

22nd September 2023

Dear families

Although there has been a change in the weather and many wet and soggy mornings and afternoons, the children have continued to spread their joy and happiness throughout the school. Please read on to hear about the learning in classrooms and key updates.

Stronger Together

PTFA Parent representatives

Last week, we met with the PTFA to plan out an exciting calendar of events across the school year. In each class, we are looking for parent representatives to distribute and share key messages and events with the families in your year group from the PTFA. As you know, the PTFA are amazing in supporting the school and generating funds to provide extra opportunities for our children.

Please do register your interest with the school office and we will pass on information to the PTFA – we look forward to working closely with you!

Teamwork in The Beeches

It has been a fabulous week in the Beeches, the children are working well together and support each other's learning, lots of opportunities for talking to your partner and sharing. We have been learning about transport in French and learning a song to showcase this learning. It has been lovely hearing the children sing together in French, and we are hoping to be able to share it with you all at some point this term. Our singing doesn't stop there, we are busy rehearsing our harvest song ready for our harvest service too!

Sense of Belonging

Willows Welcome

On Monday, parents from The Willows were invited to a session at St Matthias Church with Mrs Talbot, representatives from the outreach team at St Matthias and the PTFA. It was lovely to be joined by the parents to catch up and learn more about how the children are settling in. Reverend John and the church team also shared how we work in partnership to support the children and the PTFA also welcomed parents and answered questions and queries. Thank you for your attendance, positive feedback and ongoing support.

Willows Family

This week in the Willows, the children discovered a fairy door in our classroom! There was much excitement and wonder about who lives behind the door. The children wrote letters and made fairies to leave on the doorstep of the fairy door. The next morning there was a sprinkling of fairy dust in the classroom and there was a special letter for us. The Willows have loved writing to



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

Pippy and Pixie and having a listen to see if they can hear them. Next week, we are going to make signs for their house and design our own fairy homes.



Picture News in the Oaks

In Oaks Class, the children have been continuing to develop their understanding of both our school values and British Values, their importance and how they work to connect us as a school family and link us to the wider world. During Picture News this week, inspired by the recent school closures due to unsafe concrete, the children considered whether our school is more than just a building. The children were unanimous in their decision that Ilsham was more of a family than just a building and that it is the school's sense of belonging, values and people that make the school what it is. We furthered this discussion, through considering how the British Values of Mutual Respect and Tolerance helped to make our school the community it is. I was very impressed with the levels of thought and the articulate manner in which all of the class expressed their views.

Removing Barriers

Bonjour from the Rowans

This week the Rowans have been learning how to introduce themselves in French. As part of the lesson the children learnt how to introduce themselves and how to say hello to each other. They learnt to use "salut" to their friends and family and "bonjour" as a more formal greeting. The children love to say "bonjour" to Miss Davies when she takes the register.

Music Development

We are continuing to develop and refine our Music offer for the children. Over the course of the week, our Music Lead, Mrs Guntrip, has spent time dropping into lessons and speaking to children. The children have been overwhelming in their enthusiasm and affirmation for their learning in Music and how the curriculum has moved forwards. Mrs Guntrip has also spent time working with the teachers as she has held an open classroom for staff to drop in and watch her teaching, as well as team teaching alongside other members of staff. We will continue to develop and push forward our curriculum to provide the best possible curriculum for the children.

Realising the Possible

Science in the Hollies

Hollies embarked on a journey to unravel the secrets of how we hear sounds and delved into the world of vibrations, one of the key elements in the science of sound.

We carried out a variety of experiments; rice jumping on a drum, elastic bands stretched to different tensions, speaking into inflated balloons and noticing the vibrations, and wine glass

rubbing, where the children filled glasses to different levels and observed the change in sound pitch. Having carried out the experiments, children began to draw connections between what they observed and the sounds they hear in their daily lives.

Our scientists are eager to explore more complex concepts, such as the anatomy of the ear, how sound travels through different materials, and the creation of their very own musical instruments.



Historians in Monkey Puzzles

Monkey Puzzles have been continuing, as Historians, their exploration of the Industrial Revolution. As a class, they have been considering what life was like before the Industrial Revolution and how this period of change had an impact on Britain. They have been carefully considering if all the changes (due to this period in history) were positive or if there were negative aspects which also occurred due to the progression of the industrial landscape of Britain. This learning has supported the children to think about whether all 'things' which are made possible are positive or if there can also be negative elements to progress and development.

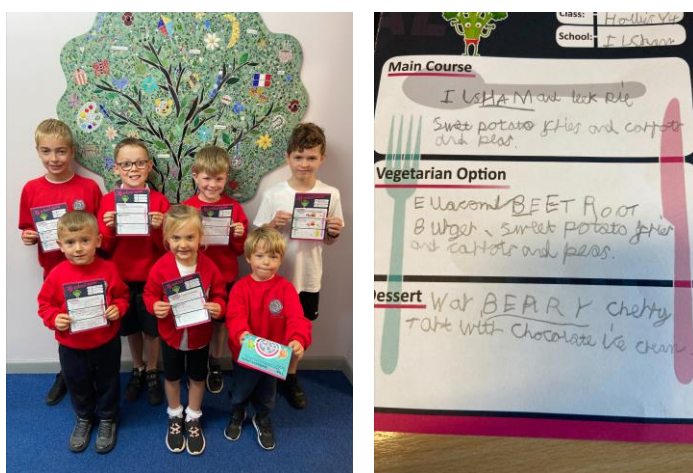
Scientists in the Maples

It has been amazing to see the budding Scientists in the Maples class. Over the past few weeks, the Maples have been exploring Rocks. They have had lots of fun looking closely at the structures of chocolate bars to see how they represent the composition of rocks. This was to allow them to focus on the different ways that rocks can be grouped and classified. They had lots of fun exploring the chocolate bars and even got to eat them afterwards.



Design your own Menu

It has been so challenging to choose a winning menu for the school competition. We received so many amazing entries with some wonderfully creative ideas and it was clear to see the effort that children put in. Well done to all of the class winners who were selected (pictured below). A special well done goes to our winning design for the school – Oliver. Oliver's design was incredibly creative and incorporated the names of the schools across the Torquay Hub. We have entered Oliver's design into the Trust competition, so watch this space!



Tesco Community Grant

Please don't forget to place blue tokens from Tesco in the Ilsham Community Garden box. Voting ends at the end of September and the winning cause will receive £1500. We have big plans for the use of our garden for the children and wider community. Thank you for your support!



Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	100
The Rowans	97.5
The Beeches	97.9
The Maples	97.2
The Hollies	93.5
The Oaks	100
The Monkey Puzzles	97.1
Whole School	97.6

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Willow for your enthusiasm and discussion when you discovered the secret fairy door in the Willows. Well done, Willow.	Tabby for beautiful and careful letter formation in RWInc. Well done, Tabby!
Rowans	Kaiden- for your super sounds and reading in RWInc and trying really hard with your writing.	Kai – for modelling a quality audience on the carpet and in our quality lines.
Beeches	Maxwell for your brilliant ideas in English and consistent listening in lessons. Well done, Maxwell!	Alessio for your beautiful handwriting in all your books and always trying your hardest. Well done, Alessio!
Maples	Indie for becoming more confident in English and showcasing her outstanding creative ideas in her sentences.	Thomas for showing a huge improvement in his handwriting and overall presentation in his work
Hollies	Maia – for her courageousness in overcoming challenges that have at times in the past set her back. Well done!	Joab – for taking care with his presentation and letter formation.
Oaks	Cora-Mae for showing much higher levels of resilience and a determination to succeed during her PE lessons.	Harvey for presenting every piece of work to a high standard in his beautiful cursive writing.
Monkey Puzzles	Rosalyn- for showing resilience in her learning and her determination to achieve her best in all areas of the curriculum.	Rafe- for an improved attitude towards presentation and making incredible progress in handwriting.