

# SCHOOL MATTERS

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

## FRIDAY 7TH JANUARY 2022

### FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Welcome back to a New Year and a new term. I hope you had an enjoyable and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Due to the spread of the new Covid Omicron variant, we would ask you to continue to be cautious, particularly about the wearing of masks on school premises for the sake of other people around you.

The fortnightly Celebration Assemblies will continue to take place but without us being able to welcome parents into the assembly for the time being. This will change as soon as possible!

Clubs will be starting soon. We will send more detailed information about clubs in the next week.

Just in case you missed the message sent out before Christmas, the Governing Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Anthony Pope as the new Head Teacher of Newton Poppleford Primary School.

Mr. Pope, who is currently the Deputy Head Teacher of Holsworthy Church of England Primary School, will take up his post on 1 September 2022, when I retire. Before then, Mr. Pope will be meeting with myself, other staff and governors several times so that he can get up to speed on the school and community.

### FROM THE PTFA

Is your new year's resolution to get more involved with the PTFA? Well, that's an excellent resolution, congratulations! And I can totally help you make it last past January... text Teri on 07909 798441 to be added to the WhatsApp PTFA meeting and get involved!

**SCHOOL LOTTERY!** We have a weekly Newton Pop jackpot winner and the chance to win £25,000, plus non cash prizes! This half term it's a forest based staycation, but you have to be in it to win it! Visit [yourschoollottery.co.uk](https://yourschoollottery.co.uk) to buy tickets.

[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.

## GENTLE REMINDERS

We appreciate that January, being straight after Christmas, can be a hard time financially. However, it is school policy not to permit the accumulation of arrears for school meals and we are currently experiencing a particularly poor time in respect of timely payments for school meals. School Meals should all be paid for in advance, for the coming week, as is clearly stated on the appropriate information pages of the school website.

As there are currently a large number of school meal accounts with arrears outstanding, please can they be cleared as soon as possible. We do need these payments to come in to make our budgets balance.



We are not sending Data Collections sheets home this year BUT if any of your details (particularly email addresses or phone numbers) have changed please let us know either by email or in person at the School Office.



The S2 Absence request form has been used in school up until now for parents to submit details of all planned absences including medical appointments. As this form is intended for parents to request non-medical absence, we are going to stop using this form for medical appointments. Instead, we would like to ask parents to email the school office ([admin@newton-popleford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newton-popleford.devon.sch.uk)) in advance with details of medical appointments. This will make it easier for you and for the office. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

If your child is in Year R to Year 6 from September 2021 they are eligible for a Free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination. The immunisation team will be visiting our school on **Monday 24th January**.

We are expecting demand to be high and therefore we urge you to follow the below link to consent to your child's vaccination asap. Even if you do not want your child to receive this vaccination, please complete the consent form stating "decline". On this link you will also find answers to your FAQ's and links to the current Public Health England and manufacturers leaflets. We recommend you discuss this vaccination with your child prior to the date of vaccination.

Prior to completion of the consent, we would like each individual child's unique NHS number – this can be found in their red book, or via this link:

Find your NHS number - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

Please note, this field is not mandatory, so if you are experiencing problems finding/accessing your child's NHS number then you can leave this blank.

To complete the consent/decline please click on the link below:

<https://schoolimms.virgincare.co.uk/flu/2021/devon>

We will be operating a strict policy of closing the consent links and your school's link will close at midnight on the **19th January 2022**. If you miss this deadline, your child(ren) will not be vaccinated at school and you will be offered the opportunity to book them into a community catch up clinic. This also applies if your child is absent or refuses the vaccination at school.

If you have any difficulties with completing the consent form, please contact the Immunisation Team on our Single Point of Access (SPA).

Tel: 0300 247 0082 (lines are open 9.00 to 16.30) or Email: [vcl.immunisations@nhs.net](mailto:vcl.immunisations@nhs.net)

*(A more detailed version of this letter from VirginCare was sent home earlier this week)*

This week's National Online Safety guide is on setting up new devices for children. What parents and carers need to know when setting up new devices for their children.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it's needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

## PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

## SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

## FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

## ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

## FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



## SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

## SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

## TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console: so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

## PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to [PlayStation.com](http://PlayStation.com) and search 'family account' for instructions.

## INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

## DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

## STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.