

The Topsham School

Newsletter 12



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 1st December 2023

Christmas is coming...!



The start of Christmas is in full swing today as the whole school has come together for lots of craft activities, mixed up from the Big Acorns to Year 6. Everyone looks so festive in their jumpers, and Christmas songs have been filling the corridors!

We are looking forward to the rest of the day being full of Christmas cheer as we move in to the Christmas Fair. Remember that this starts at 3.45pm and you can collect your tokens from the PTA Token stall at the Fair.



Applying for a Reception (Big Acorns) place for September 2024

Children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 will start primary school in September 2024. Devon County Council's application process is now open for the Reception September 2024 intake and it will remain open until 15th January 2024. The link below contains a step-by-step guide tab and also an apply now tab.

[Apply for a reception or year 3 place at a primary school \(devon.gov.uk\)](https://www.devon.gov.uk/apply-for-a-reception-or-year-3-place-at-a-primary-school)

Driving and cycling to the school

Can we please remind all of our parents and carers of a few things at drop off and pick up. With these times being so busy, and with so many children and adults around, especially very small children, we are asking everyone to be as considerate as possible when they park or when they cycle to the school.

If you cycle, please dismount from your bike before coming through the gates. This is for the safety of all of our community, but especially for our youngest members.

If you drive to school, can we remind you that there are a number of places to safely park your cars that avoid parking on the double yellow lines and close to our neighbours and residents. These include the Rugby Club, Matthew's Hall and the High Street.

We appreciate that parking is challenging, but we know you will all share the desire to keep our community safe in the spaces around the school building.

Achievers

As a school, we promote positive behaviour and we have numerous incentives to support this. The recipients of our weekly achiever awards are listed below:

Achiever Awards:

Big Acorns Isabella and Lola
Year 1 Henry and Lauren
Year 2 Cole and Margot
Year 3 Freddie and Phoebe
Year 4 Elliott and Caitlin
Year 5 Joe and Luca
Year 6 Zain and Charli



School Leader Awards:

KS1 Oscar
KS2 Leo



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal. £55.91 was raised through the sale of poppies this year.

Lost Property

We still have a large box of unclaimed lost items in the lost property box in the foyer. Please come and check if any of them are yours. We also have the two items pictured below, a sheepskin liner (possibly for a pushchair) and a tray, that have been in school for a while now awaiting collection. If either of these are yours, please collect them from the school office.



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

Christmas Bazaar – TODAY 3.45pm-6.30pm

Here is what you need to know:

- Tokens – All of the stalls (except for external sellers) will only accept the PTA tokens as payment - just like the Summer Fair. If you have pre-ordered tokens, you can collect them from 3.30pm outside the school office or during the Bazaar at the Prizes/Tokens Stall.
- The Bar, Café and Food stalls will accept cash and card payments
- The Raffle will be drawn at 6pm.
- Prize Stall – This year, game stalls will award participants with star tickets that can be changed by prizes (Arcade Style).

Foodbank donations

In the spirit of giving back, we are organising a collection for the Exeter Food bank on **Monday, 4th December**. If you wish to donate an item, please hand in to your class teacher. Here is a suggestion of items to donate (no alcohol please):

Priority Items

Tins of meat
Tins of vegetables
Tins of fruit
Noodle and pasta snacks
Jams and spreads
Small jars of coffee

Christmas treats

Christmas cake
Yule Log (within date of 25th)
Sweet Pies (mince or other)
'Posh' Biscuits
Crisps, nuts and/or savoury crackers
A small game (cards, Dobble, Uno...)

Christmas Cards for our Local Community

The PTA and our Mental Health Ambassadors are collecting cards for The Estuary League of Friends. Each Christmas, ELOF send out Christmas boxes to support vulnerable members of our local community. We are inviting our students to make/write a Christmas card to be included in a box. Cards can be signed, "From your friends at The Topsham School". Maybe you could include a special drawing or a Christmas joke! There will be a Christmas Post Box by main reception for you to post your community cards. Please drop your card off from Monday **4th December to Friday 8th December**.

Carols on the Playground

Friday, 8th December, our School Choir will be filling the air with Christmas Carols that can be enjoyed with hot drinks and mince pies. Join them, enjoy and contribute as they are raising to be able to represent the school in various events.





Date	Event
Friday 1 st December	Christmas Craft morning: Wear Christmas Jumpers!
Friday 1 st December	Children from Year 6 Climbing at Exeter Quay in the afternoon
Friday 1 st December	PTA Christmas Bazaar 3.45pm
Friday 1 st December	Choir Performing at the Christmas Bazaar
Monday 4 th December	PTA Christmas Foodbank Collection
Monday 4 th – Friday 8 th December	Christmas cards for the community
Wednesday 6 th December	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 7 th December	10.00am School Choir to sing at Water Meadow Grange
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 December	School Choir singing at the Community Christmas Party
Friday 8 th 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	Topsham School Christmas post boxes close
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)
Tuesday 2 nd January	Occasional Day (School Closed)
Wednesday 3 rd January	Non-Pupil Day
Thursday 4 th January	Children return to school after Christmas holiday
Monday 15 th January	Deadline for applying for a Reception (Big Acorns) place for September 2024