

The Topsham School

Newsletter 9



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 11th November 2022

The Year 6 children have returned from their residential at Pixie's Holt. It is lovely to see them all back safe and sound and they have come into school very excited to talk about what they have done together.

One of the key aspects of a residential is to develop confidence and skills both as individuals but also as a group; TEAMWORK

I have been speaking to The Foxes, one of the Year 6 teams.

The Foxes won 3 out of 4 of the challenges that took place on Monday. The Foxes already faced the additional challenge of having 10 people in their team while the other teams only had 8 or 9 individuals to work with.

One of the challenges they won was the Tyre Challenge. I wanted to know more about this.

The children shared the following:

- For this challenge we had to make sure that everyone in our team had to go through a bike tyre in the quickest time.
- We managed to do this in 12 seconds. Other teams managed in 15 – 18 seconds.
- We used collaboration to help us. We listened to each other and we collaborated well. We would try the ideas and decided on the one we thought would be the quickest and used this.
- We also used metacognition. We didn't just want to use any idea, we needed to think and explain our ideas to one another and then think about which would be the best option.
- Making Links was another learning power we used. The first time we tried, we made it through the challenge in 20 seconds. We then reflected and thought about how we could make it faster. We tried 2 people at a time going through and then 3 people. The 3 people didn't work as we all fell over and got stuck. So, we needed to make links and through this we decided to do 2 at a time.
- Me and Kaycee went through first and then others lined up behind us and Kaycee and I worked together to put the tyre over everyone else behind them. This worked well because they were able to stretch the tyre over people and because there was two of them, it was quicker. We'd tried only 1 person but this did not work as quickly.
- We used empathy alongside cooperation to make sure we used the best idea for the group. We didn't fight or get in a mood if our idea was not used.
- It was hard at first because at first, we didn't listen to each other but then we decided to take turns to talk so we could really hear each other's ideas and choose the best.



- It felt really good being part of the team and it felt successful. There was another time when we managed to win a challenge with shooting water from a bottle and we had to trust each other as we needed to lean on and hold each other so we didn't fall. We managed getting the water 11 feet.
- It felt great being part The Foxes team as there were few arguments and we all got along really well.

What have you learnt about teamwork? What would be your 3 top tips?

1. **Empathy and Listening:** The better you listen, really listen, to the idea the easier it is to make a decision on what would work best for the team. Don't argue, listen to understand. You then need to try the idea and see how it works to help make the right decision. You need to understand that you are not always going to be the main person, there is no person who is the star, there is NO I in team.
2. **Perseverance and resilience:** Don't give up. It's not going to be easy because it's a challenge so it's going to be hard. You will only succeed if you don't give up. You need to just brush yourself off and go again if you fall or fail once, twice or even more.
3. **Adaptability:** We had to be able to adapt our ideas and adapt how we did something to be successful. This means changing things to make things more effective.

Thank you, Neve, James, James Sienna, Manha, Oskaras, Holly, Kaycee and Neve.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Mrs Pipe

Ofsted

I want to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to my incredible team for the last two days. Their total commitment and dedication to this process is a credit to each one of them and I am incredibly proud of them.

Thank you to the parents who gave such positive feedback on the school.

I can share no other information at this time. Once we receive the official report, we will share this with you; this may not be for about another 4 weeks. Until then, please know we will continue to provide our children with the best education we can.

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:



Achievers:

Big Acorns: Macie-May and Mia
Year 1 Poppy and Isobel
Year 2 Zac, William and Tor
Year 3 Oscar and Syd
Year 4 Lilyanna and James
Year 5 Esme and Florence



Lunchtime Awards:

Big Acorns: Thomas

Year 1 Elena

Year 2 William

Year 3 Harriet

Year 4 Lilyanna and Mitchell

Year 5 Livvi



Construction Club cancelled Thursday 17th November

There will be no Construction Club on Thursday 17th November as Mrs Owens is holding Parents' Evenings for Big Acorns on this date.

Bring a Parent to Learning Powers

We would like to invite parents of children in Y1-Y6 to join us on Wednesday 16th November from 9.00am-10.30am to our Learning Powers morning.



Children in Need

On Friday 18th November we will be raising money for Children in Need! This is a very special fundraising event and one enjoyed throughout the school. Whilst of course we love sporting our spots, this year the School Council would like the theme to be 'Crazy Hair Day'. Therefore, we would like to invite children to style their hair in a, well, crazy way!

Uniform is to be worn as normal, but with the wackiest wigs, up-do's, beautiful bouffant...you name it! After school, there will also be a cake sale and a 'guess how many smarties' competition. Donations on the day are greatly appreciated, but please no more than £1.



We look forward to seeing your crazy hair creations!

Nasal Flu Vaccination for children in Big Acorns -Year 6

All children in Reception (Big Acorns) to Year 6 from September 2022, are eligible for a free Nasal Childhood Flu Vaccination.

The immunisation team will be visiting your child's school on: **Thursday 17th November 2022**

Seasonal flu vaccination remains one of the most important public health interventions to protect individuals and prevent the spread of infection to those most at risk in society. This contributes to reduce morbidity, mortality and hospitalisation associated with flu at a time when the NHS and social care will be managing winter pressures, potentially including further outbreaks of COVID-19.

For this reason, it is essential we deliver the vaccine to as many children as possible.

Full information about this live vaccination, including frequently asked questions and access to the NHS England information, are available when accessing the link. We recommend you discuss this vaccination with your child prior to the date of vaccination.

To consent to, or to decline the flu vaccination for your child please click on the link below:

<https://schoolimms.hcrgcaregroup.com/flu/2022/devon>

Please note that this link will close at midnight on: **13th November 2022**

It is important that you respond prior to this date for your child to receive their flu immunisation at the school session as there will only be one visit to their school this season.

If you miss this deadline, your child(ren) will not be vaccinated at school, however you will have the opportunity to book them into a community catch up clinic. This also applies if your child is absent or refuses the vaccination at school.

After your child has been vaccinated (if consent provided) you will receive an automated email to confirm this and provide post-immunisation advice. Please check your junk/spam box on the day of vaccination if you do not receive this in your inbox.

If you have any difficulties with completing the consent form, please contact the Immunisation Team on our Single Point of Access (SPA).

Tel: 0300 247 0082 (lines are open 9.00 until 16.30)

Email: vcl.immunisations@nhs.net

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding Leads and Contact Information

Members of staff who are safeguarding leads are as follows:

- Mrs Emma Pipe: 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.
- 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



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, Miss Greygoose and Mrs Owens. 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



This week's news is all about our Christmas plans and needs! We are super excited about the **Christmas Bazaar on Friday 2nd December**. There are lots of exciting activities and stalls planned, music, hot food, a bar – it is going to be a great way to kick off the festive season. In our meeting this week we made a list of all the little extras that are needed. If you have and can spare any of the following, please drop off donations to the PTA shed:

- Christmas Jumpers (needed before Friday 18th November). Please dig out last year's festive tops to see if they still fit! If they don't, we would LOVE them!
- Pre-loved books and toys
- Christmas Decorations (we need a tree, lights, and decorations for the grotto).
- Christmas craft supplies
- Old fabric for bunting making
- Clear Jam Jars with lids
- Sweets and lucky dip treats (any left over from Halloween?!)

Hopefully, you will have found the raffle tickets at the bottom of the school bag. The raffle hampers are filling up nicely and we would be so grateful if you could try to sell as many raffle tickets as possible. Remember, all the money raised goes back into the school to buy extras and essentials, like books, playground equipment and IT kit, for your children to use and enjoy. Please return sold slips and money to the front office as well as any unsold tickets. The deadline for ticket sales is Thursday 24th November. The draw will be made during the Christmas Bazaar at 6pm. Donations to the hampers can be made to the front office or class teacher. Here is a little reminder of the colour themes for each class:

- Big/Little Acorns > Blue
- Year 1 > Silver
- Year 2 > Purple
- Year 3 > Red
- Year 4 > Yellow
- Year 5 > Pink
- Year 6 > Green

On Friday 18th November we will be holding a pre-loved uniform and Christmas jumper sale. We would love some volunteers to help us set up and run the sale. Please email the PTA or get in touch with your Class Rep if you are free from 3.00pm on Friday 18th.

As always, if you have any questions or can help us in any way, please email thetopshamschoolpta@outlook.com



COMMUNITY NEWS

**Please be aware that clicking on links/following web addresses in this section may take you to sites that require payment for the activities advertised. The Topsham School does not endorse any products or events in this section.*

Glow in the dark dodgeball

Glow in the dark dodgeball is coming to Countess wear Community Primary School.

Sporty Stars will be hosting two glow in the dark dodgeball evenings on Monday **28th November**.

This unique experience combines UV and disco lighting, face paint, fluorescent bibs, music and specialised sports equipment. Children will play a range of dodgeball related games in an exciting disco sporting environment, like no other.

We recommend children arrive wearing sporty clothing, they will be provided with all the equipment they require including fluorescent bibs and face paint.

Timings:

Keystage 1 & 2: 5:30pm - 6:30pm

Bookings:

The cost of these sessions are £7 per person, each session will have a limited number of spaces.

Book online via the website here: <https://www.sportystars.co.uk/glow-sports-events.html>

SportyStars Holiday Camp

Sporty Stars have received funding for a limited number of **FREE** places at their Christmas holiday camp, located at **Countess Wear Primary School, Exeter**. This funding is targeted for children eligible for free school meals. In receipt of this letter, you are eligible for one of these places.

This offer includes 4 days, (19th – 22nd Dec). Parents can only book 4-day blocks and CANNOT book individual days. Sporty Stars want to ensure as many people as possible have the opportunity to access these places. These places are limited and on a first come first serve basis, so please be quick if you wish for your child to attend.

As part of the holiday activities and food programme (HAF), eligible children are even able to bring one friend to accompany them at the holiday camp, even if their friend is not in receipt of free school meals. However, a friend must be added on initial form and cannot be added afterwards.

Holiday camp information

Date (s): Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd

Timings:

Free: 8:30am – 12:30pm

Ages: 5 - 11

Location / registration: Countess wear Community School, Glasshouse Lane, Exeter, EX2 7BS

Activities: The holiday camp consist of a range of diverse activities including: Nerf wars, archery, dodgeball, arts & crafts, sports, bouncy castles and more.

What to bring: Morning snack, water bottle & sporty / warm clothing and Christmas Spirit.

Important info: We want to ensure all of these spaces are filled. Children will need to be able to attend for all 4 days.

How to sign up

Book your child's place online: <https://bookwhen.com/sportystars-haf>

Contact

Lewis – hello@sportystars.co.uk



Date	Event
Tuesday 16 th November	Parents' Evening for Big Acorns
Wednesday 16 th November	Bring a parent to Learning Powers 9.00am – 10.30am
Thursday 17 th November	Nasal Flu Vaccinations for Reception – Year 6
Thursday 17 th November	Parents' Evening for Big Acorns
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need – Crazy Hair Day
Friday 18 th November	PTA Pre-loved uniform and Christmas jumper sale 3.30pm
Friday 2 nd December	Christmas Craft and Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 2 nd December	PTA Christmas Bazar
Wednesday 7 th December	KS2 Service in the church 2pm and 6pm
Friday 9 th December	Christmas Dinner
Monday 12 th December	KS2 Drama workshops
Tuesday 13 th December	KS2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 14 th December	KS1 and FSU Christmas performance afternoon and evening performances
Thursday 15 th December	KS2 Drama workshops
Thursday 15 th December	FSU and KS1 Christmas party
Friday 16 th December	Break up for Christmas Holidays (2.30pm finish)
Tuesday 3 rd January	Occasional Day – School Closed
Wednesday 4 th January	Return to school after Christmas Holidays