

The Topsham School

Newsletter 21



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 23rd February 2024

Special Edition Newsletter

We have some very exciting things to tell you about for this half term, and some important dates for your diaries...

Science Week and Topsham Science Fair

Science Week: Wednesday 20th - Wednesday 27th March

As part of our science week, we would like to **invite all our parents, carers, grandparents and family to: [The Topsham School Science Fair](#) on [Wednesday 27th March at 3.30pm](#)**

The whole school will be joining together for a week of all things science, exploring the role that enquiry plays in the subject, and investigating what science means to all of us throughout our community.

We will have a range of learning going on in the school, with lots of opportunities for hands-on investigation and exploration, visitors, specialists and parents getting involved and, very excitingly, we will be building towards a celebration Science Fair at the end of the week.



Our Science Fair will be a celebration of all of the learning that the children have done in the week and an exciting range of display and hands-on science for our children to share with you. Please put this date in your diary!

Reading at The Topsham School

We are delighted to introduce two brand new reading incentives here at The Topsham School. We believe that cultivating a love for reading is crucial for your child's development, and these initiatives aim to further encourage and celebrate their progress.

Reading for Pleasure Tote Bags

From Reception all the way up to Year 6, each class now has three dedicated reading tote bags. These bags are filled with a different book type (fiction, non-fiction, poetry), along with supplementary items like sketch pencils, notepads, watercolours and even a hot chocolate sachet! The intention is to promote a love of reading for pleasure as well as a shared reading experience.

Every Wednesday, three different children in every class will receive one of these fabulous tote bags to take home. We kindly request all bags to be returned on the following Monday to ensure everyone benefits from this fantastic resource. The bags will be rotated regularly throughout the class, so each student will have the opportunity to explore a range of different books and activities.

We hope that these tote bags will contribute to enjoyable reading moments at home and help foster a lifelong love of literature.

Badges for Reading Achievements

As an additional incentive, we have implemented a badge system to recognise and celebrate our students' reading accomplishments. Each year group participating in our accelerated reader program will have a specific target number of words. When your child reaches their target, they will be awarded a special target badge as a token of their reading success.

Moreover, we will be presenting badges to students who reach significant milestones, such as 500,000, 1 million, 1.5 million, 2 million, and 3 million words. These badges serve as a symbol of their dedication and commitment to reading.

Without the support of our PTA these exciting new reading opportunities would not be possible. A huge thank you to all of those involved in the PTA for making this happen.



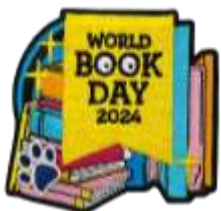
Year 3 and 4 Comic-Con **Wednesday 20th March at 3.00pm**

Calling all parents and carers of Year 3 and 4

You will have read our letter about our Topsham Comic-Con. Please join the classes to celebrate the children's work this term on their Art and Design topic: *Superheroes: Not All Heroes Wear Capes*.



World Book Day - Thursday 7th March



Don't forget that we will be celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 7th March. A letter has previously been communicated, which explained how we will be spending the day. Here is a summary of how we will be celebrating this event:

- Come to school dressed as your favourite book character. We encourage these costumes to be handmade or second-hand.
- "The Great Brown Paper Book Swap." If possible, please bring a book swap. Books should be wrapped in brown paper/newspaper and marked with the age that the book is appropriate for. Also try to include some illustrated clues about the book.
- Every child will receive a £1 book token.

Comic Relief – Friday 15th March

It is almost time to get **REDDY** for the biannual celebrations for **Comic Relief** will soon be here!



We will be celebrating Comic Relief by;

- Wearing Red-to-Toe (as much red from head to toe as possible)
- Wearing a red nose **if we wish to**
- Taking part in a Community Crack Up by sharing some of our best jokes with members of the community
- Hosting a red themed bake sale after school. If you are able to donate any cakes, we would greatly appreciate it. We highly rely on these donations, so please do get those aprons on! But please remember: no nuts.

Donations of 50p/£1 to the cause would be kindly received.

Achievers

As a school, we promote positive behaviour and we have numerous incentives to support this. The recipients of our half-termly achiever awards are listed below:

Achiever Awards:

Big Acorns Hollie
Year 1 Astrid
Year 2 Elena
Year 3 Octavia
Year 4 Elena
Year 5 Dashen
Year 6 Charli



School Leader Awards:

KS1 Cole
KS2 Florence and Elowen

Pancake Flip Winners:



Big Acorns Hollie (26)
Year 1 Joel (30)
Year 2 Fynley (39)
Year 3 Fred (57)
Year 4 Ned (90)
Year 5 Isaac (77)
Year 6 Jowan (89)

Winning House:



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.*

Mental Health Support Team (MHST)



It has been fabulous having the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) working within our school this year, if you are not sure what they do or who they are please see the introduction below as there has recently been a change of face.

Look out also in next week's newsletter for a coffee morning date where you will be able to find out more about the MHST.



Hello,

We are (from left) – Charlotte Strawford (Trainee Specialist Supervisor and Practitioner), Lauren Pellow (Education Mental Health Practitioner - EMHP for short), and Amelia Scott (EMHP). We work with a number of schools across Exeter, including Topsham Primary. We are part of the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) for schools as part of Children & Family Health Devon. We thought we'd reintroduce ourselves due to having some staff changes!

We deliver evidence based one to one and group interventions for young people who need extra support for mild to moderate anxiety or low mood. We also work with staff and whole classes delivering workshops and training around mental health. Please watch our short video to learn more: <https://youtu.be/NqnEoi58-5E>

We look forward to working with Topsham primary to support and promote the emotional wellbeing of your school's community.

PTA News



TODAY – Bake Sale

Year 2 parents are organising this Friday Bake Sale at the usual time and location. At collection, bring some change (card/contactless payments are also accepted) and enjoy the treats!

Pancake Flip Sponsorship Money

Congratulations to all of the students on their fantastic flipping! Hopefully we can raise lots of money for new Science equipment. All sponsorship money needs to be handed in by Friday 1st March – either in an envelope handed in the School Office or via online payment

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/pancakeflipchallenge2024>

Quiz Night and Silent Auction

We are still gathering donations for the silent auction so please do get in touch if you have a 'lot' to offer. This is a great opportunity to generate interest in a local business, but we also love 'out of the box' thinking – could you offer up your DIY skills, loan out a kayak? The silent auction ends during the quiz night on Friday 22nd March. We couldn't be more excited about this World Book Night themed quiz, so please save the date and start organising your team!

Next PTA Meeting

Our next meeting will be online, via Zoom, on Thursday 14th March at 8.00pm. Everyone is more than welcome.



Date	Event
Friday 23 rd February	Year 2 Cake Sale
Friday 1 st March	Second group of Year 5 children climbing at Exeter Quay Climbing Centre pm
Saturday 2 nd March	Choir members taking part in Exeter Cathedral Outreach Programme Concert
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day
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 15 th March	Comic Relief
Tuesday 19 th March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 20 th March	Year 3/4 Comic Con at 3.00pm
Wednesday 20 th - Wednesday 27 th March	Science Week
Thursday 21 st March	Parents' Evening
Friday 22 nd March	PTA Quiz Night
Friday 22 nd March	End of the Silent Auction
Wednesday 27 th March	Science Fair 3.30pm
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
Tuesday 2 nd July	Year 4 Day Trip to Exmouth – Water sports
Wednesday 3 rd July to Thursday 4 th July	Year 4 overnight stay at Sid Vale Scout Hut
Wednesday 24 th July	Break up for Summer Holiday (school finishes at 2.30pm and Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm)