many Thanks,

Mr Pope

Important Information

Attendance and term-time holidays.

We simply need to remind parents of the rules that govern term-time holidays. These cannot be authorised by the school and can result in a referral to the local authority. In the coming days, you will all receive the bi-annual letter that schools are advised to send out informing you of absence rules. You may have also noticed in the press that the DfE under Gillian Keegan is introducing a new National Statutory framework for schools. Within this it will be mandatory for schools to take action on unauthorised absence by reporting to the local authority.

SEND - Devon Football Association

Devon FA believe in flexible, inclusive and accessible playing opportunities for everyone, and are committed to delivering a range of opportunities for players with a disability to access football at various levels across the county.

Devon FA is committed to developing opportunities for footballers with a disability, whether as a player, coach, referee, or volunteer.

More information can be found below:

<https://www.devonfa.com/players/disability>

School choir

We had our first choir practice on Thursday with the wonderful Beth McLean, who has very kindly volunteered to lead our choir. The children had a great time joining in with a range of warm up exercises and then singing 'Mama Mia'. There are still some places available in choir. It is on Thursday lunchtime 12.45-1.15 pm. If you are interested, please let the office know.



Year 3

On Tuesday 30th April, year 3 had a fantastically interesting day with Neil Heasman, learning all about Ancient Egypt. During different workshops, we investigated society in Ancient Egypt, sketched canopic jars, played Egyptian games, had the opportunity to handle artefacts and wrote our names in hieroglyphics on real papyrus. During the afternoon, we learnt all about mummification and ended our day with presenting a mummification process to our parents. The children were enthusiastic all day and really enjoyed everything we did.



Exmoor Challenge

Message from Mr Sach

"The Exmoor Challenge practice walks have been going very well, the last couple being far less muddy than the earlier ones, which has made for somewhat easier walking over the longer distances. The longest practice was supposed to be about 13 miles, but with a minor hiccup in directions ended up a little more than that, closer to the real 16 mile course! A very nice walk was done from Mutter's Moor car park, around Ladram and on the river-side walk along the Otter, pausing for an ice-cream on the way.

The challenge event is this coming Saturday. Teams will arrive in Dulverton at 8;00, setting off at 9:10 and 9:28 respectively.

They will aim to walk to the scheduled checkpoint times, and be finished in 5h 45m, which doesn't allow for any stops for snacks or lunch along the way! It's a really tough challenge, but they've all done well on the practice walks, and they're keen to give it their best shot."



BEST OF LUCK TO ALL THOSE TAKING PART!

Year 3

Year Three had a fantastic workshop about environmental education, where we learnt about waste and then went on a litter pick around the school environment. There was a surprising amount of very small pieces of litter, for example pieces of plastic or ends of snack wrappers.



The children said

'I am surprised about how much there is but it's all mainly hidden.'

'It's dangerous for plants and ants and we should stop littering at school.'



Adventure Island



Children have enjoyed exploring Adventure Island in Spring and together we have used ID charts to identify many of the wild flowers and different varieties of trees we have growing down there. It has also been great to see the daffodils and hyacinths in full bloom after we planted bulbs back in the Autumn. As we move into summer and warmer weather (hopefully!) please can children wear hats, long sleeves and trousers to offer protection from ticks, thank you!



Sporting Events

Years 3 and 4 participated in a Cricket event at Sidmouth College. They spent some time learning the rules of 'Quick Cricket' and finished up with playing a couple matches. Everyone had a great time!



Year 6 participated in an Ultimate Frisbee tournament at Sidmouth College. They learned the rules of the game and how to throw a frisbee with accuracy. After that, they played in a tournament and even came in first place!



Pre-School



We had a visit from Alfie's Dad, who is a fisherman, and he brought Colin the Crab for us to look at. Some children enjoyed holding the crab and discovered how heavy it was. The children got to take a scallop shell home as well."



Reception Class

Receptions first 'Rock Up and Read' took place on Tuesday. 17 May . Parents/grandparents enjoyed reading to their children in the classroom at the end of the day! We are already looking forward to the next one on 16th May.



Dates for your diary

Friday 3rd May	Year 3 Swimming Lessons (lesson 2 of 5)
Saturday 4th May	Exmoor Challenge
Monday 6th May	BANK HOLIDAY
Wednesday 8th May	Quid Kids Athletics Year 5 and 6
Thursday 9th May	Mrs Laureys Parents Meetings
Friday 10th May	Mrs Laureys Parents Meetings
	Year 3 Swimming Lessons (lesson 3 of 5)
Monday 13th —Friday 17th May	S.A.T.S
Thursday 16th May	Reception Class cake sale
	Reception Rock up and Read
Friday 17th May	Year 3 Swimming Lessons (lesson 4 of 5)
	Year 2 Trip
Wednesday 22nd May	Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra livestream 'Sea Stories'
Thursday 23rd May	Sidmouth College Transition Day
	Year 1 School Trip
	Reception Rock up and Read
Friday 24th May	Year 3 Swimming Lessons (lesson 5 of 5)
Monday 27th—31st May	Half Term
Monday 3rd June	Inset day
Tuesday 4th June	Children return to school
Friday 7th June	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (lesson 1 of 5)
Monday 10th June - Friday 14th June	PTFA Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday 13th June	Reception class trip
Friday 14th June	Reception - Fathers Day Celebration Adventure Island
	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (lesson 2 of 5)
Monday 17th June—Friday 21st June	Art Week
Friday 21st June	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (lesson 3 of 5)
	Art Gallery and Sale in Hall
Monday 24th June	Climate workshop Yr 4,5,6
Friday 28th June	PTFA Summer Fair
Friday 28th June	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (lesson 4 of 5)
Monday 1st July—Friday 5th July	Year 5 Bikeability
Monday 1st July—Friday 5th July	Year 6 transition
Tuesday 2nd July	Reception Taster Session
Friday 5th July	Year 1 Swimming Lessons (lesson 5 of 5)