

24th May 2024

Dear families

This week, we have welcomed our children who will be joining us in September for an induction session, some children have enjoyed kayaking and rock climbing and as always, there has been some amazing learning taking place in class.

Stronger Together

TQ Hub Collaboration

Teachers from Ilsham, Warberry, and Ellacombe came together for a productive professional development session focused on our Geography curriculum. This collaborative time allowed teachers to review the quality of teaching and learning within their year groups, share best practices, and align our approaches across the schools. This teamwork ensures that our Geography curriculum remains robust, engaging, and effective for all our students.



Sense of Belonging

New Intake Welcome

We were delighted to welcome our new families who will be joining the Reception class in September. During the meeting, we shared key messages about our school's vision and values. We were also fortunate to have the support of the PTFA, who kindly offered their time to share the amazing impact of their work and how they support our school community. We look forward to seeing these new families grow and flourish with us at Ilsham Academy. We look forward to involving them in upcoming events including Sports Day and The Summer Fair.



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FLOURISHING FUTURES

Removing Barriers

The Rowans as Artists

This half term, the Rowans have been on an exciting artistic journey, delving into the world of the renowned Spanish architect and artist, Antoni Gaudi. Inspired by his unique style and his deep connection with nature, the children have embraced their creativity to produce stunning nature-inspired clay tiles. The Rowans have honed their skills, learning and applying various techniques such as slipping, scoring, and moulding clay. To complete their masterpieces, the children painted their tiles with bright, vibrant colours, bringing their nature-inspired designs to life. The final pieces are a testament to their hard work, creativity, and the inspiration they drew from Gaudi's extraordinary works.



Linguists in The Beeches

The Beeches have had an exciting week immersing themselves into our final few lessons of French. We have been learning about 'Dans Ma Ville' (In my town) vocabulary and have been practicing conversing with each other and saying the different phrases and places that we can visit in the town. It's been so wonderful to see the progression in this unit, seeing the children embrace the challenge with enthusiasm and happiness. The song was challenging to begin with but in our final week, I was so impressed with how beautifully it was being sung. We can't wait to explore our next unit.

Future Artists in The Maples

This half term, The Maples have been learning all about the artist William Morris. They have immersed themselves in his artwork and how he became a famous pattern creator. Over the past 6 weeks, the children have built up their skills of layering, observational drawings of nature and different patterns which include, repeated pattern, half drop and full drop. All their hard work has produced a nature themed pattern which is in the style of William Morris.

Realise the Possible

The Willows Veterinary Surgery

The role-play has changed to a vet surgery, and it has captivated the hearts and minds of the Willows. The children have enjoyed every moment spent diagnosing their animal patients, carefully bandaging wounds, and prescribing the best imaginary treatments. Each child has found a special role within the clinic—some as diligent veterinarians, others as compassionate nurses, and a few as friendly receptionists who welcome new patients with bright smiles. From tending to a stuffed bear with a sore paw to comforting a nervous toy rabbit, the children demonstrate remarkable empathy and responsibility. They've even created a system for appointments, ensuring that every furry friend gets the attention they need. Welcoming new patients has become one of their favourite parts of the day. They eagerly gather around as a new toy arrives, discussing its symptoms and deciding on the best course of action!



Writing in the Oaks

This week, we have been drafting and editing our final narrative pieces based on Ross Mackenzie's book 'The Nowhere Emporium'. The children have expertly created their own versions of this story, ensuring that they both entertain and unsettle their intended audience. It was brilliant to read the children's final accounts of ominous bakeries, eerie shoe shops and strange swimming pools. I was very impressed with the class's creativity and ability to effectively employ the range of authorial devices we have learnt this year.

Art in the Hollies

Hollies have been exploring the photography of Japanese photographer Mika Ninagawa celebrating her stunning use of colour, unique composition, and striking perspectives. Our budding photographers took on the challenge of capturing the world around them with a fresh and artistic eye, focusing on key elements such as composition, perspective, and focal points.

We learned how to arrange elements within their frame to create balanced and engaging photographs. We explored viewpoints to see how changing the perspective can alter the mood and impact of a photograph. They had fun taking photos from high above, ground level, and everything in between! They also practiced drawing the viewer's eye to specific parts of their photos selecting

contrasting colours to highlight their subjects creatively. I am so proud of their enthusiasm and creativity throughout this art unit.

Monkey Puzzles in the Great Outdoors

This week, Year 6 had another day session with Reach Outdoors. The children experienced a day of Kayaking and Climbing. It was a wonderful experience for the children to take their learning outdoors and to also be able to develop a sense of ‘awe and wonder’ in a different setting. We were incredibly proud of the teamwork and resilience demonstrated by our children and it was a fabulous way to end what has been a very busy term for the Monkey Puzzles class.





Enjoy the weekend,
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	94.32
The Rowans	96.59
The Beeches	95.86
The Maples	98.82
The Hollies	92.63
The Oaks	100
The Monkey Puzzles	95.6
Whole School	96.22

School Awards

Class	 Star of the Week	 Presentation Award
Willows	Frank – for showing resilience and determination in his writing. Well done, Frank!	Zoe – for practising her handwriting in class, and then practising at home too! Well done, Zoe!
Rowans	Olivia - for your hard work and perseverance this week. For spreading your infectious joy and happiness in school each day.	Lottie - for showing respect and kindness to others this week – how wonderful to see.
Beeches	Maxwell is our star this week for his confidence and knowledge on telling the time. He was being supportive of his peers too – well done, Maxwell.	Anna is our presentation superstar this week for being spotted several times for kindness by lots of staff members. Well done, Anna. Keep it up!
Maples	Emanuella – for settling in well to the Ilsham family. You have worked incredibly hard this week and showed a lot of enthusiasm in all lessons. Well done!	Cassius – for starting to join your handwriting and putting in a lot of effort to ensure this is maintained in all of your work! Well done Cassius!
Hollies	Maia – for her kindness and compassion towards all her classmates and the entire Ilsham family.	Barney – for the wonderful improvement in his handwriting and presentations.
Oaks	Henri for demonstrating our core value of resilience during our swimming lessons and a greater focus in class. Brilliant work Henri!	Fynn for ensuring high levels of presentation in each and every subject. Keep it up Fynn!
Monkey Puzzles	Rafe- for demonstrating high levels of motivation and exceptional learning behaviours.	Arooj- for always trying to present work to a high standard.

Diary Dates

- 10th and 11th June – PTFA Superhero Stall for Father's Day
- 14th June x 4 weeks (Fridays) – Year 6 Tennis sessions at Cary Park
- 27th June – Year 1 and Year 2 Geography trip to Meadfoot Beach
- 2nd July – Year 5 and Year 6 trip to London
- 4th July – Transition Day
- 5th July – Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Paignton Zoo
- 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