

The Topsham School

Newsletter 18



A love of learning and commitment to the success of every child at the heart of all we do.
Tel: 01392 874498 Website: www.topsham.devon.sch.uk

Friday 29th January 2021



Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, and it certainly seems to have come at a very appropriate time. Our children are facing such a challenging time; needing to be at home doing their learning without their friends surrounding them or being in school doing their learning while many knowing either one or both of their parents/carers are working on the front line.

This year's theme is "Express Yourself" and is promoting the idea of children using the creative arts to express themselves; their feelings, their hopes, their dreams, and using their imaginations to create new or different realities that are their own.

The following is taken directly from the 'Place2Be' website:

When children are able to find creative ways to share their feelings, thoughts or ideas it can help them feel good about themselves and who they are. Children can do this through art, music, writing and poetry, dance and drama, photography and film, and doing activities that they enjoy.

It's really important to remember that being able to express yourself is not about being the best at something or putting on a performance for others. It is about finding a way to show who you are, and how you see the world, that can help you feel good about yourself.

Given that the past year will have left many of us feeling out of control and helpless, supporting children and young people to express themselves is arguably more important than ever.

What can you do?

Here are a few simple ways you can encourage your child to express themselves.

- 1. Could you build on existing interests or passions? Think about what has helped them get through the past year. A love of dancing? Baking? Drawing? Fashion? Encourage your child by noticing their unique interests and praising their efforts.**
- 2. Trying new things can be a great way to find a new creative outlet. There are lots of online tutorials and video demos that you and your child could be inspired by... could you try out something new together? Or perhaps ask someone you know to share their creative hobbies and give them a go.**
- 3. Some children may not think of themselves as being creative. Try to focus on the importance of the process and the way it can make them feel, rather than the end result. Try not to judge their efforts and remember to give encouragement for trying rather than for doing something well.**
- 4. Listening carefully can help children feel more comfortable and confident when expressing themselves. Try to minimise distractions and give your child your full attention when you're spending time together, being aware of your own body language and eye contact. You might want to try summarising what they've shared and acknowledging their feelings.**
- 5. Children are expressing themselves all the time but not necessarily with words. 'Listen' to everything they are trying to tell you with their behaviour, or with their play and creativity or with their silence. It's all self-expression.**
- 6. Remember – you don't need a lot of expensive equipment to get creative at home. Recyclable materials or older items you no longer have a use for can provide amazing inspiration, and of course there's no limit to your imagination!**

You can also find a list of organisations that provide support and advice on our website: www.place2be.org.uk/help

I know you have all been on screens so much over the past few weeks, and I know that with the government announcement that schools will not open any earlier than March 8th, and even if they do, potentially not to all children; more likely a phased re-entry again, that the idea of looking online again may feel like a big ask. However, there is a lovely art idea modelled by Place2Be via this link;

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=STdJ__8ORyE&feature=youtu.be

It would be really lovely if the children could create their own piece of art based on what this link shows.

If you do this activity with your child PLEASE could you send a photo of it to jadesina@topsham.devon.sch.uk as it would be really wonderful to share them on our website so others can see our children's self-expression.

Enjoy a creative weekend,

Mrs Pipe

Message from Mrs Pipe to children working remotely:

I want to tell all the children who are working so incredibly hard at home, that I am so proud of you. Again, this week you are joining online registration, participating in whole class discussions, uploading work, and joining in with your 'live' group sessions. Throughout each day I have dropped into classrooms and seen some of you working with your class teacher and it has been so lovely to see you, even if only remotely.

It is hard work working at home and yet you are doing it and doing it so well. You are showing these Learning Powers so well:

- **Resilience:** I am resilient. I know learning is hard and can feel scary but I am ready to take risks in my learning and work with determination to achieve my goal. I know I can't do everything yet, but I know I can learn anything I need to if I try my best all the time.
- **Perseverance:** I keep going in my learning, even when it feels hard. I know that feeling frustrated, worried, excited, confused is part of learning and accept this. I DON'T give up.
- **Risk Taking:** I take risks in my learning and want to tackle new things, so I keep making progress; I don't want to coast along. I work in my 'stretch zone' so I feel challenged in my learning. You are all having to do this as you learn to learn in a different way using Google Classroom.

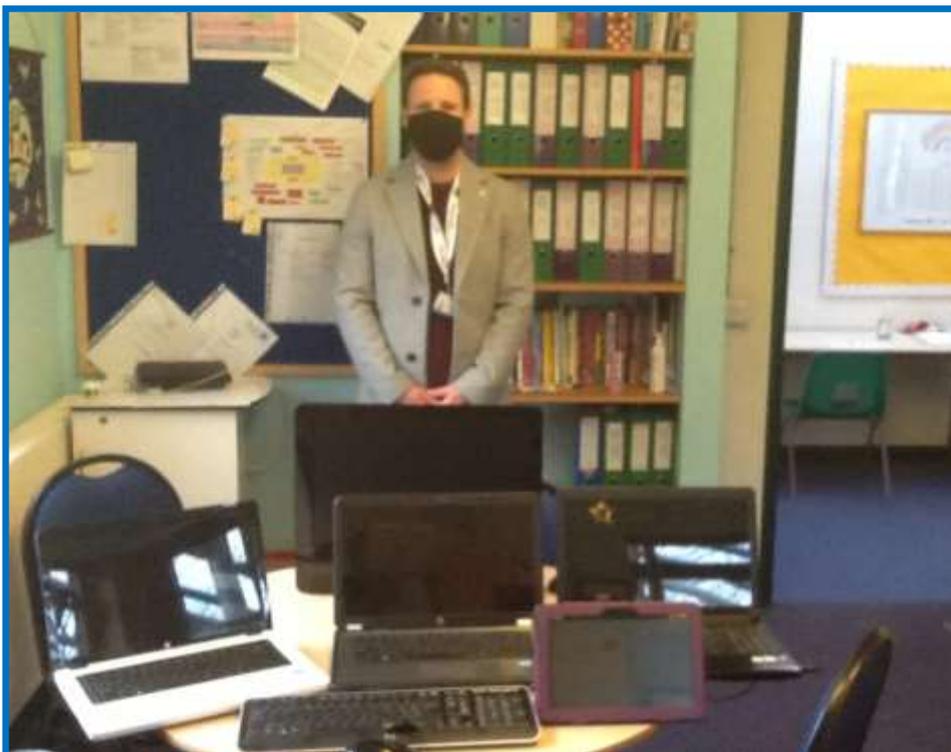
Enjoy your weekend and keep up the good work! 😊



Thank you!

The school are so grateful to Ben from Positive People Devon who has donated well needed tech that we will shortly be able to lend out to some of our identified families. Thank you Ben!

Thank you to for our Governor Adrian Blight who was given the task to find support for the school in this area. Thanks Adrian.



SAFEGUARDING



Safeguarding Leads and contact information

Members of staff who are safeguarding leads are as follows:

- Mrs Emma Pipe: Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher:
epipe@topsham.devon.sch.uk
- Miss Maria White: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Headteacher and Online Safety Leader
mwhite@topsham.devon.sch.uk
- Mrs Hartmann: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, SENDCO and Early Help Leader
nhartmann@topsham.devon.sch.uk

If **any** parent has a safeguarding concern or query about ANY child within our community, please email for advice.

IF ANY ADULT FEELS A CHILD OR ADULT MAY BE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER YOU MUST CALL MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) OR 999

*"If you are worried about a child or young person in Devon and want to speak to someone, or if you are a child or young person worried about your own safety please contact the MASH on **0345 155 1071** or email mashsecure@devon.gov.uk and give as much information as you can."*
Devon Children and Families Partnership



**National
Online
Safety**[®]

Online Safety

A leaflet entitled 'What Parents and Carers Need to know about WeChat' is being sent out alongside this newsletter. This has been created by the National Online Safety team. This guide for parents, along with others we have sent in the past, including guides for online safety relating to

Disney +, Netflix, PlayStation 5 and Zoom are available to download from the section entitled Online Safety Leaflets on the Newsletters and Letters page of our school website.

<http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk/newsletters-and-letters.html>



Weekly Class News

Little Acorns

The Little Acorns have been green-fingered this week, planting their own pots of cress and discussing the different things seeds need in order to grow. In Maths, we have been exploring 2D shapes and their properties, going on shape hunts and creating fantastic shape pictures. We have even ventured into space with baby bear in our Literacy text 'Whatever next'. We cannot wait to see all of the wonderful learning you will do next week. Thank you for an excellent week Little Acorns.

Big Acorns

Another fantastic and very busy week Big Acorns. It has been lovely to see all of your hard work both in school and at home again. You have particularly impressed us with your shape and symmetry work, you are using lots of very great vocabulary to describe your learning. Well done for all your creative efforts as well, your shape pictures, rockets, rocket control panels and space goggles have really helped you to do some amazing writing and story work. Well done Big Acorns, keep up the very good work!

Year 1

Year 1 have been very resilient this week. The children have been fantastic at identifying when they are finding their learning tricky and are facing the 'learning pit'. It's been excellent to hear stories of children in school and at home working through the challenges and achieving their goals.

This week the children have been using all of their knowledge to write their own information texts. The quality has been fantastic and they've made excellent spelling choices.

Year 1 are now excellent at reading and writing numbers to 100. Our class are always hunting for numbers and talking about them too.

Well done Year 1. We are so proud of you all!

Year 2

This week has seen Year 2 putting their sentence writing skills into practise in the form of Giraffe Fact Files. At times this has included writing at length and using challenging vocabulary. Year 2 you have really dug deep into your learning powers! I know at times it will have felt as though you were at the bottom of the learning pit, but you have actively used resilience, bouncing back, noticing, making links, resourcefulness, organisation...to name a few! Not only have you been utilising these learning powers in Literacy, but it is evident in your Maths too where you have been exploring place value. Some of you have become such experts I think you could teach the class better than me. Well done for yet another excellent week of learning.

Year 3

Year 3's highlights, as chosen by the whole class in our afternoon Class Google Meet: learning our 8 times table, lots of fun making and creating topic work, designing covers for our new reading journals, but our top favourite of the week: designing and describing our dream homes. Our imaginations ran wild with amazing synonyms to describe underwater, underground, fantasy and fabulous homes!

Year 4

This week, we have been most impressed by how much the children in Year 4 are challenging themselves. Whether that is remotely from home, or in the school, the standard of learning you are producing is excellent. We are seeing very precise and thoughtful use of the new Ninja Vocabulary and we are even seeing some children create extra challenges for themselves, especially in maths. Well done Year 4- another awesome week.

Year 5

What another great week Year 5. This week, you have worked so hard on your new learning on prime numbers, and I have been very impressed with your perseverance with the trickier questions.

I have really enjoyed reading your wonderful writing about your 'Cracking Contraptions' and how you have been so imaginative. Your vocabulary choices and sentences are very impressive too. Well done everyone.

Thank you for continuing to engage so well with your Home Learning. It was lovely to see you on Tuesday, when you came in to choose your books and I hope you are enjoying them at home. I am very proud of you all.

Year 6

It was so nice to see you all at our book swap on Wednesday - I hope that you are enjoying your new books and I am looking forward to hearing all about them. Your attitude towards your learning, in our live sessions, has been absolutely fantastic and you should all be so proud of yourself: you have worked hard and contributed fully. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the explanations of your inventions and I could tell how much time and care you had spent on them. Lots of you have continued to edit your writing, noticing errors and persevering to correct them. Keep working hard, you are doing so well!



Date	Event
Thursday 11 th February	Break up for half-term
Friday 12 th February	Non-pupil Day
Monday 22 nd February	Occasional Day
Tuesday 23 rd February	Start of second half of Spring Term
Thursday 1 st April	Break up for Easter Holiday