

26th April 2024

Dear families

This week has been packed full of exciting learning for the children and we have started our pupil questionnaire to ensure we have a clear understanding of children's experiences and identify any ways that we can improve and develop our school offer to our families.

Stronger Together

Reading for Pleasure

We are excited to invite you to participate in our survey on reading for pleasure at Ilsham Academy. Your feedback is invaluable to us as we strive to continuously enhance our reading initiatives and cultivate a love for reading among our students.

<https://forms.office.com/e/QUhYcmZxqT>

This survey will serve as part of the evidence gathering process for the Reading for Pleasure Quality Mark. Your input will help us assess the effectiveness of our current initiatives and identify areas for improvement.

We have also conducted a pupil survey with a cross-section of children this week to ensure that their voice is heard on initiatives and strategies that we use.

Thank you for your ongoing support in promoting a culture of reading for pleasure at Ilsham Academy.

EAC Ilsham Visit

On Wednesday, the Ethos Advisory Committee met at Ilsham Academy as part of a local governance visit. Joining us were Headteachers from Warberry, Ellacombe, and All Saints Marsh, alongside local committee members as we collectively embarked on a comprehensive review of each school. It was an enriching exchange of ideas and insights, reaffirming our commitment to fostering excellence and collaboration within our educational community. We look forward to further opportunities for shared learning and growth in the future.

Bushcraft Session with The Beeches

Another exciting session with Reach Outdoors for the Beeches this week. The children had a wonderful time exploring the great outdoors at Meadfoot Green and working together in teams to build shelters for animals and insects using the natural resources found in the woods. The session was not only a fun and engaging experience for the children but also provided them with valuable lessons on teamwork, problem-solving and creativity. They learned about the importance of using natural resources, sustainability and respecting the environment around them. It is truly fascinating to see the creativity and imagination that the children display when given the opportunity to explore and connect with nature.



Ilsham C of E Academy

Ilsham Road, Torquay,
Devon, TQ1 2JQ

T: 01803 292313 **E:** ilsham@lpsw.org

W: ilsham-lap.co.uk



FLOURISHING FUTURES



Sense of Belonging

Torbay Council/UNICEF UK Child Friendly Community

The council is one of eight local authorities taking part in UNICEF UK's Child Friendly Cities & Communities programme, which will see Torbay put children's rights at the heart of all work for children and young people working towards international recognition as a UNICEF Child Friendly Community. The first step towards becoming a UNICEF Child Friendly Community is the 'Discovery Phase', a six-month period during which councillors, council staff, the community, local voluntary and community sector partner organisations and children and young people will identify six priority areas, or 'badges', to guide our work over the coming years.

[Please could you take this UNICEF survey, which should only take 5-10 minutes.](#)

The Willows visit Ilsham Post Office

Learning about weighing items in maths can be an engaging and interactive experience for children, as it involves real-world applications that they can relate to. When the Willows went for a visit to Ilsham post office with some parcels to weigh, it likely added a layer of excitement and practicality to their learning. Holding parcels in their hands, feeling the weight, and then seeing how it translates into numbers on the scale can be a fascinating discovery for them.



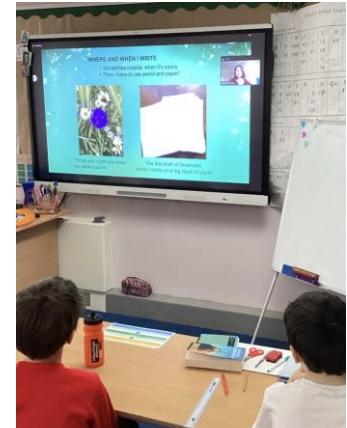
Moreover, being in a real post office setting would have made the experience even more immersive, allowing them to see how weighing parcels is an essential part of everyday tasks. This hands-on approach to learning not only reinforces mathematical concepts but also fosters a deeper understanding of how they are used in the real world.



Removing Barriers

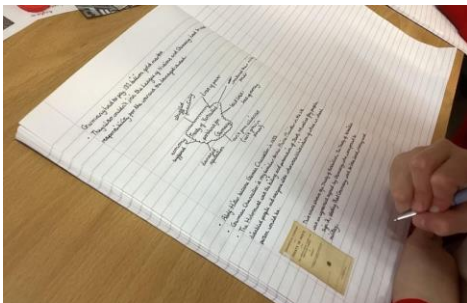
Reading for Pleasure in the Oaks and Monkey Puzzles

This week Years 5 and 6 were lucky enough to take part in an online author talk with Pari Thomson on her fantasy book 'Greenwild'. The children were fascinated to hear how Kew Gardens in London had provided inspiration for the novel and loved hearing about the magical land of Greenwild, in particular the effects of the magic moss. We even had the chance to pose our own question to Pari. We cannot wait to read the book!



Monkey Puzzles as Historians

This week, children in Year 6 have been working as historians to delve deep into the events surrounding World War II, exploring not only the reasons behind its outbreak but also understanding the profound effects of World War I. Their studies have highlighted the link of historical events, as they've discovered how the Treaty of Versailles played a pivotal role in shaping the landscape that ultimately led to World War II. Through using a range of primary and secondary sources, they have gained valuable insights into these pivotal moments in history, fostering a deeper understanding of the world around them. We couldn't be prouder of their enthusiasm and dedication to unravelling the past and we are looking forward to our next lesson.



Realising the Possible

Art in the Oaks

This week, the children continued to explore the work of illustrator Paul Thurlbury. The children considered Paul's unique style, the similarities and differences between a number of his pieces and how he carefully designs fonts to convey meaning. The children enjoyed creating their own fonts to reflect certain letters of the alphabet giving thought to style, colour and impact.

A Coastal Walk for the Rowans

This week the Rowans had a fantastic experience with Reach outdoors. They embarked on a coastal walk along Bishop's Walk, where the children savoured moments of mindfulness, soaking in the sights, smells, and sounds of the coastline. In the woodland, the Rowans honed their scientific observational skills with a leaf hunt, identifying four different tree varieties. With the leaves they found, the children created beautiful leaf rubbings, marvelling at how the patterns transferred onto the paper. It was a wonderful afternoon had by all.



French in the Maples

The Maples have been loving our French unit this half term. They are learning all about fruits and have been fully immersing themselves into each lesson. Each child is becoming more confident with saying the words out loud and have added their new vocabulary to their vocabulary books. They are certainly looking forward to learning more fruits next week!

Chess Achievements



Congratulations to Harvey and Bence who took part in the Devon Junior Chess Under 10 tournament. They both won achievement certificates and Harvey was presented with the third place trophy. Well done!

Enjoy the weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	95.83
The Rowans	94.00
The Beeches	97.33
The Maples	98.55
The Hollies	97.53
The Oaks	98.72
The Monkey Puzzles	96.15
Whole School	96.88

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Martha – for being happy and confident when settling into the Willows.	Leon – for always taking care with his presentation in his drawings and paintings.
Rowans	Kai- for your enthusiasm and positive attitude to learning. Your thirst for knowledge is inspirational to others.	Rose- for your super sentence writing in Read Write Inc!
Beeches	Stephanie – your engagement and teamwork in our Reach Outdoors session this week was excellent. Well done!	Poppy – your letter formation is brilliant, presentation and care is always taken in all of your books. Well done!
Maples	Akua for being courageous when asking questions and contributing to class discussions. It is wonderful to see her grow in confidence.	Thomas for always having outstanding handwriting and presentation in all of your work.
Hollies	Grace – for always being respectful and showing kindness and positivity in everything she does. You are a superstar.	Sebastien – your letter formation and presentation is improving greatly, and you are starting to take more pride in your work, well done.
Oaks	Tilly- for her brilliant learning behaviours and exemplification of our school values in every lesson, every day.	Elsie- for consistently presenting her work beautifully and making great improvements in her handwriting.
Monkey Puzzles	Tristan- for his enthusiasm in History, making connections with prior learning and sharing his knowledge and thoughtful questions with the class.	Bea- for always carefully considering presentation and adapting her learning outcomes to reflect understanding in a way which shows this.

Diary Dates

- 1st May – Year 3 and Year 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
- 2nd July – Year 5 and Y6 trip to London
- 4th July - Transition Day
- 10th July - Sports Day
- 18th July - Reserve Sports Day
- 19th July - PTFA Summer Fair at St Matthias Church