

12th January 2024

Dear families

This week, we have shared details with you of what your children will be learning over the course of the Spring Term and the home learning menus. Before we dive into this week's newsletter, we will be notifying you of the upcoming parent consultations at the beginning of next week – we cannot wait to celebrate the children's progress with you.

Stronger Together

Safeguarding Lead Forum

At Ilsham, we believe in being "Stronger Together," and we are excited to share how our commitment to this value is reflected in our ongoing efforts to enhance the safety and well-being of our students. As Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mr. Grinsill, and Deputy Safeguarding Lead, Mrs. Bennett, recently collaborated with Safeguarding leads from across our school trust to deepen our knowledge and expertise in the Prevent strategy.

Through this collaborative effort, we aim to strengthen our ability to identify and address potential risks, with a particular focus on the biggest threat to primary-aged children. In today's digital age, online safety is of paramount importance, and we are dedicated to equipping our students with the skills and knowledge they need to navigate the online world safely and mitigate the risks of online radicalisation.

What is Online Exploitation and Grooming?

Online Grooming – The act of developing a relationship with a child to enable their abuse and exploitation both online and offline.

Online platforms, such as online gaming, social media, messaging and live streaming, can be used to do this.

Online Exploitation – an individual or group using online platforms to take advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual and/or criminal activity that can occur both online and offline.

Sense of Belonging

SEND Peer Support Champions

Torbay Family Hubs are recruiting Peer Support Champions in the area for families who have lived experience of SEND and can share their experiences with others. Please see details on the advert below – this can be incredibly helpful to so many families.



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



Have you got a child with additional needs?

Do you want to share your knowledge with other families whose children have an additional needs?

Join the Family Hub volunteering team and become a Peer Champion supporting parents in and around your local community!

Please contact Anna Messer – Practice Team Lead for SEND on 07872502957 for more information and tap the link in the caption to apply!

Removing Barriers

Optimal Learning Approach

We are thrilled to share an exciting initiative undertaken by our school trust! This week, teachers delved into the launch of a new and innovative learning approach aimed at fostering optimal learning experiences for our students. In the initial stages of this project, the focus will be on empowering pupils to develop a deeper understanding of themselves as learners and equipping them with effective strategies to support their own learning journey. This approach is designed to enhance the learning and progress of all our pupils while promoting vital skills such as self-regulation. We look forward to seeing the positive impact this approach will have on our students' educational experience.

Historians in the Maples



As Historians, the Maples were exploring the reasons why the Romans wanted to invade Britain. In groups, the children worked together to pick 6 reasons they thought were the most important reasons explaining why they would want to invade. There was such rich discussion in each group and it was wonderful to walk around and hear the conversations the children were having. They were considering each reason with a lot of thought and discussing why it would/wouldn't be one of the most important reasons for invading Britain.



Citizens of the World in Monkey Puzzles

This week in Year 6, the children have been learning about the Hindu worldview. They have been considering how, for Hindus, they hold a belief in Brahman and how the qualities that Brahman possesses can be represented by a number of different murti. In addition, the children explored how the Hindu concept of God is very different to the concept held by people of an Abrahamic faith. Our Year 6's have been wonderful at expressing the importance of learning about the different worldviews that people hold in the world and how their learning will help them to hold informed, knowledgeable conversations with people who hold different beliefs to themselves in the future.

Colour Mixing in the Rowans

This week the Rowans were introduced to a local artist, Liese Webley. We discovered she is a local abstract artist, using nature as her inspiration. Before we began painting nature inspired art like Liese, we started off by learning what primary colours are. The children were then fascinated to learn when primary colours are mixed; they get secondary colours. Once the children felt confident making secondary colours on their colour wheel, they recreated one of Liese's paintings.



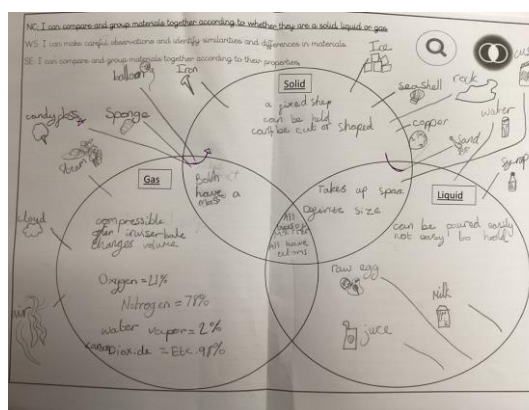
Painting with Primary Colours in the Beeches

This week, the Beeches began our new unit for art focusing on the fabulous artist, Eric Carle. We learnt some key facts about his life and thought about our favourite books before diving into his artwork. We discovered that his paintings are bold and colourful and almost all of them are animals! We enjoyed using the primary colours to make secondary colours and creating a bright colour wheel. Miss Rowe-Jones was super impressed when more than one child came in and saw the paint trays and instantly said 'those are primary colours!' Can't wait to see what beautiful paintings we produce this half term.



States of Matter in the Hollies

As scientists, the Hollies asked questions, and ordered and classified different matter into Venn diagrams. We discussed the properties of solids, liquids and gasses, and spoke about how something can belong to two different categories at the same time. We began to discuss processes that can change a state, for example a raw egg to a hardboiled egg – one you can pour, a property of a liquid, and the other, you can break, a property of a solid. We experimented with sand and discussed how, even though it can be poured out of a container when it is dry, it is still a solid as each individual grain keeps its own shape. We can't wait to continue our exciting journey into changing states of matter next week!



History in the Oaks

This week, Oaks continued to explore our unit question (Was the Viking invasion successful?) through a deeper review of who the Vikings were, where they came from and why they raided. The children were able to make use of primary and secondary historical sources to explore why the Vikings left Scandinavia, why they settled where they did and why they raised. It was brilliant to see the children able to challenge their previous misconceptions about the Vikings and make links to their prior learning in geography about Scandinavia.

Realising the Possible

John Couch Art Competition

At the Wellswood Community Street Party, there was the opportunity to vote for your favourite designs from the John Couch art competition – we had lots of amazing entries. We are pleased to share that the winning designs were:

4-8 years: Alisha and Amber-Rose.

9-12 years: Emilia and Jeremy.

The team from John Couch came in to congratulate the children, awarded them with a letter and vouchers to spend at Waterstones. Well done to everyone involved!



Singing Superstars!



Well done to our first two Singing Superstars from choir this week! This award is presented weekly, by Mr Blurton, to children who have demonstrated a passion and love of singing. It has been wonderful to see new members joining the choir and we have some very exciting events coming up! If your child would like to join the choir, then please do speak to the school office.

Repeating Patterns in the Willows



This week the children immersed themselves in the enchanting tale of “Handa’s Surprise.” Captivated by the story, they explored the vibrant landscapes and discovered the delightful surprises hidden within. We used the story to link in with healthy eating and making repeating patterns with fruit. The children delighted in creating repeating patterns in maths, using different fruit, they used their newfound skills to design vibrant fruit kebabs. They brought their patterns to life, carefully crafting fruit kebabs based on their unique designs. They even shared their creations with Mr. Grinsill, featuring a delightful combination of melon and banana.



Enjoy the weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

Diary Dates

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Kylo – for always contributing enthusiastically in our learning and for some AMAZING maths work! Well done, Kylo!	Zoe – for always making the presentation of her work is the best, and for forming her letters correctly, by saying the RWInc rhymes! Well done, Zoe!
Rowans	Will.C. you have had a fantastic week and I was really impressed with your listening and concentration skills during tennis. Keep it up!	Vanessa, I have seen a great improvement in your letter formation this week.
Beeches	Poppy, you are our star this week for your hard work in English this week. Being confident when sharing your ideas and sentences. Keep it up.	Alisha, you've had a brilliant week! Your Maths has been amazing this week, and you have been so kind and supportive to other members of our class.
Maples	Millie – for your positive attitude in all lessons, for always helping others and for persevering when things get challenging. Well done Millie!	Akua – for always having outstanding handwriting and presentation in all lessons. Well done!
Hollies	Ryan – for settling in so wonderfully! It is brilliant to have you in our class.	Hugo – for persevering with his letter formations and making real improvements to his presentation.
Oaks	Henry- for always having an excellent attitude to learning and striving to do more. You also embody our school value of respect. Great work Henry.	James for presenting every piece of work to the highest standards.
Monkey Puzzles	Jasmine- for always giving 100% to everything she does. She works incredibly hard in class and is a wonderful role-model for the school. Well done!	Charlee- for truly transformational handwriting! The progress he has made is stunning and we are all really proud of him!

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	99.3
The Rowans	98.7
The Beeches	90.2
The Maples	97.8
The Hollies	97.5
The Oaks	100

The Monkey Puzzles	98.1
Whole School	97.4