

# The Topsham School

## Newsletter 25



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](http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk)

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021**



On Tuesday it was Coronavirus Remembrance Day and we, as a school, met together on the field to be part of the minute's silence. It was so wonderful to have a moment where we all stood together in a circle, not only to remember the lives lost due to CV19, to think about family and friends who have recovered from CV19, to think about those we still miss seeing, but to celebrate the fact that on this day, this year, we as a school could be together. It was a very special moment for everyone. To see ALL of our

children and staff in one big circle (pods socially distanced of course) was really great and also very emotionally moving.

Please know that for our families who have suffered loss; loss of any kind we are still holding you in our hearts.

Keep taking care of each other.

Mrs Pipe

There is still a lot of talk about what the potential negatives may be for our children living through this time. There are also those who are considering the potential positives. This poem says some of these things and resonate with me. I hope they do with you too.

### **What If Instead Of Being Behind These Kids Are Ahead?**

What if, instead of falling behind, our kids are advanced?

What if they have more empathy, they enjoy family connection, they can be more creative and entertain themselves, they love to read and express themselves in writing?

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own backyards and balconies, sitting near a window in the quiet?

What if they notice the birds and the dates and different flowers emerge and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if our kids are the ones to learn to cook, organise their space, do their laundry and help keep a well run home?

What if they learn to stretch a dollar and live with less?

What if they learn to plan shopping trips and make meals at home?

What if they learn the difference between want and need?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good in sharing the small delights of every day?

What if they are the ones who place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential workers like truck drivers, grocers, cashiers, healthcare workers... just to name a few who are taking care of us right now while we are sheltered in place?

What if among these children a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and simpler life to truly learn what really matters in life?

What if they are ahead?

*By Jaime Ragsdale*

## End of Term

We would like to remind parents that the last day of term is Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April and the finish times for each class are shown below. Please note that Twiglets will finish at the earlier time of 4.30pm on this date.

Class	Finish time
Years 5 and 6	2.15pm
Years 1 and 2	2.20pm
Years 3 and 4	2.25pm
Big and Little Acorns	2.30pm
Twiglets after school club	4.30pm

## New Menu

Fresha are introducing a new menu which will start after the Easter holidays. We are pleased to announce that with the introduction of this new menu, there will also be the option of ordering a baguette each day with a choice of fillings. The current menu runs until the end of term and copies of the new menu will be sent to all parents by email on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April.



## Toy Donations

Due to CV restrictions, we are needing to continue to keep our KS1 children in their separate class pods during playtime and lunchtime. We have two identified play areas and one of these is an area that requires some small world play equipment such as dolls houses, farm sets, train track, Duplo, Lego, dinosaurs etc. anything that is plastic, can be safely sterilised and supports imaginative play. If you have

anything you are able to donate, please can you email [kwhitehead@topsham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:kwhitehead@topsham.devon.sch.uk) and we will organise a time to drop things to the school before the Easter holidays.

Thank you so much. 😊

## SAFEGUARDING



### Updating Contact Information

It is important that the contact information we hold for you is up to date. Please ensure you update us with any changes to mobile numbers, email addresses or home addresses by emailing [admin@topsham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@topsham.devon.sch.uk)

### 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](mailto:epipe@topsham.devon.sch.uk)
- Miss Maria White: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Deputy Headteacher and Online Safety Leader  
[mwhite@topsham.devon.sch.uk](mailto:mwhite@topsham.devon.sch.uk)
- Mrs Hartmann: Deputy Safeguarding Lead, SENDCO and Early Help Leader  
[nhartmann@topsham.devon.sch.uk](mailto: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](mailto:mashsecure@devon.gov.uk) and give as much information as you can."*

Devon Children and Families Partnership



### Booking School Dinners

We would like to remind parents that if your child requires a school meal, this needs to be booked online via Schoolcomms **by 8.15am** on the day. Bookings can be made up to the end of the Spring Term. The menu can be viewed on our school website. <http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk/school-lunch.html>



# Weekly Class News

## Little Acorns

What a busy and collaborative week you have had Little Acorns. It has been brilliant to hear you using so many rhyming words and exploring our early weighing activities. What fantastic story tellers you are also becoming, it is wonderful how you have all been joining in with our Dear Zoo story. Brilliant learning Little Acorns!

## Big Acorns

You have been amazing this week Big Acorns as you have begun to develop your own Dear Zoo ideas, you have shared some brilliant adjectives. It has been wonderful to see how well and confidently you are applying your writing skills. You have explored and talked very well about our weighing activities, making great comparisons and working very well together to balance the scales. Thank you for also being such kind and considerate friends this week, you are all really helping each other with your learning.

## Year 1

On Monday, Year 1 celebrated World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD). We marked the occasion by wearing odd socks. Each child completed a colouring sheet to display in their windows in order to raise awareness. Lucas shared a wonderful piece of artwork which he created with his family.

Our tadpoles are really starting to thrive. We have been observing them and looking closely to notice any changes. This week, we added rocks to their tank in preparation for them becoming frogs!

## Year 2

This week in Year 2 the children have begun to think creatively about innovating the story of Orion and the Dark. For this they have needed to make links to their own experiences and emotions. We can't wait to get writing next week! Continuing our theme of Multiplicative Reasoning, the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about division and how to represent this with concrete resources and pictorially. Our problem solving session allowed the children to really show their learning off!

In their Wednesday afternoon session with Mrs Ostrer, the children have created beautiful group collages to reflect their goals and aspirations.

I can't believe we are heading into the final week before Easter. This coming week is going to be egg-cellent with lots of RE, Art and creative writing!

## Year 3

This week in Year 3 we've been going round in circles, or turning in circles to be precise. Clockwise and anti-clockwise quarter and half turns have lead us to learning about right angles. We've discovered right angles all over the classroom and in 2D shapes - they are everywhere! In Literacy we've started planning our poems about a journey down the River Exe and next week we'll be writing and recording them. A real highlight has been our Tag Rugby P.E. lessons where we have been learning about running with the ball, passing and tagging. What a busy week!

## Year 4

Well, Year 4..... this has been such a positive and successful week! We have been real poets and mathematicians. The progress you have made in your learning has been visible straight from Monday, and every day you have built on your knowledge and understanding, step by step. Your use of and understanding about mathematical language and terminology has leapt forward. And we cannot wait to read your poetry next week: mums and dads, look out for a recorded recital at the end of term! On top of this, we have some beautiful posters complete for the Topsham Garden and Allotment Society Garden Show. Well done Year 4- such a great week of learning!

## Year 5

This week, we have been working really hard on division calculations and you have tried extremely hard with this. Well done for being resilient and for bouncing back when you have found your work challenging. You have all made links with the times table facts, which has been really impressive. I have enjoyed reading your character descriptions based on the animation we have watched and have written some great pieces of writing using 'show not tell' and dialogue. We have also started to think about how we could develop our outside areas. Well done Year 5.

## Year 6

Year 6 have worked exceptionally hard on their maths learning this week. They have investigated angles: bouncing back when they made a mistake and using making links to help them estimate angles. The children have been so enthusiastic about their learning and have shown great curiosity and questioning. In Literacy, they have continued to practise using 'show not tell' and dialogue within their writing and have analysed the impact on the reader. At the beginning of the week, we planted lots of different seeds and have loved watching them begin to grow. Keep an eye out on the Google Classroom stream over the Easter holiday for updates!

## PTA NEWS



### The Spring Topsham Hop

Wondering what on earth you're going to do to entertain yourselves this Easter while Things are generally shut? Wonder no more! The PTA will be running a treasure trail around Topsham over the Easter holidays. Follow the clues around the town (you just need to be able to scan a QR code on your phone) and earn a small prize. Suggested donation £2 per child to enter.

To receive your first clue either:

1. Transfer your donation to the PTA account (Friends of the Topsham School. Sort code 30-93-14. Account 02699047), then email the PTA email account [insert] to receive your first QR code. OR...
2. Drop cash in an envelope to one of the following addresses, where the first QR code will be available. **7 Monmouth St, Topsham, EX3 0AJ** OR **20 Newcourt Rd, Topsham, EX3 0BT**

The QR codes will be active from Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April.

Good luck!

### Last meeting

Thanks to everyone who joined the PTA meeting via Zoom on Tuesday. If you couldn't make it and would like the minutes, please email [thetopshamschoolpta@outlook.com](mailto:thetopshamschoolpta@outlook.com). Special thanks to Niki, Louise, Sophie and Row for coming up with the Easter treasure trail. This is the team that normally brings you the PTA quiz night, so you're in for a treat!

### Next meeting

The next PTA meeting will be on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm via Zoom



Date	Event
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Break up for Easter Holiday. Finish times: Years 5 and 6 2.15pm Years 1 and 2 2.20pm Big and Little Acorns 2.30pm Twiglets after school club 4.30pm
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Return to school after Easter Holiday
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	PTA Meeting via Zoom 8pm
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for Half-Term
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to school after Half-Term
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Break up for Summer Holiday



## COMMUNITY NEWS



Play  
Cricket



Topsham  
St James  
CC



On  
Fridays



Boys  
&  
Girls

From  
Year 2  
upwards

University of Exeter  
Sports Ground  
Exeter Road  
Topsham  
EX3 0LY



[www.topshamstjames.  
play-cricket.com](http://www.topshamstjames.play-cricket.com)

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