

10th May 2024

Dear families

A shorter school week has come to an end which has been packed full of activities with Reach Outdoors and some final preparations for The Monkey Puzzles. Please read on to find out more about the learning for each class this week.

Stronger Together

Professional Development

In our recent professional development meeting, led by Mrs. Guntrip and Mrs. Rivolta, our staff united to explore and develop metacognition strategies aligned with our optimal learning approach. With a focus on fostering self-awareness and reflective thinking, these sessions aim to empower our students with essential skills to become active and independent learners. By equipping our children with the tools to understand their own learning processes, we are laying the foundation for their long-term academic success and personal growth. Together, we are committed to creating a learning environment where every child can thrive and reach their full potential.

Sense of Belonging

Monkey Puzzles Teamwork

As we approach SATs week, we want to commend our incredible Year 6 students for their diligent preparations and unwavering dedication. Embodying the essence of our school vision "To grow and flourish wherever you are planted," these students have shown remarkable resilience and commitment to their academic journey. Their hard work, perseverance, and positive attitude are a testament to their readiness to tackle the challenges ahead. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them and have full confidence in their ability to shine brightly during this important milestone. Let's continue to support and encourage them as they showcase their growth and potential.

This week, they have been demonstrating their knowledge and metacognitive skills as they have navigated a range of revision strategy quizzes and games in teams. They have thoroughly enjoyed this way of working together and it has been a joy to hear and see the excitement this has brought for them!



Removing Barriers

Orienteering in the Rowans

This week, the sun shone brightly for the Rowans Reach Outdoors session. The children took a stroll down to Stoodley Meadow to develop their map drawing skills and to learn about orienteering. Using their observational skills, they studied the surrounding area to draw their maps.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

They then applied their knowledge as geographers of compass points to pinpoint locations on their maps. It was wonderful to see the Rowans using their prior knowledge of maps, drawing map keys, and understanding cardinal points on a compass to support them during their session.



Writing in the Oaks

This half term in the Oaks we are focusing on writing to entertain. The children have enjoyed studying 'I Believe in Unicorns' by Michael Morpurgo and creating their own stories inspired by this historical narrative. Each child has shown an impressive improvement in their understanding of selecting vocabulary and grammar to appeal to their audience and have worked hard to draft and edit some brilliant pieces of writing. I have been very impressed with the development in writing standards shown by all of the class.

Dogs Trust Visit

We were thrilled to host the Dogs' Trust at our school this week for a series of engaging and educational workshops on how to stay safe around dogs. The visit provided our students with important knowledge and practical advice on responsible dog ownership and safe interactions with our furry friends.



The workshops were designed for all year groups and focused on key topics such as understanding a dog's body language, the importance of approaching dogs calmly, and what to do if a dog appears anxious or aggressive. Through interactive activities, videos, and discussions, the students learned how to read dogs' signals and respond appropriately.

The visit not only taught our students how to respect and care for dogs, but also emphasized the importance of kindness and compassion towards all animals. We hope the lessons learned will help our students feel safer and more confident in their interactions with dogs both at home and in the community.

We extend our gratitude to the Dogs Trust for their valuable work and for taking the time to educate our students. We look forward to welcoming them back in the future!

Realising the Possible

Reach Outdoors Holiday Club

The children have really enjoyed their opportunities through collaboration with Reach Outdoors this summer term. Reach Outdoors will also be offering a holiday club over the half-term and summer holidays with some fantastic experiences for children available. Please see details later in this newsletter if you are interested.

Book Club in the Maples

The Maples have been thoroughly enjoying their book club sessions over the past few weeks. The children wanted to explore how authors put together their own narratives, so they have been creating their own short stories. This week, they have immersed themselves in exploring our new books we have in the classroom. They were only given the front cover of the book and had to predict what the book may be about. There were some fantastic interpretations of the front cover.

History in the Beeches

Over the last three weeks, the Year Twos have been learning all about two significant women in history: Rosa Parks and Emily Davison. The children have learnt about some big concepts, including segregation and inequality, and have dived deep into what life was like during the late 19th and early 20th century. The Beeches have learnt about the actions of these courageous women and how their actions, alongside others, have changed history. This week, the children used their historic knowledge to compare these two women by identifying similarities and differences between them.





Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	99.2
The Rowans	98.4
The Beeches	90.16
The Maples	100
The Hollies	98.52
The Oaks	100
The Monkey Puzzles	93.02
Whole School	97.05

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Adam – for great attitude to school life and a lovely friend to have in the Willows.	Enzo – for trying his best and concentrating so hard on his letters and letter formation.
Rowans	Gracie – Has been engaging in some fantastic partner discussions and feeling more confident in herself as a learner. She has also been a super star reader- Keep it up, Gracie!	Zosia – For a great improvement with your handwriting and independently self-correcting letter formations – keep it up, Zosia!
Beeches	Matthew – Was an amazing historian this week as he confidently identified similarities and differences between two significant women and shared many ideas with the class.	Kyla- For always taking such pride in all pieces of work across the curriculum. Keep it up, superstar!
Maples	Cassius – for his enthusiasm and determination in all lessons. Your confidence is growing and shining through in all lessons. Well done!	Jude for his constant determination in our handwriting sessions. I have noticed your determination to carry this across in all your books.
Hollies	Louie – for always displaying the school values and making valuable considered contributions to class discussions.	Barney – for slowing down his handwriting to focus on letter formation and overall presentation – the hard work is paying off, Well done!
Oaks	Sapphire- for the determination to succeed that she demonstrates in all subjects from swimming to maths. Keep it up, Sapphire!	Lewis – for beautiful presentation in each and every subject across the curriculum. Great work Lewis!
Monkey Puzzles	Noah- for remaining focussed this week on a variety of tasks and applying his knowledge when working in teams. Well done!	Lily- for consistent presentation in all subjects, which is always carefully considered.

Diary Dates

- 17th May – School Choir performs at the Devon County Show
- 17th May – Year 4 trip to the Devon County Show
- 24th May – Wear Odd Socks to support fundraising for Operation Smile
- 10th and 11th June – PTFA Superhero Stall for Father's Day
- 14th June x 4 weeks (Fridays) – Year 6 Tennis sessions at Cary Park
- 20th June – Parent meeting for Y5 and Y6 London trip, 2.30pm
- 2nd July – Year 5 and Year 6 trip to London
- 4th July – Transition Day
- 9th July – ASD and ADHD Workshop for Parents, 8.50am
- 10th July – Sports Day
- 12th July – EYFS trip to Dawlish Warren
- 18th July – Reserve Sports Day
- 19th July – PTFA Summer Fair at St Matthias Church, 3pm
- 23rd July – Year 6 Leavers' Service, St Matthias Church, 1.30pm

Paddle Sports




**3 DAYS OF
MULTI
ACTIVITIES**

£150

May Half Term
Summer Holidays



EXPLORE



2024

SUMMER CLUB IS ON!!!



DISCOVER

For 8-14 years
@GoodringtonSands





TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

8:45-4pm

Book Online

www.reach-outdoors.com



Team Games

Bushcraft





CHALLENGE





