THE TOPSHAM SCHOOL

A love of learning and commitment to the success of every child at the heart of all we do.

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Newsletter

July 2025

Head's Message

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our superb pupils for their achievements this year. I am hugely proud of them. I would also like to thank our staff for their commitment, dedication and hard work and our parents and carers for your continued support of The Topsham School. As you know, a successful school results from parents and staff working together in partnership for the benefit of our children. As we have transitioned to the United Schools Federation, we needed that partnership even more- and we got it.

This year has been a big change for us, and one that has brought fantastic opportunities and provision for our children. We have so many success stories and good news items to celebrate together this year. The school has just had fantastic Key Stage 2 SAT results and our talented Year 6 pupils have achieved this through their hard work and dedication and the exceptional efforts of our staff. Our children have been out on a variety of trips and sporting events and we have had nothing but praise for their conduct and attitude.

You can see many photographs of our visitors, trips and events on our school website blog. Thank you for your support in everything we do. We do have an amazing set of parents and families who work hard to ensure that we give our children the best we can. Additionally, I would also like to thank our incredible PTA on the successful year they have had in organising so many fun events and raising money for extras for our school- Thank you Joana for leading the group for the final time this year. You are all appreciated so much.

Maria White, Head of School

Key Dates

- Wednesday 23rd July - Break Up for summer holiday 2.30pm finish. Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm
- Tuesday 2nd September - Non Pupil Day
- Wednesday 3rd September - Children return to school after summer holiday
- Thursday 23rd October Break up for half-term (3.30pm finish)
- Friday 24th October - Occasional Day - school closed
- Monday 3rd November - Non-Pupil Day
- Tuesday 4th November - Children return to school after half-term break

What is happening in September?

Classes and Teachers:

When we return in September, our classes will be lead by the following teachers:

Little Acorns Pre-School: Mrs Weeks
Big Acorns Reception: Mrs Luff-Lee (Mon-Thurs) and Mrs Davis (Fri)
Year 1 : Mrs Phillips (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Watts (Thurs-Fri)
Year 2: Miss O'Malley
Year 3: Mrs Daitz
Year 4: Mrs Harris (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Finnegan (Thurs-Fri)
Year 5: Mr McClay
Year 6: Mr Elliott

Our SEND Team:
SENDCo: Lizzie Hurford

SENDCo Assistant:
Charlotte Williams

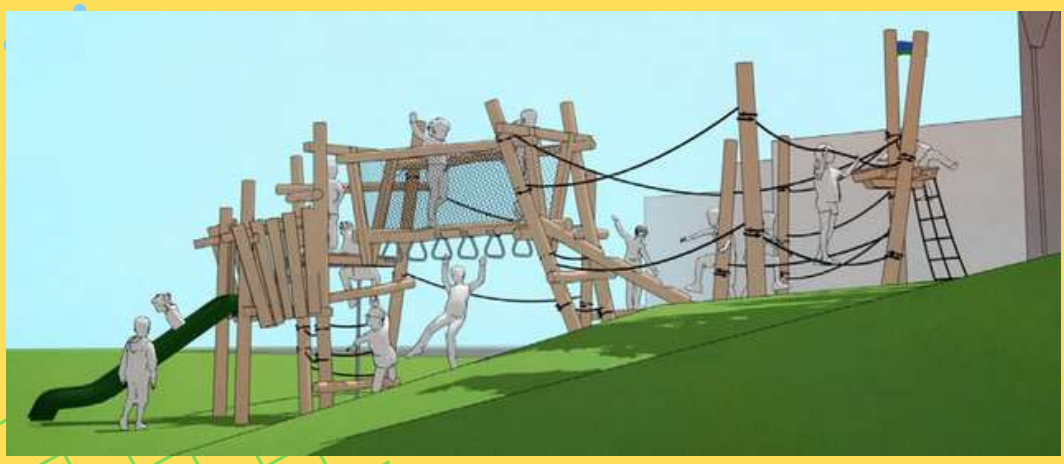
Leadership across the school:
Miss Maria White is Head of School here at Topsham

Our Early Years and KS1 lead is Mrs Emma Luff-Lee

KS2 and whole school curriculum are Mr Chris Elliott and Miss Amy Greygoose (Maternity Leave)

Please remember: the class teacher is always your first point of contact for all matters. This includes all SEND matters for your child. Class teachers will then involve the SEND team, or leadership if and when it is necessary.

habitats for play...
EarthWrights
...inspired by nature



A brand new, large scale play space will be built in September on the field and against the 'mound' to give our children more opportunities for imagine and creative play. We are utilising the space so that that most of the field will remain a large, flat play and sports space. Keep an eye out for the first signs of construction when we return!

Year 6

Scuba Diving!

SATs results Congratulations to our fantastic Year 6 pupils and staff on this year's end of primary school SATs results. Our results are much improved on last year and the children have done themselves proud. Provisional figures suggest that we are broadly inline with national averages in reading and SPaG and above in writing and maths. This is a huge achievement and we are so proud of the pupils and the progress they have made. They are simply the best!

Residential

Year 5 French

On Wednesday afternoon, Year 5 completed their learning of the topic 'Au salon du thé'. During this topic, they have been learning how to order food and drinks in French and they enjoyed putting this in to practice. The children enjoyed eating croissants and pain au chocolats and drinking hot chocolate and grenadine.

KS2 Swimming Gala

Another hugely successful Swimming Gala this year. Congratulations to Sapphire coming 1st, closely followed by Emerald in 2nd place. Thank you Mrs Wannell for organising another wonderful swimming event, showcasing the great progress our KS2 children have made in swimming this year.

Music Concert

The talent this year show cased was exceptional. Our children performed drumming, piano, guitar, singing, and drama and we were all so proud of the still and confidence which you all showed.

Colour Run

Another incredible year of running progress for our Running Club, finished off with our annual Colour Run! Thank you to all the support our parent marshals give us each week. We are looking forward to the next year of PBS!

Y2 Summer Sleepover Camp

Camping in teepees, hot dogs for dinner, storytellers and making friends and memories. Well done Y2 on a such a fun and sunny Sleepover this year at St. Catherine's.

Big Acorns Farm Trip

Some exciting firsts for our Big Acorns- first trip as a class to and first class in our new minibus! A fun and interesting day meeting all the animals and going on woodland trails!

Flower Festival

A selection of Year 3 & 4 artwork was on display at the annual Flower Festival which took place at St Margaret's Church Thursday 17th - Saturday 19th July.

Speech and Drama

Thalia Squire would like to congratulate all the children who took speech and drama exams this term. The children enjoyed the day and achieved excellent results:

Livvi L Preliminary Poetry Speaking Honours
Megan C Preliminary Poetry Speaking Distinction
Bonnie H Grade 2 Poetry Speaking Honours
Merryn M Grade 2 duo acting Honours
Freddie S Grade 2 duo acting Honours
Laurie M Grade 2 duo acting Honours
Grace W-U Grade 3 duo acting Distinction
Sophia D Grade 3 duo acting Distinction
Oscar V Silver badge duo acting Honours
Austin J Silver badge duo acting Honours
Louis D Silver badge solo acting Honours

If your child is interested in taking speech and drama lessons in September there will be a few spaces available. Please contact Thalia at thaliasquire@icloud.com or phone 07368295034.

Peripatetic 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)

Mental Health - Supporting Our Children Through Big Feelings

As parents and carers, it can be really tough when our children have emotional outbursts—whether it's at home, out shopping, or in the middle of a playdate. These moments can leave everyone feeling overwhelmed. It helps to remember that when children are dysregulated, the "wise owl" part of their brain—the bit that helps them reason and communicate—goes offline. In these moments, they aren't ready to talk or be reasoned with. Three simple strategies can make a big difference: try to stay calm yourself (easier said than done, but powerful!), avoid trying to talk things through when they're very upset, and give them some space to calm down while making sure they're safe.

For more helpful tips, check out this excellent article and short video from the children's mental health charity Place2Be
https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/de-escalation-techniques-with-children

End of Term Awards

The awards issued at the end of term are :

Achievers Awards
At the end of each half-term, a child from each class is issued with a certificate recognising their achievements during the half-term.

Keys to success
Keys to success are special awards given to just two children - one is KS1 and one in KS2 - given to children who have consistently demonstrated the school's learning powers. These are learning behaviours that help children to achieve their best and it is recognition of all their hard work, throughout the year.

Reading progress - this award is special recognition for the progress a child has made for reading, across the school year.

House point badges - bronze house point badges are given to children that have achieved 1000 House Points, throughout the year.

Congratulations to the recipitents of our end of term awards:

Achievers

Achievers Awards
Big Acorns - Cameron
Year 1 - Zara
Year 2 - Jasmine
Year 3 - Livvi
Year 4 - Nam
Year 5- Oscar

Keys to success
KS1 - Lily
KS2 - Bonnie

Reading Progress

Reading progress
Big Acorns - Lottie
Years 1 and 2 - Pearl
Years 3 and 4 Igor
Years 5 and 6 - Aine

House point badges
Astrid Y2, Ruby Y2, Sofia Y2, Casey Y2, Hasan Y2, Aaravi Y2, Magnus, Y1, Holly Y1, Jack Y1 and Freddie Y4.

House Point Badges

Keys To Success

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.

Events
Town Fayre Week & Charter Day

AUGUST 2025

MON 18	KIDS CHALK ART FUN - GLOBE CARPARK 10-12 CD EXETER RAILWAY BAND MATTHEWS HALL 7:30. TF
TUES 19	DOG SHOW- MATTHEWS HALL GREEN 2-4 TF BINGO NIGHT- MATTHEWS HALL 7-10 TF
WED 20	CHILDREN'S FLOWER ARRANGING- ST MARGARET'S CHURCH 9:30-11:30. CD WINE & CHEESE TASTING THE GLOBE . 7:30-9:30 CD
THUR 21	CHILDREN'S CAKE DECORATING THE GLOBE 10 - 12 CD QUIZ NIGHT MATTHEWS HALL 7-10 TF
FRI 22	CHILDREN'S FILM MATTHEWS HALL TIME TBC CD
SAT 23	PUBLICANS CHARTER DAY CHALLENGE ALL DAY - CONTACT THE NELSON FOR DETAILS
SUN 24	TOPSHAM CHARTER DAY STREET MARKET, KIDS GAMES ETC PROCESSION, STREET ENTERTAINMENT 1-5PM CD CEILDIHL ON THE QUAY 6PM LIVE BAND AT THE GLOBE 8PM

ALL WEEK - A Walk About Quiz: "Murder On The Exe Express". TF

CD - Charter Day
TF- Town Fayre
TTFC - Topsham Football

Facebook Pages & Love Topsham website for more detailed info

SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST

TOPSHAM CHARTER DAY

Street Market
1pm until 5pm

Fancy Dress Competition
Adults & Kids: Best Medieval Costume
Judging 1:30pm Matthews Hall
with a Parade to follow

Children's Games at St Margaret's Church
Street Entertainers on Fore Street
Morris Dancers, Punch & Judy etc

Ceilidh 6pm - 8pm
Topsham Quay

Live Music 8pm - 10pm
outside The Globe

TOPSHAM TOWN EST 1300

PTA Update - July 2025

A huge thank you to everyone who has supported the PTA this year! We are incredibly grateful to all the school staff—teachers, admin, and support teams—for their continued dedication. Thank you also to our local businesses and sponsors for their generous contributions, and to all the amazing volunteers who have given their time and energy to support our events and initiatives.

After four wonderful years, the current PTA Committee will be stepping down. It's time for a fresh start and new ideas, and we're excited to welcome new members to take the lead.

The PTA Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at The Topsham School on Tuesday, 23rd September. During the meeting, elections will be held for the new PTA Committee.

PTA Committee Roles

- Chair: Leads the PTA, coordinates meetings, and works closely with the school leadership. Ideal for someone organised, enthusiastic, and a good communicator.
- Vice-Chair: Supports the Chair and steps in when needed. A great role for someone collaborative and proactive.
- Treasurer: Manages the PTA's finances, keeps accurate records, and provides financial updates. Best suited for someone detail-oriented and confident with numbers.
- Secretary: Takes minutes at meetings, manages correspondence, and helps with organisation. Perfect for someone who is methodical and a good note-taker.

During the AGM, we'll be sharing a full overview of the figures and initiatives from 2024/25—but here's a little sneak peek just for you!

🎉 Topsham School PTA Fundraising Summary 2024/25 🎉

💰 Total Raised

We are thrilled to share that the PTA has raised a fantastic total of £11,000.00 this year!

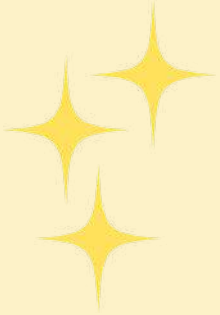
🎁 What We've Funded So Far

Thanks to your support, we've been able to contribute to the following initiatives:

- Swimming lessons
- Contributions to coach trips/travel to school trips
- Contributions to Year 4 and Year 6 residentials
- Christmas lunch
- Christmas show
- Book bags
- Science week activities
- Sports equipment

🛠️ Planned and Agreed Spending

We're excited to announce upcoming projects that have been agreed and will be funded soon:

- New bike shelter and parking (for scooters and bikes)
- Contributions to improve KS1 play area

Wishing everyone a joyful and relaxing summer—see you at the PTA AGM on Tuesday, 23rd September at 7pm!