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 2026

Head's Message

As we reach the end of another academic year, I find myself wondering where the time has gone. I can hardly believe that such a fantastic year at Topsham School is already coming to an end.

The 2025–26 school year has been filled with achievement, laughter and countless memorable moments. It has been wonderful to see our children embrace every opportunity that has come their way, both in and beyond the classroom. Alongside their learning, they have enjoyed an incredible range of personal development experiences, from educational visits and sporting events to performances, clubs and enrichment activities that have helped them grow in confidence and independence. In true Topsham style, the adventures are not quite over yet, with the Year 6 residential and a trip for our Year 1 children still to come next week!

As always at this time of year, we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 class as they prepare for the next stage of their journey. They have worked incredibly hard throughout their time at Topsham School, and it has been a privilege to watch them grow into such kind, confident and capable young people. We are immensely proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success and happiness as they begin their new schools in September.

This newsletter also marks the end of my own journey at Topsham School as I leave my role as Head of School. It has been an enormous privilege to work alongside such dedicated staff, wonderful children and supportive families. Over the years, I have had the joy of watching children grow and flourish, celebrating so many achievements together and supporting one another through life's more challenging moments. What I will miss most is the incredible sense of community that makes Topsham so special—the relationships that have been built and nurtured over many years, and the warmth and kindness that define this school. Although it is difficult to say goodbye, I do so, knowing that Topsham is in fantastic hands. I have every confidence that Miss Crathorne will continue to lead the school with care, dedication and ambition, and I know the whole community will give her the same wonderful support that you have always shown me. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your children's lives and of this remarkable school community. It is something I will always treasure.

Maria White

Head of School

Key Dates

Friday 17th July - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 2.00pm

Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd July - Year 6 Skern Lodge Residential

Monday 20th -Parent Drop In

Thursday 23rd July - Break up for Summer Holiday (2.30pm finish and Twiglets finishes at 4.30pm)

Friday 24th July - Occasional Day (school closed)

Thursday 3rd September - Return to school after Summer Holidays

Date reminder: Parent drop in on Monday

Following the reports, and to celebrate the end of term, and the end of the year, we invite parents to come and drop in to school on Monday 20th July. This is from 3.30pm, until 5.00pm.

Your child's books will be available in their current classroom to come and look at. You can also pop in to your child's new class to say hello to their new teacher in September.

Lost Property

As we come to the end of the school year, we will be placing our lost property outside the front of the school over the coming days.

Please take a few moments to check through the items outside and also on the rail in the foyer oustide the office, to see if anything belongs to your child.

Any remaining items that have not been collected by the end of tomorrow will be donated to the PTA.

Thank you for your support.

A half term full of events and celebrations

Art work by Year 3 and Year 4 was displayed in St Margaret's Church as part of their annual flower festival.

Biathle Success

Congratulations to Arthur in Year 5 who was selected to compete for Great Britain in the U11 boys' Biathle event at the European Championships in Madeira in June. Arthur came 8th in Europe in U11 boys event!

Swimming Gala

For the first year, we hosted a Federation Swimming Gala, as well as our usual KS2 Gala. But were in the glorious sunshine, and the children represented our school, and their houses, brilliantly. We were very impressed by their team spirit, showing our values of opportunities for all, partnerships and success.

Dance workshop: Urban Strides

In January we took 14 of our choir to Birmingham for Young Voices. This week the group had a street dance workshop with Urban Strides, a dance group that tour with Young Voices.

Our children were incredible, they picked up the moves and the rhythm really quickly and created a dance to perform in front of the other schools.

Year 2 Cookery

Year 2 had a chef-tastic day on Tuesday 30th June. They put their cookery skills to the test by peeling, grating, chopping, melting, mixing, rolling and baking a whole menu's worth of food! This included pizzas, pinwheels, scones, fruit salad, muffins and flapjacks. They then enjoyed sharing these with their family in a feast style fashion altogether.

Thank you so much to the parent volunteers to who helped make this happen - you were all brilliant and greatly appreciated by Mrs Whitehead.

Exe Valley Challenge 2026

Forty children from Year 3 - 6 took part in this year's Exe Valley Challenge on Sunday 12th July. This year was certainly a challenge in every sense of the word, not just in terms of walking but doing so in hot weather. We were blown away with the children's resilience and team work to complete the course and still finish with smiles on their faces. Our Topsham 11 Mini Team even won first prize for the 5-mile course!

Robin and the Sherward Hoodies

What can we say about this year's UKS2 Show? What a performance! The talent we have seen on stage this year was phenomenal. The vocals of individuals singing voices were beautiful to listen to, the singing and dancing from everyone was done with such enthusiasm, and the acting, and comedy timing, was great. Well done to all of Year 5 and 6 for a show that we will not forget. Thank you to the Year 5 and 6 team, especially Mr Elliott, for making the show this year such a success.

Mental Health Matters

Action for Happiness is a wonderful wellbeing charity that promotes kindness, compassion, and positive wellbeing habits that can benefit both children and adults. Their free Jump Back Up July calendar offers simple daily activities designed to boost resilience, encourage positive thinking, and strengthen family connections. By taking part in these small, meaningful actions, families can support their mental health and wellbeing together, while making the most of the summer holidays.

Useful links:

Action for Happiness: https://actionforhappiness.org/

Jump Back Up July Calendar: https://actionforhappiness.org/jump-back-up-july

Wishing all our families a happy, restful, and wellbeing-focused summer break!

Message from Thalia Squire, Peripatetic Speech and Drama Teacher

Congratulations to all my hardworking students this year! In March they performed in the Devon Performing Arts Festival receiving cups and medals and more recently they took their exams in Exeter, achieving excellent results:

Lily Poetry Speaking Honours
Livvi/Megan Duo Acting grade 1 Honours
Emily Solo Acting Grade 1 Honours
Alfie Solo Acting Grade 1 Honours
Felicity/Merryn Duo Acting Grade 3 Distinction
Bonnie/Nel Duo Acting Grade 3 Distinction
Octavia Solo Acting Grade 3 Distinction
Zac Solo Acting Grade 3 Honours
Freddie/Laurie Duo Acting Grade 3 Honours

They all enjoyed their day and embraced the whole experience with confidence; I am very proud of them.

If you would like to start Speech and Drama lessons, please contact Thalia either: thaliasquire@icloud.com or phone: 07398350417

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)

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.

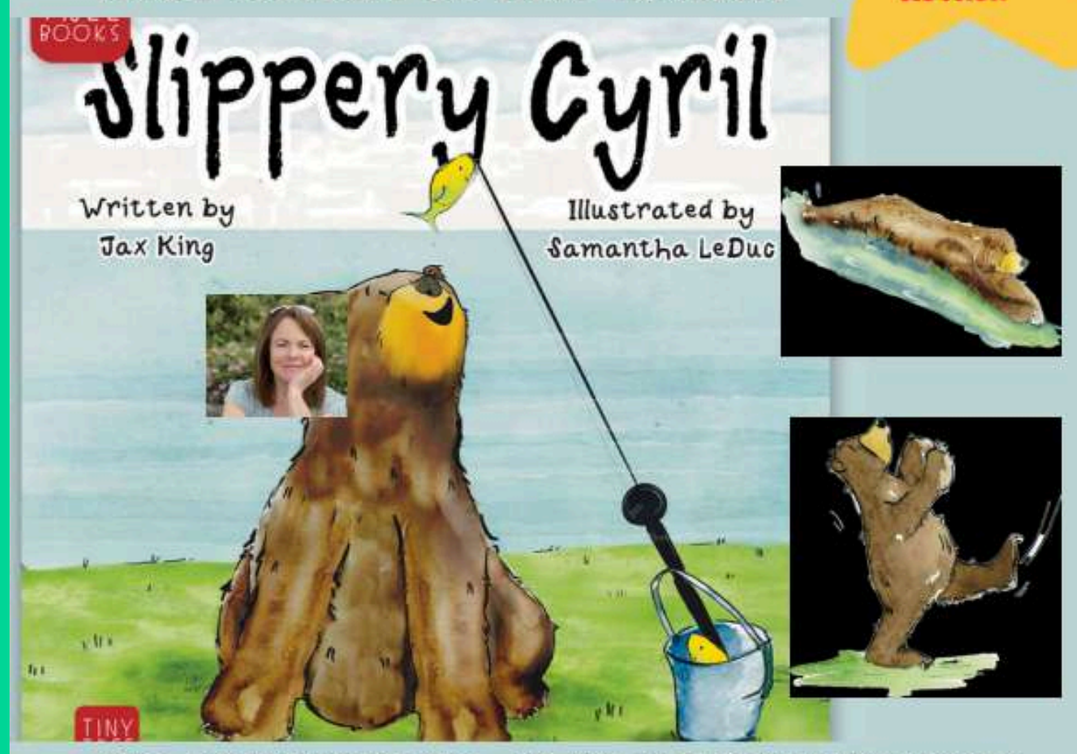
JOIN US AT NANCY POTTER HOUSE

TOPSHAM EX3 0DX

MONDAY 29TH JUNE 2026

10AM-10.45AM OR 11AM-11.45AM

STORY TELLING WITH JAX THE AUTHOR



CYRIL THE BEAR MEANS WELL... HE JUST CAN'T SEEM TO STAY UPRIGHT
FROM TUMBLING TREES TO SOGGY SURPRISES, HE'S ALWAYS IN A BIT OF A MUDDLE.
BUT WITH SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM HIS FRIENDS,
WILL CYRIL FINALLY FIND HIS FEET?
FULL OF LAUGHTER, WARMTH, AND WOBBLY FUN,
SLIPPERY CYRIL IS A DELIGHTFUL STORY ABOUT
FRIENDSHIP, TEAMWORK, AND FINDING YOUR BALANCE.

BOOK ON WITH THE QR CODE

DONT MISS OUT!!!