

The Topsham School

Newsletter 2

Inspiring Excellence in Everyone.

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



Thursday 20th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another busy week in school with the children really getting involved and stuck into their learning themes and topics.

Although I am missing having my own class, it has been great to hear the children talk so enthusiastically about their learning across the school. Just by tweaking the words, you might ask your child, 'What have you learnt today?' instead of, 'Have you had a good day?' This might give you a deeper, more fruitful response, rather than just getting the answer 'nothing'. Or perhaps that is just my son!

Active Devon

At the end of last term, Active Devon came into our school to look at the delivery of PE and school sport. They were very impressed by the coverage and content of our PE curriculum and how we are using our PE funding. As a result of their visit, they have produced some videos to exemplify how the sports funding can be used. If you would like to view the videos they can be accessed at <https://activedevon.org/partners/primary-pe-sport-premium/>

No Nuts!

Just a reminder that we have several children in school with nut allergies and we request that children do not bring nuts or foods containing nuts into school for snacks or at lunchtimes.

Boat

You may have noticed that the boat at the front of the school is now full of flowers. As inviting as it looks as a piece of play equipment, we have been advised that this is a potential health and safety risk, therefore we took the decision to make it into a flowerbed. We would ask that children keep off the boat from now on please. Many parents have commented on how nice it looks and we would like to say a big thank you to Jake Hester for providing the flowers and planting them.

Clubs

Some of our after school clubs are now up and running. Please check the clubs list carefully as dates and times for each club differ. The clubs list is available on the school website. Children must sign up through SchoolComms so that we have an accurate register of those children attending as well as collection arrangements. We still have places in the following clubs: KS2 Netball, KS1 Storytelling, KS1 and KS2 Choirs, Dodgeball, Y3/4 Art and Y5/6 Art.

Pupil Leaders

This week the children have been told about a range of leadership opportunities in the school. We would like to further develop the number of groups and roles that give children the opportunity to lead and develop their leadership skills. Children have an application form to complete and will then be selected. Numbers are limited and it maybe that if a child is not chosen this time, they may get an opportunity later in the year.

Some of the leadership groups which the children can apply for include:

Green Team – How can you help our school save energy?

Library Leaders – Helping to improve our library.

Compassion leaders – Thinking about how as a school we can help others.

Guinea Pigs Leaders - This team will help set up and look after them, including during the holidays.

Sports Leaders – Developing active playtimes and lunchtimes.

Reading Leaders – Making reading fun and developing our library area.

School Council Leaders –The voice of the school! Making informed decisions on behalf of their peers.

Parents in Sport Week 1st -7th October 2018

Whether it's through PE, after school clubs or competitive organised sport, parents often have the biggest influence on getting children interested in sport and encouraging them to participate long-term.

Given the massive influence parents can have, the [NSPCC Child Protection in Sport Unit](#) have launched [Parents in Sport Week](#), which aims to highlight the vital role that parents play in youth sport. The weblinks will give you access to a bank of useful [resources](#).

Foodbank Assembly 10th October

The school will be celebrating Harvest in class this year, rather than a service in church. The children will focus on food distribution in our community with Exeter Foodbank as it's focus, with a visitor assembly and activities in class on the day. We will be asking for our usual food donations (letter to come out soon) on the day.

30 Hours Free Child Care

The deadline has now passed to access 30 hours free childcare this term. Applications to use the 30 hours from January need to be made to the office by 14th December. If you currently have a child in Little Acorns and are considering increasing hours, either paid or through the 15 or 30 hours free provision, please inform the office as soon as you can in order to avoid disappointment. If you have already given us a code, please remember that it is your responsibility to check that you are still eligible for this funding for the next term. This has to be done every term and failure to do so could result in losing your funding.



Applying for Primary/Secondary School Places for September 2019

The deadline for applying for a Year 7 (Secondary School) place for the next academic year is October 31st 2018. Applications for Reception places (Big Acorns) close on January 15th 2019.

Free School Meals/Pupil Premium

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at state schools in England automatically get free school meals. However, parents are encouraged to apply for free school meals when they enrol their child in school, as this can help their child's school to attract additional 'pupil premium' funding to support learning, so please register if you are eligible, even if your child does not want a school dinner. Children with Pupil Premium funding are eligible for subsidies for certain trips and residential.

If you receive any of the following benefits you may be eligible:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance

- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit.

Children who receive any of the above benefits in their own right (i.e. they get benefits payments directly, instead of through a parent or guardian) can also get free school meals.

How to apply:

Use the online application form at <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/school-meals> which you can email to freeschoolmeals@devon.gov.uk or print out and post to FSM Team, Room L102, County Hall, Exeter EX2 4QD. Alternatively, a paper copy of the form can be collected from the school office. Parents and carers can also ring the Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

As always, if you have any worries or concerns then class teachers are always happy to help, just pop in for a chat or email them. Alternatively I am at the front of the school most mornings, so feel free to catch me then. Alternatively, please speak to Jayne or Jenny in the office to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Martin
Acting Headteacher



Key Dates	
Tuesday 2 nd October	Big Acorns Bus Trip to Darts Farm (half class)
Wednesday 3 rd October	Y3 and Y4 Trip to Exeter am
Thursday 4 th October	Big Acorns Bus Trip to Darts Farm (half class)
Wednesday 10 th October	Foodbank Assembly
Tuesday 16 th October	New parent tours
Tuesday 16 th October	Parents' evening
Thursday 18 th October	Parents' evening
Friday 19 th October	Break up for Half-term 3.30pm finish
Monday 29 th October	Non-pupil Day
Tuesday 30 th October	Children return to school after Half-term
Tuesday 30 th October	PTA Meeting 8pm The Globe
Wednesday 31 st October	Y3 and Y4 Trip to Roman Baths
Monday 12 th November	Sharing work with parents from themed week
Wednesday 14 th November	Tempest Photos (individual)
Wednesday 14 th November	Y3 and Y4 Roman workshop
Thursday 15 th November	Y1 and Y2 Trip to Living Coasts
Monday 3 rd December	Christmas Craft/Jumper Day
Tuesday 11 th December	FSU Performance @2.30pm
Wednesday 12 th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 7 th December	Christmas Bazaar
Tuesday 18 th December	KS1 Performances @2pm and 6pm
Wednesday 19 th December	KS2 Performances @2pm and 6pm
Wednesday 19 th December	Foundation/KS1 Party
Thursday 20 th December	KS2 party
Thursday 20 th December	Theatre Alibi performance
Friday 21 st December	Break up for Christmas Holidays 2.30pm finish

We try our best to keep to published dates; however in the hustle and bustle of school life it is sometimes inevitable things may change from time to time. Sorry in advance...

PTA NEWS

Thanks to the AGM attendees

It was great to see new faces and 'old' at the AGM on Tuesday evening, and to get stuck into some great discussions about future events and spending.

Thank you all for your excellent ideas and words of wisdom. There were crisps and there were laughs. The two and a quarter hours simply flew by. Thanks to Mr Martin, Miss White and Mrs Wannell for enduring a late evening at school and providing the essential school viewpoint on things – always an eye-opener. It was also good to hear from the school how much the funds we raise help, and how much the effort all the parents/carers at school put in is appreciated.

The highlights included:

- We raised £8000 last year
- With some of that money we funded or subsidised four workshops, £500 of new library books, Rob Pudner's Christmas show, playground equipment, coach travel for school trips and the year 4 and year 6 residential. There's more left to spend.
- We discussed the hugely generous donation from Topsham's White Ensign Club. £6k has been spent on remodelling the FSU's interior space to great effect. This leaves £20k. Following an eye-opening discussion about how dated the school's IT equipment has become, we talked about how introducing a more flexible system that could be taken into classrooms would free up the ITC suite for a vastly improved library space, pleasing both the technology geeks and the Luddites among us... There are obviously lots of practicalities to sort out, but the meeting was very taken with this idea. More news to follow.
- We outlined an exciting program of events for the coming school year, including the old favourites (Christmas Bazaar and Summer Fayre) and some new and irresistible ones...
- We would like to support the MTA's (Meal Time Assistants) regular pleas for new playground toys and sports kit for lunchtimes and breaks. We will help to clear the current shed, assess and probably replace it for a more secure lockable storage building and supply it with new, suitable equipment. We will direct all cake sale money raised this year to this cause rather than giving it piecemeal to each class.
- We pledged to improve our reduction of plastic use and to encourage less waste and more recycling in our events. And we pledged to support local Topsham businesses in recognition of the support they always give to us.

If you couldn't go to the meeting but would like a copy of the minutes, please contact me at TopshamPTA@outlook.com.

The next PTA meeting is on Tuesday 30th October at 8pm at The Globe.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Topsham Christmas Lights

Can you help to light up Topsham this December? LoveTopsham, the community group promoting Topsham in order to increase visitors and boost business so we all get to live in a thriving town, is spear-heading an urgent appeal to fund some truly lovely Christmas lights this year. The deadline for getting the funds in place is mid October. Please read the information below for how to donate, or go to the [LoveTopsham JustGiving page](#).

The Greatest Showman – 28th September, 4pm or 7.30pm

Topsham Community Association is proud to present two screenings of The Greatest Showman on the big screen at Matthews Hall, Topsham, on Friday 28th September. **This event is to mark the 90th anniversary of the opening of Matthews Hall in 1928.** The afternoon show is at 4pm, with snacks and drinks for sale, tickets £2; the evening performance is at 7.30pm, with a pay bar, tickets £4. Both will be sing-along! Tickets are available from The Topsham Bookshop, or by emailing info@topshamcommunityassociation.co.uk, or on the door. All under 12s must be accompanied by a paying adult. The Greatest Showman is rated PG. All welcome! Please spread the word!

COME TO
OUR TRAIN
TO TEACH
EVENT!

INTERESTED
IN TEACHING?



9TH OCTOBER
5PM-7PM
WEST EXE
SCHOOL

GIVE US A
CALL!
01392
927171

SCHOOL DIRECT
INITIAL TEACHER
TRAINING

PRIMARY
&
SECONDARY





Let's light up Topsham for Christmas

Help raise funds for magical
street lights this year

Please donate what you can, big or small

There's no magic wand! By coming together as a
community it can be achieved

We need to act quickly

Lights need to be ordered and paid for by mid
October to secure our big
switch-on date of November 30th !

You can donate by

- leaving cash and cheques (made payable to
Town Charter Day) in the collecting jars around the town
- contributing online via [JustGiving.com/LightUpTopsham](https://www.justgiving.com/LightUpTopsham)
- bank transfer to the Town Charter Day bank account
(sort code 30-64-72 account number 34518068)

Please use the reference CHRISTMAS



Thank you!

Love Topsham is a new volunteer group of residents, shopkeepers, and
business owners working tirelessly to ensure our amazing town continues to
grow and thrive. For more information or to get involved visit

www.lovetopsham.co.uk.



On the 90th anniversary of the
opening of Matthews Hall ...



TOPSHAM
COMMUNITY
ASSOCIATION

proudly presents ...

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

**Friday 28th September
at Matthews Hall, Topsham**

Family show at 4pm, snacks and drinks for sale, tickets £2

Evening show at 7.30pm, with pay bar, tickets £4

Under 12s must be accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets from The Topsham Bookshop (tel. 01392 877895),
or via info@topshamcommunityassociation.co.uk, or for sale on the door.