

1st March 2024

Dear families

Before we dive into this week's newsletter, it is World Book Day next Thursday, 7th March, and we have the upcoming Book Fair for our children to enjoy. I have been taking a look at Boom Reader and it would be great if we could raise the engagement and recording of reading to supplement the work we are doing at school.

Stronger Together

Children's Society Safeguarding Session

The Children's Society visited our school on Tuesday to conduct online safety sessions for children in Year 4, 5, and 6. During these sessions, students learned about the risks associated with online activities and gained valuable insights into how they can protect themselves while using the internet. Additionally, a parent session was held to discuss contextual safeguarding risks within Torbay and provide tips for parents and carers to monitor their children's online experiences effectively. We are grateful to The Children's Society for their informative and engaging sessions, which play a crucial role in promoting online safety within our school community.

Children's Lives in Torbay

20,362 children aged
0-17 living in the area

1,221 children aged
5-19 who struggle
with mental ill health

29% living in poverty

Children's services
spending cut by 9%
since 2010-11

What are the signs?

Indicators of online exploitation

Changes in young people's behaviour could indicate exploitation. Look for things that don't seem right and listen to yourself – if things don't feel right they're probably not.

- Talking about older or new friends they've met online.

- Talking about gifts or money they've received online.
- Becoming withdrawn and secretive.
- Having a new phone or more than one phone.
- Receiving large number of calls or messages.
- Worried about being away from their phone.

Prevention

Practical tips:

- Check games content and features (Is it appropriate? Will they have online access?)
- Use privacy and parental controls.
- Turn location settings off.
- Make an agreement about use and time online and stick to it.

Prevention

Talk about:

- Some people may pretend to be someone else.
- The risks of giving personal data to anyone online (eg address, photo, school, bank details).



- The danger of meeting up with someone who they met online in the real world.
- Always telling a trusted adult if they are planning to do this and how to be safe.
- Share the same curiosity for online friends as you would for offline friends.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

Sense of Belonging

School Council

It is of the utmost importance to us that our children's voice is represented and shapes the life and direction of the school. We held a school council meeting this week and I am pleased to share some key suggestions that were made and how we are weaving those suggestions into our school.

Children have requested that they get the chance to learn about some different sports and as a result, we will make some amendments to our curriculum to include an alternative sports unit in the Summer Term.

Children have also requested some additional reading books, so as a result, teachers have been given some additional funding and we have some received some additional funding to purchase some new books for each class.

The school council have also made some key suggestions based on an eco-survey that we are currently conducting, and we will share the action plan with you in the near future.

Attendance

We are delighted to share that Ilsham Academy has the highest attendance figures in Torbay! This is testament to the dedication and commitment of our parents, families, and staff in prioritising education. We extend our thanks to all our families for their ongoing partnership in ensuring regular attendance, which plays a pivotal role in the success of our students. Research consistently shows that high attendance correlates with better academic outcomes and overall well-being. By attending school regularly, children have the opportunity to fully engage in learning and make the most of their educational journey. Together, let's continue to prioritise attendance and empower our children to reach their full potential.

Easter has begun in The Willows

The Willows children joyfully immersed themselves in the spirit of Palm Sunday, discovering the biblical story of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Enthusiastically singing "Hosanna," they crafted vibrant palm leaves, recreating the moment when crowds welcomed Jesus with excitement. The children enjoyed learning a song called 'Hosana' and could be heard singing it independently, during the day! They then made handmade palm leaves, creating a memorable lesson in faith and celebration. They are all looking forward to finding out more about Easter and how it is a special celebration for Christians.



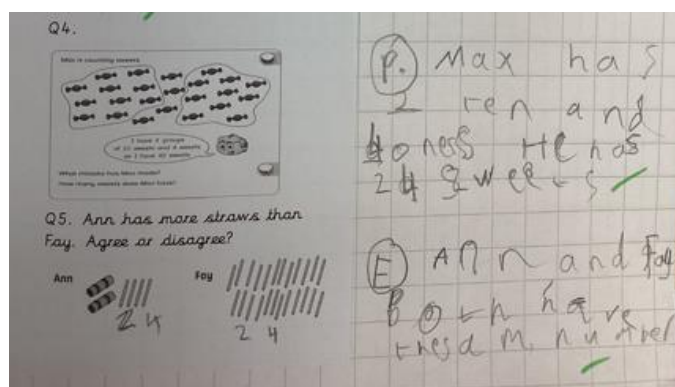
Removing Barriers

Developing Writing

Mrs. Rivolta, our English Lead, has been working on enhancing our approach to writing at Ilsham Academy. On Monday, she spent time in classrooms, reviewing the progress of our new approach aimed at developing automaticity in writing. Through discrete daily teaching sessions focusing on fundamental sentence-level skills, we aim to empower our students to become confident and proficient writers. Additionally, Mrs. Rivolta dedicated time to review our handwriting core offer, ensuring that our students receive comprehensive support in mastering this essential skill. We are confident that these efforts will contribute to the continued growth and success of our students in English.

Marvellous Maths in the Rowans

The Rowans are currently focusing on expanding their understanding of numbers up to 50. This week they have been learning to count in tens, and they are exploring how to group tens and ones within larger numbers. As mathematicians, the Rowans are actively developing their maths skills by independently proving, explaining, or drawing their methods to solve problems. This is encouraging them to think critically and creatively, to understand mathematical concepts. By engaging in independent problem-solving tasks, the Rowans are not only honing their mathematical abilities but also gaining confidence in their problem-solving skills.



Realising the Possible

Hollies Residential

On Wednesday, The Hollies class began their exciting residential trip to Grenville House in Brixham. Over the course of three days and two nights, the children immersed themselves in a variety of adventurous activities, creating unforgettable memories along the way. From thrilling challenges to team-building exercises, each moment was filled with excitement and learning. We are immensely proud of The Hollies for their courage, resilience, and enthusiasm throughout this unforgettable experience.



Design and Technology with The Beeches

The Beeches class had a fabulous afternoon on Wednesday exploring the world of design and technology by creating sliders and levers for our projects this half term. These hands-on projects have allowed the children to exercise their creativity and problem-solving skills while learning about the principles of movement and mechanics. We can't wait to see what innovative designs they come up with in our next lesson for planning our big projects!



Climbing and Bushcraft in the Oaks

This week, Year 5 had a brilliant day of bushcraft and climbing with Reach Outdoors. Through this enriching experience, the class were able to learn outdoors, conquer challenges and fears and develop their bushcraft skills. Furthermore, this outdoor excursion provided the perfect opportunity for the children to develop their teamwork, leadership and problem-solving capabilities. We were very impressed with the enthusiasm, resilience and perseverance shown by the whole class and look forward to further outdoor activities later in the year.



Geographers in Monkey Puzzles

In Year 6, our young geographers have embarked on an enlightening journey into the realms of sustainability and natural resource management. Through our Geography learning, they've delved into the intricate web of interactions between humans and the environment, uncovering how our actions can wield both positive and negative influences on the Earth. From understanding the delicate balance of ecosystems to grappling with the complexities of resource allocation, Year 6 are developing their understanding of how to be global citizens. They're learning firsthand the importance of stewardship and responsibility, recognizing that our choices today shape the world of tomorrow. As they grasp the significance of being conscientious global citizens, they're poised to become the architects of a more sustainable and harmonious future for our planet.



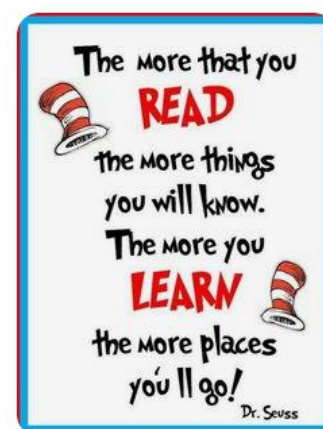
Musicians in the Maples

This week in our Music lesson, the Maples began their new unit which will be focusing on singing and listening. They will be looking at the key question of 'How does music help us to get to know our community?'. In lesson one, we focused on being able to talk about the musical features relating to the style of the music. As a class, they listened to a song about friendship and responded to the questions that focused in on the tonality of the song, the instruments that can be heard and the style of music. The children were immersed throughout and are looking forward to exploring and learning more of the song.

Scholastic Book Fair – 11th – 15th March

We are very excited to welcome Scholastic's Book Fair into school in just over one week. Please support our endeavours to foster a lifelong love of reading in our children, so that they can learn and thrive. The fair will be open Monday – Friday, 8am-8.45am and 3-4pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

Enjoy the weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team



Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	97.6
The Rowans	97.7
The Beeches	93.2
The Maples	95.6
The Hollies	93.4
The Oaks	95.8
The Monkey Puzzles	90.8
Whole School	94.8

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Nova, for being such a superstar with her new glasses! Well done, Nova!	Enzo, for trying to make his letters more consistent in size and sitting his letters on the line. Well done, Enzo!
Rowans	Lottie – for her great maths. She has shown real resilience when independently solving problems.	William.D. - You have been taking much more care over the presentation of your work in all areas of the curriculum and proving your problem solving in Maths.
Beeches	Reuben – you've been working really hard in maths this week – focusing on how you can prove, explain and show another way. Well done & keep it up!	Jack B – for being such a gentleman, holding doors open for adults and being so helpful tidying up and handing resources out for lessons.
Maples	Immy for always showing enthusiasm in every single lesson. Your learning behaviours have improved so much and it is fantastic to have you contributing in every lesson! Well done!	Ptolemy – for making a huge amount of progress with your handwriting and overall presentation. I have noticed such a huge difference with the sizing and formation of your letters.
Hollies	The whole of the Hollies class for being so amazing on the residential!	Busy making memories!
Oaks	Meaghan for consistently demonstrating excellent learning behaviours in each and every subject. Great work Meghan!	Bence for taking care to produce every piece of work to the highest standards of presentation in his beautiful handwriting.
Monkey Puzzles	Ava- for consistent high expectations of herself as a learner and for being a role model for the school.	Jeremy- for consistently high presentation in all areas of the

Diary Dates

Next Week: 4th and 5th March - PTFA Superhero Stall for Mother's Day
7th March - World Book Day

Later on 11th - 15th March - Scholastic Book Fair

This term: 15th March – Red Nose Day for Comic Relief

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