

The Topsham School

Newsletter 27

Inspiring Excellence in Everyone.

Tel: 01392 874498 Website: www.topsham.devon.sch.uk



Thursday 26th April 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a good first week back at school, the children have returned settled and focused on their learning. They have enjoyed being able to get out on the field at break and lunchtimes and it has been great to see the children of all ages making the most of the lovely field and outside space we have at school and playing so well together.

Key Dates

These have been updated at the end of the newsletter, sports day, the swimming gala and the like are all included. As you can see, this is a very busy term with lots going on, so don't forget there is an online calendar on the website, which you can also sync with your own electronic calendars so that you can keep informed. Simply look online for the instructions explaining how to merge our Tockify calendar with whatever electronic version you might use.



Parking at The Nelson – in case you missed it last week

Parents may be aware that the opportunity to park at The Nelson Pub was withdrawn some time ago, due to inconsiderate parking and some rudeness by parents towards the Landlords. Thanks to Jane at the PTA who has spoken this week to the new Landlords, they have agreed that parking **can resume in the mornings** but cars need to be by **9:15am**. Can I remind parents that the opportunity to use the car park is at the goodwill of the Landlord, it would be great **to build a positive relationship** with them for the benefit of everyone, popping in for a drink in the evening maybe. When you pop in, let them know you are a parent of the school. They will shortly be offering morning coffee once the refurbishments have been completed and if parents could show some support that would be great. They will review the situation again at half term.



Curriculum Booklets

Coming home this week are the curriculum booklets and we hope that these give you an insight into the curriculum and learning for the coming term. They can also be found on the website along with lots of other useful documents. Under the parents section, you can find advice on hearing your child read, keeping safe online and how to help your child with maths or spelling. For younger children, parents might want to take a look at the phonics section of the website that has a link to a host of games and activities for children to undertake.



Bikes and Scooters

Would parents kindly remind children to push bikes and scooters once they enter the main pedestrian gates in order to avoid accidents, particularly as there are lots of younger children around in school.

Keeping Safe Online

**ONLINE
SAFETY**



Helpful tools and advice you can use to keep your child safe when they use the internet at home, at a friend's house or at school.

The internet is great for learning, sharing, connecting and creating. So try and balance how you guide your child on online safety with an understanding of why they want to use it. You don't want your child to feel they can't come to you if they encounter a problem online.



Set rules and agree boundaries as a family

- ✓ Set boundaries for how long your child can spend online and what they can do.
- ✓ Agree this as a family so that access to devices can be shared fairly.
- ✓ Remember there are tools that can help you manage and monitor access and use across all devices.

Talk about online safety and get involved

- ✓ Have conversations about online safety little and often and build it into other conversations.
- ✓ Ask questions about what they do online, such as what sites they visit and who they talk to.
- ✓ Make the use of the internet a family activity.
- ✓ Remember to share these rules with babysitters, childminders and other family members.



- ✓ Talk to other parents about internet use, such as what they do and don't allow.

Netball and Football

Last Friday, we hosted both a netball and football match at school against Gatehouse. Both teams did fantastically and Mr Martin and Miss White were really impressed by the positive attitudes and teamwork displayed. The school is going to be involved in several other competitive matches and festivals during the summer term.

Word of the Week

Vocabulary Ninja – *words unlock the doors to a world of understanding.*



Hopefully you have spotted on the board coming into school that this week's word is '*tedious.*'

Great writers use a range of words in their writing with precision and for impact. Great readers are able to explain the meanings of words and know about the subtle impact they can make on the reader. Below are some ideas of things to do;

- ✓ **Challenge your child to use the word correctly in a spoken sentence.**
- ✓ **Look up the word in the dictionary, does it have more than one meaning?**
- ✓ **Challenge older children to use the word in their writing.**
- ✓ **Look out for the word in your reading book.**
- ✓ **Help your child to remember how to spell the word – look for words in the word, break it into memorable chunks.**
- ✓ **Try making up a new sentence each day using the word.**
- ✓ **Make up a silly sentence using the word to help your child remember the words**

As always, if you have any worries or concerns then class teachers are always happy to help, just pop in for a chat. Alternatively I am at the front of the school most mornings, so just have a chat or share good news with me about you and your family. For more confidential matters, please speak to Jayne or Jenny in the office to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Sean Millar

Headteacher





| Key Dates | |
|--|--|
| Thursday 26 th April | PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale |
| Thursday 26 th April | Illustration Workshop – Rosie Johnson |
| Thursday 26 th April | PTA Meeting at The Nelson 8pm/247 |
| Friday 27 th April | Trip to WHSmith and Costa for AR Winners |
| Monday 7 th May | Bank Holiday – School Closed |
| Tuesday 8 th May | Y4 Warren Barn Residential Meeting 3.30pm |
| Thursday 10 th May | Class Photos am |
| Monday 14 th – Thursday 17 th May | Y6 SATs |
| Tuesday 15 th May | Meeting about the Y6 Dartmoor Residential 3.45pm |
| Tuesday 15 th May | Full Governors Meeting |
| Friday 18 th May | Acorns Cake Sale |
| Wednesday 23 rd May | Maypole Evening |
| Thursday 24 th May | Year 5 and 6 Rounders at St Luke's pm |
| Friday 25 th May | Break up for Half-term 3.30pm finish |
| Monday 4 th June | Return to school after Half-term |
| Monday 4 th June | KS2 Swimming Lessons start |
| Tuesday 5 th June | Year 5 and 6 Quad Kids Athletics at St Luke's |
| Wednesday 6 th June | Year 3 and 4 Tag Rugby Festival at St Luke's |
| Wednesday 6 th June | Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby Competition at St Luke's |
| w/b 11 th June | Y1 Phonics Screening |
| 13 th -15 th June | Y4 Warren Barn Residential |
| Thursday 28 th June | Year 5 and 6 High Five Netball Competition at St Luke's pm |
| Friday 29 th June | PTA Summer Fayre |
| Wednesday 4 th July | Sports Day |
| Thursday 5 th July | Class Swap Day |
| Thursday 5 th July | Transition Evening |
| Tuesday 12 th July | Full Governors Meeting |
| Friday 13 th July | Coastal Cafe |
| 16 th -20 th July | Year 6 Dartmoor Residential |
| Monday 23 rd July | House Party |
| Monday 23 rd July | Swimming Gala |
| Tuesday 24 th July | Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 2pm |
| Wednesday 25 th July | Break up for Summer Holiday 2.30pm finish |



PTA NEWS

Friends of

The Topsham School

The Topsham School PTA

Spring Ceilidh

Thank you SO much to everyone who helped organise, or came along to the ceilidh last Friday! We raised a whopping £600 for the school. Particular thanks to Alastair Mumford for his organisational efforts, and to Adrian Wynn and the band, Mrs Midnight's, for providing such brilliant entertainment.

Cake sales

Well done year 1, who raised £113.90 at their cake sale. It was so huge it spilled over from Friday into Monday! And great news that the year 2 cake sale proceeds have been spent on board games, such as Connect 4, and art supplies for their class. Advance warning that the last cake sale of the year, the Acorns (both Big and Little), will be on Friday 18th May. After that it'll be Ice Cream Fridays all the way!

Second-hand uniform sale – Thursday 26th April

The next second-hand uniform sale will be after school on Thursday. Save money by choosing quality pre-loved uniform and help the school at the same time.

The 100 Club needs you!

Have you joined? The letter telling you how came out with last week's newsletter. Please dig it out and take a look.

Next PTA meeting – Thursday 26th April

Please come along to the PTA meeting this Thursday. Absolutely everyone is welcome! It will be at 8pm at The Nelson. It would be great to have a good turn-out this month, to show the Nelson that we love them for allowing us to use their car park! We'll be discussing the summer fayre, so if you've got some great ideas for that, please pass them on either in person or by emailing TopshamPTA@outlook.com. Thanks!

FUN BIKE RACING FOR YOUNG RIDERS

With podiums, prizes and progression

HSBC UK
GO-RIDE RACING
BY BRITISH CYCLING



Muddy, Fun, Bike racing for kids age 4-16

Mincinglake Valley Park, Exeter, EX4 7DR
Sunday 29th April 2018 1.30-4.30pm
£3

Warm up & coaching at 1.30pm, racing from 2.30pm.
Prizes awarded at 4pm.

Refreshments and toilets at Sylvania community hall.

Run by Exeter Wheelers Academy For info, mail
academy@exeterwheelers.co.uk

To learn more about HSBC UK Go-Ride
Racing and find your nearest event, visit:
britishcycling.org.uk/go-rideracing



Drop-in Session

for young people

Visually Impaired?

Multi-Sensory Impaired (MSI)?

Deaf or deaf?

Hearing Impaired?

Deaf blind?

We'd like to talk to you about
sensory services in Devon.

What's important to you?

What's important for you?

Saturday 21st April

11am-2pm



Café 55/Providence Court

Northernhay Street, Exeter EX4 3ER

<http://devon.cc/sensory2018>

Contact lucy.j.brewer@devon.gov.uk

call/text- 07970 016 556

If you need this information in a different
format, please contact us.



**Devon Family
Resource**

Tuesdays from 1st May 12.30-3pm for 6 consecutive weeks: suitable for parents of children from birth to thirteen year's old. Venue TBC – will be central Exeter.

FREE Hand in Hand Parenting Course in partnership with Devon Family Resource @ ECI

More information about Hand in Hand here: <https://www.handinhandparenting.org>

"This course is life-changing, I wish everyone would be able to do it!"

"Thanks so much for the course - I thought your experience really showed with the very specific insights you were able to offer, and I really learnt a lot from you."

Join Roma Norris to connect with other parents, work on the specific challenges you face in your family and gain guidance and support. During this 6 week course you will discover how to...

- **Make changes to the automatic parenting responses that aren't working for you and your child;**
- **Listen to your child so that they feel connected and valued;**
- **Understand your child's emotions and what they are really asking for when they cry, have tantrums or display challenging behaviours, and how you can effectively respond;**
- **Set clear, effective limits with warmth;**
- **Resolve your child's fears;**
- **Help an angry child become playful and compassionate;**
- **Work on any issues around sleep/food/separation/school/siblings/aggression and more.**

You will also receive a course manual, booklets and the whole course online, in video segments from our amazing Founder Patty Wipfler, which you get to keep for 6 months: a great way to consolidate your learning and share with your partner!

Contact Sanchia Hylton-Smith, Manager of Devon Family Resource at Exeter Community Initiatives to book:

sanchia.hyltonsmith@eci.org.uk

07966 993198

