The Topsham School
Newsletter 16

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 10th January 2025

Welcome back to the spring term 2025!

I hope everyone had a wonderful and restful break.

Term has well and truly started here and it is lovely to see everyone back to school. We welcome some new members of staff to our team: Miss O'Malley who has taken over Year 1 while Mrs Whitehead is on maternity leave, Mrs Targett who has joined us as Teaching Assistant in the lower half of the school and Mrs McKenna who joined us just before Christmas, both in the classrooms and in the servery.

School dinners are up and running to the new menu, with exciting new meals on the list.

We would also like to remind you that we will be joined by a new SEND team from the end of January when Miss Skinner starts her maternity leave. We invite you to meet the new team in a short drop-in session on Wednesday 29th January at 10am. This will be held in school in one of the classrooms; tea and coffee will be available. This is a chance to put faces to the names, and for Mrs Williams and Mrs Hurford to introduce themselves properly.

Changes to the newsletter

This newsletter will be last of the weekly newsletters. From February, we will be changing to monthly newsletters. So, look out for these next month!

Clubs

Choir restarts tonight with the existing members who are busy preparing for their trip to the Young Voices concert in Birmingham.

All other clubs led by members of staff will start next week.

The clubs list is being sent out today via email and the opportunity to sign up for clubs will be available from **7.00pm tonight** via Schoolcomms**.**

Please read the list carefully for further instructions and to check the different dates and arrangements for each club.

Supporting Your Child's Emotional Wellbeing – Join Our Online Workshop

Being a parent is one of the most rewarding roles, but it's no secret that it can also be challenging at times. Understanding our children's emotions and behaviour isn't always easy, and sometimes, we all need a little extra support. That's why our Mental Health Support team is pleased to offer an online workshop on Saturday, 13th January, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

This friendly and practical session will provide helpful guidance on how to support your child's emotional regulation, equipping you with tools to better navigate those big feelings together.

A link to join the workshop will be shared with parents closer to the date. We warmly invite you to join us for this valuable opportunity to connect, learn, and feel supported in your parenting journey.

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.

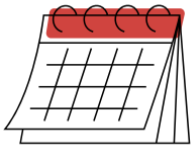
Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S business and we will always do our very best to keep our children safe.

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*

Dates for the diary



Date	Event
Friday 15th January	Deadline for applying for a Reception (Big Acorns) place for September 2025
Wednesday 29th January	Drop-in session at 10am to meet the SEND Team
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)