The Topsham School
Newsletter 15

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 20th December 2024

We would like to remind parents that children break up for the Christmas holidays at 2.30pm today and Twiglets finishes at the earlier time of 4.30pm.

Although the gate will be open for everyone at the end of the day as normal, please can we remind you that during the school day, you must close it behind you. This is for the safety of your children.

Congratulations to Miss Skinner, who is expecting a baby at the start of next year. Miss Skinner will be taking maternity leave after Friday 24th January 2025.

Our school will have two members of the SEND team within the federation covering in her absence. Charlotte Williams and Lizzie Hurford will be joining us after Miss Skinner has left, but unofficially will be in school from the start of January.

In the weeks leading up to their take over, Mrs Williams will be in school for a full handover with Miss Skinner and the teaching staff one day a week.

From 29th January, Mrs Williams will be in school on a Wednesday and Thursday, and Mrs Hurford on most Wednesdays. In the new term, the school will share a 'Parent Drop In' date with you all, to meet the new team.

Christmas Performances

This week, we have been delighted to share our KS2 Carol Service and the KS1 Christmas performance of 'Hey Ewe' with parents. Thank you to all the staff involved in making these performances so successful and thank you to the parents for your help with costumes and for coming along to support us.

Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday, the school hall looked very festive with Christmas tablecloths and the children looked fabulous wearing their novelty Christmas glasses. Thank you to the PTA for funding the novelty glasses.

Important changes to our catering at Topsham School

We would like to share the news that, as of the new spring term, January 6th 2025, we will have our meals prepared and cooked for us within our Federation, based at the main kitchen at St. Michael's Primary.

Our current providers have had staffing changes at our preparation kitchen, Bassetts Farm, and are unable to continue providing our lunches as well as their own. However, we are taking this opportunity to keep improving the meals we provide.

What does this mean for our children?

All timings, systems and staff serving will remain the same. The children will have a new menu, based around the same format they are used to: a main option, vegetarian option, jacket potato, or, this time, a packed lunch option, which includes a sandwich variety. They will have a choice of a daily pudding, yoghurt or fruit.

The Menu

The menu format will look very similar to now. Meals have been chosen to ensure they travel well, with a continuation of a 3-week cycle to the menus. **The first week back will be week three of the cycle. A copy of the new menu will be sent to all parents by email.**

Ordering your child's lunch

This will be exactly the same as it is now.

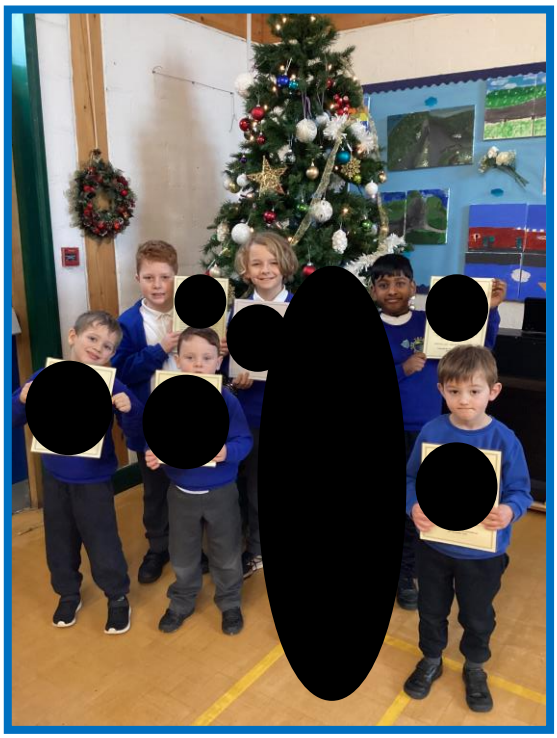
The only change is that we have added the specific meal on to Schoolcomms so you can see what the main, vegetarian and packed lunch option is each day.

The future of school dinners at The Topsham School:

We are very pleased to say that we are in the middle of receiving funding for a new kitchen to be built in the school, enabling us to plan, cook and serve our meals on site each day. This is something we have never had in our school, and we hope will be an exciting opportunity coming soon. Watch this space…!

Achievers

As a school, we promote positive behaviour and we have numerous incentives to support this. The recipients of our end of term achiever awards are listed below:



Achiever Awards:

Big Acorns Ted
Year 1 Jack
Year 2 Elliot
Year 3 Joel
Year 4 Victor
Year 5 Joshwa
Year 6 Oscar

Lunchtime Awards

Alina and Sophia

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*

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.*

Exeter City Football Clubs

Please see below the booking links for the Monday KS2 and Friday KS1 After School Football Clubs:

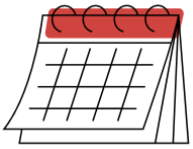
The Topsham School Years 3-6 After School Club - Exeter City Community Trust

The Topsham School Years 1 and 2 After School Club - Exeter City Community Trust

We are also running our Christmas Holiday Clubs over the festive period:

Christmas Holiday Clubs - Exeter City Community Trust

Dates for the diary



Date	Event
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
Thursday 9th January	Topaz House Party 2.00pm – 3.15pm
Friday 15th January	Deadline for applying for a Reception (Big Acorns) place for September 2025
Thursday 6th February	Year 5 Trip to Norman Lockyer Observatory
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)