

The Topsham School

Newsletter 19



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 5th February 2021



As we come to the end of the fourth full week of this half term, I want to say a HUGE thank you to our parents. Our parents who are working so incredibly hard to support their children to access and complete remote learning; some who have children in different year groups and who have different needs.

The expectations laid out by the DfE in relation to schools Remote Learning Provision are incredibly high; provide Remote Learning that mirrors what the children would get if they were in school as far as possible. Make sure this provision covers a minimal amount of specified hours and do so using different remote methods. Make sure those in school have the same provision too so there is equity. This is what we are striving to do, and I know that these high expectations that are being asked of schools, in turn are being asked of our parents. Being asked of our parents, who are also being asked by their employers to continue to work and continue to do the same role, with the same responsibilities, while striving to support their children in their learning. I know this is an incredibly hard job. I know you are all doing an amazing job.

Thank you for ALL the support and time you are giving to your children. The level of engagement and quality of work being submitted by our children is amazing. Thank you too for all the positive feedback that you are giving to my teaching staff. It is clear that staff and parents are striving to work in partnership; and that is something to celebrate during this period of Lockdown.

This Lockdown feels VERY tough doesn't it. I know that some days will feel overwhelmingly tough. All anyone can be asked to do, is to do the best they can. Thank you for doing the best that you can, each day, to help your children to do the best they can each day. Myself and all the staff are very grateful to you all for this commitment.

We don't know how much longer we may all need to work in this way to support our children. We do know it won't be forever. It will end; things will get better, and feel better, and be better. This too shall pass.

As we come to the end of another week, I hope you all manage to stop and rest. One more week until half term- we CAN do it!

Take care

Mrs Pipe



Half-term and Non-Pupil Days

We would like to remind parents that we break up for half-term on Thursday 11th February. The school will be closed to **ALL** pupils for half term including Friday 12th February and Monday 22nd February.

If you are a keyworker and you require childcare over the half-term break, SportyStars are running a holiday camp for the children of key workers. See below for more information.



SportyStars Holiday Camp for the children of Key Workers

SportyStars will be running a Holiday Camp at Topsham School, as a source of childcare for key workers during February Half Term and the two non-pupil days; Friday 12th and Monday 22nd. They will be providing a multi activity camp for children aged 4 - 12. Activities will include a range of sports, arts & crafts, shelter building, nerf wars, zorbing, science experiments, bouncy castles, lego building, movies and more.

Each day will start at 8:15am and finish at 5:15pm, SportyStars have extended their hours to fit around a working day for parents. If you would like to drop off later and pick up early within this time frame, this is not a problem and we ask you just let them know in advance.

SportyStars will be adhering to strict Covid-19 protocols similar to the School setting. Children will have a temperature check on registration, be placed into group bubbles if numbers require, all equipment is cleaned between each use and hand washing and sanitiser will be regularly monitored. They have more information of their further changes on the website. If the camp is unable to go ahead due to Covid-19 restrictions made by the government, a full refund will be issued immediately. They also hold the right to cancel the camp if there are less than 15 attendees, again a refund will be given. This said, the SportyStars camps have been extremely popular and we ask parents who require this services to book promptly to gain a space and help with forward planning / organisation.

The cost is £35 per day or a reduced rate of £150 for all 5 days during half term. Bookings and more info about the camp can be found here: <https://www.sportystars.co.uk/topsham/>

Or, please feel free to get in touch with Danny directly on danny@sportystars.co.uk or 07514938066.

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

County Lines and Coronavirus: What to look out for and how to get help

County Lines (also known as dangerous drug networks) refers to the transportation and supply of drugs from larger towns and cities to market towns, rural and suburban locations. County Lines is a harmful criminal activity and its victims may be especially isolated and hidden from view during the coronavirus pandemic. However, help and support is available for victims of County Lines.

There is increasing evidence that drug gangs are using threats of violence and intimidation to persuade vulnerable adults to transport and sell drugs and are using their property for criminal activities (known as cuckooing).

ARE YOU?

- receiving an excessive amount of texts or phone calls
- having threats made to hurt you, a pet or someone that is important to you
- being physically hurt, intimidated or made to feel frightened
- having people calling at your address - often at unsociable hours - and not leaving when you ask them to
- being given a phone or drugs or other things to look after or hide

These are potential indicators of County Lines exploitation

Cuckooing is when someone you don't know takes over your home and uses it as a place to sell, supply or store drugs. These people may invite other people to stay in your home without asking you, or they may bully and threaten you to leave your home.

You are more at risk of being exploited by county lines gangs and 'cuckooing' if:

- you use drugs
- are in financial difficulty
- have mental health problems
- or have a learning disability or autistic spectrum disorder

HELP AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE

If you are concerned about your own or someone else's safety or welfare you can report your concerns by calling Care Direct on 0345 1551 007 or emailing csc.caredirect@devon.gov.uk

If you report a concern you will be listened to and your concerns will be taken seriously.

Call the police on 101 if you suspect County Lines, or 999 if there is an immediate risk of harm.





Weekly Class News

Little Acorns

The Little Acorns have certainly been busy bees this week! In maths, we have been looking at representing our numbers to 5, using both concrete manipulatives and our fingers. In Literacy, we have continued our journey with Baby Bear into space, as we learn to sequence key elements of the story and its language. In Phonics, we have been looking at the phoneme 'a' and thinking about different things that start with this sound. We have even learned the Jolly Phonics song to go with this - all about ants! I am sure your little ones would love to perform this for you. As the sun has made a bit of an appearance this week, we have been outside on our scooters, bikes and space hoppers getting some much needed physical exercise. Overall, a busy but fantastic week! Well done little ones.

Big Acorns

Wow Big Acorns, what an amazing week! You have all shown such wonderful perseverance as you have tackled all of our new focus jobs this week. We have been very pleased with your writing as you have continued to work on your sentence structure but have also been trying to add descriptive words to your work. You are also showing us how well you are concentrating and working on your phonics, as we are seeing so many of your phonemes in your writing now. It has been brilliant to see how confidently you have recorded your one and two more work in your maths and how you are able to explain what is happening. Well done for also listening to each other so well, you are really learning well from one another. Well done our Shining Superstars!

Year 1

Year 1 are really getting into the swing of things. This week, we've had the highest engagement so far with home learning with almost all work submitted on time (Wednesday especially)! We've been really impressed by everyone's motivation.

Children in Year 1, you are challenging yourselves, being resilient and showing great independence. You know what it is to be a good learner and you are trying to show your learning powers every day.

As part of mental health awareness week, we've also spent some time chatting about things which are special to us and reconnecting with our friends on google classroom.

Year 2

This week Year 2 have been VERY busy writing fantastic fact files about a huge array of animals...from cats to koalas, you name it, they know about it! This has required them to be resilient, organised, motivated and resourceful. Well done Year 2, your fact files are awesome! In Maths you have been putting your knowledge of Place Value to the test with tricky missing number patterns (that even challenged Mr Whitehead!), extra spicy number lines and word problems to get your head around. Yet another fantastic week of learning - keep up the great work!

Year 3

This week Year 3 have been on a trip to the Amazon Rainforest. I am so proud of the way that they have all challenged themselves with their writing, with lots of amazing ninja vocabulary and capital letters for proper nouns. Maths this week has all been about making links, perseverance and practising, practising, practising our times tables! Our reading journals are really coming on, with lots of brilliant front covers and some really thoughtful questions for our favourite authors. Well done Year 3 for another brilliant week!

Year 4

Another great week in Year 4! You have taken on some tricky maths and started to dig a little deeper to explain what happens with numbers and why. We are incredibly impressed with the literacy this week- such carefully written postcards with really clear presentation. But what we have really noticed is how well all the children, at home and in school, are using their learning from previous days and weeks, especially their ninja vocabulary, to build on their writing and make progress. You should all be really proud of yourselves for all of your hard work this week!

Year 5

Another fantastic week Year 5. I have been so impressed with how you have completed your two pieces of independent work this week and how carefully you have followed instructions. I know that you will have called on some of your Learning Powers to help you too. You have all worked so hard on this and the weekend will be a well-deserved rest for you all! Again, I am so pleased that you are continuing to try your hardest with your Home Learning and remaining focused on this, throughout the week. Thanks for all your contributions during our live sessions, and for starting to share the books you are reading at home. It has been lovely to see your enthusiasm when you are talking about your books, as well as giving recommendations to others. I look forward to hearing about and seeing your books in our afternoon sessions next week too. Have a fantastic weekend and lots of fresh air. 😊

Year 6

Year 6, I am so proud of you for the motivation and commitment towards your learning that you have shown this week. We talked a lot about independence during our end of day meets and I am so impressed with the way that you have shown this with your home learning. You are working so hard on your learning- it is this fantastic attitude that will help you to make progress. Well done, Year 6! Keep it up!



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

