

The Topsham School

Newsletter 6



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

Friday 16th October 2020



Autumn is such a beautiful time of year. Today I watched the children in FSU sweeping up leaves and then throwing them into the air and giggling as they fell all about them. They then picked up their brooms and did it all again. Something so simple bringing so much laughter.

I love poetry and have found a really simple one to share.

The leaves are falling One By One by Steve Metzger

The leaves are falling 1 by 1

Hurrah! Hurrah!

The leaves are falling 1 by 1

Hurrah! Hurrah!

The leaves are falling 1 by 1

The red one sparkles in the sun

And they all go flying down to the ground

Flying in the wind

Fly! Fly!

The leaves are falling 2 by 2

Hurrah! Hurrah!

The leaves are falling 2 by 2

Maple leaves land in a young girl's shoe

And they all go flying down to the ground

Flying in the wind

Fly! Fly!

The poem continues in this vein, but I thought I may stop it here and give you a challenge! Over the weekend why not work with your child to write a poem about autumn. They may choose to write the next 2 -3 verses of the one the front page of the newsletter, or they may want to write something totally original.

Once completed, send them to me for me to read. We will then choose some of the entries to be printed in next week's newsletter. All entries will be celebrated on the school blog. Happy writing!



Thank you to all the parents who came to our Meet the Teacher mornings; it was lovely to see you face to face.

At this meeting, parents were informed that parent consultations would take place after half term. We are in the process of finalising dates for these and will provide you with this information ASAP.

Teachers have been assessing the children and throughout this week and next we are meeting in phase teams to discuss pupil progress.

We know that parents will want to know where their child is in relation to their progress and attainment, but we cannot provide this information until we have all the evidence, we need to make accurate judgements. To ensure equality of information, teachers will not be discussing pupil progress with parents until parent consultations. They do not have the capacity to do this before this time.

Please know we have been, and will continue to do everything we can to ensure every child's needs are met and that every child is being supported in relation to any 'catch up' that is and will continue to be required.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this regard.

As you know, communication is very important in sustaining positive working relationships and with this in mind, I would like to remind all parents and carers of the procedures to follow if you have a query or concern in relation to your child.

1. The first person to see if you have any query or concern regarding your child academically, socially or emotionally is always the Class Teacher. They are the person in school who knows and works with your child the most. Class Teachers are always happy to meet with parents and, if necessary, will communicate via other means such as telephone or email if this is more convenient.
2. If after seeing the Class Teacher, you still have questions or concerns that cannot be met by the class teacher, then please make an appointment to see the phase leader:
FSU/KS1: Mrs Whitehead
KS2: Miss White
SEND/CO: Mrs Hartmann
3. Any aspect for which you feel you need further support then please see the Deputy Headteacher, Miss White.
4. If after seeing all these professionals you need further support, Miss White will refer you to meet with me.
5. Finally, if it is an urgent matter of safeguarding, then please see me as the Designated Safeguarding Lead. In my absence, please see Miss White or Mrs Hartmann who are the Deputy Safeguarding Leads.

Have a lovely weekend

Emma Pipe
Headteacher

Collection Arrangements

If collection arrangements change, please can we remind parents that they must copy in both admin@topsham.devon.sch.uk and the class Teacher.

Teachers are not able to monitor emails when teaching but the office email is monitored throughout the day. However, when doing certain jobs, admin emails may not be read for half an hour or so, so please try and make change of arrangements earlier in the day. Thank you.

Meet the Teacher Presentation Slides

If you were unable to attend any of the Meet the Teacher sessions, you can view the PowerPoint slides on the school blog section of our website. Please be aware that this blog page is updated regularly, so you may need to scroll down through the other posts to find your child's class presentation. <http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk/school-blog>

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
- Miss Maria White: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Headteacher and Online Safety Leader
mwhite@topsham.devon.sch.uk
- Mrs Hartmann: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, SENDCO and Early Help Leader
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 and give as much information as you can."*
Devon Children and Families Partnership.



Fire Safety – Halloween and Bonfire Night

As you will be aware, there are no public displays this year, meaning increased family and private events which could potentially be added pressure on the Fire Service and other emergency services.

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service have provided us with some Bonfire Night and Halloween Fire Safety Resources. These school resources have been created to allow schools to share some seasonal fire safety messages and can be viewed/downloaded from school blog page of our school website. <http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk/school-blog>

PTA NEWS



Personalised Christmas Cards and Gifts

We may not be able to bring you an all-singing, all-sleighting Christmas Bazaar this year, but we can still offer you the chance to immortalise your child's exquisite festive artwork on a jigsaw puzzle, mug, apron, card etc to create a perfect gift for grandparents and other family.

Once again, our fabulous friend Maria Goodfellow of Magenta Bespoke will make all this possible. Because of current restrictions, all the order forms, children's artwork and the final gifts and cards will need to be quarantined for 72 hours at each stage of the proceedings. Therefore we need to start early (yes, we know it isn't even Halloween yet), so we're aiming to get the order forms out to you before half term. Also, to avoid the need to handle cash and cheques, we'll be asking for BACS payments where at all possible. All will be explained on the order forms. Thank you.

Next meeting

Don't forget that the next PTA meeting is on Wednesday 4th November at 7.30pm, via Zoom. All are very very very welcome!



Date	Event
Wednesday 21 st October	Nasal Flu Vaccine for children in Reception – Year 6
Friday 23 rd October	Break up for half-term
Monday 2 nd November	Return to school after half-term break
Sunday 15 th November	Application system to apply for a Reception (Big Acorn) place for September 2021 opens
Friday 18 th December	Break up for Christmas Holiday
Friday 15 th January	Closing date for applying for a Reception (Big Acorn) place for September 2021