

The Topsham School

Newsletter 24



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 19th March 2021



This week I actually had a face-to-face assembly! It was very different, of course, as we still need to adhere to all the CV19 regulations, so I had to do three assemblies instead of one but it was worth it to just 'see' the children altogether. We had to ensure the two classes that attended each assembly remained well apart, with the external hall doors wide open and with these two conditions in place we managed it.

The children, like me, were just so excited to see each other, to be in the hall and to be together; it felt a little more 'normal'. We spoke about Lockdown and what had been difficult during this time, and we talked about our emotional responses to the time we had to spend apart.

We then spoke about what they were excited about or felt good about being back in school. It was so lovely to hear from them.

The things they spoke about included:

- excited to see friends and not just see them, but see them face to face not on a screen
- excited to see EVERYONE in their class all at the same time, all face to face and all day not just for moments in the morning or end of day
- liking to hear everyone's opinions not just hearing from the other children who had been in the pod all Lockdown
- liking the fact their learning partner was right next to them now and they could talk to each other about their learning and help each other if they needed to
- being able to do their learning straight away and not have to wait for their brother, sister, mum or dad to be finished on a device
- home being home not home/school. Home just being the place where they could be themselves with their families
- excited to see their teachers and have them teaching them face to face
- being able to focus on their learning in school and not be distracted by younger siblings- they said they loved their little brothers and sisters a lot but at times it had been hard work 😊
- space to play outside and being able to go outside and play throughout the day and play with their friends. Playing games that included LOTS of people was fun

- having other children to talk to and lots of other children to talk to
- doing 'normal' learning in school- it felt like it had before Lockdown and that felt good

And it really does. We are not there yet, but to have the children back and to be able to talk to them in this way was a delight. Teachers, and Headteachers, do the job we do because we care about children. We do it because we want the very best for them and want them to learn and enjoy learning, to make the most progress they can and feel safe and secure to take risks and become the best they can be. It really is so great to have them back.

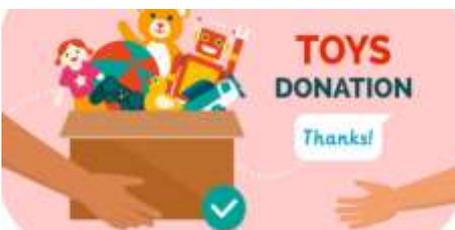
Have a good weekend

Mrs Pipe



The school is not situated on a private road and we all need to be mindful and considerate of those people who live around the school, many of whom are elderly and during this time will be feeling very vulnerable. Yesterday after school I was saddened to see that two elderly ladies were forced to walk in the middle of the road as there was no space for them to safely walk along the pavements and maintain the social distancing they were trying to adhere to. No one moved to ensure they did not have to do this; I am not sure if anyone even saw them.

These ladies live in our immediate community and as such each one of us should be showing them the care and respect they deserve. It is also very important for the school's standing in the community that we are seen to be showing care and consideration for others who live in Topsham. Please can we all try and keep this in mind. Thank you.



Toy Donations

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 before the Easter holidays.

Thank you so much. 😊

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



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

What 'Busy Bees' you have all been this week. We have all been really impressed with the way in which you have been working together and showing us your amazing cooperation skills. From building circuits for the cars, to exploring the water and capacity resources and retelling our Dear Zoo story, you have all been so engaged and involved in your learning. It is also so wonderful to see how you are all talking and listening to each other so well and sharing your observations of both your own and your friends learning. Well done for such a happy and busy week Little Acorns.

Big Acorns

Wow Big Acorns! What amazing story tellers you are all becoming as you recall our Dear Zoo with our new actions and the help of our story map. It has been wonderful to see how you have then applied this to your learning in class, creating lots of wonderful writing and pictures linked to the story. As we have started our capacity work, you have also shown just how good you are at describing and exploring whilst you learn. It is always fantastic to see how you are really sharing your understanding and learning with each other, this has been particularly true as we have observed the tadpoles that arrived in the unit this week. Well done for a really fantastic and busy week Big Acorns.

Year 1

Year 1 have had great excitement this week with the arrival of our frogspawn from Syd's pond (thank you Syd). We have made fantastic use of our learning powers of noticing as we observed the different stages of development and drew pictures. Some of the eggs were even hatching as we watched!

Year 1 have also been using their learning powers of resilience and bouncing back during their assessment tasks. On Tuesday we had a super PSHE Jigsaw session exploring what skills are needed to work well with a partner, this involved collaborating to choose a shared goal and create a poster showing this. Well done Year 1!

Year 2

A busy week of learning Year 2 - from confusing possessive apostrophes to multiplication madness! Yet again you have shown excellent use of your learning powers, especially when working within 'the pit'. You have continued to impress us with your eagerness to learn and ability to bounce back. This week you have impressed Miss Pavitt with your making links and noticing during your maths lessons where you have had to look closely at repeated addition, grouping and arrays! Next week...division! Furthermore, you have been particularly reflective during our internet safety lessons, thinking carefully about how sometimes what we write doesn't always come across in the way we mean it. Keep it up Year 2!

Year 3

Another busy week in Year 3. This week's literacy has all been about verbs - acting them out, finding new verbs and picking really effective verbs to match the movement and sounds of rainforest animals. We even got to do some detective work, spotting tricky adjectives and even the odd noun that can disguise themselves as verbs! We have also been enjoying sharing lots of great jokes as we warm up for our Red Nose Day and sharing plenty of smiles as we focused on helping each other to have happy playtimes.

Year 4

Year 4 have had a really productive week across the curriculum this week. We have been focused on proving aspects of our maths thinking and diver deeper in to our poem for literacy: The River. Over the weekend, see if you can find and share some poems before we look closer at a range of poems next week. We have also begun posters for the Topsham Garden Society Flower Show- we know some children have produced beautiful posters at home already! We will be finishing these next week.

Year 5

We have been doing our Spring Term assessments this week, and Year 5 have all worked incredibly hard on these. At the end of last week, the children made a beautiful flower and wrote some poetry about spring, which is displayed in our classroom. It has certainly cheered our room up and the children's creativity is amazing. Well done Year 5 for another great week back in school.

Year 6

This week, the Year 6 children have shown brilliant collaboration. They have produced fantastic, informative posters on lots of the skills that they have been learning in Literacy. Take a look at the class stream on Google Classroom to see some pictures of the children's brilliant work, which is now on display. The children have also shown perseverance during Maths and Literacy. They have been learning about multiplying fractions and reported speech. Well done, Year 6! Have a great weekend!

PTA NEWS



Meeting next week – Tuesday 23rd March, 8pm, via Zoom

If you can make it, please join us via Zoom for the first (and last) PTA meeting of this term. We'll be discussing possible socially-distanced events for next term – good ideas are already rolling in, but yours is going to be the best, so you'd probably better come along and explain it. Thank you.

Here are the meeting details:

Topic: PTA meeting

Time: Mar 23, 2021 08:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85381453045?pwd=eUVtNVVmYWtjZnlRL2g3M0IvaDJxdz09>

Meeting ID: 853 8145 3045

Passcode: 417342

It should be quite a quick one! Promise!



Date	Event
Friday 19 th March	Red Nose Day
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