

17th November 2023

Dear families

This week has been InterFaith Week, National Kindness Day and Children in Need so there has been plenty happening around the school in addition to the curriculum teaching. We have also collaborated with schools across our trust to continually develop and refine our curriculum offer.

Stronger Together

School Council

We are excited to share the positive outcomes of this week's school council meeting, where our dedicated student representatives demonstrated their commitment to environmental stewardship. In a proactive decision, the school council has taken on the responsibility of conducting an environmental audit. This initiative reflects our collective commitment to identifying areas where Ilsham Academy can enhance its eco-friendly practices. By empowering our students to play a central role in this process, we not only foster a sense of responsibility but also instill values that extend beyond the classroom. We look forward to the insights and recommendations that will undoubtedly emerge from this student-led environmental audit, as we work together to make Ilsham Academy a more sustainable and environmentally conscious school.

Geography Curriculum Review

On Tuesday afternoon we warmly welcomed the Geography Lead and Head Teacher from Warberry Academy. They joined our own Miss Blake, Ilsham's Geography Lead, and myself on a comprehensive learning walk focused on geography education. Together, we delved into the classrooms, reviewing the quality of work in student books and engaging in insightful conversations with our young learners about their geographical explorations. This collaborative effort not only allowed for a fruitful exchange of ideas but also provided an opportunity for shared insights and best practices. Such inter-school engagements contribute to our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible learning experiences for our students at Ilsham Academy.

Family Hub Torbay

Family Hub Torbay is dedicated to providing invaluable support and guidance for families with young people facing Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Through personalised assistance, Family Hub Torbay navigates families through local services, ensuring they are aware of available resources and support networks. This includes information and advice about local services, support in learning about specific conditions and SEND processes, as well as parent/carer information about the local SEND Core Offer. Please find attached the link if you would like to know more. <https://torbayfamilyhub.org.uk/>



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

Dancing Animals in the Rowans

This week the Rowans have been showing their use of travelling, stillness and steps as a part of their dance module. Portraying different animals to a count of 8. Their dance was inspired by music from The Lion King's "I just can't wait to be king". The children also used their music skills to keep in time with the beat of the song as they moved their bodies.

Sense of Belonging

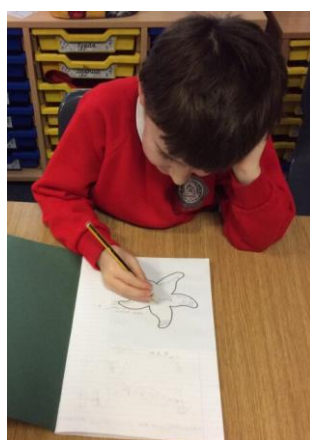
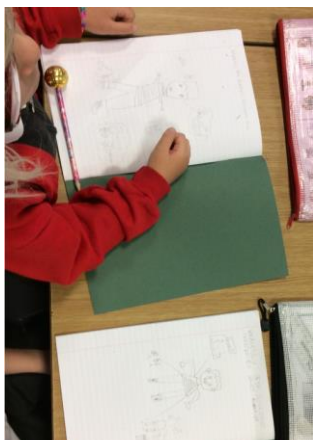
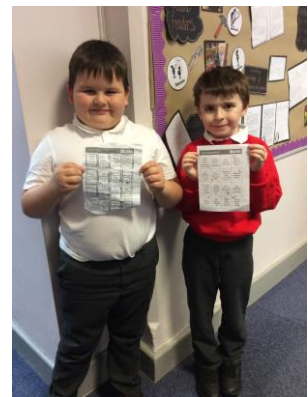
Children in Need



A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful Ilsham Academy families for their incredible support and generosity on Children in Need Day! Organized with enthusiasm by our dedicated school council, the day was a resounding success. From spotty outfits to creative fundraising initiatives, our students truly embraced the spirit of giving. Your contributions, both big and small, make a meaningful difference in the lives of children who need it most. It's heartening to witness the kindness and compassion our school community embodies. Once again, thank you for making Children in Need Day at Ilsham Academy a memorable and impactful occasion.

National Kindness Day

In celebration of National Kindness Day, Miss Grimes delivered a heartwarming assembly that resonated with the spirit of empathy and unity at Ilsham Academy. Through engaging discussions and thoughtful activities, Miss Grimes emphasized the importance of kindness in fostering a sense of belonging among our students. The assembly focused on creating a supportive environment where every child feels valued and understood, contributing to the overall wellbeing of our school community. Together, we are committed to nurturing not only academic growth but also the social and emotional development of our students, ensuring Ilsham Academy remains a place where kindness flourishes.



Interfaith Activities in The Beeches

Alongside our RE learning about Islam and the Muslim faith, this week as part of Interfaith week, the Beeches explored non-religious worldviews. We focused on the question 'What do many humanists believe about making a difference?' We thought about our own beliefs and what is important to us individually as well as a whole class and school. We listened to a story about a boy saving starfish, which is told to help to teach humanists how to care for the world and living creatures – the message being doing things because it is the right thing to

do rather than because someone told them to do it. Howard the Humanist has inspired us this week to work together and cherish the world we have.

Removing Barriers

Funky Fingers in The Willows

This week the Willows have been developing their fine motor control, through this fun activity. They had to use their fingers to find small things hidden in the playdough! There were paper clips, birthday candles, small play people, little teddy bears and small pegs. Once they had found the correct number of hidden things, they had to hide them in the playdough again, for the next person. The children really enjoyed the challenge, and this activity will help to strengthen the muscles in their little hands, to enable them to hold a pencil correctly and then form letters perfectly. Well done, Willows!



'Book Blankets' in the Hollies

One of the barriers a child can face when it comes to reading is the barrier of just not knowing what kind of book you fancy reading! This week, Hollies had a book blanket session where we covered the tables on a broad variety of books of different genres to try and overcome this conundrum. Firstly, we laterally judged a book by its cover and the children perused what was on offer, recording the books they liked the look of. Many actually said it was quite frustrating, as they were desperate to pick up the books to have a look at the blurbs, or to take a glance at the first few pages – something we take for granted when selecting a new read. The children then got their hands on the actual books and shared their experiences with the class. Children said they ended up being interested in some books that they would never normally have tried, and the session opened their eyes to genre that they didn't know about, such as historical fiction.



Reading Rivers in Monkey Puzzles

The children in Monkey Puzzles have been reflecting on their habits as readers this week and discussing how many things they read within a day. They talked about what surprised them about the things they were reading (without realising), the importance of needing to use reading in everyday life and also how they will need to use reading in their future careers. It was wonderful to see the thought that each child had put into producing their reading river and it was very special to hear the buzz and excitement within the classroom!



Realising the Possible

Chorister Outreach Event



We are delighted to share the resounding success of our school choir's recent performance at Exeter Cathedral as part of the Chorister Outreach Programme. The talent and dedication displayed by our students were truly exceptional, capturing the essence of musical excellence. The magnificent setting of Exeter Cathedral served as a fitting backdrop for the choir's melodious voices, showcasing not only their musical prowess but also their ability to transcend the ordinary. The pride we feel as a school community is immeasurable, and we extend our

heartfelt congratulations to each member of the choir for their outstanding contribution. The staff is immensely proud of their hard work, commitment, and the positive representation they have brought to our school. This experience is a testament to the transformative power of music education and the limitless potential our children hold. We look forward to more opportunities for our choir to shine and inspire others with their remarkable talents.

Djembe Drumming in the Oaks

This term, Oaks have been enjoying getting to grips with Djembe Drumming – one of the best-known African drums. The children have been exploring the cultural significance of djembe drumming and have learnt the correct posture for drumming and have developed an understanding of beat, rhythm, pitch, and dynamics. It has been wonderful to watch the children both grow in confidence in playing this new instrument and improving their understanding of musicianship.



Future Dancers in the Maples

The Maples embarked on an adventurous journey into the world of spies during their PE dance lesson. This engaging session with Kinetics focused on developing their physical abilities, coordination, and creativity through the art of movement inspired by spies and secret agents. They focused on mastering rolls and movements within their lesson. The children were encouraged to express their creativity through creating their own short dance sequences that incorporated the skills they had learned, allowing them to showcase their unique interpretations of spy-inspired movements.

Water Safety

Ilsham Academy is proud to celebrate the active participation of a small group of our students in a recent water safety event hosted at Torquay Academy. Led by Brendon Prince, this collaborative initiative brought together students from various schools across Torbay to impart essential water safety skills. Our young participants not only engaged in valuable lessons but also forged connections with peers from neighbouring schools, fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility. We extend our gratitude to Brendon Prince and Torquay Academy for spearheading this important event, ensuring our students are equipped with the knowledge and confidence to stay safe around water. This collaborative effort reflects our commitment to holistic education and community engagement at Ilsham Academy.

Christmas Jumper Concert

On Thursday 7th December, the school choir will be performing at the Palace Theatre Paignton as part of the Blossom's Music School concert. The performance begins at 7pm and concludes at 9pm. We would welcome as many people to come and support us as possible; it promises to be a wonderfully festive event!

If you would like to come along, you can book tickets here: [Christmas Jumper concert - Events in Paignton - The Palace Theatre Paignton](#)

Tickets are priced at: Adult £9.50 Senior £8 Child £6.50

Please remember, if booking tickets, that you book for **Thursday 7th December** as there are two events listed. We hope to see you there!

St Matthias EcoFest

On Saturday 2nd December, there will be an EcoFest event held at St Matthias Church. A small group of Year 6 pupils will be participating in this event as part of their contribution to the Torbay Civic Award. Please do come and join the event taking place – we hope to see many familiar faces.



st matthias

EcoFest

Climate change and Nature
Everybody Welcome
Join us to celebrate, learn and create

Saturday 2 December 12 - 4.30pm
St Matthias Babbacombe Rd TQ1 1HW



Talks

- Share insights on our coastal and marine environment - local experts on coastal landscape, sea grass and soil
- **Ruth Valerio** author and environmentalist on the global impact
- Hear what is being done - and what we can do with **Jacqui Warren** Torbay Climate Emergency Officer

Stands and displays

- Energy efficiency advice and renewable energy
- Endangered species embroidery exhibition
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Ocean Marine Conservation Trust
- South West Water

Seminar Programme

1-2pm Our Local Environment

- Welcome and introduction David Hodson
- **Marije Zwager** Torbay Coast and Countryside
- **Prof John Wibberley** Agriculturalist
- **Mim Daughtery** Ocean Conservation Trust

2.30-3pm Keynote speaker: the global perspective

- **Ruth Valerio** Tearfund



3.30-4.30pm What is being done and what can we do?

- **Jacqui Warren** Torbay Climate Emergency
- **Sophie Phillips** Diocese of Exeter
- Concluding panel of speakers: "Just one thing"



Have a lovely weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Leon – for always making maximum effort in everything we do in the Willows. Well done, Leon!	Filip – for amazing letter formation in his writing. His letters are all carefully formed. Well done, Filip.
Rowans	Nellie – your hard work and determination has blown me away this week! You have also shown compassion to your friend when they were hurt. Keep it up!	Darcie – for a really detailed design of the toy you are going to be constructing in Design and Technology.
Beeches	Jasper – what a super star this week you have been. You have worked incredibly hard in Maths and the smile on your face has been amazing to see! Well done, Jasper.	Jack T – for being consistently amazing with your stop signs, sitting smartly and making our quality lines. Well done, Jack, keep it up!
Maples	Megan – For your enthusiasm and perseverance in Maths and always showing the school values in your behaviour. You have been a superstar this week!	Hughie – for your determination to improve your handwriting and overall presentation. I have really noticed a marked improvement in your English book. Well done, Hughie!
Hollies	Amelia and Barney for being wonderful representatives of Ilsham at Torquay Academy.	Kevin for working hard to improve his handwriting and presentation.
Oaks	Elsie for working extremely hard in each and every lesson and at home on her SPaG. She consistently shows excellent learning behaviours and our school values.	Peter for taking much greater care with his handwriting. I am beginning to notice a marked improvement- well done Peter!
Monkey Puzzles	Sophia- for her excellent focus in lessons this week and for producing an exceptional piece of writing; she does all of this with a smile! Well done.	Jayden- for his continued focus on handwriting and consistently striving to make progress in the presentation of work. Well done!

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

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	97.65
The Rowans	98.86
The Beeches	100
The Maples	97.53
The Hollies	96.57
The Oaks	98.86
The Monkey Puzzles	100
Whole School	98.51