

19th January 2024

Dear families

Already, we have come to the end of the third week of this half-term. This week, we have been fortunate enough to welcome some amazing visitors to enrich the learning offer for our children. Before we delve into this week's newsletter, on **Tuesday 27th February at 2:30pm**, we will be holding a safeguarding workshop for families. The safeguarding and online exploitation risks are always changing and with more primary aged children being targeted, The Children's Society are coming in to deliver a session with children prior to a workshop with parents. We hope that you are able to make it.

Stronger Together

English Moderation

On Wednesday, our dedicated teachers joined forces with educators from All Saints Marsh, Warberry, and Ellacombe. This collaboration was part of a moderation session focused on enhancing the accuracy of writing assessments. The collective expertise and diverse perspectives brought to the table by teachers from different schools enriched the discussions and provided valuable insights. This collaborative effort underscores our commitment to continuous improvement and ensures that our assessment practices remain robust and reflective of the high standards we set for our students.

SEND Leads Together

On Wednesday, Miss Davies joined the rest of the SENDCos from across the trust along with our Director of Vulnerable pupils, to discuss SEND development and how we approach it consistently in all our schools. They gathered to look at the principles of fostering an inclusive culture, evaluating systems and structures that contribute to developing inclusive classrooms. Practical adaptations in the classroom were discussed to enhance inclusivity. SEND leads also shared how teachers within their school are adapting and using the Graduated Response document to support and meet the needs of our learners with additional needs.

PTFA Support

Thank you so much to our incredible PTFA, who have generously donated over £3500 to purchase a set of new ipads for our children to use at school. This purchase will enhance the learning opportunities for the children and make a huge difference to the teaching of the computing curriculum. We will continue to share with you how the ipads are being implemented across the curriculum. We are so grateful for the ongoing support of the PTFA.



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

Removing Barriers

RHE in The Oaks

This week, the Oaks continued their exploration of what it means to belong to a community by considering how the ways in which we chose to spend money impacts the environment. We explored the differences between choosing single use items and making more sustainable choices and how we can make more ethical decisions through avoiding fast fashion and choosing Fair Trade. All of the class were able to express their viewpoints clearly and reason between which choices they should make to both help the environment and show compassion.



Realising the Possible

Special Visitor in the Willows

The Willows children eagerly listened as Mrs Guihen, who works at Exeter University, visited to share insights about their future aspirations. With enthusiasm, she spoke about her job and the possibilities that awaited them at the university. The children, inspired, got a taste of finishing university by trying on gowns and caps, igniting dreams of what they could become. The Willows, who were inspired by Laura's talk, shared their ideas for the future. They spoke about their aspirations of becoming a butcher, a hairdresser, a police officer, a shopkeeper, a doctor, a vet, and even a zookeeper. Well done, Willows, you can be whatever you want to be!



An Exciting Artist Visit



On Monday, Years 4 and 5 were lucky enough to get a visit from Plymouth based 'naive artist' Brian Pollard. The children loved meeting him and asked him wonderful questions such as, 'Where do you get your inspiration from, and how long does it take to paint each piece?'

We then went on to have a workshop with him where he broke the painting process down into easy-to-follow steps. He used geometric shapes to explain how he paints the features and characters in his paintings. A sitting cat is simply a circle on top of a triangle, a standing dog is two rectangles on 4 sticks, with two triangles for ears, a cloud is a series of circles, and so on. With this knowledge, all the children were confident to create their own piece of work inspired by his style. The final pieces are fantastic and I'm sure they will be adorning your fridge doors soon.



Dental Health Visit in The Beeches

On Thursday, the Beeches were visited by the Dental Outreach Team at Peninsula Dental Social Enterprise. During this session on oral health education, the children were introduced to an animated character, Geoffrey the Giant, who doesn't like to look after his teeth and has never visited the dentist. With the help of his friends Geoffrey learnt some important key oral health messages which are vital to help keep his mouth and teeth healthy. During this interactive session, the Beeches learnt all about the importance of oral health. Excitingly, the children received a goody bag to take home containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, timer and bookmark!





Live orchestra visit in Monkey Puzzles and Maples

This week, Year 3 and Year 6 went to see the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra perform live at Exeter University Great Hall. The theme was all around dance and the children were incredibly excited to hear a live, instrumental performance of Dancing Queen at the end!

For this experience, the children also learnt how to perform a song together using both voice and Makaton. It was wonderful for the children to experience a live orchestra and to be introduced to the different instrument, their sounds and a collective performance. We are sure that we have some future musicians here at Ilsham who we will also see performing one day soon!

Enjoy the weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Erin, for being such an amazing friend in the Willows and for welcoming new members to our group in RWInc. Well done, Erin!	Willow, for always taking care with the presentation of all the activities she completes, and making sure everything is always neat and tidy!
Rowans	Kaiden – you worked so hard in your maths this week! Mrs Bennett and I are so proud of you.	James – always giving 100% in all areas of your learning.
Beeches	Freds – for consistently working hard in all lessons across the curriculum and for showing such enthusiasm in history unit this term.	Gaia – for blowing Miss Crotty away with her stunning presentation in Read, Write Inc. this week. Gaia is taking so much pride in her work this term!
Maples	Joshua – for showing a positive attitude towards his learning in all lessons.	Ethan – for focusing on and making a huge amount of progress with his letter formation and handwriting.
Hollies	Jacob, for setting in so well and producing some wonderful sentence work in English.	Maia – for persevering with her handwriting and presentation. We are all seeing the benefits of your hard work.
Oaks	Summer, for making me so proud with her attitude to learning, focus and motivation to succeed this week. Keep it up Summer!	Cora-Mae for working extremely hard on her presentation and making great leaps in her neatly joined writing. Brilliant work Cora-Mae!
Monkey Puzzles	Eelin- for always giving 100% effort in all she does and always striving to make progress in her learning. Well done!	Emmie- for a sustained improvement in handwriting which has been applied across the curriculum. Well done!

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	98.2
The Rowans	100
The Beeches	99.4
The Maples	97.5
The Hollies	100
The Oaks	98.9
The Monkey Puzzles	98.9
Whole School	99

Diary Dates

29th January - Parent Consultations for the whole school

31st January - Parent Consultations for all classes apart from The Beeches

1st February - Parent Consultations for The Beeches class

2nd February - NSPCC Number Day

8th February - PTFA Valentine's Disco

23rd February - Fire Service visit Year 2 and Year 5

27th February – Safeguarding Parent Workshop

28th February - 1st March - Year 4 Residential

4th and 5th March - PTFA Superhero Stall for Mother's Day

7th March - World Book Day

11th - 15th March - Scholastic Book Fair

18th April x 5 weeks (Thursdays) - Year 5 Swimming

22nd - 25th April - Year 5 Bikeability Level 2