

The Topsham School

Newsletter 26



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

Thursday 1st April 2021



Happy Easter! I hope you all have a wonderful holiday.

This year, unlike last year, we can be with other people. I know we need to be outside but at least we can see some of our friends and family and this is a step in the right direction.

I hope you have time to be with those you love. I hope you have the opportunity to be reunited with some of those you may not have been able to see for some time now. Please make sure you do so safely; this is still so important.

Spring is definitely here so I hope you are able to spend time outside enjoying all the signs of spring; from tadpoles to galloping lambs, from blossom to developing buds. The world, for us, is starting to open up again. I look forward to welcoming you all back again on April 19th ready for the Summer Term. Let's hope that things continue to go well, and we are gradually allowed to open things further. There will be so much to celebrate.

Take care of each other and stay safe!

Mrs Pipe

End of Term Finishing Times

We would like to remind parents that today is the last day of term and the finish times for each class are shown below. Please note that Twiglets finishes at the earlier time of 4.30pm today.

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



PE Kit

Please can we remind parents that children need to be wearing appropriate PE kit to school on their allocated days. Rainbow coloured leggings, multi-coloured branded hoodies and luminous trainers are NOT appropriate kit. Over the Easter Holidays, please ensure your child has the appropriate uniform ready for the Summer Term. Thank you.



Please can parents/carers ensure their child/children **DO NOT** climb on the concrete planters outside the front of the school.

These planters will be being replanted soon and we do expect school grounds to be treated with respect.

Climbing on the planters and the fences by the road and scooting about on the road outside school itself are all safety concerns and we do not want a child falling and/or hurting themselves.

Please keep your child/children with you so they remain safe and behaving in the manner we would expect in school.

Exciting News!

We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Whitehead is expecting her first baby! We know you will join us in congratulating her and her husband.



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. A copy of the new menu is being sent out by email today and menus are also available to download from the school website. <http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk/school-lunch.html>

Bookings are now open for the half-term.

All meals must be booked via Schoolcomms by 8.15am on the day.

If your child is not entitled to Free School Meals or Universal Free School Meals, please ensure that payment is made at the time of booking.

Peripatetic music and speech and drama lessons

Peripatetic lessons will restart after the Easter holidays. Please see the letter sent on Tuesday for more information and start dates. <http://www.topsham.devon.sch.uk/newsletters-and-letters.html>



If you have any enquires regarding music lessons, please contact admin@topsham.devon.sch.uk

For enquiries regarding speech and drama lessons, please contact thaliasquire@icloud.com

Easter Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Please see the link below for information about the Easter Holiday Activities Programme which is available for children in receipt of benefits-related Free School Meals or who meet other eligibility criteria.

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/document/free-easter-holiday-activities-and-meals-for-children>.

Details of the locations and nature of the provision available can be found via the link and bookings should be made directly with the provider.

Brownie Achievements

We were delighted to hear about some of the things that pupils in Year 5 at The Topsham School have achieved over the last year whilst in lockdown with Topsham Brownies.

Congratulations the following girls, who despite not being able to meet face to face for over a year, have achieved some amazing results via activity packs and zoom meetings:

Ella A- Bronze Award

Kiki D - Bronze Award

Millie C - Bronze Award

Bonnie H - Bronze & Silver Award

Amelia G - Bronze, Silver & Gold Award (she has also completed all 18 interest badges)

Elsie G - Bronze, Silver & Gold Award (she has also completed 8 interest badges).

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

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."*

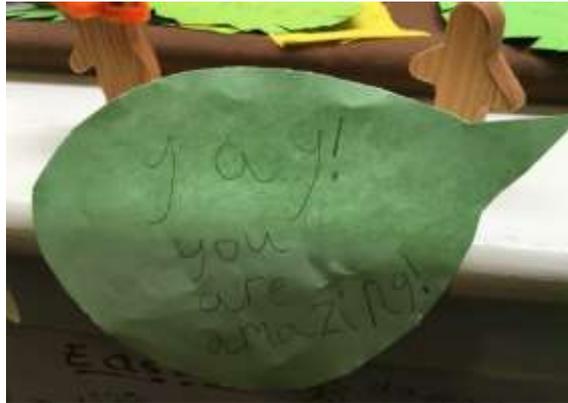
Devon Children and Families Partnership

R.E. Week

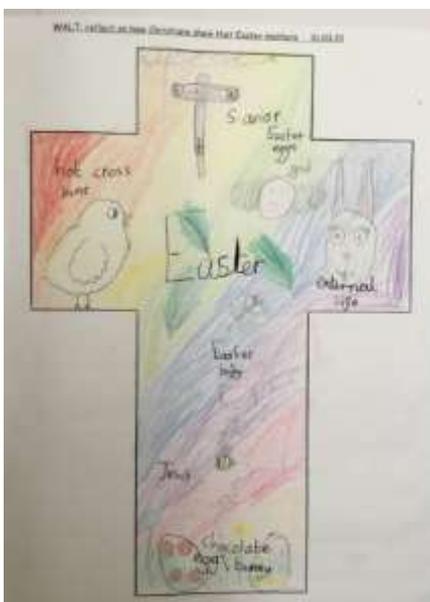


During this week the whole school has been exploring the Easter story and finding out the importance to Christians. We began the week on Monday with a virtual assembly by the Rev. Grace.

Big Acorns and Year 1 has found out why Christians put a cross in an Easter garden. They listened to the Easter story starting with Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey and thought about what they might have said to him if they were there.



Beautiful Easter gardens have been made in FSU, Year 1 and Year 4. With Year 4 taking on the question 'Why do Christians call the day Jesus died Good Friday?'



Year 2 and 3 were thinking about 'Why is Easter important to Christians?'

Excellent questions were raised in Year 5 and 6 during discussions about Easter such as 'Why did Judas betray Jesus? How did Jesus know Judas would be the one to betray him? Why didn't Jesus hide? Why didn't Jesus save himself when he was being crucified?' A great example of how the children are using their learning power of curiosity.

Happy Easter to you all!





Weekly Class News

Little Acorns

The Little Acorns have had a fantastic final week of term. The sun has been shining and we have enjoyed spending lots of time outside in our green room. This week in phonics, we have been learning the phoneme 'o' and are beginning to identify different things that begin with this sound. In literacy, we have been listening to traditional tales and have really enjoyed talking about our favourite characters. The Little Acorns have really impressed us when working with numbers to 5 this week. The children are already beginning to understand the concept of 1 more/less - fantastic! Thank you for a wonderful term Little Acorns. We hope that you all have a lovely Easter break.

Big Acorns

We have been so impressed with how hard the Big Acorns have continued to work this week. In maths the children have been applying their knowledge of the number system and are increasingly more able to provide reasoning for their answers. In literacy we have reached the end of our talk for writing sequence on 'Dear Zoo'. The Big Acorns have produced some fantastic inventions of their own from 'Dear Farm' to 'Dear Aquarium', thinking carefully about what animals to include and appropriate adjectives to describe each one. It has been particularly lovely to observe so much imaginative play going on this week. The children have been playing beautifully together to act out their own narratives, both in person and through the use of puppets in our puppet theatre. What a wonderful end to the term Big Acorns! We hope that you all have a lovely Easter break.

Year 1

Year 1 have been very busy this week writing amazing descriptions of a picture in Literacy and looking after our seedlings and tadpoles. Alongside this, we have been learning about why Christians place a cross in an Easter garden. We have found out about Palm Sunday by telling the story of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey and have written speech bubbles saying what we would have said if we were there. We have also listened to the Easter story, decorated crosses and made salt dough hot cross buns, thinking about what they remind Christians of. The children were fantastic at creating an Easter garden complete with real and paper flowers, they certainly showed their learning power of collaboration during this activity.

Well done Year 1 and have a super Easter break.

Year 2

What a busy brain week we have had Year 2! This week you have blown my socks off with your incredible story writing, using Orion and the Dark as your example text. You have thought carefully about your vocabulary choices, bringing your stories to life! In maths we have had to

think carefully about 'time'. O'clock, half past, quarter to and quarter past...as well as knowing the 5 minutes intervals! Blimey. Lots for you to get your heads around. Over the course of the week you have thought carefully about the Christian Easter story, using your learning powers to make links, reflect carefully and listen with empathy. As we head into the Easter holiday, and a well-earned break, please know Year 2 that whilst this term has been a little different, you have all continued to amaze me with your brilliance. See you after Easter - don't eat too much chocolate!

Year 3

Our highlights from a busy four day week include: finishing our river poems and reading them aloud to share them; learning about the Easter story and thinking about how it's celebrated; repotting our sunflower seedlings and planting sweet pea seeds; great team work and effort which earned us an Easter Egg Hunt as a class treat. Well done Year 3 - have definitely earned our Easter holiday!

Year 4

We have made it to the end of a very strange term Year 4, but we are so proud of your attitude, your hard work and your motivation. You have really absorbed lots of new learning and learnt new skills- even our gardening has improved!

In such a short time you have achieved so much- you must all be exhausted! Your writing and the quality of the word choice has improved hugely, and the way you discuss and answer questions about your maths learning is really making you sound like mathematicians.

This week we have had a creative week of hanging, with symmetry, off wall bars, planting seeds and recording our poems. Well done Year 4!

Year 5

We have had a lovely week in the sunshine and have been preparing our outdoor area ready for planting with plants next term. Year 5 have enjoyed planting their seeds and hopefully these will grow and make the area outside our classrooms really colourful and vibrant and will attract lots of insects too. Thank you, Year 5, for your effort in weeding the beds and tidying up our areas, as this is very hard work - it will certainly be worth it! I know you will also enjoy looking after our environment when we return after Easter. Have a lovely break and let's hope the sun stays with us. 😊

Year 6

This week, we have really enjoyed watching our plants grow. The children have shown excellent responsibility in looking after them: they have been meticulous in ensuring that they have been watered, whether they are in the sun and when they need to be brought in. In Literacy, the children have created their own characters and have used a huge range of skills when describing them. In Maths, they have continued to make links in their learning to help them when solving missing angle problems.

Enjoy your Easter holiday, Year 6! I will try my best to look after our lovely plants!

World Autism Awareness Week – 29 March – 4 April

Set out below is a helpful quick guide about Autism. Next week we will take the opportunity as a staff to update ourselves about some the key myths and facts about Autism and, as always, will be celebrating difference with the children across the school.

If you are interested in helping your younger children understand some of the differences, there is a short film in the 'Daisy and Ollie' series, which will be available from 29 March on My5.TV.

More information is available at: <https://www.autism.org.uk/>

What is autism?

Autism is a lifelong disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. There are approximately **140,000** autistic school children in the UK.¹

This can lead to meltdowns or shutdowns

- Communication challenges**
Needing time to process information
- Difficulty with unexpected change**
Even small changes can cause huge anxiety
- Sensory differences**
Noise, smells and lights can be very overwhelming
- Repeating things and routines**
Taking the exact same route to school or liking the same food

1 in 100 children are estimated to be autistic.²

70% of autistic children are in schools like yours.³

79% of autistic people report feeling isolated.⁴

Autistic children are **3 times** more likely to be excluded from schools like yours.⁵

Well-known autistic people

- Chris Packham
- Anne Hegerty
- Talia Grant

World Autism Awareness Week 2021
29 March – 4 April

Help create a society that works for autistic people.

"If you see anyone having a meltdown, be calm and understanding and give them the space to calm down."
Talia Grant

The National Autistic Society is a charity registered in England and Wales (204420) and in Scotland (SC295477)

AXIS Education Schools activity for World Autism Awareness Week, kindly sponsored by Axis Education



Friends of
The Topsham School
The Topsham School PTA

PTA NEWS

The Spring Topsham Treasure Trail Hop

Please have a go at the PTA treasure trail this Easter holiday. Eggs-ellent fun for all! Suggested donation of just £2 per child to enter. The trail takes place around Topsham – you just need a QR scanning app on your phone to follow the clues and find the final treasure. A small prize for everyone that follows the trail to the end. Please see the poster or email thetopshamschoolpta@outlook.com to enter.

Have a happy Easter!



Wondering what on earth you're going to do to entertain yourselves this Easter? Wonder no more!

The Topsham School PTA is running a treasure trail over the Easter holidays. Anyone can enter! Follow the clues around Topsham (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. Email thetopshamschoolpta@outlook.com for details of how to make your donation and 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 Street, Topsham OR 20 Newcourt Road, Topsham.

The QR codes will be available from Friday 2nd April to Friday 16th April. Good luck!



Business Manager, Devon Primary SCITT at Trinity Primary School, Exeter

Location:

Salary: NJC Grade E, 16-22 £24,012 - £27,041 pro-rata

Duration: **Permanent**

Work pattern: **37 hours a week. Term time only, plus 5 weeks**
(to be agreed during school holidays)

Closing date: **9am on 26th April 2021** (Interviews – 7th May)

Start date: **7th June 2021**

The Devon Primary SCITT (DPSCITT) trains 35-40 trainee teachers a year in partnership with 50 primary schools across Devon.

We are keen to appoint a highly motivated and well-organised Business Manager, with excellent interpersonal skills, to provide effective administration and financial management.

This is an exciting opportunity to join the core team of an extremely committed and successful partnership, recognised nationally as the 'School-based ITT Provider of the Year, 2019'.

The successful candidate will have outstanding verbal and written communication skills, along with a high level of self-reliance, creativity and initiative. Working independently for much of the time, they will receive expert HR and finance support and be an integral part of a small, dynamic team.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide high quality admin support for the DPSCITT Director and wider partnership.
- Promote the values, vision and ethos of DPSCITT and support trainees' welfare.
- Maintain positive relationships and excellent communication with all stakeholders.
- Coordinate, book and ensure resources are available for training sessions.
- Maintain effective systems for tracking and reporting trainees' progress.
- Promote and market DPSCITT, maintaining the website and social media accounts.
- Support recruitment processes, organising interview days and processing offers.
- Maintain accurate trainee records complying with DfE and GDPR requirements.
- Manage financial processes and monitor & report on DPSCITT finances.
- Contribute to the analysis, evaluation and continuous improvement of DPSCITT.

The Devon Primary SCITT is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. This post is subject to satisfactory references and enhanced DBS checks.

For more information, please see the Work for Us section of our website (<https://web.dpsscitt.ac.uk/landing-page/dpsscitt-home/who-we-are/#workforus>), where you will find a letter, job description, person specification and an application form.



Date	Event
Thursday 1 st 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 th April	Return to school after Easter Holiday
Tuesday 27 th April	PTA Meeting via Zoom 8pm
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
Friday 28 th May	Break up for Half-Term
Monday 7 th June	Return to school after Half-Term
Friday 23 rd July	Break up for Summer Holiday