

Dear families,

World Book Day was a huge success for our children and they had a wonderful day celebrating their love of reading. Please do join us for the Scholastic Book Fair next week where you will be able to purchase new books and titles for your children to enjoy.

Stronger Together

Design and Technology learning walk.

After collaborating with our TQ Hub partners and delivering professional development to the staff, our DT lead, Miss Blake, carried out a learning walk through Reception, KS1 and 2. The children were at various stages of their 7 steps to effective DT. Years 1 and 2 were in their planning and design phase. In Year 1, they were listing materials and tools they would need to build their freestanding structures and Year 2 were decided which aspects of their story book they would like to use leavers or sliders on. Year 5 are making seasonal bread and were at the prototype stage practicing the skills of measuring, mixing and kneading. Through conducting learning walks, we are able to work in collaboration with teachers to continually improve and develop our curriculum offer for our children.

EAC Ethos Visit

We were delighted to welcome Reverend Gareth, our Ethos Portfolio Holder from the Advisory Committee, to Ilsham Academy on Wednesday afternoon. Reverend Gareth spent valuable time with leaders from across the Torquay Hub, engaging in discussions about how the Christian Ethos and Christian distinctiveness permeate through school life. It was a fruitful session, highlighting the importance of our school's values and ethos in shaping the holistic development of our students.

Sense of Belonging

Reading for Pleasure in Monkey Puzzles

This week, as a class, Mrs Guntrip and the children finished reading the book *The Final Year* by Matt Goodfellow. The book follows a Year 6 boy through his last year of primary school and all of the different situations he faces. Mrs Guntrip cried when reading this book in parts and some children shed a tear with her; she laughed when reading in some parts and the children laughed with her; when she cheered, the children cheered. The class absolutely loved this book and it has helped them to begin to think about how they belong to their Year 6 class but how, in the near future, they will also belong to something bigger. Reading this together has been such a lovely experience.

Special thanks from The Willows

This week the Willows have been thinking about Mothering Sunday. The date of this celebration is rooted in the Christian observance of [Lent](#), with Mothering Sunday taking place on the fourth Sunday, exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday. The Willows have been busy making some delightful surprises for someone special in their lives. The children talked about how we can show care, love and thanks for all the things that someone does for them. We can't put any pictures on here this week, as it will spoil the lovely surprise on Sunday!

Removing Barriers

RWInc Development Day

On Tuesday, we were delighted to welcome a consultant from RWInc to Ilsham Academy to review our teaching practices and the progress of children in the RWInc program. Our teachers demonstrated exceptional teaching quality and fidelity to the RWInc program, ensuring that every child receives the support they need to excel. The children showed tremendous enthusiasm and dedication, making the session a resounding success. We are proud of their commitment to learning and look forward to continued progress in their literacy development.



Sprinters in the Maples

The Maples took part in another fantastic PE lesson with Kinetics this week. They worked in partners for most of the lesson, where they focused on techniques needed for being able to successfully sprint. These skills included having a quick reaction time and the correct formation. It was incredible to see each child willing their partner on to be successful. The lesson ended with some friendly races in preparation for Sports Day later in the Summer term.



The Rowans relay races

This week the Rowans participated in relay races to develop both their team building and athletic skills. Each member of the relay team played a crucial role, whether it was running their leg of the race, passing the baton smoothly, or cheering on their teammates from the sidelines. In addition to promoting teamwork, the relay races also helped the children improve their athletic abilities. Running relays required speed, agility, and endurance from each member the Rowans.



Relationship and Health Education in the Hollies

For the next 4 weeks, Year 4 are focusing on the RHE topic of 'Work and Money'. On Tuesday, children discussed how a family might budget for a month. They did this by first looking at what different types of work people might do, and how these may look different, for example full, part time or voluntary work. They then looked at a bank statement for a month and answered questions such as, how much money has been withdrawn, what is the remaining balance and how much has been spent on charitable donations to a children's charity. The children were intrigued by the list of outgoings that occur on a monthly basis and had questions such as, 'Why do we need to pay bills?' and 'Why do some people give money to charity every month when other people don't?'.

DT in the Oaks

This week, the Oaks began their new food technology unit. The class have been tasked with creating a bread to share at a family picnic using seasonal ingredients. We thoroughly enjoyed tasting a wide variety of breads and discussing how they were similar and different. We then moved on to considering the technical skills we would need to make our own breads and practised these: measuring, mixing, kneading and dimpling. I cannot wait to see the final designs for our breads and for the children to bring these home to share with you at the end of term.

Geography in the Beeches

This week, the Year Twos have been busy using a whole range of aerial images and maps to locate some of the physical and human features in Brixham. As a class, we explored Brixham using Google Earth and pinpointed some of the key features of this fishing town. With our partners, we discussed how these features impact land use and spent some of the lesson discussing how the physical and human features support the fishing industry in Brixham. After exploring a range of images and maps, we went onto think about tourism and trade and discussed what the area has to offer those who wish to visit. Next week, we will be flying across the world as we explore a small town in New Zealand – how exciting!



Realising the Possible

School choir

Congratulations to our school choir for their outstanding performance at the Palace Theatre last Friday evening. The children showcased their incredible talent and dedication, earning a commendable score of 84/100. This achievement secured a joint second-place finish with Warberry, reflecting the hard work and commitment of our students. A special mention goes to Mrs. Guntrip and Miss Grimes for their extraordinary dedication and support in providing these amazing opportunities for our children. Well done to all involved!



Reading for Pleasure: Spark! Book Awards Assembly



This week, the children were treated to a special Spark! Book Award assembly. The Children were shown the range of books shortlisted for the prize and were able to watch clips of some of the fabulous authors describing their books. Five lucky children across the school, who have demonstrated their love of reading, were chosen to receive their own set of these books. We will continue to share these brilliant books with children during our weekly Book Club sessions. If you would like to know more about the shortlisted books, please visit the Spark Book Awards website.

[Spark! Book Awards \(sparkbookawards.co.uk\)](http://sparkbookawards.co.uk)

Enjoy the weekend,

Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Sofia – for always being super kind and helpful in the Willows class. Well done, Sofia.	Erin – for trying really hard to make her letters smaller and sitting them on the line. Well done, Erin!
Rowans	Rose- for being a fabulous member of our school family and always giving 100% in all areas of her learning.	Vanessa- for trying really hard with her sentence writing and fantastic reading in RWInc.
Beeches	Aadi – for settling in beautifully to the Beeches and for working so hard in Read, Write, Inc. Lessons.	Amelia – for carefully crafting a fabulous dream catcher with Mrs Sanders this week.
Maples	Stella for continually joining in all class discussions and for always showing our school values in everything you do.	Cydney for working hard to ensure she is taking time and neaten up her handwriting in all lessons.
Hollies	Kevin – for his improved focus and attention in class and for his contributions to class discussions.	Eda – for working hard on her letter formation in handwriting lessons and translating this to the wider curriculum.
Oaks	Logan is our star of the week for his brilliant focus in class and the very high levels of respect he shows to adults at the school.	Henri Jefferies – you have simply blown me away with the effort you have put into your joined writing this week. I am so, so proud!
Monkey Puzzles	Jeremy – for a consistent and determined attitude towards his learning and for being supportive of his peers at all times.	Rosalyn- for always striving to be inspirational in her presentation in a variety of curriculum areas. Well done!

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	95.4
The Rowans	99.1
The Beeches	99.6
The Maples	98.1
The Hollies	98.4
The Oaks	95.1
The Monkey Puzzles	98.3
Whole School	97.7

Diary Dates

11th - 15th March - Scholastic Book Fair

15th March - Red Nose Day

25th March – Easter Service at St Matthias 1.30pm

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