

20th October 2023

Dear families

Our first half-term has come to a close. It has been an incredibly busy start to the school year and we look forward to welcoming you all back after the half-term break as we begin to look ahead to an exciting time building towards Christmas.

In the final letter of this half-term, you will read about the learning of each class (there has been some amazing learning taking place), some upcoming events within the community and a reading activity which we are setting as home learning over the half-term.

Stronger Together

SEND Forum

This week, Miss Davies met with our Trust SEND Lead and Director for Vulnerable Pupils and Inclusion to work on our offer and approach to ensure our children flourish and how we can support our families. There were lots of meaningful discussions in a room of passionate professionals and we cannot wait to see how this impacts our school and wider trust family in the future. As a collective, we are exploring how we can collaborate further to continually improve and develop the provision for all learners.



Sense of Belonging

Wellswood Street Party

On Thursday 14th December, Ilsham Road (from The Kents Pub to The Flower Corner) will be closed from 4:00pm – 10:00pm. There will be a street party taking place 5:00-9:00pm, which will be a wonderful event for the entire community.

The school has been involved in working with the Wellswood Community Partnership from the earliest stages and I am pleased to share that there will be lots of activities for our families to enjoy and opportunities within the school for the children to collaborate with the local community as well as a performance from the school choir.



Ilsham C of E Academy
Ilsham Road, Torquay,
Devon, TQ1 2JQ
T: 01803 292313 **E:** ilsham@lapsw.org
W: ilsham-lap.co.uk



FLOURISHING FUTURES

There will be a range of charity stalls, including a stall for the PTFA. If you would like to recommend a charity stall, please do let the school know as there are a small number of plots still available.

Removing Barriers

Half-Term Reading Rivers Homework

This half-term, we would like all children in the school to complete a Reading River as a piece of homework. Reading Rivers support children in reflecting on all the things they have read and offer teaching staff insights into what children are reading out of school. Your child will bring home furthers details on this before half term. Please ask your child to hand in their Reading River to their class teacher by Friday 3rd November 2023. We will be sharing these in classes during our Book Club sessions.

Library Visit



After half term we will be visited by Torquay Library to learn all about their exciting new Secret Book Quest. In advance of this visit, we would love for as many of our pupils as possible to please join the library before Monday 6th November. There will be a prize for the class with the greatest number of pupils who are members of the library on this date. We will provide further details of the Quest after the visit. Please see a message below from the library to our parents.

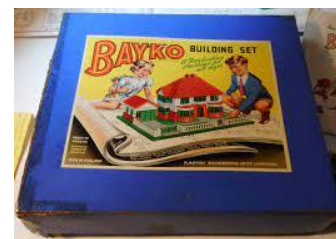
Torquay Library staff are visiting Isham school soon. Why not get your child joined up to the library ready for this fantastic offer? Don't worry if you have old fines or lost books previously, we will waive these. Take a fresh look at the library and the hundreds of services and events it has to offer your family.

RWInc in The Willows

The children in the Willows have amazed all their teachers with their fabulous work in RWInc. The children have loved looking at the progress they have made since their very first week at Isham. We reflected on how they have managed to achieve what they have in terms of their phonic knowledge and their handwriting. The children agreed that this was because of their listening and attitude towards their learning. They also said that Fred frog helped them too! The Willows have enjoyed using the Elly and Fred videos at home to develop their phonics even further. Well done, Willows!

The Rowans as Historians

As historians, the Rowans have been understanding what toys from the past were like and discovering different toys that their grandparents might have played with. We talked about what they were made from, how they were used and how their grandparents would have played with them. One of the toys we learnt about was called 'Bayko' a popular, British construction toy that was played with between the 1930s and 1960s.



Realising the Possible

Science in The Beeches

The Beeches thoroughly enjoyed our Science experiment this week. We were learning about the inventor John Dunlop and realising the impact that he has had on our world today. We wouldn't have such comfy cars if it wasn't for him! The children were inspired to learn how he made tyres and why. We went on to test different balls made from different materials to see how far they travelled when dropped down a ramp. Sadly, all of our photos are a little blurry, but we enjoyed measuring how far they travelled, and we discovered that the tennis ball travelled the furthest! Maybe we have some budding inventors in our class already? We can't wait to experiment again next half term with our new unit.

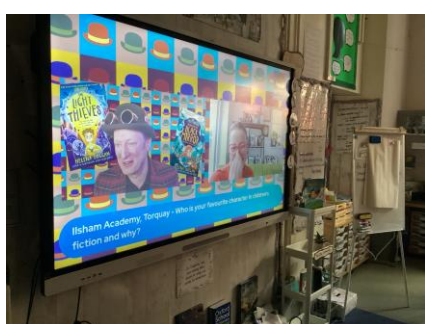
Monkey Puzzles Residential

The Monkey Puzzles have been on their residential trip to Beam House in north Devon. Despite the weather, the children have enjoyed an incredible time with their friends, working as a team and encouraging one another. The children have enjoyed so many wonderful activities and really pushed themselves outside of their comfort zones, showing real resilience to tackle some challenging tasks. We are so proud of each and every single child as they have exemplified the school vision and values – well done Monkey Puzzles!



Reading for Pleasure in The Hollies

The Hollies had a virtual author visit with Helena Duggan this week. She has written several books including the series A Place Called Perfect and The Light Thieves. The children loved hearing about her inspirations for writing, and her writing process. Last week, read extracts from two of her titles, and the children were excited to meet the real-life author. Her books are centred around young adventurous, courageous lead characters who take on intrepid challenges to save the world from evil. After the session, the children were desperate to put pick up one of her books or put pen to paper to create their own entertaining fiction. Reading for pleasure is such an important part of children's future success and Helena did a wonderful job of piquing their curiosity.



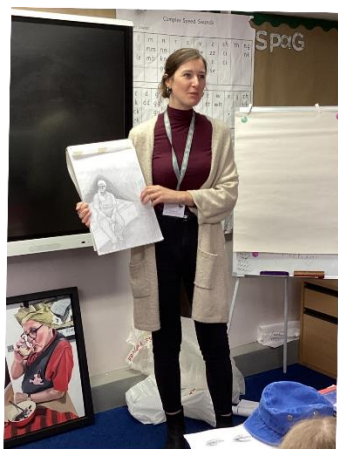
Aspiring Artists in The Maples

Over the past half-term, The Maples have been building up their knowledge of Lascaux cave paintings. They have looked closely at the history of the cave paintings and how they were discovered, the importance of them and what it tells us about the period of the Stone Age. They have explored the natural resources used to create the paints for the paintings and this week, have planned and created their very own cave paintings. Each one tells a unique story centred around life in the Stone Age. The children are incredibly proud of their creations.



Artist Visit in The Oaks

Oaks class had a real treat this week when our current focus artist, Amelia Webster, visited Ilsham to talk about her life, works, inspirations, techniques and use of her sketchbook. The children were simply wowed to see how Amelia used a variety of techniques and mediums (oil, charcoal and pastels) in her work and loved seeing the original versions of the art that they had been studying. It was amazing to feel the buzz in the room as the children heard the stories behind the art and the moment-in-time they capture they from the artist herself.



From the Office

Please remember to book your child's appointment for the flu nasal spray immunisation [via this link](#). The school's unique ID number is DV137304. The portal will close to bookings on Friday 3rd November. The team will be in school on Tuesday 7th November, and they will not be able to immunise any children without prior consent having been given. There is also going to be limited capacity for mop up clinics afterwards, so if you do wish your child to have the nasal spray, then please do book them in for the school session.

A reminder that, according to the Trust's Absence and Attendance Policy, no absences on the first and last day of a half term will be authorised, including illness unless it is supported with medical evidence.

5. Authorised/Unauthorised absence

Pupils are expected to attend the academy every day and this is key for children's education as well as their mental health. All absences must be explained by a parent/carer see section below on First Day Reporting. With reference to, and guided by, the DfE's guidance for schools on attendance, the academy will set out if their attendance can be authorised or not.

Acceptable reasons for the authorisation of absences are:

1. Illness (1)
2. Exceptional family circumstances such as a bereavement
3. Days of religious observance
4. Unavoidable medical/dental appointments (2)

Absences from the academy will not be authorised for:

1. Absences not agreed, this will always include first and last day of half term unless medical evidence provided



Have a lovely half term break.

Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	95.8
The Rowans	97.1
The Beeches	94.7
The Maples	94.9
The Hollies	93.2
The Oaks	98.8
The Monkey Puzzles	94.5
Whole School	95.6

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Selvan – for his enthusiasm in all that he does. He brings a wealth of knowledge to the Willows class! Well done, Selvan!	Milo – for amazing detail in his drawings and his notes he leaves around the classroom. Well done, Milo!
Rowans	James – You have shown great determination this half term in all areas of your learning and I am blown away with the progress you have made.	Isabelle- for trying really hard to ensure the presentation of your work is beautiful. Keep it up!
Beeches	Izzy, you have tried really hard this week, to complete all of your work and share it with others. Lots of smiles and stickers. Well done, Izzy!	Poppy, your handwriting and work presentation is consistently fabulous! You continue to blow us away with your fabulous writing. Well done.
Maples	Akua – for settling into Ilsham incredibly well and for displaying outstanding behaviour.	Georgi – for your consistently showcasing beautiful handwriting and presentation in every subject.
Hollies	Emily – for being a wonderfully supportive and compassionate member of Hollies class	Sienna – for her consistently wonderful presentation across all subjects.
Oaks	Paige for consistently putting a 100% into every lesson and going above and beyond in supporting her classmates.	Elsie for ensuring extremely neat presentation in every subject.
Monkey Puzzles	The whole class for their resilience, determination and positive attitudes on residential.	N/A

Diary Dates

- 13th December - School Nativity, St Matthias Church, 6pm
- 13th December - Christmas Lunch
- 8th December - PTFA Christmas Fair, St Matthias Church, 3pm
- 7th December - Christmas Jumper Day
- 17th November – Children in Need Day
- 7th November - Flu Immunisations **Please book in advance.**
- 7th November - SEND Roadshow, 2.40pm-4pm
- 3rd November - Year 5 and 6 trip to Plymouth Theatre Royal to see La Traviata
- 30th October - Year 3 trip to Kents Caverns