The Topsham School
Newsletter 3

Inspiring Excellence in Everyone.
Tel: 01392 874498 Website: www.topsham.devon.sch.uk

Thursday 27th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been great to see the sunshine back this week allowing the children to play on the field during break and lunchtimes. We hope the dry weather will continue as we like the children to be playing and learning outside as much as possible.

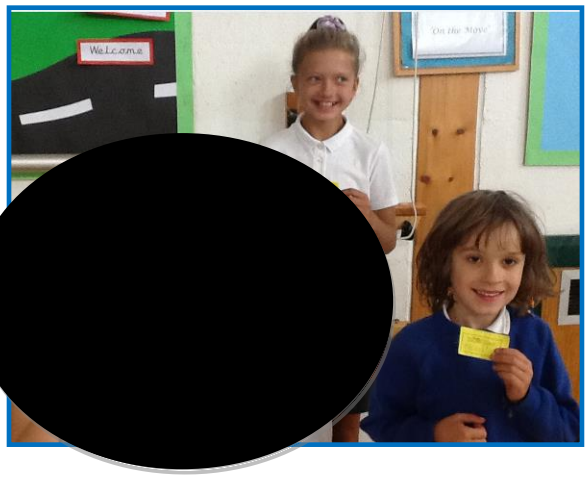
Achievers
We thought we would add a new weekly addition to the newsletter, celebrating some of the work and achievements the children have displayed in school. As a school, we promote positive behaviour and we have numerous incentives to support this. House tokens are given for aspiration, self-worth and respect shown in class, at play and around the school. Golden tickets are given for good behaviour/manners at lunchtimes. In addition to this, teachers award two weekly achievers for children who have been identified for a particular reason or aspect of their learning that they have done well in. There are also four children each week identified for their efforts in PE and sport. Maths and Writing effort is rewarded by displaying children's work in the framed display boards outside of the hall.
Congratulations to:

Achievers:

Vinny, Freya, Joseph, Johnny, Rufus, Alana, Kiki, James, Caleb, Daisy, Amelia and Emily.

PE Awards:

Olivia, Lily, Archie and George.



Golden Tickets:

Oliwia and Oscar.

Macmillan Coffee Morning
Just a reminder that Year 6 will be hosting our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning tomorrow between 10am and 11.15am - everyone is welcome!

Parents' Evenings

The half term has passed very quickly and in the last week of the half term we will be having our Parents' Evenings. This is a time to find out how well your child has settled in to their new year group and to set targets that you can support with at home over the coming term. Children from Years 3-6 are invited to attend with their parents. We allocate a 10 minute appointment for each child, please help the teachers keep to time. Children's books will be available for parents to look at, could we ask please that you only look at your child's books. Appointment slots will be available for you to sign up soon, via Sign Up Genius. Should you wish to meet with Mrs Hartmann, please contact her directly on her email nhartmann@topsham.devon.sch.uk or fill in a 'Message for a Member of Staff' form.

Vacancy on the Governing Board
The Governing Board is looking for someone to be the lead governor for Health & Safety and Premises from January 2019. If you have experience, or an interest, in this area and are able to join our board of governors we'd be delighted to hear from you. Training courses are available to support you in the role. Claire Mulgrew, a parent at the school, has been in this position for the past five years and due to work commitments needs to pass the baton on. If you would like an informal chat about what is required in relation to the H&S part of the role please feel free to contact Claire via the school office.

If you want to talk about the role of Governors more generally please contact Helen Crossfield, Chair of Governors via the school office.

Netball Sponsorship
With the netball season about to begin, the team are looking for new kit sponsorship. Much like the football team, we would love some new tops and jackets to look smart when representing the school in competitions. Should you wish to sponsor the kit, or know of a company who might, please speak to Mrs Whitehead.

Car Park Safety
Can we ask parents who are dropping off at breakfast club to park in the bays available. Please do not park your car in front of the playground double gates as this has been identified through a Health Safety audit as a turning point. Thank you.

School Dinners
Please ensure that all bookings for school meals are made before the cutoff point of 8.30am on the morning the meal is to be taken. This enables us to print the register of booked meals and send this to the classroom in time for registration. If a child's dinner is not ordered online and they tell us they are having school dinner, they will be ordered a main menu option.

Supporting Children and Families to Thrive!
At The Topsham School we know that when children, families and school work together children thrive. At our school we are pleased to have an entire team of people dedicated to children's wellbeing at school, both academic, emotional and social. It is at the core of the work of every staff member but we have a special team of people who have a significant role and responsibility within this area. This week we focus a bit of space in our newsletter to reminding you of these people and their role.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator
Mrs Hartmann is our SENDCo in school. Her role is to help identify, support and monitor the provision that is in place to support children with additional needs. If you need to get in touch, please use her email address: nhartmann@topsham.devon.sch.uk or fill in a 'Message for a Member of Staff' form to make an appointment.

Children's Wellbeing and Families Worker
Last year Kristen Cain joined our staff team as a children's wellbeing and families' worker. Kristen's role is quite wide, she can help children and families with things such as difficulties with sleep and bedtime or provide support with issues such as divorce, separation or bereavement and offer advice on how to support children with these issues. Next week, Kristen is taking a group of Year 5 children to Pinhoe School to take part in a 'Compass for Life' training day. More information about this in next week's newsletter.

Mrs Still and Mrs Cooper – Thrive Practitioners
Mrs Still and Mrs Cooper have both undergone extensive Thrive training. They work with individuals who need additional support, often because they have experienced some interruption in their development caused by issues such as bereavement or because they need some additional support because we all have ups and downs in life.

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

Kevin Martin
Acting Headteacher

Friends of
The Topsham School
The Topsham School PTA

PTA NEWS

Everyone loves a tidy shed…
Following a discussion at last week's AGM, the PTA would like to support the MTAs (Meal Time Assistants) by sourcing more playtime kit for the playground, and helping to provide better storage for it. Therefore three of us ventured into some very spider-y sheds on Wednesday to have a clear out, get rid of the broken equipment, and tidy everything up. Does anyone want a three-legged sheep? We are working towards providing a lockable shed for Key Stage 2 as the current one is in disrepair, and we propose to donate the proceeds from all the cake sales for use by the staff to buy new things to go in both the KS2 and KS1 sheds. Thanks to Mrs Wannell and Mr Vernon for their guidance. Huge thanks to Sheena and Row for getting stuck in with the shed clearance – it looks better already!

Year 6 cake sale
Look out for the Year 6 cake sale on Friday 19th October.

And your class reps are…
The following class reps were elected for this year. Please contact them about cake sales and helping at the Christmas Bazaar.
Acorns: Lucy Parkinson, Nicki James, Davina Fisher
Year 1: Emma Nicholls, Fabrianne Rowell and Jane Clark
Year 2: Louise Clover and Franki Mathews
Year 3: Juliette Johnson and Sheena Oxer
Year 4: Kate Harwood, Niamh/Jon Hull, Jane Mason and Niki Skeldon
Year 5: Rachel Carr and Row Freeland
Year 6: Lizzy Anderson and Lindsey Anderson

The next PTA meeting is on…
Tuesday 30th October at 8pm at The Globe. See you there! If you have a point you'd like to raise, but can't make it to the meeting, please email it to TopshamPTA@outlook.com. Bear in mind that we can have a much better discussion about something if you can provide a bit of supporting information. Off-the-top-of-your-head ideas flung into the mix don't normally gather the momentum they might deserve. A bit of background research goes a long way...

A note of thanks from Mrs Wannell:
"I would like to thank Jane Trollope 'Chairperson of the PTA, Row Freeland and Sheena Oxer for the fantastic job they did clearing out the lunchtime shed. I really appreciate your help. (Oh….by the way, which one of you has the three-legged sheep? I know which one of you looks 'sheepish' ☺"

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!

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
- 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.**

Key Dates	
Friday 28th September	Macmillan Coffee morning
Monday 1st October	School football match
Wednesday 3rd October	Dodgeball match
Wednesday 10th October	Harvest (in school)
Tuesday 16th October	New parent tours
Tuesday 16th October	Parents' evening
Thursday 18th October	Parents' evening
Friday 19th October	Break up for Half-term 3.30pm finish
Monday 29th October	Non-pupil Day
Tuesday 30th October	Children return to school after Half-term
Tuesday 30th October	PTA meeting 8pm@The Globe
Monday 5th November	School football match
Monday 12th November	Sharing work with parents from themed week
Wednesday 14th November	Tempest Photos (individual)
Monday 26th November	School football match
Thursday 29th November	Full Governors meeting
Friday 3rd December	Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 11th December	FSU Performance @2.30pm
Wednesday 12th December	Christmas Dinner
Friday 8th December	Christmas Bazaar
Tuesday 18th December	KS1 Performances @2pm and 6pm
Wednesday 19th December	KS2 Performances @2pm and 6pm
Thursday 20th December	KS2 party
Thursday 20th December	Theatre Alibi performance
Friday 21st 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…