

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 2nd February 2024

FSM & PUPIL PREMIUM

Have your circumstances changed recently? If so, have you applied for Pupil Premium and Free School Meals?

The benefits of Free School Meals & Pupil Premium

FSM & Pupil Premium attract many benefits for families, including supermarket vouchers for school holidays and access to funded places on the Devon Holiday Activity & Food Programme (HAF).

Financial support for your child at school

The school receives extra funding to be able to support your child. We can use this funding to help families with expenses for things like school reduced price trips, residentials and music lessons.

Apply for FSM to be automatically eligible for Pupil Premium

Parents must apply through the Citizen Portal on the Devon County Council website:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/administration-and-finance/administration/free-school-meals/>

The application is quick and easy and will result in you getting an instant decision. Children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 must still apply to secure Free School Meals up to the end of Year 6. *Even if your child is in R, Y1 or Y2 and has universal free school meals, you still need to apply for Pupil Premium to receive all other benefits, and to continue to receive FSM after Y2.*

Eligibility

If you are in receipt of any of the benefits listed, your child may qualify for FSM & Pupil Premium

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods).
- Income Support (IS).
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA).
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (IRESA).
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income that does not exceed £16,190).
- Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).

Years 3 and 4 Dental Visit

On Monday Years 3 & 4 enjoyed a fun and very informative talk about dental health from the Dental Health Team. The children found out all about teeth and how to look after them.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy week, with two exciting experiences. First, we went to Watermeadow Grange and shared some of our WW2 work with the residents. We were also lucky enough to hear about their experiences during the war. One of the residents told us about their school playground being used for air-raid shelters! Thank you to Miss Greygoose for organising and Mrs Follet for accompanying Mr Elliott and well done to all the children for their curiosity and their questions.

We have also had Julia from the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue team to come and speak to the children about fire safety. They were so engaged and knew a lot already, which was reassuring!



Cancelling lunches

Please can we remind parents that if your child is absent from school and you wish to cancel a booking for school dinners, you need to let us know this at the time of reporting their absence. School dinners are provided by an external kitchen and we need to be notified of any cancellations or amendments by 8.15am when numbers are submitted to the kitchen.



The Topsham School joining the United Schools Federation

Don't forget that the governors are holding a meeting at school on Wednesday 7th February at 6pm, to outline the factors contributing to their decision of federating. Martin Harding, The Executive Head of the federation, and Maria White will be present to help answer any questions you might have.

Achievers

As a school, we promote positive behaviour and we have numerous incentives to support this. The recipients of last week's achiever awards are listed below:

Achiever Awards:

Big Acorns Joey and Boden

Year 1 Elliot

Year 2 Caitlin and Joel

Year 3 Felicity and George

Year 4 Laurie and Alina

Year 5 Jaidan and Cora

Year 6 Aaron and Florence

Winning House:



School Leader's Choice Awards:

KS1 Millie

KS2 Charlie and Dashen



SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Leads and Contact Information

Miss Maria White: Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher.

For any urgent safeguarding matters please email:

safeguarding@topsham.devon.sch.uk. Please do not use this email for any other matters apart from safeguarding.



Our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Amanda Lacey, Headteacher.

Safeguarding our children will always be a priority for everyone in the school. All staff are trained in how to keep children safe and alongside this we have our safeguarding team.

Anyone of our staff can be contacted in relation to Safeguarding.

Level 3 trained staff are qualified to the same level as the Safeguarding Leads. In our school this includes our Admin Team and Miss Greygoose. Again, their details are on our website.

Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S business and we will always do our very best to keep our children safe.

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.*

PTA NEWS

Thank you for everyone that has contributed and/or was present in this week's PTA meeting. Check out some of our plans...

Christmas Bazaar - Finances

Thanks to all volunteers (from the amazing Food, Bar and Cafe team, Santa's Grotto magical team to awesome parents on every stall and supportive school staff), sponsors and families that enjoyed 2023 Christmas Bazaar, we have managed to raise around £2100.00. But also, a lot of fun games, good music, tasty food, hot choc and cocktails. Well done!

Pancake Flip Challenge 2024...

... will be launched today and you will receive an email with all the information. How many flips of a pancake can the students complete in 1 minute? On Friday 9th February, each class will hold a timed pancake flip challenge. The most successful 'flipper' from each class will win a prize. We would like the students to ask friends and family to sponsor them in this challenge. Last year we raised an amazing amount of money to buy new gardening equipment for the school and a lot of fun was had by staff and students! This year all money raised will go towards buying new Science equipment for our school.

Sponsorship can be via cash (you will find Sponsorship forms in the green rack in the foyer by the School Office);

Bank transfer: The Friends of The Topsham School. Sort Code 30-93-14. Account n. 02699047.

Ref: pancake flip

Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/pancakeflipchallenge2024>

The Silent Auction and Quiz Night...

... are coming up later in March. We are still accepting donations for Silent Auction lots. If you are a business owner or have a local business contact who is able to offer a lot, it will be gratefully received! And it's a great way to promote a local business! Or you can get creative and offer a service, such as babysitting, gardening, or ironing... Please let us know by email, message or via your Year Rep. The auction will end on Friday 22nd March, which is our annual quiz night. This year's theme is World Book Quiz Night. Start gathering a team, arrange childcare for that night, think about your costume. We are adding a special feature this year, bring a book of your costume and exchange it with another participant! We cannot wait to the funnier night in The Topsham School. (What happens in the Quiz Night, stays in the Quiz Night!)

Next PTA meeting

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 14th March, 8pm online (via Zoom).



Date	Event
Monday 5 th February	Year 6 Visit to Watermeadow Grange (am)
Tuesday 6 th February	Vision Screening for children in Big Acorns
Wednesday 7 th February	Years 5 and 6 Trip to RAMM Museum in Exeter
Wednesday 7 th February	Meeting regarding Topsham School joining the United Schools Federation at 6.00pm
Friday 9 th February	Pancake Flip Challenge
Friday 9 th February	Break up for half-term (3.30pm finish)
Monday 19 th February	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 20 th February	Children return to school after half-term
Friday 1 st March	Second group of Year 5 children climbing at Exeter Quay Climbing Centre pm
Monday 11 th March	Year 1 Trip to West Town Farm
Tuesday 12 th March	Year 2 Trip to West Town Farm
Tuesday 12 th March	Years 3 and 4 trip to The Box in Plymouth
Thursday 14 th March	PTA Meeting at 8pm via Zoom
Friday 22 nd March	PTA Quiz Night
Friday 22 nd March	End of the Silent Auction
Thursday 28 th March	Break up for Easter Holiday (school finishes at 2.30pm and Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm)
Monday 15 th April	Return to school after Easter Holidays
Monday 6 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Friday 24 th May	Break up for half-term (3.30pm finish)
Monday 3 rd June	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 4 th June	Children return to school after half-term
Wednesday 24 th July	Break up for Summer Holiday (school finishes at 2.30pm and Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm)