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

October 2025

Head's Message

I can't believe we are 5 weeks through the half term already! And we have a lot to share. The children have all settled in to life in their new classes and are proud of the learning they are producing, excited by new discoveries and have put in so much effort in to their lessons.

We have voted on and appointed children in roles and responsibilities across the school. Each class from Year 1 up has a School Councillor, each House Team has Team Captains, we have our Mental Health Ambassadors and our Federation School Ambassadors. More information on these roles can be found on the school blog.

This week is an incredibly exciting one for us for some different reasons too. We are so proud to finally be able to open our new kitchen, and cook meals for our children on site. The team at Topsham and across the Federation have worked hard for almost a year to get this this stage, and it has been a vision for the school for many years longer. Not only that, once the children have been well fed, they have been able to play on the brand new climbing frame built on the field.

Please read on further for more details and photos.

Maria White, Head of School

School Blog

Keep an eye on our school blog for class updates, write ups about school trips and photographs of the recipients of our Achiever's Awards. Last week, our Year 3 class visited Kents Cavern. Check out the blog for more information about their visit.

https://topsham.devon.sch.uk/pupil-zone/blogs/

Diary Dates

All key dates, including parents' evenings and Christmas dates are on the calendar on further down. Be sure to add then to your diaries.

Brand new kitchen: Open for business

On Monday, our School Ambassadors officially opened our new kitchen, ready to start cooking in the kitchen for the very first time. I would like to say a huge thank you to all staff at Topsham, and within the Federation, who have worked so hard to ensure the kitchen could open successfully! A special thank you to Mrs McKenna, our Kitchen Manager, who has stepped every part of the process with us, creating a kitchen that she is proud of and knows the children will benefit greatly from.

The menu will stay much the same, but some tweaks may be made to change meals, now that we can cook on site. All meals are prepared freshly that morning and the children, and Mrs McKenna, will have a role in contributing to meus going forward.

This year's School Ambassadors have been selected to represent our school across the Federation: Sara Ferreira and Laurie Moorehead. On their first day, they cut the ribbon to open the new kitchen and have had their first cross-school meeting with the Executive Heads of the Federation, and Ambassadors from our other seven schools.

And.... the climbing frame!

After what has felt like a long, but exciting, wait for the children, watching the climbing frame being built, the children (and staff!) were able to start using the climbing frame. With safety checks complete, Year 6 couldn't wait to trial the new installation. The staff gave it the seal of approval first though!

All classes from Year 1 up will have a trail session, where they will learn to use the climbing frame safely and fairly. After that, all of KS2 will have a day on the rota to use the frame, with Year 1 and 2 having time across on the climbing frame on certain days.

Harvest Appeal

Please bring any donations to the front of the school on Tuesday 14th October, at drop off.

Please see the list of what is MOST needed, and aim to donate these items.

Our School Counsellors and Mental Health Ambassadors will be at the front of the school to collect and organise the donations.

Exeter Foodbank
Together with Trussell

Harvest appeal

Help support your food bank this Harvest

In the three weeks leading up to Harvest, the food bank will provide over 250 food parcels for local individuals and families facing hardship.

Donate food

Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.

Donate money

Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.

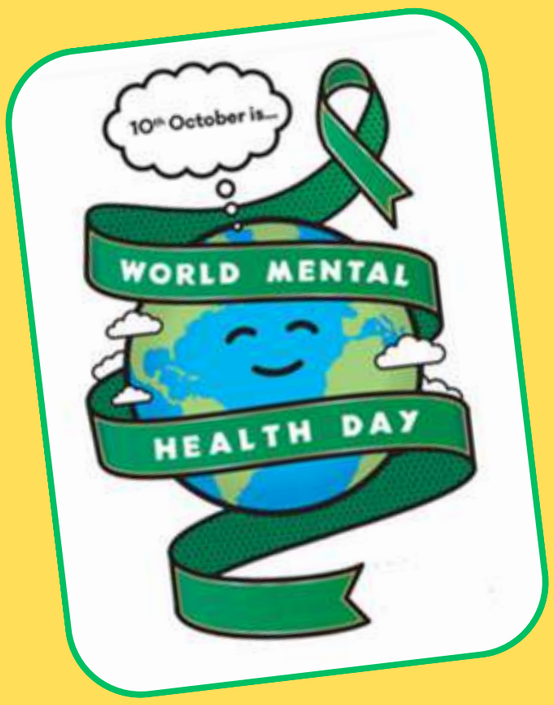
Shopping list

- Tinned meat
- Tinned fish
- Tinned vegetables
- Vegetarian meals
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned fruit
- Small jars of coffee
- Biscuits
- Shampoo

07818 226 524

exeterfoodbank.co.uk

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1126756)



World Mental Health Day
Friday 10th October

This year we will be raising awareness and money for Young Minds, a charity that supports children's mental health.

The children are invited to come into school wearing yellow and take part in various activities including a cake swap.

We need your help...

We would love for you to bake or buy cakes for the occasion. Please bring some cakes into class on Thursday 9th October. Please ensure that the cakes are well-labelled with any of the 14 Allergens: celery, cereals containing gluten (such as wheat, rye, barley, and oats), crustaceans (such as prawns, crabs and lobsters), eggs, fish, lupin, milk, molluscs (such as mussels and oysters), mustard, sesame, soybeans, sulphur dioxide and sulphites (if the sulphur dioxide and sulphites are at a concentration of more than ten parts per million)
<u>The cakes must contain absolutely no nuts.</u>

The children will have the opportunity during the day to choose a different cake to enjoy. If your child has an allergy, please either provide them with a cake that you are happy for them to eat or chat to your child's class teacher.

Don't forget...

- Thursday - cakes to be brought into school.
- Friday - come to school dressed in yellow with a donation of £1.

A big thank you, from Mrs Phillips and the MHAS.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday. The Year 6 children were fantastic hosts and it was so lovely to see so many parents, family and members of our school community. We are delighted to announce that we raised a total of £284.32 for this amazing charity.

Music in Early Years

Thank you to Poco Drom for visiting our Early Years and Reception children on a Monday. What a wonderful way to start each week.

Key Dates

Wednesday 8th October - USF cross country event
Thursday 9th October - Tag rugby event
Thursday 9th October - Please bring in cake donations for World Mental Health Day
Friday 10th October - World Mental Health Day - Wear Yellow and Cake Swap
Tuesday 14th October - Donations for Harvest Appeal to be brought to school at drop-off
Thursday 16th October - Tag rugby event
Friday 17th October - Year 6 caving session pm
Friday 17th October - PTA Cake Sale (Year 6)
Thursday 16th October - PTA Meeting
Monday 20th October - Nasal flu vaccinations
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
Friday 7th November - PTA cake sale 3.30pm (Year 5)
Friday 14th November - Children in Need
Friday 14th November - Year 6 climbing session pm
Friday 21st November - Year 6 caving session pm
Tuesday 25th November - Parents' Evening
Thursday 27th November - Parents' Evening
Friday 5th December - Christmas craft day (wear Christmas jumpers)
Friday 5th December - Year 6 climbing session pm
Friday 5th December - PTA Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 10th December - Christmas Dinner
Friday 12th December - Christmas carols on the playground - choir PROPOSED DATE
Tuesday 16th December - Reception/KS1 Nativity am (more details and exact timings to follow)
Wednesday 17th December - Reception/KS1 Nativity pm (more details and exact timings to follow)
Thursday 18th December - KS2 Christmas Carols in the Church 2.00pm and 6.00pm
Friday 19th December - Break up for Christmas Holiday (2.30pm finish and Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm)
Monday 5th January - Non-Pupil Day
Tuesday 6th January - Children return to school after Christmas Holiday

NOTE: There are no Christmas Class Parties this year. Instead each class will celebrate with a Cosy Class Christmas, during the week of Monday 15th -Thursday 18th: Details will come out closer to the time.

2026 Secondary Applications

For children in Year 6, applications for Year 7 secondary school places opened on 1st September 2025. Please be aware that applications for a place at secondary school in Year 7 need to be submitted by 31st October 2025. Offer day will be 2nd March 2026 when you will find out the allocation that has been made for your child. To complete your application, you need to apply online at www.devon.gov.uk/admissionsonline to ensure that your child gets their place.

Applying for a place at St Peter's Church of England Aided School

We have been contacted by Reverend Grace regarding the admissions policy for St Peter's school and she has highlighted how St Peter's had ramped up their levels of strictness for families applying via the faith route.

Revered Grace has explained how they have introduced a card stamp system to enable families to accumulate evidence church of attendance should they need that; emphasising that families should begin this in year 4, as they will need two years' worth of attendance by year 6 application time.

Revered Grace has explained to Philip Northcott, Headteacher of St Peter's, that there would be a lag time within that evidence compiling for the families of children currently in year 5.

World Mental Health Day is fast approaching on Friday 10th October.

The theme this year is Access to Services, reminding us that we should all have the right to high quality and timely support for our mental health, if and when we need it. MHST (The Mental Health Support Team) will be delivering assemblies across our federation that week and we are delighted to have their involvement and support.

You can find out more about the work they do at: https://childrenandfamilyhealthdevon.nhs.uk/our-pathways/mental-health-support-team/

We also offer counselling sessions for our children with our fully qualified team of counsellors who can support your child with a wide range of issues, helping them to recognise, understand and process those big, difficult emotions that can come up for us all.

If you feel your child would benefit from working with MHST or spending time with a counsellor, please see your child's class teacher in the first instance.

Tempest Photographs

If you wish to place an order for your child's Tempest Photograph, please ensure you have ordered online with Tempest by midnight on Tuesday 14th October to qualify for free delivery back to school.

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.

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