

22nd March 2024

Dear families

We are quickly approaching the Easter break and in this week's newsletter, we have lots of amazing learning experiences to share with you. Please do join us for our Easter Service on Monday at St Matthias Church beginning at 1:30pm. The PTFA will also have a stall at the school at pick up time!

Stronger Together

Attendance

This week, we have welcomed in representatives from neighbouring schools and Trusts to share how we work in collaboration with you to maintain high levels of school attendance. We are so grateful for your ongoing support as our attendance is the highest of all primary schools in Torbay. Throughout the visits, we shared our systems and our procedures and spoke with children around their perception of school, and it was lovely to hear how children spoke so positively about the curriculum and their relationships with adults at the school to support their attendance.

Sense of Belonging

Neurodiversity Celebration Week



This week Miss Davies started our week of introducing Neurodiversity Celebration Week. This week highlights the unique strengths and talents of individuals with diverse thinking and learning styles. It also emphasises the value of hard work and determination. Throughout this week, our students have dedicated classroom time to explore the concept of neurodiversity and its significance. They engaged in discussions about various types of neurodiversity, gaining insights into both the strengths and challenges that individuals may experience.

Celebrating this serves as a reminder of the significance of kindness and acceptance toward everyone.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

Experience Easter

This week, Years 4, 5 and 6 joined the team at St. Matthias for a wonderful, immersive experience where they got to deepen their knowledge of the events of Holy Week. The St. Matthias team work incredibly hard to provide this opportunity for our children and we are incredibly lucky to be able to work with such a dedicated group of people. Thank you from Ilsham to the whole team involved.



Removing Barriers

Year 5 and 1 Picture Book Club

Some members of Year 5 have volunteered to run a lunch time Picture Book Club for children in Year 1. This give the Year 5s the chance to practise modelling reading to a younger audience and provides access to a wider range of high-quality texts for our Year 1 students. It has been brilliant to see the children sharing a love of reading across year groups.



Developing Fine Motor Skills in The Willows

The Willows have been working hard to improve their fine motor control. This will then make their pencil control and handwriting/forming letters even better than it already is! We decided to dip marbles into different coloured paint and then used the trays to roll the marbles across the paper. This made a great marble effect and created some new shades where the marbles had rolled over different colours. Well, done Willows, great control.

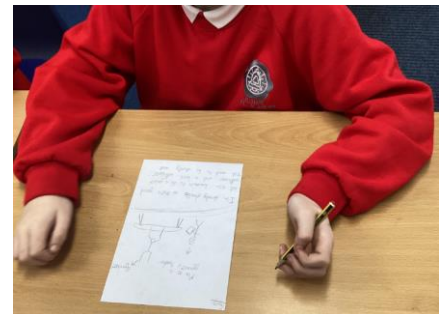


Computing in the Beeches

The Beeches have been busy exploring the term 'data' and have gained an understanding of how tally charts and pictograms can be used to collect data. Once the children were familiar with the term 'pictogram', they created their own pictograms manually to record data from within the classroom. After completing this, they progressed to creating pictograms using the computer. As a class, the children discussed the advantages of using computers rather than manual methods and spent time creating a whole range of pictograms to record different sets of data.

RHE in the Oaks

This week the Oaks have been busy working our Money and Work Unit in RHE. The children have been considering what skills and talents they possess and how they can take steps to develop these to maximise their chances of success in their chosen careers. Following this, we considered stereotypes, their impact in the workplace and how we can combat these. It was wonderful to see the children recognising their talents and voicing their opinions with clarity.



Realising the Possible

Maples Reach Outdoors Trip

The Maples embarked on a journey of adventure and discovery this week as they had their first of two Reach Outdoors days out. They mastered bushcraft skills which saw them creating their own shelters before conquering new heights indoors. All children showed resilience as they attempted the challenges that faced them. They became young explorers and were embracing nature and pushing their limits. All children are eager to get back to it next Wednesday, where they will be taking part in orienteering and more indoor climbing.



Hollies DT and Cluster Event

The Hollies have had some fabulous experiences this week to help them realise the possible. It is super difficult to choose just one.....so I will choose two. In DT, the children carried out sensory evaluation as part of the research aspect of their topic to create a healthy snack bar. There were mixed reactions to the cranberries, golden raisins, glace cherries and pumpkin seeds, but the most divisive was definitely the dates. We had a Year 4 team building cluster with our sister schools Ellacombe and Warberry. The children loved catching up with friends that they made at residential, and it was a great opportunity for them to work in mixed teams to solve problems and overcome challenges.



Global Citizens in Monkey Puzzles

This week as Geographers, the children have been considering the impact of trade with particular reference to the importing of food from other countries from across the world. They investigated the air miles involved in this movement across the globe and the impact this has on our carbon footprint. The children had very insightful opinions as global citizens about how people could make climate friendly, sustainable change to their diets and lifestyle and they were very impressive in their reasoning.

Community Notices

St. Matthias' Church, Torquay

Good Friday Service

suitable for all ages

10am 29th March 2024

*the service lasts about 45 mins
followed by coffee and Hot Cross Buns*



And for the next part of the story

Easter Day

Family Communion Service

11am 31st March



 www.st-matthias-church.org

Children's Events at Torquay Library this Easter!

**Storm In A Teapot
Boo To A Goose Theatre
Tuesday 2nd April 10:30-11:30**

Grandma Kettlepot is causing a stir at the local book club; she decides to write her own story but needs the children's help. This accessible and multi-sensory show, with puppetry and original music, will have everyone laughing and singing along with the characters.
£2 per person or 4 for £5*

**Mavis The Bravest
Friday 5th April 10:30-11:30**

Join us for a story about a brave hen and hen crafts!
For children aged 3+
£1.50 per child *

**Stories & Craft with Local Author
Julian Hilton!
Tuesday 9th April 10:30-11:30**

Come and listen to Julian Hilton tell two of his stories and make some crafts!
For children aged 3+
£1.50 per child *

**Hotel For Bugs!
Monday 8th April 10:30-11:30**

Join us for a creepy crawly story and crafts!
For children aged 3+
£1.50 per child *

*** Booking required**







Opening Hours

Monday	09:30-18:00
Tuesday	09:30-13:00
Wednesday	09:30-18:00
Thursday	09:30-13:00
Friday	09:30-18:00
Saturday	09:30-16:00
Sunday	CLOSED




School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Kylo – for being a great member of the Willows and always remembering our school values and reminding others of them! Well, done Kylo.	Arthur – WOW we have all been amazed at how much your pencil control and handwriting has improved! Well done, Arthur!
Rowans	William.D. - for being a role model to others in school. Our school values shine in all that you do William.	Samuel- for your fantastic contributions when building on our vocabulary in writing.
Beeches	Joshua – for always helping the teacher in the classroom and for working so hard in our English lessons.	Matthew – for working incredibly hard in our handwriting lessons and for taking such pride in his work.
Maples	Ptolemy – for showing resilience and determination in all lessons this week. Your confidence is shining through in everything you are doing! Well done Ptolemy!	Hugo – for always having outstanding presentation and handwriting in everything you do. Well done Hugo!
Hollies	Amber – Rose for getting totally stuck in on the team building challenge with Warberry and Ellacombe – what a wonderful role model!	Sienna-for her wonderful class discussion contributions, and for always responding to feedback with a determination to ensure she does the best she can do.
Oaks	Immy for always approaching every task with a determination to succeed and her constant good cheer, which brightens up each day in the Oaks.	Henry K for the great leaps he has made in improving his joined handwriting this year- the improvement is truly astonishing!
Monkey Puzzles	Victoria – for consistently showing our school values and being a role model in all that she does. Well done!	Alan- for carefully considering presentation in all curriculum areas.

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	96.4
The Rowans	90.9
The Beeches	94.3
The Maples	97.6
The Hollies	93.6
The Oaks	99.4
The Monkey Puzzles	97.8
Whole School	95.7

Diary Dates

First week
after Easter

18th April - Phonics Screening Check Parent Workshop, 2.40pm
18th April x 5 weeks (Thursdays) - Year 5 Swimming

22nd - 25th April - Year 5 Bikeability Level 2

17th May - School Choir performs at the Devon County Show

10th and 11th June - PTFA Superhero Stall for Father's Day

14th June – Class Photographs

4th July – Y6 Secondary Schools Transition Day

19th July - PTFA Summer Fair at St Matthias Church