The Topsham School
Newsletter 01

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 6th September 2024

A huge welcome back to all of our children and families

The school felt very empty over the summer, and now feels as full and exciting as it should do! We were busy over August continuing to work on making aspects of our school even better. New LED lighting has been installed throughout the classrooms, and additional in the Big Acorns classroom, preparing us for these darker autumnal days! And the painting has continued in classrooms and throughout the school. New urinals have also been installed in the KS2 boys' toilets.

Teachers have been busy preparing for a wonderful term, and we can't wait to really get stuck in.

New Staff

We would like to welcome Miss Perrins into Reception (Big Acorns), and Nina Matthews who leads our servery team at lunchtimes.

Exciting news

We would like to say a big congratulations to Sarah Haysom, who got married over the holidays. She is now Sarah Todd and the Reception class have already been introduced to her as Mrs Todd!

Our new catering and lunchtime systems

We have been really happy with the meals that have been provided this week- tasty, homemade and nutritious. The children have had very positive responses to the pizza, pies and sausage rolls this week.

I also need to thank you for your patience with the teething problems. I can imagine how frustrating it must be having issues with ordering, or having to reorder because something has changed. I want to assure you that our office staff, caterers, serving staff, MTAs, and myself have and will continue to make this a priority, and have ensured that all dietary requirements that we know of are carefully considered.

Please do let the office know, by email if needed, if there is a dietary requirement we need to be aware of while we finalise details and arrangements.

We have removed all bookings for jacket potatoes and baguettes up to Friday 13th September, to enable parents who had originally selected these menu choices to re-book meals for next week via Schoolcomms.

We are incredibly excited about this new partnership. While we know it is a lot of work initially for our staff, and can be frustrating for you as parents, the meals are prepared and cooked with care, skill, thought and passion, that our children will love.

Safeguarding our children

A new year brings changes that we can make adjustments to support. It is important that all of us follow these procedures.

In order to keep our children safe, please be aware of these procedures:

- **Please only enter the school grounds at 8.45am**. Before then, there may be vehicles moving, maintenance workers on site, our caretaker completing jobs around the car park.
- For our younger children and their families: **the side gate and the classroom doors will be closed at 8.55am.** Please don't try and enter that way. They will not be opened for you. You will need to come to the office if you are running a little late.
- Pre-school children and their families: Please wait outside the side gate. Mrs Weeks and Mrs Saunders will open the gate for you all at 9am.
- If the Key Stage 1 and Early Years side gate is closed when you pass through in the morning, please ensure that you close and bolt it again.

Mental Health Support

As we begin a new school year, this can bring a range of emotions for our children and for us too, as parents. A new year group, classroom and new routines can be really exciting but also daunting and can cause feelings of anxiety and overwhelm for some children.

When this happens, our children need to stop and regroup – grounding techniques can be very useful for this.

Please follow the link below to find 15 great ideas for grounding your child in moments of difficulty.

https://www.theyarethefuture.co.uk/grounding-exercises-for-kids/

Also remember these 3 top tips for supporting your child as they return to school:

- Let your child know it's okay to be scared – change can be tricky and we all need time to adjust. Validate, rather than dismissing their feelings.
- Focus on sleep – everything feels harder when we are tired!

- Be aware of your own feelings – if we speak negatively about school and the end of the holidays to our children, they can quickly adopt our views, so take your own temperature and try not to pass any stress onto your child.

Remember that if your child is really struggling emotionally, please refer to our Wellbeing Strategy, a tiered approach, on our website under Parents/Emotional Health and speak to your child's class teacher.

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.

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 Whitehead. 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.*

Peripatetic Lessons at Topsham School

Music Lessons

If you are interested in finding out more about music lessons or to sign your child up for lessons, please contact Music Devon using the details below:
http://www.musicdevon.com/
admin@music.devon.com
Or call during office hours on 01392 466390 (9:30 – 12:30 Monday – Friday during term time)

musicdevon.com

Speech and Drama Lessons

For information about Speech and Drama Lessons, please email Mrs Thalia Squire directly thaliasquire@icloud.com

Date	Event
Tuesday 17th September	PTA AGM
Friday 25th October	Break up for half-term (3.30pm finish)
Monday 4th November	Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 5th November	Non-Pupil Day
Wednesday 6th October	Children return to school after half-term
Friday 20th December	Break up for Christmas Holiday (2.30pm finish)
Monday 6th January	Return to school after Christmas Holiday