

The Topsham School

Newsletter 30

Inspiring Excellence in Everyone.

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



Thursday 17th May 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

It now feels like summer is well and truly with us and it has been great to see the children out and about using the school field every day. Mr Yeo has put up the shade sails on the field and Key Stage 1 playground to provide some cover along with the trees that we have. Please remember to be **sun safe** and apply suncream before school and to send children into school with a names sun hat and water bottles to remain hydrated throughout the day.

Year 6 SATs

A big well done to our Year 6 children who this week have undertaken their Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs). The children have worked really hard, especially in this warm weather and done their best, which is all that we ask of them. They have actually told me that they have enjoyed the week and the special breakfast provided each day has helped to settle any nerves and get the day off to a calm start – well done everyone!



Maypole Evening – Wednesday 23rd May

Next week we shall be holding our Maypole evening, which will involve all the children in school from the Big Acorns to Year 6. The evening starts at 5pm and usually lasts about an hour. Many families bring along a picnic and enjoy what we hope will be a warm and sunny evening. Primarily this event is to come along and for the children to take part in dance and parents to watch. We know that inevitably some children will want to play on the field etc and I would like to remind parents that all children should be accompanied by an adult to the event and are the responsibility of parents. We would be grateful if parents can provide appropriate levels of supervision to ensure that children are safe and use any pieces of school equipment with respect. We hope that everyone will have an enjoyable evening and the sun will continue to shine!

Pirate Day

As you know, the whole school are following a costal theme this term and today the Big Acorns have been enjoying their Pirate Day, with a special workshop with a visiting Pirate. They all looked great in their pirate costumes and have learnt lots, they have taken it in turns to walk the plank! The children have enjoyed being pirates and this day has really helped to immerse them in the theme.



Class Photos

Class photos were taken last week. Proofs of these photos should be back in school before half term and we will send out details of how to order as soon as they arrive.



Key Stage 2 Swimming

Key Stage 2 swimming lessons start after half term. A letter giving more details has been sent by email. If you haven't already done so, you can pay online via School Gateway and give consent this way, adding if your child is water-confident or not to the comments box. Alternatively, paper copies of the consent form are available from the green rack in the foyer.

Donations for Baby Bank

We now have a Baby Bank collection box in the foyer for donations of toiletries for babies and new mums. There is a list of the items being collected inside the donations box. For more information about this charity, please visit www.babybanknetwork.com/exeter

Good Timekeeping

Please remember the gates open at 8:45am and this is the time that you should aim to arrive at school. The bell rings at 8:55am to enable children to enter their classroom when learning commences. Children who arrive late, after the close of registers are marked absent for the entire morning session, which obviously impacts on their overall attendance percentage. Arriving on time also helps children to have a calm and gentle start to the day, socialise with classmates and be in a positive frame of mind for learning. Please try and aim to arrive at school for 8:45am.

School Dinners

You may have noticed the appearance of online payments for school dinners on the School Gateway app. Currently we are trialling online payment and ordering for dinners with Year 4. Whilst this appears for other year groups, please don't pay or order meals via this service yet. We will notify you when we are ready to use it with other year groups.

Menu Change for Friday 18th May

Tomorrow's menu is as follows:

Main = Brunch Plait

Vegetarian = Vegetable Fajitas

Packed Lunch = Egg Salad Bap

Jacket = Cheese

Dessert = Handmade Chocolate Drop Biscuit

Choir Performance

The choir will be performing for The Estuary League of Friends at St Margaret's Church at 10am on Thursday 24th May. Parents are welcome to come along and watch.



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 '*blossom*'

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	
Friday 18 th May	Menu Change
Friday 18 th May	Acorns Cake Sale
Wednesday 23 rd May	Maypole Evening 5pm
Thursday 24 th May	Choir performance at St Margaret's Church 10am
Thursday 24 th May	Year 5 and 6 Rounders at St Luke's pm
Thursday 24 th May	PTA Meeting 8pm at The Nelson
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
Tuesday 5 th June	KS2 Running Club starts
Wednesday 6 th June	Years 1 and 2 Trip to Dawlish Warren
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
Friday 8 th June	Years 2 and 5 Fire Safety Workshops am
w/b 11 th June	Y1 Phonics Screening
Monday 11 th June	Year 6 Life Skills pm
13 th -15 th June	Y4 Warren Barn Residential
Thursday 21 st June	Teatime Treats (Speech and Drama Performances) 3.45pm
Thursday 28 th June	Year 5 and 6 High Five Netball Competition at St Luke's pm
Friday 29 th June	PTA Summer Fayre 5.30-7.30pm
Wednesday 4 th July	Sports Day
Thursday 5 th July	Class Swap Day/City High School Transition Day
Thursday 5 th July	Transition Evening – 3:30 – 5:30pm
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

Acorns cake sale – Friday 18th May

It's the last cake sale of the year on Friday, and it's going to be a good one! The Acorns (both Big and Little), will be offering their cakes and bakes after school. Please bring your pennies for an end of the week treat.

PTA Treasurer – upcoming vacancy

At the end of this school year, Jo Stevens will be hanging up his abacus and stepping down as our treasurer after three years of brilliant treasuring. We'd like to offer him our heartfelt thanks for his calmness and efficiency, especially after the Lloyds bank closed. From September we'll need a new treasurer. Could that be you? You wouldn't need to attend every PTA meeting – this is a role that can be done 'behind-the-scenes' at times to suit you. You just need to know your way around a spreadsheet, be confident with figures and happy to handle the banking of funds. Jo would be happy to provide a fulsome handover. Please email TopshamPTA@outlook.com if you're interested in more details.

Ice cream Fridays

After half term every Friday will be an Ice Cream Friday! We'll be selling lollies outside school from 3.30pm every Friday, come rain or shine. Brrrrring on the summer!

Summer Fayre – Friday 29th June

There's still time to offer your ideas for the summer fayre. Why not come along to the next PTA meeting...?

Next PTA meeting – Thursday 24th May

Please come along to the PTA meeting next Thursday. Absolutely everyone is welcome! It will be at 8pm at The Nelson. 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!