

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023

Dear families

Welcome back after the half-term break. The children have settled back into school really well and it has been wonderful to have you all back. There has been lots of amazing learning happening across the school this week.

### **Stronger Together**

#### **Parent Questionnaire**

Thank you all so much for your responses on the parent questionnaire. As an SLT, we met together to review responses and consider how we can work together to address next steps. We will be compiling a more detailed analysis and sharing that with you over the next couple of weeks. Thank you again for your input – we really value being able to work in collaboration with you to provide the best school offer for your children.

### **Sense of Belonging**

#### **SEND Roadshow**

On Tuesday afternoon, we will welcome the Torbay SEND roadshow to Ilsham. The SEND team from Torbay will join us and give a presentation of services at 2:30pm in The Qube. There will then be opportunities to speak with members of the team to discuss any questions or queries as a pop-up session 3-4pm. We encourage **all parents** to join us and find out more about SEND services in Torbay.

### **Removing Barriers**

#### **Testing materials for a space tether in the Rowans**

NASA gave the Rowans a very important job this week. NASA wanted to design a space tether and entrusted us to test out different stretchy materials that are strong enough to withstand a space mission. The children discovered that a curlywurly is stretchy but not strong enough, but tights and an elastic band were very stretchy and strong. The Rowans discovered that a space tether is made of high stretch fibre such as spectra or kevlar. This is a combination of nylon spandex fibres and liquid cooling tubes.



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# FLOURISHING FUTURES

## Whole School Reading for Pleasure

### Torquay Library Bookmark Competition

We were so pleased this week to receive a lovely email from Torquay Library thanking us for the amazing bookmarks designed by the children depicting Torquay past and present. These have been displayed in the library so do pop down to see if you can spot your child's work. Judging is still taking place on these, but we have our fingers crossed for some Ilsham winners!

### Library Assembly

Torquay Library will be visiting us on Monday to provide details about its new Secret Book Quest Challenge (we will provide more details next week on this). The class with the most members of the library on Monday will receive a prize. So, please ensure your child knows if they are a member of the library so they can take part next week.

### Year 6 Book Blankets!

This week in Monkey Puzzles, the children took part in a Book Blanket session. These sessions are designed to support the children to engage with a variety of different texts, to consider which books grab their attention and to discover books that they may wish to read in the future (by both familiar and 'newly discovered' authors).

It was wonderful to see the excitement radiating from the children and to see them so excited about reading. Maybe you could ask them what they are currently reading and chat to them about their books? I am sure that they would love to discuss this with you!



### Reading Rivers Homework

A number of children have not yet handed in their half-term Reading Rivers homework. We would be very grateful if you could please ensure that these are handed to class teachers this Monday, so we can share these together in school during our Book Club sessions.

## Realising the Possible

### The Oaks and Monkey Puzzles go to the Opera

This week, Year 5 and Year 6 experienced an amazing opportunity as they visited the Theatre Royal in Plymouth to see a compact, age-appropriate version of the famous opera La Traviata, performed by the Welsh National Opera. It was incredible for the children to be able to see, first-hand, the wonderful talent of these musicians and to realise what might be possible if they wish to aspire to this career path in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our fabulous PTFA who, without their support, this trip would not have been possible. We are incredibly lucky to have such dedicated members of this group who strive to provide the best for our children. Thank you!

### The Maples trip to Kents Cavern

This week, The Maples visited Kents Cavern to round up their history unit of the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They participated in a hands-on workshop where they got to explore real and replica artefacts. The children were lucky enough to embark on an underground adventure, guided by expert cavers. They explored the depths of the cave and were mesmerised by the history that came along with them. To end the day, the children took part in a trail in the woodland area, where they were able to consolidate all of their learning from the day. The children had so much fun, and I think we now have a few budding archaeologists within the Maples classroom!



### Pumpkin Soup in the Willows

This week Mrs Sanders brought in some ingredients to make pumpkin soup, and her soup maker. The children carefully chopped the pumpkin and then added the other ingredients. The children tried the pumpkin soup at the end of the day, and they thought it was delicious! Some children were a little bit worried about trying something new, but they showed lots of courage and tasted it and ended up liking it!





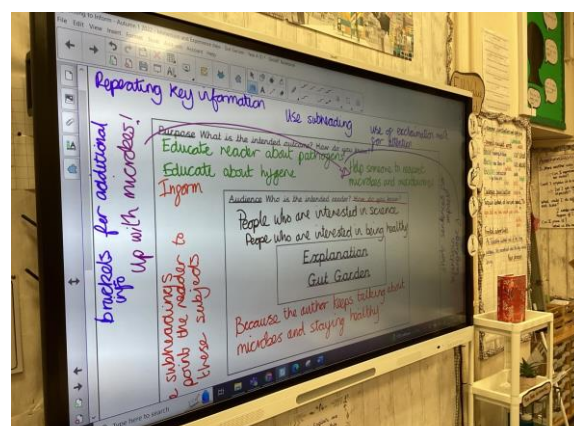
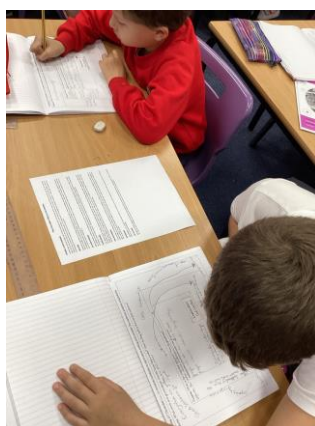
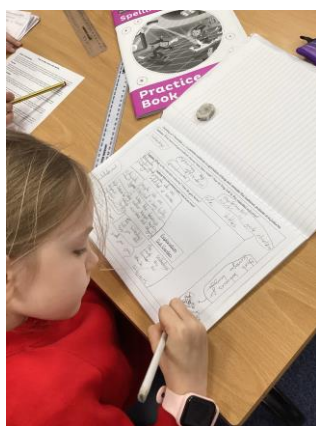
### Dazzling Dancing in the Beeches

This week, the children were introduced to their new dance unit. During their first session, the class thought about beat and rhythm when listening to a whole range of musical genres. Mr Bastow and I were blown away with the children's willingness to dive straight into dancing as they explored various ways to move around the hall in response to different tunes. It appears we have some very passionate dancers in Year 2 – well done everyone!



### We are Science Writers in The Hollies.

This week, Hollies have been immersing themselves in the world of microbes! We are focusing on the writing purpose 'to inform' this half term and are exploring a variety of information texts to identify how writers inform their readers in an entertaining way. We have looked at grammatical devices that writers use, such as subheadings, rhetorical questions, subordinating conjunctions, and simple sentences to create impact. We will be delving deeper into the world of microbes such as bacteria and fungi and be writing our own information text using the literary devices we have been learning how to use.



### Geography in the Oaks

This week, we started our new geography topic, which is designed to answer our enquiry question: 'How does the climate of the three Scandinavian countries impact settlement and land use?' The children enjoyed working together using atlases to answer a variety of questions about Scandinavia, find similarities and differences between its countries and then posed their own geographical questions about the area. I was impressed with the way in which the children used their geographical understanding to reason about what kind of climate the region might have.



Have a lovely weekend,  
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

### School Awards

Class	 <b>Star of the Week</b>	 <b>Presentation Award</b>
Willows	Filip – for working so hard to learn his RWInc sounds and being an amazing member of the Willows.	Adam – for taking great care and pride in his letter formation!
Rowans	Zofia – for her fantastic singing during nativity practice and trying really hard with your phonics.	Gracie- for being a role model to her peers by always showing quality on the carpet and in our line.
Beeches	Jack T – for his incredible attitude towards learning and for always helping others in the classroom – what a star!	Gaia - for working hard to keep her letters the same size when writing. She has worked so hard this week to ensure her work is neat – well done!
Maples	Oskar – for your outstanding enthusiasm in all subjects and on our trip to Kents Cavern – well done!	Joshua – for your improved pace in lessons, handwriting and overall presentation – well done!
Hollies	Gabriel – his quiet determination, and his positive approach to questioning and feedback.	Amber-Rose – for working hard on her letter formation to ensure that they are of a consistent size.
Oaks	Sapphire- for blowing myself and Mrs Khan away with her dedication in reading at home and school. Also, for her brilliant work on square numbers in Maths. What a star you have been this week!	Lewis- for always taking great care with his presentation in every subject across the curriculum.
Monkey Puzzles	Victoria- for her dedication and positive attitude towards learning in all curriculum areas this week. I have been so proud of all that she has achieved and the fabulous work she has produced. Well done!	Eelin- for her dedication to ensuring her work has been presented to such a high standard this week. Eelin has continually been working towards this award over a number of weeks, and it is thoroughly deserved!

### Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	86.11
The Rowans	91.32
The Beeches	76.15
The Maples	99.51
The Hollies	94.50
The Oaks	97.49
The Monkey Puzzles	96.12
Whole School	91.6

### 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
- 11<sup>th</sup> November – Year 3 and School Choir sing at Exeter Cathedral
- 7th November – Flu Immunisations (**must be pre-booked**)
- 7th November – SEND Roadshow, 2.40pm-4pm