

The Topsham School

Newsletter 23



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 12th March 2021



It has been so brilliant to have all our children back with us again. A school is not a school without the children. To see each classroom filled with children busy learning and see each playground at playtime and lunchtime filled with children running, jumping, chatting, playing and laughing is the best thing ever.

It still feels different, there are still things we can't do that allow us to be altogether but at least we are now together in the building, under the same roof, it's a start to the next stage and it's so welcome.

I know, like you, that we aren't there yet. I know that our children are all completely unique individuals, and some will feel incredibly happy to be in school and feel able to adapt easily back into their friendships and school routines while others will have times of feeling 'wobbly' as they reconnect with others and get used to the structure of school again. However, they will. They will all succeed at being back in school because they are social beings and have the core skills, they need to work through any challenges they face; sometimes they just need some help to uncover those skills. And that is our job, and we will do all we can to support all our children to flourish adjust and thrive. They remain our priority and I know, as parents, they will always, ALWAYS be yours.

It always amazes me that no matter what our children face, they can find a way through. I have seen it this week. Even though we continue to be in a pandemic, children remain children with their joy and imagination and just being around them can bring smiles and laughter.

While in the hall on Tuesday, I was chatting with some children in Year 1 and one child said, "Mrs Pipe you are in charge of the whole school aren't you" and I said yes in some ways I am, but I also have lots of people who help me. Another child said, "Yes, you tell people what to do and they have to do it." The other child looked straight at me and said, "So do you then go into your office and eat sweets all day because you have nothing to do?" I started laughing and so did they. I asked if they thought I did do this, and they said no but it was OK for me to eat sweets on the weekend- good advice.

As I met with my Finance Officer yesterday, we couldn't help but laugh out loud as we watched some Year 4s totally immersed in their play and one shouting, right outside the window, "Wait, pass me my jet pack" and then sped off across the playground. Brilliant!

Today I was fortunate enough to be in Key Stage 2 where children were reading and as I stopped to talk to some of them, one child just quietly reached out to hold my hand. It felt like a gift and one they would have no awareness they had given me, their warm hand in mine.

We are so happy our children are back with us.

Take care of each other,

Mrs Pipe



I would like to thank all the parents/carers whose children worked completely remotely during Lockdown 3, who joined myself and Miss White on our Google Meets. Thank you for your feedback, we really do appreciate it.

If you are a parent/carer of a child who worked totally remotely and were unable to attend our virtual face to face feedback sessions and wish to share your experience, then please email me directly. We would like to hear about the

positives in relation to our remote learning provision and also the areas could we develop further or changes could we consider.



Due to CV restrictions, we are needing to continue to keep our KS1 children in their separate class pods during playtime and lunchtime. We have two identified play areas and one of these is an area that requires some small world play equipment such as dolls houses, farm sets, train track, duplo, lego, dinosaurs etc anything that is plastic, can be safely sterilised and supports imaginative play. If you have anything you are able to donate, please can you email kwhitehead@topsham.devon.sch.uk and we will organise a time to drop things to the school.

Thanks so much. 😊

SAFEGUARDING



**National
Online
Safety®**

Online Safety

A leaflet entitled 'What Parents need to know about WhatsApp' 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 WeChat, 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>

Reporting Absences



Reporting Absences

Please can we remind parents that in line with our school attendance policy, if your child is unable to attend school, you MUST contact us to inform us by 8.55am. You can email admin@topsham.devon.sch.uk or phone us on 01392 874498 and leave a message on the absence mailbox. Please provide a clear reason for the absence and if your child is unwell, please give details of their active symptoms.

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



Booking School Dinners

We would like to remind parents that if your child requires a school meal, this needs to be booked online via Schoolcomms **by 8.15am** on the day. Bookings can be made up to the end of the Spring Term. The menu can be viewed on our school website. <http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk/school-lunch.html>



Weekly Class News

Little Acorns

Well done Little Acorns for another wonderful week of learning with all of your friends. You are turning into fantastic story tellers and are joining in with our new focus story 'Dear Zoo' very well, remembering the key events and why the animals needed to be sent back. You have enjoyed all of our number songs this week and have really explored our number line and Numicon well as we have related these to our early subtraction. Thank you for sharing all of your building ideas, in both the indoor and outdoor construction areas, we certainly have some master bridge builders amongst us and your cooperation, as you make your creations, has been wonderful to observe. A fantastic week Little Acorns, well done!

Big Acorns

It has been so lovely to have our Big Acorns all back in school together this week. The Foundation Stage Unit has certainly been a very busy and happy place to be! When we came into school on Monday, you were all so pleased to see each other and set about your learning with real enthusiasm and engagement. As we have worked together to develop our subtraction knowledge, you have shown us just how well you learn from each and your willingness and confidence to share your ideas. You are learning our new focus story 'Dear Zoo' very well and we are really looking forward to seeing you develop your story telling and how you then use this in your writing over the coming weeks. Well done Big Acorns, a brilliant week!

Year 1

Year 1 have bounced back from lockdown fantastically. The children have been so excited to be reunited but have also been keeping up with their learning and showing just how much they learned during the last few months! We've been blown away by their independence and adaptability this week. Well done Year 1 and welcome back. We've missed you!

Year 2

It has been so wonderful to welcome you all back to school this week Year 2. You have taken returning to school within your stride, with smiles on your faces and an immeasurable amount of energy! On Monday we practised working as a team again, reminding ourselves how to communicate effectively, ask questions, listen carefully and share ideas. Who knew putting a bamboo stick on the floor was so difficult?! You shared your feelings regarding lockdown and returning to school; all of you now saying you felt happy (ecstatic in fact!) to be back. I am so impressed by how easily you have slipped back into routines and shifted into 'school mode' once again. Well done Year 2!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a brilliant first week back, spring was in the air and the classroom has been buzzing with happy chatter and busy learners. We've been reacquainting ourselves with some fractions in Maths, culminating in a tricky chocolate themed Maths problem. In Literacy we took ourselves on a lovely virtual tour down the River Exe, to help launch our new literacy text, a poem called 'A River' by Marc Martin. We've also been busy planting sunflowers as part of our plan to brighten up our outside area. It's been so lovely to have everyone back!

Year 4

Well done Year 4! What a fantastic return to class. Everyone has worked incredibly hard and, what has been wonderful to see is how much you have all learnt and remembered from your remote learning, and brought back into your learning in the classroom. We are really impressed with this attitude and focus from most of you and look forward to building on this for the rest of the term.

Year 5

What an amazing week back in school! You have settled back in so well and it is lovely to see everyone back together again. Thank you for all your hard work and effort and how determined you have been to try your very best. I have really enjoyed working with you and can't wait to carry on with our Literacy work next week.

Year 6

It has been fantastic to have Year 6 back together in the classroom this week. They have worked incredibly hard to solve some very tricky fraction problems, using their home learning to help them. All of the children worked with their partner to create a beautiful paper daffodil, which has made the classroom look bright and colourful. Well done for a fantastic week, Year 6! Enjoy your weekend - fingers crossed for less rain!



PTA NEWS

For obvious reasons there's not a lot to say right now, but we wanted to express huge thanks to those families that, knowing we were collecting funds to help the school buy iPads so that other families could access remote learning during the most recent lockdown, donated money directly to the PTA's bank account. You are legends!

Look out for an invitation to a Zoom PTA meeting in next week's newsletter and via the usual channels. We'll be discussing ways to run a Covid-safe event in the second half of this term. Please join us!



Date	Event
Thursday 1 st April	Break up for Easter Holiday
Monday 19 th April	Return to school after Easter Holiday
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Friday 28 th May	Break up for Half-Term
Monday 7 th June	Return to school after Half-Term
Friday 23 rd July	Break up for Summer Holiday