

21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

Dear families

This week, the children have enjoyed an exciting week of learning, including linking up with peers from across our school trust. Read on to find out more about what has been happening this week at Ilsham.

### **Stronger Together**

#### **Positive Futures Day**

Ilsham Academy recently joined forces with Ellacombe Academy, Warberry Academy, and All Saints Marsh for a Positive Futures Day. The children participated in a variety of exciting activities, including sessions with a games developer, the fire service, animal encounters, wellbeing workshops, and sports sessions. This collaborative event provided a wonderful opportunity for our students to connect with their peers from other schools across the trust, fostering new friendships and shared experiences. The day was a fantastic success, filled with learning, fun, and inspiration for the future.

### **Sense of Belonging**

#### **Year 6 SATs Treat**

Last Friday, the Year 6 children received their SATs treat; an outdoor disco, buffet and games afternoon. It was wonderful to see the children enjoying spending time together and to see them having so much fun. They have worked incredibly hard this year and this treat was very much deserved! Thank you to our wonderful PTFA for funding the buffet food and games for the children and also a huge thank you to Mrs Akers for taking the time to support with the setting up of this event and for helping to prepare the food. We are so grateful for the support of our school family.

#### **History Workshop in Monkey Puzzles**

This week, the Year 6 children were incredibly fortunate to take part in a workshop led by a member of our school family who came in to share with us the experiences of his dad, who served during World War 2. The children were able to listen to stories, ask deep and meaningful questions and view/handle a range of primary sources. This was a wonderful session which was both informative and poignant and the children were so thankful for this experience. A huge thank you to Mr Drew for taking your time to support our learning!



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## **FLOURISHING FUTURES**

### Favourite 5 in the Willows

This week the Willows have loved learning this week's 'favourite five' story, The Very Hungry Caterpillar. We have read the story every day and the Willows have been talking about healthy and unhealthy food, and how we can keep our bodies healthy. We also printed repeating patterns with different fruit and vegetables. Some of the children even used the printing shapes to create a Very Hungry Caterpillar picture!



### Removing Barriers

#### RWInc Development Day

We recently hosted a RWInc Development Day, welcoming a consultant from RWInc to review our teaching and pedagogy. The consultant helped us plan our next steps for development, spending time in classrooms, examining children's books, and coaching our teachers. This collaboration ensures that our teaching methods remain of the highest standard, continually improving the learning experience for our students.

#### Numbers to 100 in the Rowans

This week as mathematicians, the Rowans began exploring numbers to 100. The children started off by extending their knowledge of multiples of 10 and identifying how many tens and how many ones make a number. The children investigated this by partitioning with concrete resources, such as base 10, followed by abstract numbers and other representations such as part-whole models.

### Realise the Possible

#### Planting in The Beeches

This week in The Beeches, we conducted a fun and engaging science experiment by planting cress seeds in different environments. Using cotton wool, soil, paper and toilet roll, the children can explore which conditions the cress seeds grow best. We will use observation skills to monitor this, record the growth of the seeds and create an evaluation. The children also predicted which environment will provide the best condition. This was a hands-on activity, and it provided a valuable learning experience for our children. It was lovely to hear how much planting takes place at home too! Stay tuned for updates on the progress of our little cress plants and the results of our experiment.

### Poetry Writing in The Oaks

This week in the Oaks we have been using the classic poem 'The Highwayman' by Alfred Noyes as inspiration to learn all about the various devices a poet uses in creating an effective narrative poem. The children have been brilliant in understanding the context for the poem and all of the various devices the author has employed to create the harrowing tale through poetry. The class have provided some awesome alliteration and perfect personification in their writing. Next week, we will use the poem as inspiration for our own modern-day versions of this poem – I cannot wait to read the final outcomes!

### Geography in the Maples

As geographers, the Maples were exploring what a volcano is, how it is formed and what happens when it erupts in this week's Geography lesson. They learnt that there are three different types of volcanoes – extinct, dormant and active. They are all superb at explaining the difference between them so if you're interested in finding out more, then quiz them over the weekend. I am sure they will love to share their new knowledge with you!

### Science in The Hollies

The Hollies focus this half term is our carbon footprint. On Tuesday, the children worked scientifically by evaluating data recorded for the carbon emissions of different modes of transport. We discussed how a train has a smaller carbon footprint than a car, for example, and explored the fact that even though bicycles do not have carbon emissions when ridden, the production of them do. We then plotted our data on a bar chart and explained our findings. I was really impressed by the children's passion for global citizenship and their understanding that they are our stewards of the future.

Enjoy the weekend,  
Mr Grinsill and The Ilsham Team



### Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance %
The Willows	95.33
The Rowans	98.67
The Beeches	95.14
The Maples	95.83
The Hollies	99.38
The Oaks	97.44
The Monkey Puzzles	98.42
Whole School	97.27

### Diary Dates

27th June – Years 1 & 2 trip to Meadfoot Beach  
 28th June – Year 4 Rounders Festival  
 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 – ASC 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  
 23rd July – Year 6 Leavers' Service, 1.30pm at St Matthias Church

### School Awards

Class	 <b>Star of the Week</b>	 <b>Presentation Award</b>
Willows	Thea – for being a superstar at our Positive Futures Day. You were enthusiastic and loved getting involved in all the activities. Well done, Thea!	Jayden – for showing his creative flare, by using vegetables to print a great picture of The Very Hungry Caterpillar.
Rowans	Martha – for your thoughtful contributions during whole class discussions and playing your part during partner discussions.	Will.C. - for a great improvement in your letter formation and the presentation of your work.
Beeches	Jack B – for continuously playing your part in our lessons, being an active listener and respectful learner. You are working hard, keep it up Jack! Well done.	Arlo – you were a credit to our school when we went to visit Warberry Academy this week. Showing brilliant manners and engagement in the sessions. Well done, Arlo!
Maples	Jude – for his consistent positive attitude towards his learning and enthusiasm in all lessons. Well done, Jude.	Ella – for working hard in all handwriting lessons to ensure she is always improving her handwriting and letter formation. Well done, Ella.
Hollies	Andy – for his work in English this week. He has taken great care to edit his work, looking for opportunities to improve each sentence.	Beau – for taking feedback on his letter formation and working to improve the overall presentation of his work.
Oaks	Paige-for always being an active listener, your constant desire to learn and improve and your willingness to help others.	Meghan - for working extremely hard to improve your presentation in every subject.
Monkey Puzzles	Lars- for always engaging in learning and approaching everything he does with a positive attitude. He also asked incredible questions during our WW2 workshop.	Millie- for always producing writing of a high standard which is presented with care and consideration.