

8th December 2023

Dear families

Thank you so much for your contributions for the Christmas Home Learning. If you do have any more contributions, please do drop them into the school office so that we can hand them in to Me and Mrs Jones and John Couch.

Stronger Together

Christmas Fair

The festive spirit was in full swing at Ilsham Academy's Christmas Fair held on Friday, December 8th, at St Matthias Church. The event was a joyful celebration of community, featuring an array of stalls, our fabulous school choir and a spirited raffle that not only spread holiday cheer but also generated funds crucial for supporting our school initiatives. A heartfelt thank you goes to our dedicated PTFA for orchestrating this delightful event and for their tireless efforts in making it a resounding success. Your support continues to make a significant impact, enhancing the educational experience for all our students. We are grateful for the wonderful Ilsham Academy community that comes together to create memorable moments during this festive season.

Staff Professional Development

In a spirit of collaboration and dedication to the individualized success of every student, the Ilsham Academy staff recently came together for a professional development meeting focused on crafting Individual Support Plans (ISPs) for children with additional needs. This collaborative effort allowed our team to pool their expertise, share insights, and leverage a collective understanding of each child's unique requirements. By working collectively on these ISPs, we aim to ensure that our approach is tailored to the specific needs of each student, fostering an inclusive learning environment that supports their academic and personal growth. This collaborative effort exemplifies our commitment to providing a nurturing and supportive educational experience for every child at Ilsham Academy.

Department for Education Visit

We are thrilled to share the exciting news of a recent visit from the Department for Education to Ilsham Academy, shining a spotlight on the remarkable achievements of our Ilsham English Hub. This visit provided an invaluable opportunity to showcase the outstanding work of our English Hub and its positive impact on schools not only across Torbay but also beyond. The Ilsham English Hub has been instrumental in supporting and collaborating with schools, fostering excellence in English education. We are immensely proud of our dedicated team and the significant contributions they make to the educational landscape. This recognition from the Department for Education reaffirms our commitment to excellence and inspires us to continue our mission of providing exceptional support to schools far and wide.



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

Sense of Belonging

Online Safety

Steps to take to help your child stay safe online:

Have an ongoing conversation: Continue to talk about the apps, games and sites they like to use, and what they like and don't like and any concerns about being online.

Discuss with them when to unfollow, block or report. For help starting this conversation, follow the link:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/having-an-open-and-honest-conversation-about-online-safety-5-questions-for-parents>

Make sure they know where to go for support: Remind your child they can always speak to you or an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel worried or upset. Remind them that they won't be in trouble at that you are there to help.

For a breakdown of report services, visit:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/report-issue/>

Useful online safety websites for parents:

National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use

<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Internet Safety in the Rowans

Safe relationships are crucial for children's well-being, both offline and online. As a class, the Rowans have been learning how to keep themselves safe online, empowering them with open dialogue and to know how to navigate the digital world safely with confidence and resilience. We read the story 'Digiduck Saves the Day' which focuses on how to use the internet safely and in a positive way.



A New Member of the Willows Family Monday brought a burst of excitement to the Willows class as a sneaky elf made a surprise appearance. This mischievous visitor filled the classroom with laughter and antics, with one unforgettable morning where he cleverly stashed Fred Frog in the marble jar, leaving the children in awe and amusement. The Willows needed to help free Fred frog, so that he could help them in Read, Write, Inc, so they wrote letters to the sneaky elf!

PE in the Beeches

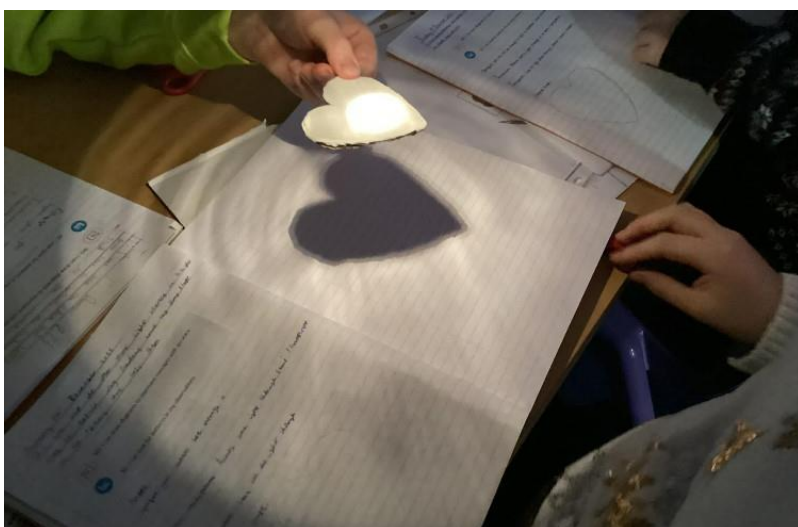
Last week in the PE, the Beeches finalised their group dances and confidently shared them with their class. Mr Baston and I were completely blown away with the time, care and precision taken by each group and could not be prouder of the dedication they have shown this term. This week, to celebrate their successes and to showcase their wonderful new skills, the class took part in a whole range of dance themed games. The class had so much fun and it was wonderful to see the joy on their faces as the showed off their dancing skills.



Removing Barriers

Scientists in Monkey Puzzles Class

This week, Year 6 have been exploring how to create different sized shadows and shapes. They investigated how the distance and angles of light can impact the shadows made and they experimented with this in groups. It was brilliant to see the buzz about Science and to see a passion for how children may carry this through into their future learning.



PE in the Oaks

This week was the culmination of Oak Class's circus-themed dance unit- our final performances. Across the half term, the children have learnt to perform a range of fluid movements/actions that are in time to the rhythm of a song, demonstrate various ways of using travelling, stillness and steps and explored complex turns, slides and rolls safely. The final performances gave the children the opportunity to show off their newly honed dance skills and to effectively evaluate the work of their peers.



DT in the Maples

This week, the Maples have been working hard to design their night lights in their DT lessons. They have been carefully thinking about their aim and purpose of their creation. Each child has thought about what would work well in their design and how it will either have a hanging feature or be able to sit carefully on the shelf. They have all worked extremely hard and are now in the process of making their designs.

Realising the Possible

Christmas Jumper Concert

Once again, we were so proud of our school choir as they performed at the Christmas Jumper Concert on Thursday at the Palace Theatre, Paignton. It was wonderful to see the children perform both as Ilsham choir and in collaboration with our sister school, Warberry.

It can be both a nerve-wracking and incredible experience performing on stage and every child shone; it was wonderful to see! We have no doubt that there are future professional performers within our midst and that this is only the beginning!

Our choir will also be spreading the Christmas cheer as they perform at a local residential home next week and deliver the Christmas cards which have been made by children who have volunteered their time at lunch. It is heart-warming to see the care and compassion our children have for members of our wider community at this time of year.



Devon Chess Champions

We are thrilled to share the outstanding achievements of a group of talented Ilsham Academy students who participated in the Devon Schools Championship last weekend. The Ilsham team showcased exceptional skill and strategic thinking, ultimately securing victory in the championship. Congratulations to these young minds for their success!

In light of this triumph, we are excited to announce the re-launch of our Chess Club starting next term. This presents a fantastic opportunity for all budding chess enthusiasts to further hone their skills, engage in friendly competition, and foster a love for this intellectually stimulating game. We encourage interested students to join us on this exciting chess journey as we embark on a new term filled with strategic moves and brilliant victories.



5/6 Football team

We're delighted to announce a fantastic triumph for our Year 5/6 team in their recent match against Watcombe Primary on Tuesday, securing a resounding 7-2 victory. The match showcased outstanding teamwork and encouragement from our talented players. Congratulations to each player for their remarkable efforts and for embodying the spirit of Ilsham Academy. Well done on this impressive victory!

Pop up Nativity Story in Design Technology

The Hollies have been working on their mechanisms in D&T. We established our design brief, identified our intended users and planned which sections of the nativity we are going to make 3D. The children made prototypes of V folds and box folds, simple yet dynamic mechanisms that pop up giving the story an interactive element. We can't wait for next week when we share our designs with our intended users; reception and Year 1 children.



Author Visit

Local author, Julian Hilton, brought enhancement to our school as he visited to read his captivating stories to our EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 children. The classrooms buzzed with excitement as he shared tales that transported the children's imaginations. This opportunity not only enabled children to listen to stories, but also to ask a whole host of questions about what it means to be an author. If you want to talk to your children about this visit or would like information about any of the books he has read, you can use the following website <https://www.singingfrogpublishing.com/shop.html> . Excitingly, Julian has provided a promo code 'Ilsham' for anyone that might want to purchase any of his stories. Please see the image for more details.




Have a lovely weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Adam – for always trying his best and for being kind and helpful to his friends and Willows family.	Selvan for forming all his letters confidently and neatly in his writing.
Rowans	William.D. is my star this week as he consistently produces work to a high standard. I am also very impressed with his maths work and how he proves, explains or shows another way when answering a problem.	Gracie-Mae has been trying so hard with her handwriting, ensuring her letters are the correct size and formation.
Beeches	Jack B – for working incredibly hard to use his maths resources when solving problems in lessons.	Reuben – for working hard to ensure his story writing is presented neatly.
Maples	Hughie – for having an all-round fantastic week and being enthusiastic in every lesson.	Leah – for working hard to ensure her presentation is high-quality and always improving her handwriting.
Hollies	Millie – for her enthusiasm for all her learning, her beautiful presentation and her desire to do the best she can in everything she does.	Grace – for working hard on her handwriting and presentation this week.
Oaks	James for consistently showing brilliant learning behaviours in every subject. I have also been very impressed with your authorial voice in writing.	Henri J for working very hard to develop his handwriting and leave spaces between words. Keep it up Henri!
Monkey Puzzles	Jacob- for his determination and perseverance in all he does. He continuously gives 100% in everything, and he is a superstar.	Colton- for a real focus and determination on developing and improving handwriting this week. Well done Colton!

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	97.2
The Rowans	96
The Beeches	95.8
The Maples	100
The Hollies	97.3
The Oaks	95.3
The Monkey Puzzles	94.2
Whole School	96.5

Diary Dates

15th December – Christmas Party Day
 13th December – School Nativity, St Matthias Church,
 6pm
 13th December – Christmas Lunch