

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 13th October 2023

We are coming towards the end of a fantastic first half term of this academic year- such a busy one already, with lots to look forward to over the rest of this term. Next week Year 3 and 4 will be visiting Topsham Museum, and we start the week with a harvest celebration. On Monday, Exeter Food Bank will hold our assembly, to share the invaluable work they do around the city.

Please bring your food bank donations in on Monday morning and place them on the table at the front of the school. Our MHAs will be there to receive and organise them!



This half term has also seen a couple of changes in staffing.

At the end of half term, we will say goodbye to Mrs Hodges who has worked with us in FSU for the last three years. Mrs Hodges extensive experience and skill will be missed greatly within the Unit, but her energy, enthusiasm and laughter will be missed even more by us all. We all wish you huge luck as you begin a new chapter in a new school.

I would also like to share with you the exciting news that Miss Greygoose, our Year 6 teacher, has now been appointed as KS2 Leader. Miss Greygoose will join myself, Mrs Lacey and Mrs Whitehead on the leadership team. Miss Greygoose is very experienced, knows our school well and is a skilled leader. She has already begun to have an incredibly effective and positive impact on the school.

With this change in mind, please direct questions and concerns initially to your child's class teacher. If you feel you have a question or concern for leadership, please contact the leader of the phase your child is in.

FSU and KS1: Mrs Katrina Whitehead kwhitehead@topsham.devon.sch.uk

KS2: Miss Amy Greygoose agreygoose@topsham.devon.sch.uk

Year 6 residential

Our Year 6s have had a fantastic week on Dartmoor this week! We will have a full round up of the week in next week's newsletter.





Applying for Secondary School places for September 2024

The deadline for applying for a Year 7 place for September 2024 is Tuesday 31st October 2023. Devon School Admissions Team have informed us that there is a lot of pressure on school places this year and failure to apply could mean that pupils miss out on a place at their local school.



#HelloYellow

Thank you to everyone for really helping us celebrate World Mental Health Day on Tuesday and raise awareness of the importance of looking after our mental health. The children certainly enjoyed eating the cakes and Standing Out and Showing Up by dressing in yellow. A fabulous £152.52 was raised

in total for the charity 'Young Minds' which will help them in continuing the work they do with young people.

A huge THANK YOU to you all!



Tempest Photographs



If you have not already done so, and you wish to order your child's Tempest Photograph, the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Sunday 22nd October**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit www.tempest-orders.co.uk

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).

Medical Conditions and Dietary Needs

If you have not already returned the Medical and Dietary Needs form, please can we ask you to ensure you have sent this back by **Monday 16th October**. This form must be completed by ALL parents even if your child has no medical or dietary needs.

A copy of this form is attached and paper copies are also available from the green rack in the foyer outside the office.

*Parents of children with a medical protocols have now been sent a copy of this to check and confirm the information is correct, please can we ask that this is also confirmed by **Monday 16th October**.*

Year 5 Trip to Exeter Energy from Waste plant (EfW)

Year 5 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Exeter Energy from Waste plant (EfW), Marsh Barton, as part of our 'Material World' topic. We were able to get the train directly to the plant and the children enjoyed seeing the process of waste to the incinerator and saw the giant wall of waste, as well as the grabber! We also did some science experiments on different materials. Special thanks to Mrs Follett, Mrs Wysall, Victoria Turner and Katy Young for coming with us.



Personalised Christmas Gifts

It is (unbelievably) time to start thinking about Christmas!

The PTA have again organised this year, an opportunity to purchase personalised gifts in time for Christmas. All funds generated will be added to the PTA funds.

This year, we have completed the designs in school, and have uploaded them to Google Classroom (Little and Big Acorns are slightly different-these will be emailed to you).



Here you can view your child's design and follow the link to order the gifts you choose.

All classes will have their designs uploaded by the end of the day.

The deadline to order is **November 1st. After this date, there will be no way of ordering.**



Hello,

We hope the start of the year is going well! We wanted to introduce ourselves again as we continue to work with Topsham School.

We are Lauren Pellow (Education Mental Health Practitioner - EMHP for short) and Amelia Scott (EMHP) working with a number of schools across Exeter, including Topsham Primary. We are part of the Mental Health Support Team (MHST) for schools as part of Children & Family Health Devon.

We deliver evidence based one to one and group interventions for young people who need extra support for mild to moderate anxiety or low mood. We also work with staff and whole classes delivering workshops and training around mental health. Please watch our short video to learn more: <https://youtu.be/NqnEoi58-5E>

We look forward to continue to work with Topsham primary to support and promote the emotional wellbeing of your school's community.

This year we will be celebrating Harvest on Monday 16th October.



We will be collecting items for Exeter Food Bank and are lucky to have Rebecca Dominy, who volunteers with the Food Bank, joining us in our whole school assembly. She will be talking about the important role it has in our community and how we can support it.

With this in mind, we would appreciate it if you could send your child to school on Monday 16th with one (or more) of the items listed below. Our newly appointed Mental Health Ambassadors will be creating a display using the donations and helping to load the Food Bank van on Tuesday.

Please note that the Food bank cannot accept any fresh produce.

Please see the next page for details of priority items requested by the Food Bank.

PRIORITY ITEMS

- **Tins of meat**
- **Tins of vegetables**
- **Tins of fruit**
- **Noodle and pasta snacks**
- **Jams and spreads**
- **Small jars of coffee**
- **Rice Pudding**

Thank you so much for your support.

Fresha Catering is proud to be providing and serving school lunches at your Primary School. We genuinely want to make a difference in the lives of your children through food - and want them to enjoy the whole school lunchtime experience.

Are School Lunches or Packed Lunches Right for Your Family?

- + Which Choice Is the Most Cost Effective for You?**
Popular conception among parents has been that a home-packed lunch will be less expensive than buying lunches at school. Compare the costs of the food that you would buy to the actual cost of the school lunch, averaged out over time and you may be surprised at which option provides the best value.
- + Does Your Child Have Any Food Allergies or Other Dietary Issues?**
A packed lunch can give you more control over what foods your child is eating when it comes to allergies. However, Fresha offers menus specifically to address this and offer Gluten free, egg free, dairy free menus in addition to the main menu - so we have you covered! You don't have to have a school lunch every day, so you could mix and match.
- + Which Fits Into Your Schedule and Family Routine?**
Packing a lunch for your child to take to school each day is a task that needs to be handled on a daily basis and not all families have time for this. Paying ahead for school lunches can be an easier, lower-stressful way to make sure your children have a healthy lunch at school.
- + Which Provides Healthy Choices to Your Child?**
Fresha is proud to offer a range of delicious and nutritious options in our school meals. Children who are fussy eaters may not fancy all the choices provided at school. Although many will learn to adjust, others will need a little more encouragement. Perhaps it would help if they look at the following week's menu with you and they could pick one or two days that have something on the menu that appeals to them to try out a school lunch.



Fresha's Connection with Parents

We believe that promoting healthy eating to your children is a collaborative effort between Fresha Catering, your school and home.

We welcome feedback about our school lunches from all parents and would love to hear from you with any questions or suggestions regarding our lunch menus by emailing us at feedback@fresha.org

New Menu
choices
after
half-term!

Follow us on social media



www.fresha.org

SAFEGUARDING



Safeguarding Leads and Contact Information

Miss Maria White: Designated Safeguarding Lead and Headteacher.
For any urgent safeguarding matters please email:
safeguarding@topsham.devon.sch.uk. Please do not use this email for any other matters apart from safeguarding.

Our Deputy Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Amanda Lacey, Headteacher.

Safeguarding our children will always be a priority for everyone in the school. All staff are trained in how to keep children safe and alongside this we have our safeguarding team. Anyone of our staff can be contacted in relation to Safeguarding.

Level 3 trained staff are qualified to the same level as the Safeguarding Leads. In our school this includes our Admin Team and Miss Greygoose. Again, their details are on our website.

Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S business and we will always do our very best to keep our children safe.

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.*

PTA NEWS

Bake Sale – thank you

This year's fundraising had a yummy start off with Year 6 Bake Sale. Thank you to everyone that baked and contributed! The next Bake sale will be run by Year 5 on Friday 10th November.

PTA Meeting

Next week, Tuesday 17th October, there will be an online PTA meeting (on Zoom) and everyone is welcome. Log in from 7.30pm

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74706692295?pwd=3umv4bHf8Z4QwmtRoMRnN6qSxjD0Mp.1> and join us in this meeting that will specially cover the plans for this year's Christmas Events.

Personalised gifts – new process

Whilst we are on the theme of Christmas... Once again, with the lovely Maria Goodfellow of Magenta Bespoke help, we are organising the always wonderful opportunity for your child's designs to be turned into a unique gift or set of cards for you to share with your family and friends this Holiday. All funds generated will be added to the PTA funds. But this year we have a novelty!

1. Your child(ren) will create their artwork during school time and once they are completed, they will be uploaded on Google Classroom (have you checked if they are already there?!).
2. You can then go to www.topshampta.co.uk/xmas-gifts and check the options (Cards, Mug, Coasters, Aprons, Tea towels, Metal Tins, or Tote bag).
2. Place and pay for your order by 1st November.
3. Once ready, your child will bring home your order.

Please note that after 1st November, no more orders can be placed.

Pre-loved uniform Sale

Needing some winter school uniform?! Next Friday, 20th October, after school you can buy some pre-loved uniform. These kids grow out of their clothes so quickly and this will be another chance to grab some bargains.

Dates for
the Diary:

Date	Event
Monday 16 th October	Harvest Celebration and Food Bank donations
Tuesday 17 th October	PTA Meeting on Zoom
Friday 20 th October	Year 3/4 Roman Workshop at Topsham Museum
Friday 20 th October	PTA Pre-loved uniform sale
Friday 20 th October	Break up for half-term (3.30pm finish)
Friday 20 th October	PTA Pre-loved Uniform Sale
Monday 30 th October	Return to school after half-term
Tuesday 31 st October	Closing date for applying for a secondary school place for September 2024
Wednesday 1 st November	Open Session for children starting Reception class in September 2024 9.30am - 10.30am
Wednesday 1 st November	Deadline for ordering PTA Personalised gifts
Thursday 2 nd November	Year 6 Trip to Exeter Energy from Waste Plant (Efw)
Monday 6 th - Friday 10 th November	No teacher-led clubs this week.
Tuesday 7 th November	Parents' Evening – 3.45pm – 6.45pm online
Thursday 9 th November	Parents' Evening – 3.45pm – 6.45pm online
Friday 10 th November	Year 5 Bake Sale
Thursday 16 th November	Watermeadow Grange visit – Year 4
Friday 17 th November	Children in Need
Tuesday 21 st November	Open Session for children starting Reception class in September 2024 1.30pm-2.30pm
Wednesday 22 nd November	Year 3 and 4 Roman Celebration
Monday 27 th November	Drum Assembly
Friday 1 st December	Christmas Craft morning: Wear Christmas Jumpers!
Friday 1 st December	PTA Christmas Bazaar
Wednesday 6 th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 7 th December	KS2 Rehearsals in the Church 1.30-3.15pm
Friday 8 th December	Community Christmas Party (morning), led by Year 6
Friday 8 th Wednesday December	Watermeadow Grange visit – Year 3
Friday 8 th December	Choir performing Christmas Carols in the playground at 3.30pm. Mince pies and mulled wine.
Monday 11 th December	KS2 Rehearsals in the Church 1.30-3.15pm
Tuesday 12 th December	KS2 Christmas Service in the Church 2pm and 6pm
Wednesday 13 th December	KS1 and FSU Christmas Service 2pm and 6pm
Thursday 14 th December	KS1 and FSU Christmas Parties
Thursday 14 th December	KS2 Christmas Parties
Friday 15 th December	Break up for Christmas Finish at the earlier time of 2.30pm (Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm)