

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

Dear families

As always, we celebrate the spirit of our school vision: to grow and flourish wherever you are planted. We're thrilled to share the latest updates and achievements from our school community. From nurturing academic growth to fostering creativity and resilience, our students are truly embodying our vision as they thrive in every aspect of their learning journey.

### **Stronger Together**

#### **English Development Day**

On Monday, Mrs. Rivolta, our dedicated English Lead, along with Miss Watson, the Trust English Lead, and Mr. Grinsill undertook a comprehensive review of English learning at Ilsham Academy. Together, we immersed ourselves in classrooms, observing teaching methods, meticulously reviewing learning materials, and engaging with our pupils to understand their learning retention. This collaborative effort aligns with our school's optimal learning approach, rooted in metacognition. By focusing on how our students think about and approach their learning, we strive to empower them with the tools and strategies they need to flourish academically and beyond.

#### **Free Parenting Course**

Signposted to us by Torbay Local Authority, a free parenting course is available, offering invaluable guidance and support to parents navigating the complexities of raising children in today's world. This course provides practical tools and strategies to help strengthen family dynamics, promote positive communication, and enhance parent-child relationships. We encourage interested parents to explore this opportunity further by accessing the enclosed link for more information.

<https://strengthening-families.net/reducing-parental-conflict/>

**strengthening families**  
**strengthening communities**

### **Sense of Belonging**

#### **School Council**

In our recent school council meeting, our student representatives exemplified our core values of honesty, respect, compassion, courage, and inspiration as they collaborated on ideas to contribute to the regeneration of our school garden. With thoughtful consideration and open dialogue, they discussed various suggestions and initiatives, ensuring that every voice was heard and valued. Their commitment to making a positive difference in our school community reflects the spirit of compassion and courage that defines us at Ilsham Academy. We are incredibly proud of our school council for their dedication to serving as advocates for their peers and for their inspirational contributions to our collective vision of a flourishing school environment.



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**FLOURISHING FUTURES**

## Removing Barriers

### What's That Smell?

As scientists, the Rowans have been using their senses to make predictions and conducting comparative tests to explore whether our sense of smell is heightened when we can't see. In a fun experiment, the children were presented with smell jars while their sense of sight was temporarily taken away. This allowed them to focus solely on their sense of smell and guess the scents they were encountering. After identifying the smells, the children then ranked them from strongest to weakest based on their perceptions.



### Times Table Club in The Hollies

To support preparation for the Year 4 Department for Education Multiplication Tables Check, Hollies had their first after school tables club. The children had a great time using the interactive white board to challenge each other at rounds of 'Hit the Button' and used dice and counters to play a variety of board games based on tables fluency. Please see below a link to the Top Marks free website that has a number of multiplication games the children can build their knowledge and confidence with.

[Times Table games on Top Marks](#)

### Maths, Reading and Spelling Grammar and Punctuation in Monkey Puzzles

As we look forward to the SATs tests in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> May, Year 6 have been retrieving their knowledge of content taught during their time at school. Mrs Guntrip has been incredibly impressed by the understanding which the children are demonstrating and how, aside from the fact that they have made great progress individually, the children have been working together as a team, supporting each other and working to help each other to achieve their best. It has been so lovely to see the children applying our school values in their learning and to truly work towards our vision of growing and flourishing. Well done Year 6- you have been amazing this week!

## Realising the Possible

### Reading in The Willows

In their RWInc adventures, the children of the Willows are perfect partners. In their daily encounters with Fred Talk, they lend each other a supportive ear, patiently listening as their partners sound out words. When faced with the challenge of red words, those tricky, non-phonetic words, they work together to work them out! But perhaps most importantly, they offer each other unwavering encouragement and support. In their shared pursuit of reading excellence, the children of the Willows exemplify the true spirit of partnership, proving that with teamwork, perseverance, and a sprinkle of Fred magic, anything is possible in the enchanting world of RWInc.



### Scientists in The Hollies

The Hollies are conducting an exciting experiment to investigate the impact of sugars on teeth. Since we couldn't use real teeth for the experiment, we used eggs as a substitute because their shells are similar in composition to tooth enamel. The experiment begins by placing eggs in various liquids, each with different sugar content. We chose water as our control, while other liquids included soda, orange juice, and sugary drinks. We also covered one egg in toothpaste to investigate its protective factors. Children then hypothesized how each type of liquid would affect the eggshells. During next week, children will observe the eggs and record any changes in the eggshells. They will note the degree of discoloration, softness, or erosion of the shells. Through this experiment, we will gain a better understanding of the potential harm that sugary drinks can cause to teeth. The hands-on experience also reinforced the importance of dental hygiene and making healthy drink choices.

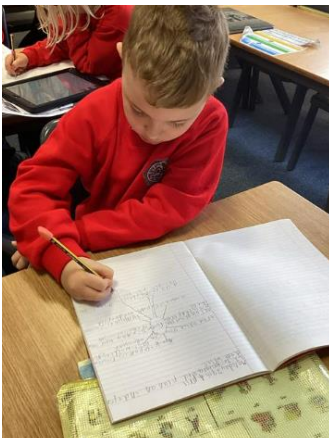
### Historians in the Maples

As Historians, the Maples have been exploring how different city states were governed during the period of Ancient Greece. They have focused in on Athens and Sparta and have gathered the similarities and differences between them both. They were shocked with some of the rules and laws that stopped certain people from voting. They could immediately identify the differences and similarities to the modern day, and we could see the noticeable differences as to how governments have moved forward and made changes over the years.



### Research in the Beeches

Over the last few weeks in our English lessons, the Beeches have been working hard create a non-chronological report about trees. This week, the Beeches have been applying many of their skills as they began to write their very own report. During the week, the children selected a flower to focus their report upon and then set to work researching all about their chosen flower; it has been wonderful to see the array of courses across the class. The children have been using a range of fact files, alongside their independent research on the i-pads to find a whole range of interesting facts about their flowers. Next week, the children will begin the drafting process as they begin to write their very own report – how exciting!



### Science in the Oaks



This week, as part of their learning on living things and their habitats, the class considered the significance of primatologist Jane Goodhall and her incredible work in helping us to understand and protect chimpanzees and their environment. The children then made observations and researched key facts around tigers, explored why they are under threat and how we could act to protect them. The children then created their own posters designed to highlight the issues faced by this species.

Enjoy the long weekend,  
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team

### Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	96.59
The Rowans	96.57
The Beeches	97.65
The Maples	98.77
The Hollies	97.35
The Oaks	97.8
The Monkey Puzzles	96.7
Whole School	97.33

## School Awards

Class	 <b>Star of the Week</b>	 <b>Presentation Award</b>
Willows	Sofia – for your enthusiasm and engagement in our RWInc lessons. Well done, Sofia!	Scarlett - for working hard this week to make sure her letters sit on the line! Keep it up, Scarlett!
Rowans	Ariya – For your wonderful participation during partner talk and your thoughtful contributions during whole class discussions.	Ophelia – For your beautiful letter formation and the care taken over the presentation of your work.
Beeches	Mikolaj – For your wonderful, independent research in our English lessons and for presenting your research so beautifully – what a star!	Melody – for consistently presenting all work to such a high standard. You take so much pride in everything you do, and we are so proud of your hard work and determination.
Maples	Megan – for consistently demonstrating our school values. You have been a superstar all week to your peers and teachers! Well done Megan!	Harry – for consistently presenting your work to a high standard and for maintaining your beautiful handwriting. Well done Harry!
Hollies	Ben – for his thoughtful and insightful contributions to class discussions and his outstanding contribution to the Times Table Tournament on TTRS. Great work!	Ryan – for working on the spacing of his words and the formation of his letters in his handwriting. Well done!
Oaks	Layla – for the incredible progress she has made already during our swimming lessons. She has shown true resilience and courageousness. I am beyond proud Layla.	Peter- for working extremely hard to perfect his joined writing during our handwriting lessons. I can see a great improvement!
Monkey Puzzles	Emmie- for having a consistently positive attitude towards learning and for always being determined to achieve her best. Well done!	Noah- for considering presentation in all areas of learning and for continuing to work to develop handwriting consistency. Well done!

## Diary Dates

- 17th May - School Choir performs at the Devon County Show
- 17<sup>th</sup> May – Year 4 trip to the Devon County Show
- 10th and 11th June - PTFA Superhero Stall for Father's Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Year 5 and 6 trip to London
- 4th July - Transition Day
- 10th July - Sports Day
- 12<sup>th</sup> July – EYFS trip to Dawlish Warren
- 18th July - Reserve Sports Day
- 19th July - PTFA Summer Fair at St Matthias Church
- 23<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers' Service, St Matthias Church, 1.30pm