

10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Dear families

Together, we form a community that thrives on a shared vision of nurturing young minds and fostering a love for learning. This newsletter serves as a vital channel for us to communicate important updates, celebrate achievements, and highlight the wonderful endeavours taking place within our school. Please read on to find out more.

### **Stronger Together**

#### **EAC Curriculum Learning Walk**

In their ongoing commitment to ensuring the best possible educational experience for our students, our committee members conducted a curriculum learning walk. This walk is designed to provide valuable insights into the progress our children are making in their learning journey. It allows the committee to observe firsthand the engaging activities and innovative teaching methods employed by our dedicated teachers. Their presence not only demonstrates their active involvement in our school community but also serves as a testament to the collaborative effort between the board of trustees and our exceptional staff.

We are still seeking a parent representative to sit on our local committee, so please do contact the school office if you would be interested.

#### **English Development Day**

On Monday, we hosted our English Lead, Carly Watson. Alongside myself and Mrs Rivolta, we spent valuable time immersed in our classrooms, engaging directly with our talented students. This visit was a wonderful opportunity to witness firsthand the vibrant learning environments that our dedicated teachers create, and to evaluate the impressive strides our students are making in their English studies. The shared insights and expertise from Miss Watson and Mrs Rivolta will undoubtedly contribute to further enriching the educational experience here at Ilsham Academy. We look forward to implementing valuable feedback into our curriculum.

#### **Music CPD**

At Ilsham Academy, our primary school teachers are dedicated to providing the best education possible for our students. To further enrich their teaching abilities, they actively engaged in high-quality professional development with Mrs Guntrip to enhance their music instruction. As a result, the students will benefit from enhanced music lessons that foster creativity, musicality, and a deeper appreciation for the arts, creating an environment where their talents can flourish. This commitment to continuous improvement ensures that our teachers are well-equipped to inspire and nurture the musical abilities of our young learners, leaving a lasting impact on their educational journey.



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## **FLOURISHING FUTURES**



## **Sense of Belonging**

### **Remembrance Act of Worship**

On Friday, we gathered together in a spirit of unity and reflection to remember the brave men and women who served our country. Mrs Rook from St Matthias Church delivered a touching service that included beautiful hymns, thoughtful prayers, and a moment of silence for reflection. The children were encouraged to think about the sacrifices made by those who came before us and to express gratitude for their bravery and dedication. We are grateful to St. Matthias Church for their guidance and support in helping our young learners understand the importance of Remembrance Day. We look forward to more opportunities for our school community to come together in such meaningful ways.

### **SEND Roadshow**

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for taking the time to attend the workshop on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) processes in Torbay. Your presence and engagement exemplify a shared commitment to the well-being and success of our students. The insightful discussions and questions raised during the session are invaluable in fostering a supportive learning environment for all. We look forward to continuing this journey together, ensuring every child receives the tailored support they deserve. Thank you to SEND Torbay for your dedication and partnership in making a positive impact on our school community. If you were unable to make it or would like further information, there will be follow up virtual sessions which we will share the links to.



## Removing Barriers

### Gingerbread people in The Willows

Creating gingerbread people based on their favourite stories is a wonderful way to encourage creativity and literacy skills in young children. The Willows' reception children had a great time combining storytelling and hands-on activities! It's fantastic that The Willows children not only had fun making gingerbread people but also had the opportunity to learn about the science of heating and cooling in the process. It's a great way to make science more engaging and hands-on.



## Whole School Reading for Pleasure

### Library Bookmark Competition Results



We were thrilled to hear that two of our pupils (Harvey in the Oaks and Georgi in the Maples) were winners of their categories with their designs for Torquay Library's Bookmark Challenge. These designs will be made into real bookmarks for everyone to enjoy and handed out in all four of Torbay's libraries! They will also be awarded with a book voucher. Congratulations also to Harry in the Maples who was a runner up in his category and will also receive a voucher. The library was delighted with all of the many wonderful designs created by Ilsham pupils; these are currently decorating the library.

### Visit from Torquay Library

This week, we were visited by Torquay Library to meet our Reading Ambassadors and promote the Secret Book Quest: a brand-new reading challenge designed to encourage a lifelong love of reading in children. The challenge is aimed at children over the age of five, with the target of getting them to have fun reading 50 books.

Every child who signs up will receive a special Secret Book Quest booklet packed full of puzzles, fun facts, and activities. To complete the Quest and win a prize, they must read five books for each zone and collect all the code-stickers along the way – a total of 50 books. The final sticker is the missing piece that enables them to decipher a secret code and complete the challenge! Head down to the library to sign up for this exciting opportunity.



### Year 3 Book Blankets

This week in the Maples, the children took part in a Book Blanket session. This session was designed to support the children to engage with a variety of different texts and authors. It was wonderful to see how eager the children were to share their finds and the books they took a particular interest in. The children really enjoyed the session and were excited to go home and share their newfound reading love with their friends and family.

### Testing materials for Incy Wincy Spider in the Rowans



This week as curious scientists, the Rowans set out on a watery adventure with an array of everyday materials, to discover which were waterproof and which were not. With all of this rain we have been having we thought it we thought about poor Incy Wincy spider and how he keeps on getting washed away, so we decided on testing materials for him to have a waterproof shelter. First the Rowans made their predictions and then tested the different materials to discover which ones were waterproof. From their tests, they decided plastic would be the best waterproof material to make the shelter.





## **Realising the Possible**

### **Design and Technology in The Beeches**

The Beeches have started the design process in our DT lessons this week. We are going to be making some Christmas stockings as part of our learning this half term. We have explored different stockings and had a think about the similarities and differences, parts of the stockings we would like to try and achieve and parts which we think are a necessity. We are super excited to have a go at sewing and of course, take home our fabulous stockings in time for Christmas.

### **PE in the Oaks**

The children are thoroughly enjoying their 'The Greatest Showman' themed dance lessons this half term. This week, we focused on using stillness, travelling and steps in our dance routines. The children acted as ringmasters, clowns and tightrope walkers and became experts in a range of circus-themed poses and movements. They were all able to create their own routines- using at least three new movements- to demonstrate everything that they had learned. We had some very impressive performances to end our lesson.



### **Podcasting in The Hollies**

In a world increasingly driven by technology, our school places a strong emphasis on equipping students with skills needed for their future. The children were introduced to the basics of recording audio using simple yet powerful tools. From recording their own voices to capturing the sounds of everyday objects around them, the classroom buzzed with enthusiasm and creativity.



This hands-on experience not only honed their technical skills but also fostered teamwork and encouraged out-of-the-box thinking. Members of the Hollies will eventually write and record their own podcast – we are all very excited!



Have a lovely weekend,

Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

### School Awards

Class	 <b>Star of the Week</b>	 <b>Presentation Award</b>
Willows	Scarlett – for always being a kind and helpful friend and putting her best effort into her learning. Well done, Scarlett!	Finlay – for designing a great gingerbread person and making sure his design was cut out carefully. Well done, Finlay!
Rowans	Kaiden – for embracing the challenges this week has brought and remembering that perseverance turns difficulties into achievements. Keep it up, Kaiden!	Hattie – For ensuring your work is well-presented and working really hard on your handwriting and letter formation. Keep it up, Hattie!
Beeches	Amelia is our star of the week for showing amazing perseverance in our Maths lessons this week. Well done, Amelia!	Holly for a brilliant start in our English lessons, always ensuring your presentation in books is your best. Well done, Holly – keep it up!
Maples	Leon for his determination and enthusiasm in each lesson. This has shone through this week. Well done Leon!	Immy for her enthusiasm and dedication to neatening her handwriting and overall presentation.
Hollies	Sienna is our star this week for being a wonderful role model. She is always polite, respectful and compassionate and embodies the school values relentlessly.	Polina has worked on her handwriting this week to ensure it is consistently of high quality with the correct letter size and formation.
Oaks	Henri is our star of the week for demonstrating a spiderman-like focus and speed during his independent work in Maths this week. Brilliant work Henri- keep it up!	William R for working very hard to improve his joined writing. I am seeing a huge improvement, and he should be very proud of his progress.
Monkey Puzzles	This week, there are two stars of the week: Rosalyn and Emmie. Both of these children demonstrate a sense of determination to always achieve their best and the consistently work hard in all areas of learning. Well done to both of these girls!	Scarlett- for a conscious effort to continually develop handwriting in all curriculum areas. Well done!

### Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	100
The Rowans	96
The Beeches	100
The Maples	98.55
The Hollies	98.67
The Oaks	99.33
The Monkey Puzzles	95.51
Whole School	98.26

### 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