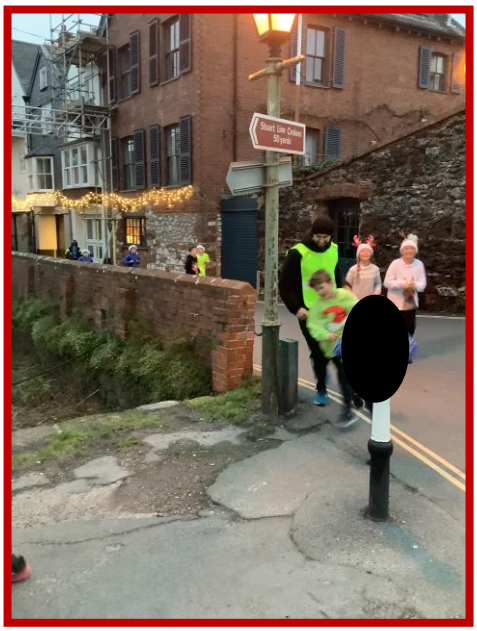
# The Topsham School
## Newsletter 14

**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 13th December 2024**

## Running Club Santa Run

Well done to everyone from Running Club who joined in with the Santa Run this year. We all had fun and festive time and really enjoyed how much the community cheered us all on. A massive thank you to all of our volunteers, without who, the Santa Run could not have happened. We look forward to a repeat next year!



## Community Christmas Party

Our annual Community Christmas Party, hosted by the children in Year 6 was a huge success this morning. The party gives us the opportunity of celebrating Christmas with members of the community and saying a big thank you to those who help to make our school the wonderful place it is. Thank you to Miss Greygoose and Mrs Todd for all their hard working organising this event. We would also like to thank the Key Stage Two Choir who sang beautifully, adding to the Christmassy atmosphere in the hall.

## Achievers

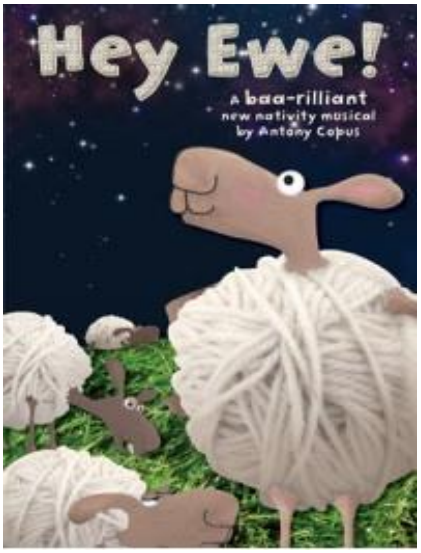
As a school, we promote positive behaviour and we have numerous incentives to support this. The recipients of last week's achiever awards are listed below:

**Achiever Awards:**

**Year 1** George and Joshua
**Year 2** Ruby and Casey
**Year 3** Isaac
**Year 4** Nel, Freddie and Tor
**Year 5** Elliott and Millie
**Year 6** Charlie, Grace and Sophia

## Key Christmas dates for next week…

## Monday 16th December – FSU and KS1 Performance 2.00pm and 6.00pm




The FSU and Key Stage 1 Christmas production, "Hey Ewe", will take place in the school hall at 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Little Acorns will only take part in the 2.00pm performance.

There are no physical tickets for these performances but there will be a list on the door of everyone who has signed up for 'tickets'.

If your child is in Pre-school (Little Acorns) please let us know if they will be attending the 2pm performance (all Little Acorns welcome, even if it is not their usual day) competing a short **Google form by clicking on the link below: https://forms.gle/SbXBbBoGJYttrvPd6**

**6.00pm Performance for Big Acorns/Year 1 and Year 2:**
**Children need to be in school by 5.30pm at the latest.** Please inform us if your child is able to attend the 6pm performance and the arrangements for collection by clicking on the following link and completing a short **Google form: https://forms.gle/ZXwdYjRijLqroN8y7**

## Tuesday 17th December - KS2 Carol Service – 2.00pm and 6.00pm

We invite parents of children in Years 3 – 6 to join us for the Key Stage 2 Christmas Carol Concert which will take place at St Margaret's Church at 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Tickets are not required for this event. Parents MUST indicate their children's attendance at the evening performance, as well as collection arrangements. We would appreciate as many children as possible attending the evening performance. Please confirm that your child is able to attend by clicking on the following link and completing a short Google form on the following link:
**https://forms.gle/Cqm1tiNieuoqvKZq8**

## Wednesday 18th December – School Christmas lunch

Dinners have been pre-ordered by parents for 18th December and we are looking forward to our school Christmas lunch.

## Thursday 19th December - Christmas Celebrations

All children, from Little Acorns to Year 6, will be celebrating Christmas with a celebration in their class groups during the afternoon of Thursday 19th December. This will be based mainly in classrooms and activities will be decided together with the children, by the class teacher, and might include games, music, a quiz and such like.

Each child will need the following;

• A change of clothes, ideally party clothes, to wear for the afternoon. They will need to bring this in with them, to change into at lunchtime.

• A special 'extra' snack - this might be a Christmassy themed additional snack that they will have at some point during the afternoon.

It does not need to be a big snack, but can be outside of our usual snack guidelines. Please remember no nuts. If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher

## And finally, Friday 20th December – Break up for Christmas Holidays

Don't forget the end of term is **at 2.30pm and Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm.**

## Applying for a Reception (Big Acorns) place for September 2025

The application system to apply for a reception place at primary/infant schools in September 2025 opens on **15th November 2024**. Apply online at the Citizens Portal.

The closing date is **15th January 2025**. You can apply after this date but applications will be considered late and may be at a disadvantage. Please see the 'Late applications' tab for more information.

If you cannot apply online, please contact the Education helpline on 0345 155 1019 and ask for a paper copy of the form to be sent to you.

## Safeguarding

**Safeguarding Leads and Contact Information**

**Miss Maria White: Designated Safeguarding Lead** and Head of School. 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 Amy Greygoose is our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.**

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 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*

# PTA News

Friends of
The Topsham School
The Topsham School PTA

## Christmas Bazaar

Last Friday, we had our traditional Christmas Bazaar and it was a perfect way of starting this year's Holiday Season. This was only possible thanks to our amazing school community and we are grateful for the amazing Year Rep Group and all that helped organizing this event, volunteers during the event (parents and grandparents!), school staff (teachers, administrators…), sponsor (Rodney Spiller) and external stalls, Donators and all the families that attended and brought so much fun to our event. THANK YOU! We managed to raise more than £2K. And more than raising money it was great to see all the smiles, Christmas games, delicious food and drinks, with music and drama performances as the cherry on top.

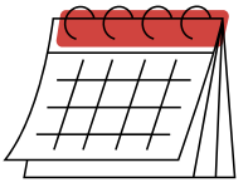
Check our website for news and/or contact us (and maybe leave a feedback or suggestions)
www.topshampta.co.uk

We are already planning exciting events for next term and you can join us on our next meeting on 6th February (online). Details to log in will be shared closer to that date.

## 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.*

# Dates for the diary



| Date | Event |
|---|---|
| Friday 13th December | Community Xmas Party (led by Year 6) |
| Friday 13th December | KS1 dress rehearsal performance for the rest of the school pm |
| Monday 16th December | Vision Screening for Big Acorns |
| Monday 16th December | KS1 and Foundation Stage Xmas performances @2pm and 6pm |
| Monday 16th December | KS2 church rehearsal pm |
| Tuesday 17th December | KS2 church services @2pm and 6pm |
| Wednesday 18th December | Christmas Dinner |
| Thursday 19th December | Christmas class celebrations |
| Friday 20th December | Break up for Christmas Holiday (2.30pm finish and Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm) |
| Monday 6th January | Return to school after Christmas Holiday |
| Friday 15th January | Deadline for applying for a Reception (Big Acorns) place for September 2025 |
| Thursday 6th February | Online PTA Meeting |
| Thursday 13th February | Children break up for half-term at 3.30pm |
| Friday 14th February | Non-Pupil Day |
| Monday 24th February | Return to school after half-term |
| Wednesday 5th March | Year 4 Eden Project Trip |
| Friday 4th April | Break up for Easter Holiday (2.30pm finish and Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm) |
| Tuesday 22nd April | Return to school after Easter Holiday |
| Monday 5th May | May Bank Holiday – School closed |
| Friday 23rd May | Break up for half-term (3.30pm finish) |
| Monday 2nd June | Non-Pupil Day |
| Tuesday 3rd June | Children return to school after half-term |
| Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd July | Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential |
| Wednesday 23rd July | Break Up for Summer Holidays (2.30pm finish and Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm) |