September 2026

The Topsham School NEWSLETTER

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

Respect ~ Opportunity ~ Partnership ~ Success ~ Happiness ~ Aspiration ~ Motivation

Diary Dates

SEPTEMBER

- **Monday 14th:** Clubs list will be sent out to parents
- **Monday 14th:** Year 6 Bikeability
- **Tuesday 15th :**Federation Mental Health Ambassador Training at Marldon Primary School
- **Tuesday 15th:** Year 6 Bikeability
- **Wednesday 16th:** School Tours 9:30am (Booking required)
- **Wednesday 16th:** Year 6 Bikeability
- **Friday 25th:** School Tours 9:30am (Booking required)
- **Tuesday 29th:** Individual & Sibling Photographs - Tempest

OCTOBER

- **Thursday 1st:** School Tours 9:30am (Booking required)
- **Tuesday 6th:** World Mental Health Day MHST Assemblies - TBC
- **Wednesday 7th:** World Mental Health Day MHST Assemblies - TBC
- **Friday 9th:** Hello Yellow Day
- **Monday 12th:** School Tours 9:30am (Booking required)
- **Monday 12th:** RSE Recap Week
- **Friday 23rd - Sunday 25th:** Doddi Art Show
- **Friday 23rd:** Last day of Autumn A - 3:30pm finish

HALF-TERM

Monday 26th October May - Friday 6th November 2026 (inclusive)

NOVEMBER

- **Monday 9th:** Return to School for Autumn B

*More information about these events and further dates for the term will be sent shortly via Schoolcomms

admin@topsham.devon.sch.uk
https://topsham.devon.sch.uk/
01392 874498

ARTICLE 28 - Every child has the right to an education

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school! We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and enjoyed some special time with family and friends. It has been lovely to welcome everyone back to school, and I hope the children are feeling excited and ready for the year ahead.

As the new Head of School, I feel incredibly fortunate to be joining such a special school community. I am really looking forward to getting to know all of the children and their families, and to working closely with you all over the coming months. Please do bear with me as I find my feet and learn more about the wonderful ways of The Topsham School and all that makes this school community so special.

We are all looking forward to the term ahead and cannot wait to share the lovely things we get up to in the coming weeks on the school blogs, social media pages and our next newsletter!

Best wishes,

Joanna Crathorne

Head of School

Our School Day

A reminder that our school timings are as follows:

8:45am - 8:55am: doors open for children to arrive at school

8:55am: registration

9am: Pre-School start

At 8:45am, all gates to the school will be opened. Members of staff will be on gates and doors to greet the children as they arrive in school.

The end of the school day is 3:30pm. Children leave the same way that they enter in the morning. If the gates are closed, please come through main reception.

Anaphylaxis Allergies

You will now have all had a letter explaining some of the updates we are making to our Anaphylaxis procedures in school.

Following the introduction of Benedict's Law and the associated statutory guidance on allergy safety in schools, we have reviewed our allergy and anaphylaxis procedures to ensure that we are well prepared to respond to an allergic reaction or emergency.

As part of these arrangements:

• We have taken delivery of emergency adrenaline auto-injectors for use in appropriate emergency situations.

• All school staff have received training on allergies, anaphylaxis and the use of adrenaline auto-injectors.

• We have clear procedures in place for responding to suspected anaphylaxis and administering emergency medication where appropriate.

• We work with parents/carers to ensure that we have accurate and up-to-date information about children with known allergies and their individual emergency medication requirements.

• We ensure that prescribed medication and relevant medical information are recorded and managed in accordance with our school procedures.

We appreciate that allergies can be a source of concern for families, and we want to reassure you that the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils is a priority. Our staff are trained to recognise the signs of anaphylaxis and understand the importance of responding quickly in an emergency.

If you are unsure whether your child's allergy or medication needs to be reported to school, please contact the school office, who will be happy to advise.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and well-informed school environment for all our children.

Nut-Free School

Please remember that we are a nut-free school due to children in our community having severe nut allergies. We kindly ask parents and carers not to send any foods containing nuts into school for lunch or snacks. This inlcudes spreads containing nut elements, such as peanut butter and Nutella type products.

Please also remind your children not to share food, snacks or drinks with other children, as even small traces of allergens can cause a serious reaction.

Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us keep all of our children safe.

Online Safety

This month, we are sharing online safety guidance which focuses on Youtube.

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about Youtube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

Attached is a helpful guide for parents and carers, outlining the risks associated with youtube as well as some helpful hints and advice about what you can do to make access as safe as possible.

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Supporting Children

As a school, we want all of the children to enjoy their time in school and have lots of fun. We will support them throughout the year with their learning, as well as with the social elements of school life.

Sometimes, children will experience difficulties with their learning; They may feel challenged or unsure of learning expectations or feel as though they have not understood an element of their classwork. Sometimes, children may experience friendship difficulties and fall out with their peers which can cause sadness and upset.

All the staff at school are here to help and support your child to overcome the difficulties they may experience. Should you have a worry about your child, it is useful for the school to be made aware so that we may offer some assistance, as needed.

In the first instance, please talk directly to your child's class teacher or teachers. This can be done informally on the playground at the beginning or the end of the school day, or via email. Please be aware that the teachers may not always have time immediately at morning drop off, but it is worth speaking to them to find a time that is convenient for you both to discuss your concern.

Teaching staff will be able to solve many of the difficulties your child is experiencing simply by knowing about the problem. However, should they need to, teachers will seek the support of Head of School.

Should you feel that the matter remains unresolved for your child after discussion with the class teacher, you can speak to the Head of School. Again, this can be done informally on the playground at the beginning or end of the school day, or via email. Please be aware that the teachers may not always have time immediately at morning drop off, but it is worth speaking to them to find a time that is convenient for you both to discuss your concern.

We are here to help all of our children and families and will work hard to resolve any difficulties that your child is facing.

Keep in touch

admin@topsham.devon.sch.uk
https://topsham.devon.sch.uk/
01392 874498

Mental Health

Mental Health – coping with change

Starting school for the first time, or returning after the summer holidays and moving into a new class and year group can bring a mixture of excitement and worry for children.

During times of change, familiar routines help children feel safe, secure and confident because they know what to expect. Simple routines such as consistent bedtimes, calm morning preparations, sharing a meal together or reading a story before bed can provide a reassuring sense of stability. These everyday moments help children settle more easily and support their emotional wellbeing as they adjust to new experiences. (They can also help us adults too!)

If you're looking for more practical ideas, Place2Be's free Parenting Smart website has an excellent short article and video on creating routines and family rituals to help children navigate change.

https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/article/creating-routines-and-rituals-to-help-your-child?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Bikes & Scooters

It is lovely to see the children riding bikes and scooters to school and keeping fit and healthy.

Please remind the children of road safety and awareness when riding on the road, as the road is busy with cars at both the beginning and end of the day. Please make sure that your children stay within your range of vision at all times.

Please also ensure that the children wear helmets when riding their bikes, skateboards and scooters, even if only for a short distance from the car or parking nearby.

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Absence from School

You will shortly be receiving information about our attendance monitoring and reporting procedures, as well as about absences during term time. This information will be sent to every family and outlines all the information you will need. We send this at the start of every term as a reminder.

Attendance updates will be reported at parent consultations in Autumn and Spring Term, as well as on the school report in the Summer Term. At the end of each half term (or sooner if required), letters will be sent to notify you of your child's attendance rate.

Where attendance may be causing concern, we will offer support where we can to ensure that your child has regular attendance in school.

Your support in keeping your child in school is greatly appreciated; we are always here to work with our families to make sure we can secure the best possible outcomes for all the children at our school.

For more information about attendance, please visit our attendance tab on the school website. This gives information about illness and absences in more detail.

2027 Secondary Applications

For children in Year 6, applications for Year 7 secondary school places opened on 1st September 2026.

Please be aware that applications for a place at secondary school in Year 7 need to be submitted by 31st October 2026.

Offer day will be 1st March 2027 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.

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.

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Uniform Reminders

Our school uniform requirements are as follows:

LITTLE ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

There is no set uniform for the children in Little Acorns. Clothing should be comfortable and allow free movement.

UNIFORM

- School sweatshirt (or sweat cardigan) with school/Federation logo.
- White polo shirt or white short/longed sleeved shirt.
- Grey or black shorts, trousers, skirts, or pinafore dresses.
- Children can wear blue gingham dresses in the summer term.
- School shoes must be worn to school. These can be black/brown sensible shoes, but they must not be trainers. At break and lunchtimes children can wear trainers for running around.
- In the summer, children can wear sandals which support their feet but they must have a back on them.

PE KIT

- Plain black shorts or navy
- Plimsolls or trainers (younger children need to have velcro fasteners).
- A tracksuit should be worn in cold weather - this should be plain black or navy blue.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Children are not to wear nail varnish or make up to school.
- Children with long hair need to have their hair tied back during the school day for health and safety reasons. Children's hair must not be dyed.
- Children can and should wear watches. However, smart watches are not permitted.
- For Health and Safety reasons, the only jewellery that will be permitted in school is stud earrings for pierced ears. These are to be restricted to one stud per ear and must either be removed or taped for PE and Games.

SUN SAFE

During the summer months, children are encouraged to bring a hat and sun cream (which they can apply themselves).

All clothing must be named so that if lost it can be returned to its owner.

Guitar Lessons

Mr Webster has availably for children to have guitar lessons in school.

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)

Speech & Drama Lessons

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

Meet the Teacher

A separate letter has now gone out about the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions that will be on offer, as follows:

Wednesday 16th September: Year 5

Thursday 17th September: Year 1

Friday 18th September: Year 3

Monday 21st September: Year 4

Tuesday 22nd September: Year 2

Wednesday 23rd September: Year 6

The sessions will start at **3pm** and will last no longer than 30 minutes. It will be a chance to informally meet your child's class teacher, see the classroom and find out information specific to your child's class and teacher.

For those unable to attend the sessions, this information can also be found in the Parent Information letters that will also be sent next week.

Doddi Art Show

At the beginning of the half-term holiday, the Doddiscombsleigh Art Show will be taking place in the Teign Valley Community Hall. There is lots of beautiful art to view and/or buy, as well as a small shop selling unique gifts and crafts, and a cafe selling lots of delicious cakes.

This year, some of the children from across the Federation have been given the opportunity to sell their artwork. This will be a small selection of artwork from each school. The children will receive a 35% commission from any artwork sold and presents an exciting opportunity for all the children to learn about careers in the arts.

A percentage of the money raised through sales of artwork goes to Doddiscombsleigh Primary School - a United Schools Federation School - and your support for this tiny school would be very much appreciated.

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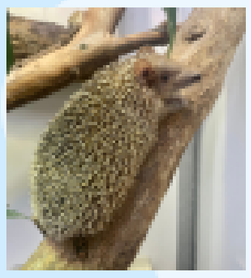
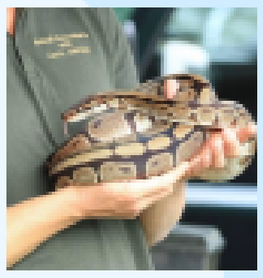
Community Events

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS WITH .....



Chris Johnson



A chance to have encounter with various animals and reptiles
£5 per Child

All children will need to be accompanied Adult.
Suitable for age 4+

Held at Nancy Potter house
in the Community Room on
To book please scan the QR code below

Wednesday 28th October

Session 1
2pm - 2.45pm
&
Session 2
3pm - 3.45pm

HALLOWEEN COOKIE DECORATING

Wednesday 28th October
10am-11am
Bradbury Cafe
£2 per Child
All children must supervised by an Adult
To book please scan the QR code

MONDAY 26TH OCTOBER

KIDS Gonk MAKING

Monday 26th October

£2 per Child

Time
12.30pm-1.30pm

To book please scan the QR code below

SICROMAGIC

Nancy Potter House

2 hour Childrens Magic Show & Workshop

£10 PER PER CHILD

£10 PER PER CHILD

Tuesday 27th October
11am - 1pm
Community Room
Ages range 4yr - 10yrs
All children must be accompined by an adult
To Book in please scan the QR code