

26th January 2024

Dear families

We are really looking forward to welcoming you to parent consultations next week to celebrate your child's learning – if you have not booked an appointment, please do contact the school office. This week, I have been in every class to look at their learning and spend some time with the children hearing their thoughts and ideas. We have had exciting author visits and lots of practical learning experiences for the children to share with you.

Stronger Together

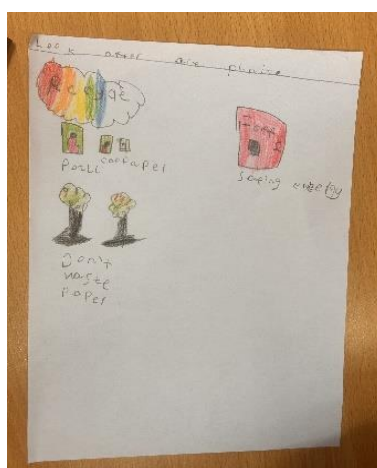
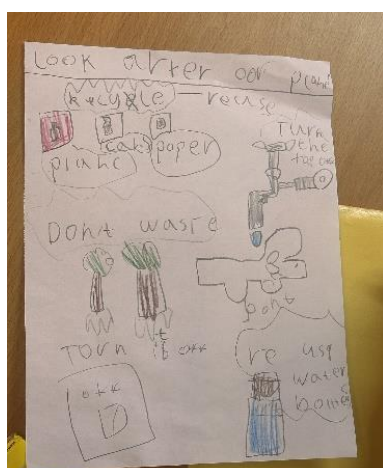
RE Development

Led by Mrs. Guntrip, our team engaged in a Professional Development session focused on enhancing the teaching of Religious Education (RE). During this session, we delved into valuable discussions about teaching methodologies, explored relevant resources, and shared successful practices. The collective effort aimed at strengthening our RE curriculum will take place over the next two terms, fostering a richer learning experience for our students. We are excited about the progress made and look forward to the continued development of our RE teaching.

Sense of Belonging

Looking After the Wider Environment

As global citizens, the Rowans have been exploring how they look after the wider environment. As a class we discussed what we mean by the term 'environment' and how this means all of the things around us. The children learnt that these can be physical features as well as natural features. As a whole class we then looked at various ways in which we can make a difference to help to look after our environment. Inspired by this, the children created their own fantastic posters to show how they are going to go forward into the wider world and help to look after their environment.



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

Persuading Consumers to Think and Buy More Sustainably

In English, The Hollies continue our unit on writing to persuade. This week, we began writing an advert for a product called Stroodles – a straw made from just water and flour, just like a noodle. We have researched the impact on the environment of single use plastic to help us make more convincing arguments for the use of sustainable products. The children were shocked to see the amount of plastic that gets discarded into the oceans and the impact this has on marine life and other creatures. I am looking forward to the powerful arguments the children will be posing in favour of sustainable products.

Global Citizens in the Maples

As global citizens, the Maples have been exploring the religion of Islam. This week, the children recapped the importance of the first chapter of the Qur'an before moving on to exploring Muslims place of worship, the Mosque and why prayer is so important to Muslims. We explored the main prayer positions and learnt how Muslims pray at the same times each day. The children were mesmerised by the intricate details within a Mosque and were asking some very well thought out questions to extend their knowledge. The Maples ended their lesson by identifying and labelling the key features of a Mosque, which they absolutely loved.

School Council

Together, our school council have started to assess our school's sustainability practices. Through a comprehensive school audit, the Council aims to identify areas where we can make positive changes to reduce our environmental impact. The early findings from this audit will be integrated into our collaborative efforts with Turning Heads on the upcoming garden regeneration project. This project not only reinforces our commitment to creating a vibrant and eco-friendly learning environment but also provides valuable opportunities for student leadership and engagement. This will be useful preparation for our waste management audit with Swisco next month and we look forward to updating you on the progress of this sustainability journey and appreciate the enthusiasm and dedication shown by our School Council.

Removing Barriers

Optimal Learning Approach

We are excited to provide an update on our continuous efforts to enhance the quality of teaching and learning across our school through the Optimal Learning Approach. This week, I had the privilege of engaging in one-on-one conferences with a selection of students from each class. The purpose of these conferences was to gain valuable insights into our students' perceptions of themselves as learners and their understanding of what makes a good learner. This information will be pivotal in tailoring our teaching strategies to meet the unique needs of each child, fostering an environment where every student can thrive. We are committed to creating an optimal learning experience for all, and these conversations with our students play a crucial role in shaping our approach.

Reading for Pleasure in the Oaks

This week, Oaks were lucky enough to participate in a Mr Dilly Meets live author events with four brilliant authors: Benjamin Dean, Sarah Driver, Anna Rainbow and Pari Thompson. Each author shared tantalising details of their brand new books. It was brilliant to see the children so enthused about the opportunity to learn about new authors and their new novels; we very much enjoyed our own 'shout out' from Mr Dilly.



Realising the Possible

Tooth Brushing in The Willows

The Willows children have embraced a new practice, engaging in the ritual of brushing their teeth at school. The children really enjoyed picking out their new toothbrushes, to keep in school. The children listened to song called 'Brush your Teeth' as they brushed along for two minutes. The joy of this activity is palpable, as they learn the proper techniques for maintaining good oral hygiene. In addition to hands-on learning, a dentist has been invited to impart valuable insights on caring for their teeth, enriching their understanding of dental health.

PE in the Beeches

This half term, the Year Twos have been learning to play tennis. Over the last few weeks, Mr Bastow has been guiding the class through the important steps needed to successfully play a game of tennis. The Beeches have worked hard when practicing how to serve and receive a ball and have worked tirelessly in small teams to practice their new skills. This week, the children participated in their first game of tennis and blew us away with their patience, teamwork and listening skills.





Music in Monkey Puzzles

This week, our musicians in Monkey Puzzles have been working towards creating their own protest chants as part of their composition learning this half term. The children placed this learning within the historical context of the anthem of the Suffragettes, who they are currently learning about in history, and then identified a cause they are passionate about in order to begin to compose their own pieces. They considered both the importance of the pulse and tempo and how, for the lyrics, they would need to carefully consider different rhythmic patterns to suit the pulse. We are really looking forward to the children performing their pieces.

Enjoy the weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Finlay – for some very impressive RWInc work this week! Amazing reading of words and alien words. Well done, Finlay!	Sofia – for working really hard on her handwriting and making sure her letters are not ‘tickling’ each other! Well done, Sofia!
Rowans	Gracie-Mae – for your fantastic phonics! You have been a role model to others in lessons and you have made fantastic progress.	Olivia – You have been showing great progress when writing your sentences applying the skills you have been taught.
Beeches	Alessio – for your amazing partner work in lessons - particularly PE! You always work beautifully with others.	Jasper – you have been working so hard to present your work neatly and clearly in your books. Well done and keep it up!
Maples	Georgi – for always pushing yourself and wanting to deepen your knowledge in all lessons. Your enthusiasm is shining through! Well done Georgi!	Cassius – for your huge improvement in your handwriting and overall presentation. It has been amazing to see! Well done Cassius!
Hollies	Millie – for her inspirational passion for reading. It has been a joy to see her share her enthusiasm for her new favourite author.	Sienna – always working so hard on her presentation across all subjects. Well done!
Oaks	Peter- for showing increased motivation to learn and focus in all subjects. Great work Peter!	Layla- you have been working very hard during our handwriting sessions to improve your joined writing. Keep it up!
Monkey Puzzles	Bea- for an exceptional attitude in all areas of learning, without exception. Well done!	Maxwell- for consistently considering presentation across the curriculum. Well done!

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	98.1
The Rowans	100
The Beeches	96.7
The Maples	97.1
The Hollies	98.1
The Oaks	96.9
The Monkey Puzzles	94.2
Whole School	97.4

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
 26th March – Year 1 and Year 2 trip to RAMM, Exeter
 11th - 15th March - Scholastic Book Fair
 18th April x 5 weeks (Thursdays) - Year 5 Swimming
 22nd - 25th April - Year 5 Bikeability Level 2