

9th February 2024

Dear families

We have come to the end of the half-term and the last six weeks have flown by. In this week's newsletter, we have exciting learning and experiences from each class as well as details of staff CPD to improve our school offer.

Stronger Together

Valentines Disco

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our incredible Parent-Teacher Friends Association (PTFA) for generously giving their time and effort to organize a delightful Valentine's Disco for our children. The event was a tremendous success and brought joy and excitement to all who attended. Your dedication and support in creating memorable experiences for our students are truly appreciated. Thank you for your continued partnership.

Trauma Informed Training

Ilsham Academy staff recently participated in Trauma Informed training facilitated by the trust. This training brought together staff from every school within our trust to deepen our understanding and approach to supporting children who have experienced trauma. By equipping our team with valuable insights and strategies, we aim to create a more supportive and nurturing environment for all our students. We believe that this training will further enhance our ability to meet the diverse needs of our school community and ensure that every child feels safe, valued, and supported. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide the best possible care and education for your children.

Sense of Belonging

Hub Schools Ethos Day

One thing that our children always tell us is that they want to have further opportunities to meet with children from across our Hub (Ellacombe, Warberry and All Saints Marsh schools). This week, some of our children from Years 3-6 joined together with members from our sister schools to take part in an Ethos Day at Kent's Cavern, led by the team at St. Matthias. The children were able to consider both light in its physical form and also light as a metaphor for God. The children worked in mixed school groups and they produced 4 lighthouse collages, one for each school to have as a reminder of their day together. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone from the St. Matthias team who were involved in organising and leading this event; it was wonderful!



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FLOURISHING FUTURES



Autism and ADHD Club

It is incredibly important to us that every child feels like they belong, and we are so proud of one of our pupils in Year 6, who has taken the time to create posters to spread awareness and encourage others to join a club for children to attend and help them to feel calm and regulated. We are so lucky to work with such amazing children, showing our values of compassion and inspiration.

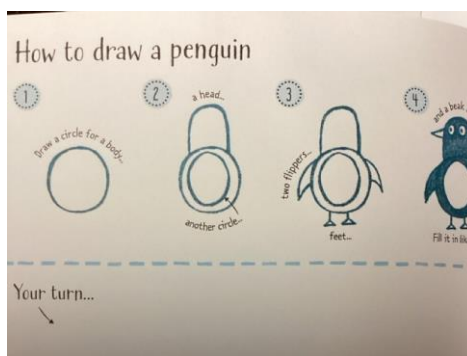
Optimal Learning Approach

We're excited to share an update on our ongoing efforts to cultivate an optimal learning environment here at Ilsham Academy. Recent conferencing sessions with our pupils have provided valuable insights into areas where our children can further develop their independence, resilience, and motivation to learn. As a dedicated staff, we've collaboratively crafted a clear implementation plan to enhance our approach over the next three years. Already, we've begun laying the groundwork with the development of resources aimed at helping children understand the key traits of effective learning. We're eager to roll out these initiatives after the upcoming half-term break and continue fostering an environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

Removing Barriers

Learning to Draw in the Willows

This week the Willows embarked on a creative journey, learning the art of drawing with weekly sessions. This week's lesson brought smiles as they eagerly followed picture instructions to draw charming penguins. Enthusiastically wielding their pencils, the Willows immersed themselves in the step-by-step process, bringing the adorable penguins to life in their pictures. The joy extended beyond the Willow's classroom, as children carried the artistic inspiration home, creating more penguin masterpieces. Each week the children will be challenged to learn how to draw a different object. Well done, Willows, we have some great artists in our class!



Realising the Possible

The Rowans and The Beeches – HGV Road Safety



We are excited to share that our Beeches and Rowans classes recently had the pleasure of attending an insightful talk on HGV road safety conducted by our guest speaker, Mike. During the session, Mike not only highlighted the importance of educating the children about road safety, but also provided valuable information on how

to be cautious around heavy goods vehicles. Our children were fully engaged and left with a stronger understanding of how to navigate the roads safely. We even got to enjoy some colouring at the end!

Future Artists in the Maples

Throughout this half term, the Maples have been exploring local artist Becky Bettsworth. They have been focusing on a different skill each week, which has included identifying what is in the foreground and background of pictures, exploring watercolours and planning their own travel poster inspired by Becky Butterworth's work. This week, the Maples had an afternoon filled with art materials of their choosing and calm music to create their own posters. The children allowed their creativity to flow and produced some fantastic travel posters.

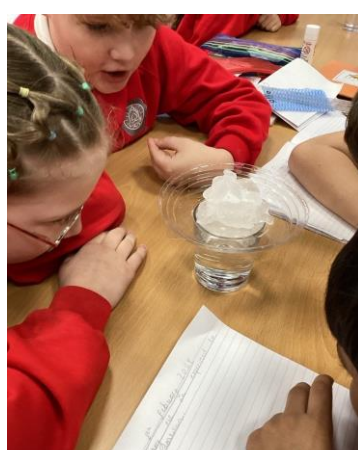
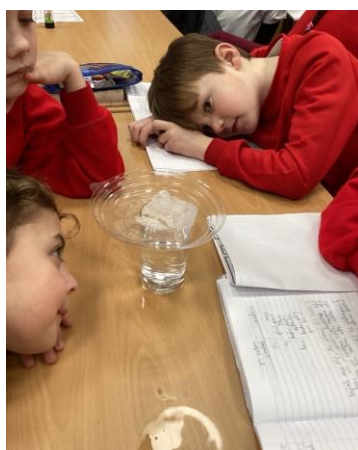
Computing in the Oaks

This half term in the Oaks we have been enjoying using physical computing to explore the concept of selection in programming through the use of the Crumble programming environment. The children have been using a microcontroller (Crumble controller) and have learnt how to connect and program it to LEDs and motors. This week, to conclude the unit, the class have designed and made a model of a carousel that demonstrated their understanding of how the microcontroller and its components are connected, and how selection can be used to control the operation of the model. It was brilliant to see how quickly the class were able to apply their new learning and work collaboratively.



Working Scientifically in the Hollies

As scientists, the children set up an experiment to observe the water cycle. The experiment involved warm water in a container covered with a clear lid with ice on top. As the children watched the water vapour condense on the lid and fall, they gained a deeper understanding of the processes of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. Not only did they witness science in action, but they also developed essential skills in observation, critical thinking, and teamwork.



Musicians in Monkey Puzzles

This week, Year 6 have been working to complete their compositions based on protest songs. They have continued to develop the melody for their song and to mark this down in notation form, carefully considering the tempo and pulse of their piece. They have also been practising their performance skills as they then performed their pieces in small groups. They were incredible!



Enjoy the weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	100
The Rowans	97.7
The Beeches	90.4
The Maples	88.9
The Hollies	96.8
The Oaks	100
The Monkey Puzzles	94.6
Whole School	95.6



School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Milo – for being a superstar in all his learning this week! For trying his best at everything he does. Well done, Milo!	Scarlett –for trying much harder with her letter formation and sitting her letters on the line! Keep it up, Scarlett!
Rowans	Emmie – for being a role model to all. You show motivation to learning and actively participate in all lessons.	Will – for showing curiosity and a readiness to learn. Keep it up Will!
Beeches	Kyla, for persevering with your Maths, your confidence is growing, and we are proud of you. Well done!	Arlo, for trying your best to remember to start from the margin in your books. Well done and keep it up.
Maples	Leah – for showing excellent progress in Maths and for always showing exceptional learning behaviours.	Leon – for showing a huge improvement in your handwriting and overall presentation.
Hollies	Beau – For his engagement in learning and his critical thinking.	Emily – For her much-improved letter formation and presentation overall.
Oaks	Freddie – for making excellent contributions during our English lesson and sharing his thoughts with his peers.	George – for consistently presenting his work with care in his joined writing.
Monkey Puzzles	Joseph- for an excellent attitude towards his learning in all areas this week. Well done!	Faith- for careful consideration of presentation in writing. Well done!

Diary Dates

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