

The Topsham School

Newsletter 17



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 22nd January 2021

aspiration

noun

- a strong desire, longing, or aim; ambition: *intellectual aspirations*.
- a goal or objective that is strongly desired

I started this week with my first pre-recorded assembly. It was take 2 as the first one I did I recorded in time-lapse by mistake so it finished in 2 seconds 😊. The theme was Zog and the Learning Powers linked to our school's first value of Aspiration and Attitudes to Learning. These two elements really are the key to achieving in learning. Without the desire to learn and achieve there is no motivation and nothing is achieved. Without strong Learning Powers we have no strategies or skills that enable us to succeed; we are left feeling helpless and reliant on others. Before this Lockdown, as a school, we were really focused on developing Learning Powers across the school. My aim is to try and keep this work at the forefront through my assemblies on a Monday.

Yesterday, while I was in the hall at lunch time, I had a really lovely conversation with a group of Year 2 children. One child was told me she was very excited as on Friday she would be getting her 'gold' leaf for reading. What was so lovely was at the start of the term she had told me this was her goal and here she was achieving it! I congratulated her and reminded her of how hard she must have worked to achieve this. She said yes and she had had to persevere and not give up, even when sometimes the books were hard. I asked if that was it or if she had a new goal. "Yes, of course, I want to get my sapphire leaf now." The whole group ooooooed and ahhhhed. Two children said they had already achieved this and it was hard work as "You have to read 100 times, and that is a lot to times to read". I agreed and asked the child if she was up to the challenge. She immediately said "Yes, I can do that if I want to, and I do want to!". What a brilliant attitude to learning!

I then asked the other two if that was it for them now. They both said "No, now we want to get another sapphire leaf because then we will have read 200 times". We spent time then as a group finding out how many sapphire leaves they would have to achieve to have read 1000 times. It was such a lovely conversation.

I know that for the children at home, missing out on these conversations with their peers will be very hard and I really hope the live sessions with their classes are helping to some degree. I know it will never be the same as being in school.

I want to say to all the children working remotely; well done to each and every one of you. You have now been doing this for 3 weeks and your teachers have told me how much you have been engaging and how much you have been challenging yourselves and showing the learning powers of resilience and perseverance over this time. You are learning new skills and new ways of learning and needing to do this independently; you should be so proud of yourselves. And thank

you again to parents who are supporting our children so brilliantly at home. I hope today was a "Feel Good Friday".

May you all find time to stop this weekend and find space to be together.

Take care

Mrs Pipe



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



Samaritans

You may be feeling more worried or unsettled by what's going on in the world. It might feel like there is a lot that's outside of our control. It's natural that this uncertainty and change may affect people's mental wellbeing. If you need someone to talk to in confidence about anything that's worrying you, you can ring 116123 for free. Samaritans is open 24 hours every day, 365 days a year.



Class News



Little Acorns

What a busy week! Lots of fantastic learning has taken place, but also a huge amount of play. We have had so much fun building our pirate ship outside and then bringing it to life with role play and props. We've certainly got some fearsome pirates amongst us. I'm just hoping that Miss Curran and I don't end up in pirate jail again! Well done on a fantastic week everyone.

Big Acorns

What a fantastic week you have all had Big Acorns. It has been brilliant to see your wonderful creativity and imagination as you have learnt both at home and in school. The ideas you had for your boxes were amazing, as was your sentence work linked to our 'Not a Box' book. Well done for continuing to work so hard on your phonics, we are really impressed with how you are tapping out your words and applying this to your writing. Your talk in your maths has been particularly good, as was your use of ordinal numbers, which you used very well to sequence events. Well done all of you, each and every one of you is a Shining Star!

Year 1

This week Year 1 have been working incredibly hard.

During maths, we have been hunting around the house for 3D shapes. We saw some really impressive shape towers built from cuboids and cylinders that were collected. We had to be curious when examining our shapes and we now know that not all cuboids and cylinders look the same!

In literacy we have been writing an information text and next week the children get to write their own. We've heard lots of exciting ideas already about what their texts might be about.

The children in school have created some incredible artwork. They watched a clip about 'Austin's Butterfly' where a little boy tries again and again to improve his drawing. Year 1 are great at this as they are persevering and bouncing back. We're so proud of them!

Year 2

Year 2, to say I am proud is an understatement. What superstars you have been over the past two weeks. You have been so eager to learn and in doing so have produced fantastic work. From symmetry to conjunctions, adjectives to fractions to almost overnight learning how to mute, unmute and raise your hand...all virtually! Keep up the brilliant attitudes Year 2.

Year 3

This week in Year 3 we've been busy becoming 4 times table experts. Our literacy has taken us to a strange workshop where we wrote dialogue for a mysterious and brave engineer who was building a robot. A highlight of the week was when Eliza played ukulele to the class singing a song she had written for our eco-warriors topic - it was awesome!

Year 4

Year 4- What an incredible start to Lockdown 3.0 Remote Learning. Those of you learning at home, have set yourselves in to such a great routine. You are bringing lots of energy to all of our live sessions and are being so supportive of each other in the Stream and other chat times. For those of you learning in school, we are so impressed with how focused you are with your learning. ALL OF YOU are working so, so hard- what a pleasure it is for us to teach you during this time!

Year 5

What an amazing start to the term you have made Year 5. I am so proud of how you have all settled into your Home Learning, and the hard work and determination you have shown. I am so grateful to you for being patient with me too, as I have got used to new things as well. I have really enjoyed seeing you at the beginning and end of the day and have been so impressed with how you have all adapted to our new procedures and timetable. You have all been amazing during our live sessions and have made some brilliant contributions.

Thank you, Year 5, for all your resilience and your positivity.

Year 6

Wow, Year 6! I have been so impressed with the work that you have produced this week. The effort that you are putting into your learning is so clear to see - you should be so proud of yourselves. You have had to tackle some tricky concepts this week: using colons is new to us and can take lots of practice. It has been a pleasure to work with you in our live sessions - you have all shown great commitment to your learning and have displayed positive attitudes throughout.

Keep up your fantastic work, I am really enjoying reading it!



Date	Event
Thursday 11 th February	Break up for half-term
Friday 12 th February	Non-pupil Day
Monday 22 nd February	Occasional Day
Tuesday 23 rd February	Start of second half of Spring Term
Thursday 1 st April	Break up for Easter Holiday