

15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear families,

### **Stronger Together**

#### **OFSTED Visit**

We hosted James McNeillie, the OFSTED Regional Director, at Ilsham Academy on Tuesday. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the remarkable learning achievements and positive attitudes of our students. James congratulated the school on the atmosphere and culture which enables all children to flourish.

Throughout the visit, we engaged in insightful discussions about the inspection process, gaining valuable insights into its intricacies. It was an enriching experience that underscored our commitment to providing high-quality education and continuous improvement.



### **Sense of Belonging**

#### **Attachment and Relational Practice**

On Thursday, we welcomed representatives from The Virtual School to review our attachment and relational practices. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the approach of the staff here at Ilsham to supporting our children and ensuring that they feel safe and in a position where they can learn. Building on our Trauma Informed approach, we will continue to work with different agencies to continually develop our provision for our pupils.

#### **Red Nose Day/Cricket Taster Day**

On Friday, the school community came together to mark Red Nose Day and we also facilitated a Cricket Taster Day for the children with Devon Cricket. The children enjoyed taking part in a cricket session with the coaches and showcasing their skills with plenty of red noses on show. Thank you to the Devon Cricket outreach team for coming to Ilsham to facilitate greater opportunities for our children.

## **Removing Barriers**

### **Scientists in the Rowans**

As budding Scientists, the Rowans have enjoyed exploring the fundamental parts of a plant. This week, they eagerly delved into dissecting a plant, carefully pulling apart its various parts to identify and name them. With keen observational skills and budding knowledge, the children successfully described the basic components of the plant, finding the experience truly captivating. They proceeded to demonstrate their understanding by crafting their plant model and labelling each part.



### **Stardust in Year 2**

The English group have been working hard this week to complete their independent writes inspired by the book 'Stardust', focusing on a character named Mabel and the problem she is faced with in Space. We use a success criteria to ensure high quality writing and creativity. The children have been carefully drafting, editing and sharing their stories with the class. Sharing our stories has allowed the children to develop their storytelling skills and bring their ideas to life. We have all loved listening to the story Stardust, and it is also inspiring our work in DT. A book we highly recommend!

## **Realising the Possible**

### **Writers in Year 6**

This week within English lessons, Year 6 have really enjoyed continuing to develop and deepen their knowledge of writing information texts in the format of a newspaper report. The children have been considering how to inform the reader of the various crimes of Goldilocks and, also, how to include devices which make the writing humorous and cohesive. Each individual piece of writing has been beautifully crafted, and Mrs Guntrip has thoroughly enjoyed reading many different examples to the class. We certainly have some future writers in our midst!

### **Geography in the Oaks**

This week the Oaks have been exploring time zones and their significance. The children learnt that it takes 24 hours for the Earth to rotate once on its axis and how we split the globe into time zones using imaginary lines called meridians. The children were able to find different times using the time zone maps and noticed that the minutes don't change. It was

brilliant to see how the children could apply their scientific understanding of the solar system to our geography learning.

### Orienteering and climbing in the Hollies

We had a fantastic day with Reach Outdoors on Wednesday. The rain clouds stayed away, and we spent the morning out in Goodrington orienteering. The children had a refresher on interpreting map symbols before embarking on their navigation challenge. They did an incredible job of locating each point in the wide-open space before retrieving letters from each target location they needed to solve an anagram. In the afternoon, we headed to the Reach Outdoors climbing wall. The children were outstanding in the support they showed each other and the progress that they made on their climbing experience from last week. They showed resilience, compassion and courageousness and were a credit to the school. They should be very proud of themselves.

### Computing in the Maples



This week in computing, The Maples have been focusing on branching databases. They were focusing on selecting an attribute to be able to separate objects into groups. As groups, they then worked to arrange objects into a tree structure to create their own branch database.



Enjoy the weekend,

Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

### School Awards

Class	 <b>Star of the Week</b>	 <b>Presentation Award</b>
Willows	Jayden, for amazing listening and participation in all the learning in the Willows. Well done, Jayden!	Ariya, for trying to make her letters sit on the line and forming them correctly in RWInc. Well done, Ariya!

Rowans	Isabelle- for her curiosity and questioning when dissecting a plant during Science.	Norrie – for trying with his spellings in RWInc and knowing that mistakes can help him learn.
Beeches	Melody is our star this week for her fabulous story writing in English – what an imagination. Well done, Melody!	Mikolaj, for always being polite to grownups in and out of the classroom, being thoughtful and kind. Well done, Mikolaj!
Maples	Hughie for showing incredible learning behaviours and overall behaviour in every lesson this week. Well done Hughie!	Eoghan for trying really hard to improve his joined handwriting. Well done Eoghan!
Hollies	Imogen-Mae- for her wonderful work and thoughtful approach to our final write in English.	Amelia – for her continued effort to improve her letter formation and handwriting.
Oaks	Stone for working extremely hard to develop his writing during our Mars Transmission unit and sharing his love of reading with the class.	Harry for taking great strides in improving his joined handwriting. Well done Harry!
Monkey Puzzles	Millie and Eelin- for excellent articulation and knowledge during this week's debate in RE.	Victoria- for continually working to make cursive handwriting consistent.

#### Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	95.8
The Rowans	94
The Beeches	94
The Maples	99.5
The Hollies	96.8
The Oaks	97.1
The Monkey Puzzles	97.1
Whole School	96.3

#### Diary Dates

26<sup>th</sup> 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