

# The Topsham School

## Newsletter 39



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](http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021



I cannot quite believe that we have reached the end of this academic year. It has been a year like no other; it has been 18 months, like no other. None of us know what lies ahead, all I do know is that each one of us will continue to 'react' however we each choose to do so.

I would like to thank all our wonderful children. They have all coped with the changes of this year with real resilience. I know it has not been easy. I know that some of our children have found the rollercoaster of this year more challenging than others. I know that for some this time will leave more lasting scars than others. Each one of our children has managed as well as they can and that, is good enough.

A special well done to our Year 6 children who have sadly missed their final week with us due to needing to isolate. They have not let this get them down, they have worked all week,

remotely making videos etc. all in preparation for their Leavers' Assembly- it was beautiful and emotional and funny- so many smiles were created just watching. Thank you, Year 6 and good luck, to each one of you!

Thank you to you, our parents. You have supported our school during its most difficult days. Again, I know that this has not been easy, and for some families the toll of this period of time has had significant effects. Every family supported their child/children as far as they could. Remote learning was something we didn't think we would have to return to this year and then we did. Thank you for helping your child/children to access this provision. I know that this time in particular, was challenging for many, as you juggled work, or managed on furlough, or had to entrust your children to us while you remained out at work throughout this time. Your feedback was so valuable after this time; so many positives, thank you. It was wonderful to welcome everyone back and although things remain restricted at present, we have found different ways to try and stay connected to you; School Cloud and Google Classroom- who'd have thought, 2 years ago?

Thank you to the PTA. You have been incredible this year. I want to say a special thank you to Jane Trollope. Jane, you are a force of nature. You ooze positivity and energy, and I am not sure how anyone is going to follow that; I have no doubt they will but your shoes are big ones to fill. Your commitment and complete dedication to organise and raise funds for our children has been phenomenal. You will be missed very much. Thank you Jane.

Thank you to all the staff, to every single adult who work within our school. Staff absence has been negligible, and their dedication and commitment to do their very best to ensure all our children make progress has never failed. They have risen to every challenge and met it head on. It has been an exhausting year, I know that, and I am so grateful to each and every one of my team, for everything they have done. I know you will join me in wishing them a wonderful summer holiday; a time to rest and recharge and spend time with their families and friends.

Thank you to my governing board. Each governor is a volunteer and as such, get no financial gain from doing this role, they do it because they genuinely care for our school and our community. The governors have been behind the scenes every step of the way this year. They have attended more meetings than in 'normal' times and have supported guide the school through to this last day. They have been a personal support to me, and I want to thank my Chair, Alex Kumar, especially. Your experience, knowledge and humour have been a necessity for me. Thank you.

Finally, I want to say goodbye again. Goodbye to Mr Vernon and Mrs de Winton. We had a 'garden party' last Friday where many staff who have worked at Topsham School in past years returned to celebrate with all of us and thank two amazing teachers for all they have done for our school. We are going to miss them both so much. It is with sadness we say 'goodbye' too to Mr and Mrs Yeo. They have cared for and cleaned our school for many, many years and have been an incredible team. They have decided to retire and have time to spend together and with their many grandchildren. We all wish them well.

As for me, I will be spending time, switching off for a while and spending time with my own family- they haven't seen much of me and when they have, they haven't really seen 'all' of me. It will be good to see friends too and do the 'simple' things like go for walks and picnics and swim in the sea. It has been an interesting year and I will be spending some time reflecting on the last 18 months and my experience of it. I want to thank all the parents who have emailed me or sent me cards with some very personal and thoughtful messages- they are so appreciated, thank you.

I will of course be spending time preparing for September and beyond; this work has already begun, schools are like machines, they don't ever really stop. Next year will be a good one..... I'm sure 😊

Have a wonderful Summer Holiday. Keep safe, be kind to each other, hug each other; really hug each other, I don't think there is anything in the world that is better than a real hug.

See you in September

Mrs Pipe

### **End of Term Finishing Times**

The finishing times for today (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> July) are shown below:

Years 5 and 6	2.15pm
Years 1 and 2	2.20pm
Years 3 and 4	2.25pm
Big and Little Acorns	2.30pm
Twiglets after school club	4.30pm



### **Menu**

Copies of the menu for September have been sent to all parents via email this morning. The menu can also be viewed/downloaded on our school website:

<http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk/school-lunch.html>

## Class Group Photos

Class group photographs taken by Tempest are now ready to view and purchase at <http://htmp.st/TheTopshamSchool>



There will be a free "deliver to school" option open for approximately 14 days, otherwise home delivery is available for £5 postage and packing.

If you need assistance please call 01736 751555 (option 3) or click on contact us on the home page.

**Please can we remind all parents that as a school we ask parents not to share/post any pictures of children, other than your own child on social media or the internet. As these are class group photos, these photographs MUST NOT be shared online.**

Thank you.

## Young Voices Update

Mrs Haysom would like to update everyone on the progress of the Young Voices World Record attempt. The process of verifying if the World Record for the largest children's choir has been broken is still underway but a new record has been set for the most people singing on Zoom! Congratulations to everyone who took part.



## 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](mailto:epipe@topsham.devon.sch.uk)
- Miss Maria White: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Headteacher and Online Safety Leader  
[mwhite@topsham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:mwhite@topsham.devon.sch.uk)
- Mrs Hartmann: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, SENDCO and Early Help Leader  
[nhartmann@topsham.devon.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk) and give as much information as you can.*

### Year 3 and 4 Garden Party

Year 3 and 4 had a fantastic Garden Party yesterday to celebrate the development of the garden and all of their learning this term. The sun shone, music played and we sat amongst gorgeous decorations that the children had made. As it was so hot, we set up on the field in the shade, rather than the garden, but our KS2 garden is looking fab, with wire sculptures, a herb garden, sunflowers and a colourful range of flowers.



## Running Club

Tuesday saw a very special running club.... not only was it the last one of the term, but we celebrated our 50th meeting, and we completed the last miles of our Lockdown Topsham to Tokyo Challenge, in celebration of the start of the **Olympics!**

At the end of our meeting, we announced how many miles our whole community had run between the start of the Spring Term Lockdown, at home and at school, and the miles that running club had added to the total this term.

We needed 6048 miles to 'reach' Tokyo. **We ran..... 9915 miles!**

What an incredible achievement by everyone who joined in.

All the children have joined in at school to help towards our total by completing the Daily Mile around the playground. They will all receive their medal.

We were also able to award t-shirts, jumpers and bags to mark the milestone for some of our members. **9 children and adults even reached the full 50 session milestone!**

Our isolating year 6s didn't miss out- thank you to Row and Jane for safely dropping off their awards, and for the photos sent in.

Mrs Daitz and I CAN NOT WAIT to get Running Club going again in September. Until then, keep up the family miles over the summer.

Miss White





## PTA NEWS

### The Results are In!

We are delighted to announce that the Smarties Challenge raised £481 (well done Michelle!), and the Great Big Wheelbarrow Raffle took £527 in ticket sales (well done Sheena, Sarah PJ and Niki S!). The raffle wheelbarrow was won by Helen Dennis, the second prize flexi-bucket of goodies went to Paul Berman and the third prize trug was won by Tracy Bailey. Huge thanks to everyone who filled a tube, contributed prizes and bought tickets.

### The PTA is Dead, Long Live the PTA!!

Every time a year 6 class topples off the pinnacle of The Topsham School and swoops off to secondary school, a bunch of parents flutter away too. But this year there are rather a lot of us leaving. So the PTA is changing, and now might be the moment to consider getting involved if you have some ideas and want to make your mark. Over the last seven years the 'old guard' of the PTA has raised about £40,000 for the school. That's a lot of Christmas Bazaars, Summer Fayres,



Friends of  
The Topsham School  
The Topsham School PTA

quiz nights, auctions and cake sales translated into miles of school trip travel, gallons of swimming lessons, a gazillion giggles at shows and performances, not to mention essential IT kit to support teaching, at least one donkey costume, and books and books and more books. So what the PTA does, really can make a difference to the quality of your child/ren's experience at school. Can you spare any time to support the school by throwing some of your ideas and energy into the PTA? It doesn't have to be arduous. Break it down into bits and share the jobs out. Do it differently. The PTA would benefit hugely from a fresh approach. You can email [thetopshamschoolpta@outlook.com](mailto:thetopshamschoolpta@outlook.com) to find out more.

### Thanks from me

I'm going now. Thank you to Mrs Pipe for her support and enthusiasm, to Mrs Wannell for being brilliant in every way, to Jayne and Jenny in the office for being saintly in their patience and invaluable as a fount of know-how, to Miss White, Mrs Daitz and all the staff who make running club possible, to Mr Vernon for his unwavering energy and great ideas for grounds clearance and all outdoorsy stuff, to all the staff who ran a stall, collected donations, organised music and supported the PTA events at every turn, and probably most of all to Mr Yeo for clearing up after every Christmas Bazaar. More thanks than I can express (without getting sniffly) to the PTA Faithful – you're all brilliant (especially Row).

## COMMUNITY NEWS\*

*\*Please be aware that clicking on links/following web addresses in this section may take you to sites that require payment for the activities advertised.*



**Active Devon have put together a list of resources that parents might find useful during the holidays.**

1. <https://www.youthsporttrust.org/resources/coronavirus-support/active-recovery-hub>  
Help children and young people to boost their health and wellbeing by promoting being active
2. <https://www.nhs.uk/10-minute-shake-up/shake-ups>  
The NHS have teamed up with Disney, Pixar and Marvel to bring you brand new play-along games inspired by your favourite characters.
3. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/50-things-to-do>  
Want your kids to run free in the fresh air and try new exciting activities?
4. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/summer-activities-for-adventurous-families>  
Great ideas for families – eg. Build the best ever den with these tips and tricks – all you need are some sturdy sticks, leaves that you've found on wild adventures and some mud to secure it all together!
5. <https://peumbrella.com/register/the-pe-umbrella-member/>  
Although designed for teachers and some elements are for a paid subscription, there are lots of ideas for games that parents might want to try out this summer.
6. [www.boingkids.co.uk/playupclub](http://www.boingkids.co.uk/playupclub)

Free to access. The Boing PlayUp Club is a six week video series full of new games and loads of different ways to play. It also includes tips, advice and ideas for children and parents/guardians on how to power up their play this summer.

7. [learninghub.riverbearyoga.co.uk/p/family-yoga](https://learninghub.riverbearyoga.co.uk/p/family-yoga)  
A brilliant free resource for the summer break – screen free activity to keep families happy, healthy and connected.
8. <https://www.activedevon.org/event/wonford-cycle-festival/>  
<https://www.activedevon.org/event/exeter-arena-cycle-festival/>  
<https://www.activedevon.org/event/cowick-barton-cycle-festival/>  
<https://www.activedevon.org/event/cranbrook-cycle-festival/>  
Active Devon is excited to announce our cycling festivals across Exeter during the summer break. Have a go opportunities, free tea and coffee and goodie bags for participants (limited availability)
9. <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools>  
The walk to school campaign materials have some excellent ideas for engaging children in activities en-route to school that will work equally well on other walks eg. to the shops – have fun and enjoy that walk! An example from the booklet: FUN FACT: The flashing orange lights on a zebra crossing are called Belisha beacons. They are named after a British politician, Leslie Hore-Belisha. How many Belisha beacons can you spot while out for a walk today?
10. <https://www.activedevon.org/get-active/>  
Lots of ideas for getting active in Devon.

**Free August Art Activities as we lead up to Charter Day.**

**The Charter Day Team invite you to any, or all, of the arranged events below! We NEED your help!!**

**Families, children of all ages (you can bring an adult), students.**

**1. Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 9.30am onwards at St Margaret's Church**

**Mosaic Fish.**

**We have 3 large and 4 smaller fish to turn into amazing pieces of colourful art. We will work in groups with everyone contributing, experimenting, learning and having fun. We have a lovely Topsham Mosaic Artist, Alison Hepburn, to guide us and Revd Louise Grace will be occupying the very young children with making paper mosaic fish.**

**All our fish will be on display on Charter Day and will later be found a permanent home in Topsham -- what a lovely memory for us all!**

**2. Friday 13<sup>th</sup> August 11.00am to 3.00pm. Creative Cabin on the Quay**

**The Creative Cabin is based at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery at Honiton but it is used throughout East Devon. Accompanying the Cabin will be Gail McGarva, who is not only an artist but also a boat builder. Their theme throughout the year has been exploring the effects of climate change and this fits in well this year with Charter Day's theme of fish and ships. The fish in our wonderful estuary has certainly been affected by climate change. Whatever we achieve on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> will be used to support our display on Charter Day.**

**3. Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> August. Second Mosaic Workshop IF we have not completed everything on 12<sup>th</sup>**

**4. Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August Children's Flower Arranging. Matthews Hall 10.30am.**

*If you need any further information on any of the above, please feel free to contact Valerie Holland on 07514 215938*

*The Charter Day Team look forward to welcoming you to any of the above planned events*

COME AND STAR IN A PLAY ABOUT TOPSHAM'S MARITIME HISTORY  
MADE AND PERFORMED IN ONE DAY

# FISH AND SHIPS!

PLAY IN A DAY



Ahoy: Tickets are required for this FREE event

Access: <https://bit.ly/35laics> for the Eventbrite ticket site

Or visit the Topsham Museum Website  
<http://Topshammuseum.org.uk/events>

Or Google "Eventbrite Fish and Ships"



TOPSHAM MUSEUM 17/08/2021  
10AM - 4PM (PERFORMANCE AT 3.30PM)  
FREE FAMILY EVENT  
TOPSHAMMUSEUM.ORG.UK



Dates for  
the Diary:

Date	Event										
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Break up for Summer Holiday Finishing times as below: <table border="1" data-bbox="799 546 1437 750"><tbody><tr><td data-bbox="804 546 1206 584">Years 5</td><td data-bbox="1211 546 1437 584">2.15pm</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="804 584 1206 622">Years 1 and 2</td><td data-bbox="1211 584 1437 622">2.20pm</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="804 622 1206 660">Years 3 and 4</td><td data-bbox="1211 622 1437 660">2.25pm</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="804 660 1206 698">Big and Little Acorns</td><td data-bbox="1211 660 1437 698">2.30pm</td></tr><tr><td data-bbox="804 698 1206 750">Twiglets after school club</td><td data-bbox="1211 698 1437 750">4.30pm</td></tr></tbody></table>	Years 5	2.15pm	Years 1 and 2	2.20pm	Years 3 and 4	2.25pm	Big and Little Acorns	2.30pm	Twiglets after school club	4.30pm
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Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Non-Pupil Day										
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Children return to school after Summer Holiday (except new Little Acorns and all Big Acorns)										