

2nd February 2024

Dear families

This week has been very exciting for the children as every class engaged in workshops on the impact of climate change. Our children are continually showing their passion for this area, and we were really pleased that we were able to facilitate workshops for each class.

Developed by geologist Dr Jodie Fisher, University of Plymouth, and environmental scientist Hayley Hill, these workshops aim to increase understanding of the causes of climate change, the effects it has on the chosen topic (using age-appropriate clips from the films), and, through interactive activities, how we can help make change in our own lives. By making this potentially scary topic accessible and fun, they aim to inspire hope and positivity by demonstrating how anyone can make a difference regardless of their age. Read on to find out more.

Stronger Together

Parent Consultations

We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents who attended the recent parent consultations. Your active participation not only showcases your commitment to your child's education but also strengthens the bond between home and school. We firmly believe that we are stronger together, working collaboratively to ensure the best possible learning experience for our students. Your insightful discussions and feedback contribute significantly to the success of our educational offer. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing a positive and engaging academic environment for our students.

Climate Change - 'Oceans' with The Beeches

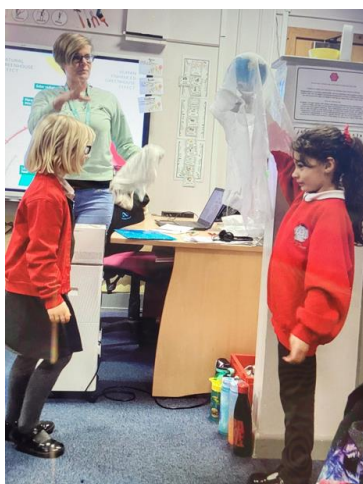
The Beeches embarked on an exciting learning journey this week with our visitor Hayley. The focus was climate change and its impact on our precious oceans. The children had the amazing opportunity to attend a workshop where they learned about the importance of our oceans and the dire consequences of climate change. They discovered how human activities, and the rising temperatures are causing harm to marine life, coral reefs, and overall ocean health. It was inspiring to witness how enthusiastic and concerned our children were about this pressing issue. They actively engaged in discussions and brainstormed ideas on how we can all contribute to preserving our oceans. They explored simple things like reducing plastic usage, promoting recycling, and conserving water to make a positive impact.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES



Sense of Belonging

Football Team



We are thrilled to announce a fantastic development for our football teams, courtesy of Pro-Direct. Thanks to their generous support, our teams now proudly don brand new kits, adding to the sense of belonging and unity among our players. It's



heartening to share that we have more children participating in our teams than ever before. This not only reflects the growing enthusiasm for sports within our school community but also emphasizes the importance of teamwork, discipline, and healthy competition. We extend our sincere gratitude to Pro-Direct for their generosity, and we look forward to seeing our teams excel and make us proud in their vibrant new kits.

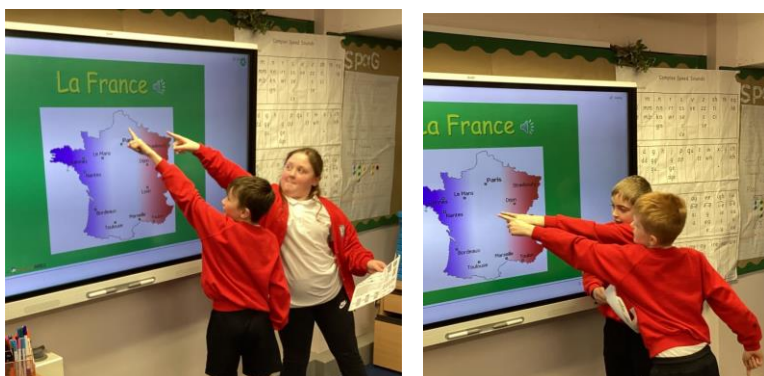
Removing Barriers

The Rowans as Musicians

As musicians the Rowans have been curious and questioning, 'how music can make the world a better place?' The children have engaged in lively discussions about differences, exploring the concept through finding the pulse and experimenting with their voices. The children have been using pitch pencils, matching their voices to different tones and applying this skill to sing along with various songs.

French in the Oaks Class

This half term in French the children have been working on answering the question: Quel temps fait-il? We have been repeating and recognising the vocabulary for weather in French, asking and saying what the weather is like today and describing the weather in different regions of France using a weather map with symbols. This week, the children were able to showcase their new knowledge by creating their own weather report in French. It was brilliant to see the children confidently create and perform these for the class.

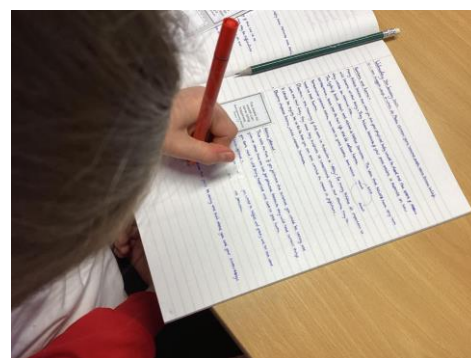


French in the Maples

The Maples have been learning 10 different animals in French this half term. They have been focusing on 5 different animals each lesson and rehearsing these by repeating them, playing games associated to the vocabulary and completing the French vocabulary book. This week, the children carried out their end of unit assessment. The results from the assessment really reflected how hard the children have been working on their French. Well done, Maples!

Global Citizens in Monkey Puzzles

This week, Year 6 have continued to focus their learning in RE on the worldview Hinduism. They have been considering the concepts of Samsara, Karm and Dharma and how reading holy scriptures can have an impact on the life of a Hindu. The children have also been discussing the importance of being able to disagree-well and have knowledgeable conversations with people of different worldviews to ensure there is no prejudice within communities.



Realising the Possible

The Hollies as Climate Activists.

Our focus for the climate change workshop was freshwater systems. We started with an introduction to our climate in Britain, its characteristics and what freshwater systems are. The children were then all blown away by Hayley's toilet roll timeline; ask them, it was truly fabulous. After some activities; poster making, environmental snap, and climate change snakes and ladders, the children wrote down what they currently do to help the environment, what they would like to do to help the environment and what they were going to go home and tell their family about the

environment. The workshop has already had a great impact on a few of our children who have penned a persuasive letter to Mr Grinsill asking to arrange a litter pick. The purpose of the workshop was to empower the children to affect change, so watch out for a litter pick coming soon to a street near you.

Snack and Maths in The Willows

The Willows developed their grasp of the composition of 5 by demonstrating the creation of two groups from five little people, showcasing a practical understanding of numerical concepts and fostering collaborative learning. The children gathered around the snack table, delighting in their fruit and milk while engaging in lively discussions about mathematical concepts. Amidst munching and chatting, they explored numbers, shapes, and sizes, turning the snack time into an enjoyable and educational experience.



A Message from St Matthias



Please could you refrain from using the car park at St Matthias Church when coming to drop off or collect your children from school. Spaces there are only for visitors to the church or pre-school. Thank you.

Enjoy the weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	97.2
The Rowans	97.3
The Beeches	97.3
The Maples	100
The Hollies	95.1
The Oaks	96.3
The Monkey Puzzles	93.6
Whole School	96.6

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Tabby, for her love of learning in everything we do in the Willows. Well done, Tabby!	Leon, for trying super hard to form his letters correctly and sit them on the line. Well done, Leon!
Rowans	Vanessa – you have had a fantastic week and participated beautifully with discussions in class.	Gracie-Mae – for a fantastic improvement in the presentation of your work.
Beeches	Louis is our star this week, your confidence has blossomed, and it is lovely to hear you contributing in our lessons enthusiastically. Keep it up!	Anna – your RWInc book is incredibly neat. Your presentation is something you should be extremely proud of. Well done, Anna.
Maples	Ysabella – for growing in confidence and making lots of progress in your Maths work. Keep it up!	Lincoln – for always being determined to improve his handwriting and overall presentation.
Hollies	Polina – For being a wonderful role model for all and embodying the school values in all that she does.	Gabriel – for working on his letter formation and ensuring his ascenders are where they should be.
Oaks	Harvey- for demonstrating exemplary learning behaviours in each and every lesson.	Tilly – for working extremely hard to improve the presentation of her joined handwriting.
Monkey Puzzles	Lily- for always working incredibly hard, being a good friend and always having a smile on her face. Well done!	Arooj- for consistently working hard to develop and apply handwriting across the curriculum. Well done!

Diary Dates

6th February – Hollies and Oaks trip to Spires for Legally Blonde
 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
 26th March – Rowans and Beeches trip to RAMM, Exeter
 18th April x 5 weeks (Thursdays) - Year 5 Swimming
 22nd - 25th April - Year 5 Bikeability Level 2