

19th April 2024

Dear families

It has been wonderful to welcome you all back after the Easter break. The children have settled back into school routines really well and there has been lots of exciting learning taking place. Before we dive into this week's newsletter, a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful community for the incredible support shown to Liz from St. Matthias and myself during Monday's spinathon at Co-Op. Your generosity and enthusiasm helped us raise an outstanding £700, which will make a meaningful difference in supporting both the pre-school and The Children's Society. We are truly grateful for your kindness and dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Thank you for rallying behind us and for your unwavering support.



Stronger Together

Curriculum Booklets and Home Learning Menus

At Ilsham Academy, we firmly believe that we are stronger together, with parents as partners in education. That's why we're excited to share curriculum overviews for the upcoming Summer Term early next week, outlining the exciting topics and learning experiences our children will explore. Additionally, we're providing home learning menus to support learning about these areas at home, fostering a collaborative learning environment that extends beyond the classroom. Together, we can empower our children to thrive academically and creatively. You will see on the weekly home learning, that we prioritise regular reading at home each week as well as practice on TT Rockstars/Numbots.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

Sense of Belonging

Monkey Puzzles

We are incredibly proud of The Monkey Puzzles class since they have returned from the Easter break with a remarkable sense of togetherness and resilience. Their positive attitude and mutual support for one another as they approach the SATs is truly inspiring. It's heartening to witness their strong sense of belonging within the classroom, reflecting our school values of inspiration and courage. Keep up the fantastic work, Monkey Puzzles!

Removing Barriers

The Hollies expand their Reading

The Hollies have settled right back into the school routine and have returned from the Easter break ready to learn! We had an online author event yesterday with the writer of 'Meet the Maliks', Zanib Mian. She spoke about how important it was to see diverse lead characters living 'normal lives'. The two leads in 'Meet the Maliks' are young Muslim twins who are observing Ramadan whilst trying to solve the mystery of the missing cookies. We discussed why it is important to read different stories depicting different world views and the children had some fantastic responses. The majority of the class now are desperate to read the series.

Realising the Possible

The Rowans go on a Scavenger Hunt

The Rowans had a wonderful time this week with Reach Outdoors! The children embarked on an engaging scavenger hunt, immersing themselves in the beauty of nature. Equipped with their checklists, the children eagerly explored the meadow, on the lookout for various treasures. From insects to items of specific colours and even funky-shaped leaves. But the adventure didn't stop there! With their bounty of natural treasures in hand, the children turned into budding artists, crafting beautiful nature-inspired art pieces. From intricate leaf collages to vibrant insect-themed creations. Each artwork showing their appreciation for the wonders of the natural world around them.



Volleyball in the Beeches

Excitingly, the Beeches started two new PE units this week – striking and fielding and volleyball! With Mr Bastow on Thursday, the class were so excited to dive right into their session and were intrigued to find out what volleyball is and what it looks like in action. As a gentle introduction to volleyball, the children thought about how our hands can be used to manipulate a ball. The class were taught different ways to use their hands to control, strike, catch, hold and manipulate a ball. The class were given time to explore for themselves, finding the best ways to manipulate the ball for best control.



The Willows Special Visitors!

This week, The Willows had a delightful visit from some adorable chicks and ducklings, courtesy of one of the children's mums. Gathered in a circle, we watched as the fluffy little creatures happily pecked away at their breakfast and sipped water, providing us with an intimate glimpse into their daily lives. As we observed, we soaked up a wealth of interesting facts about these feathered friends and engaged in lively discussions, fuelled by our curiosity and the joy of learning together. It was a memorable experience that brought smiles to our faces and sparked a newfound appreciation for the wonders of nature.



History in the Oaks

We have had a great first week in the Oaks and every child has returned refreshed and ready to learn. This week, we started work on our new learning question in History: How did the Kingdom of Benin change Europe's perception of Africa? The class focused on understanding when and where the Kingdom of Benin existed and were fascinated to discover the overlap in time with our previous work on the Tudor Dynasty. It was brilliant to witness the class deepening their understanding of chronology and to make links across their history units.

Science in the Maples

The Maples began their new unit in Science this week which is 'Animals Including Humans'. This is going to be their focus for the rest of the Summer term. They were eager to get started as their first lesson was exploring all about the Human skeleton in detail. They used an immersive website to explore the different parts of the body and the importance of the Human skeleton.

Scholastic Book Fair

We are delighted that, with the support of our school community, we sold £498.38 worth of books at our recent book fair. The success of the book fair means that we have secured nearly £200.00 worth of books for our school library – thank you so much for this amazing result.

The winners of the competition for reading engagement logged are:

EYFS – Annabella

KS1 – William D

KS2 - Beatrice

And they have each chosen their book prize.


Enjoy the weekend,

Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	96.43
The Rowans	93.18
The Beeches	96.57
The Maples	96.27
The Hollies	95.79
The Oaks	93.96
The Monkey Puzzles	97.81
Whole School	95.71

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Milo – for being an amazing member of the Willows family and for trying his best at everything.	Kyro – for always making sure the classroom is tidy and neat and for his attention to detail in his work.
Rowans	Zosia – for your wonderfully positive attitude and your motivation to learn both in and out of school.	Emmie- For being a role model to others in school and your consistent care over the presentation in all areas of your learning
Beeches	Gracie – For working hard to present her work beautifully and for her wonderful work in history this week!	Alisha - For her stunning handwriting and for taking such pride in the work that she is completing across the curriculum.
Maples	Leon – For his outstanding manners and beautiful learning behaviours.	Joshua – for continually improving his handwriting and overall presentation.
Hollies	Oliver – for his unwavering positivity and his wonderful engagement in all lessons.	Louie – for the huge improvement he has made in his handwriting and presentation.
Oaks	William W - for his brilliant focus and thirst for knowledge in maths.	Romany – for always working hard to ensure every piece of work is neatly presented.
Monkey Puzzles	Jayden – Jayden has shown a really positive attitude with his work and has been constantly challenging himself.	Faith – beautiful presentation in her sketchbook in Art.

Diary Dates

- 22nd - 25th April - Year 5/6 Bikeability Level 2
- 22nd April - Year 2 Torquay Hub Activity Afternoon at Ellacombe Academy
- 1st May – Year 3/4 Bikeability Level 1
- 17th May - School Choir performs at the Devon County Show
- 10th and 11th June - PTFA Superhero Stall for Father's Day
- 4th July - Transition Day
- 10th July - Sports Day (reserve date of 18th July in case of bad weather)
- 19th July - PTFA Summer Fair at St Matthias Church