



'Child centred learning in the heart of the community'

14th March 2025

Dear Parents and Family Members,

What a busy few weeks we have had at school. The children have been learning about making mistakes and how they help us to learn and make progress. We have also had a focus on taking responsibility and saying sorry in our assemblies.

It was lovely to welcome you all to Parents' Evening this week to see the progress made by your children since October. I hope this provided you with an opportunity to discuss your child's learning with their teacher and find helpful ways to support your children at home. I would like to extend my thanks to the Year 6 helpers who did a brilliant job of keeping the teachers to time and were a shining example of our Ilchester values.

It was wonderful to see the children and adults fully immersed in all things reading for World Book Day. The staff team took the decision to dress up as ladybirds to honour the illustrious Miss Waterfield. I am sure you all delighted in seeing the 'loveliness' of ladybirds walking between sites for our author assembly!



You can read about the learning and enrichment opportunities that have been happening for your children below in the class paragraphs. As always, Reception and Pre-School will communicate independently.

Class 3

Over the last couple of weeks in Class 3, we have had great fun learning about toys. In English, we have researched and learnt how to make a traditional Teddy Bear and will use our sequenced pictures, labels and captions to support our writing of explanation texts.

In History, we explored a variety of toys from the present day and compared them to toys from the past. Thank you to those who sent toys in for the children to share. We were very lucky to have a visit from Mrs Rendall who told us all about her toy dog, Biddy, and recalled memories of playing with Biddy when she was young.

We talked about the similarities and differences between the toys from the past and present including the types of materials used to make them, how technology is used and the purpose of different toys. The children have even designed a toy for the future, one of which was a robot that cleans their bedroom whilst telling jokes!

We are looking forward to our upcoming visit from the toy museum who are going to show toys from Victorian times, over 100 years ago!

For our Maths this week, we have been continuing to practise our fluency in addition and subtraction approaches and applied this learning to some problem-solving activities. The children particularly enjoyed our problem-solving treasure hunt on the school grounds! We are working hard to recall number bonds to 10 and 20 as well as doubles up to 12.





Class 4

The last few weeks have been really busy! In particular, Class 4 have really enjoyed Book Week, the Story Workshop and Shrove Tuesday. Here is a selection of pictures; we enjoyed pancake races in the sunshine; on World Book Day, we stopped and read to the class with fantastic confidence from everyone! We have talked about World Thinking Day too!



In Maths, children have enjoyed learning about pictograms. We created a tally chart on our class eye colour and then created a pictogram to show the most popular colour. In English, we have just started a new book called 'Grendel and the Cautionary Chocolate Tale'. The children have been predicting the story and giving reasons for their choice. There will be chocolate information to come!

The children had lots of fun in History looking at Old Toys. Thank you for bringing these in; we had great discussions and demonstrations. Class 4 has created a time line and this week have designed a toy for the future. Keep up the good work!

Class 5

Class 5 has been working really hard. There were fantastic costumes on show for Book Week. We had lots of fun for the Story Workshop; it was great to see adults supporting their children and sharing the love of reading. For Shrove Tuesday we made pancakes and enjoyed races on the playground.



In Maths, children have enjoyed learning about fractions. We have looked at shapes and numbers focusing on quarters. In English, we have read the book 'Beegu'. This week we have been writing about Beegu coming to Ilchester School. This has been very exciting; lovely story writing Class 5.

The children had lots of fun in History looking at Old Toys.



In Science, we have been talking about the seasons and the changes we have noticed as Spring arrives. We have written an explanation about day and night too.

Class 6

Class 6 have had a lovely few weeks exploring 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' in English. They have used iPads to research facts about dragons to aid them in writing their non-chronological report.

It was lovely to see lots of parents at the story workshop last Friday. The children enjoyed listening to 'The Cat in the Hat' story. They then used their creativity to create their own photo prop inspired by Cat in the Hat.



Class 7

The class have been busy over the last few weeks. In English, our written work has centred around the African folk tale *'Fly Eagle, Fly'* as retold by Christopher Gregorowski. The children have explored how they can increase the detail, description and interest in their writing through the use of fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and similes in order to produce fabulously descriptive setting descriptions of the farmer's village. Enjoying a good book has been quite a feature of late with some brilliant costumes on World Book Day and it was lovely to see so many of you for our story workshop last Friday. Be honest, who is still groaning at some of the riddles?

In Maths, the children have become statisticians; exploring the collecting, presenting and interpreting of both continuous and discrete data whilst in Science we have continued our journey through the human body by identifying the different bones of the skeleton and explaining their purpose.

The children have also been working hard at home to create some fabulous projects based on our travels around Europe in Geography. Thank you, parents for your support with these, they were all most impressive and full of incredible stories and facts.



Class 8

We are excited to share the wonderful learning experiences happening in Class 8!

In Maths, we have been focusing on rounding numbers to the nearest ten, hundred and thousand. The children have also been tackling multi-step problems using various operators. The children have shown great enthusiasm as they develop their problem-solving skills!

In English, we have been exploring the fascinating inventions of Thomas Edison. The children have created non-chronological reports highlighting his contributions and are currently working on writing balanced arguments about whether the world has improved due to the invention of the light bulb! Light-pollution and energy costs verses longer working hours and greater safety at night!

Our Science lessons have revolved around understanding the function of the skeleton. We are investigating how our bone structure may limit or enhance our physical abilities. For example, we are exploring the question: do longer legs lead to farther jumps?

In Music, we have been making great strides with our ukulele skills! The class has been practising diligently and can even perform songs, including the intro song to Bluey, with their eyes closed! Their progress is impressive, and they are having a lot of fun along the way.



Class 9

Class 9 has had a brilliant start to this half term and the children embraced all of their learning.

In English, the story that the children have been focusing on is 'The Journey' by Francesca Sanna. Feeling inspired by the dramatic events and truth within the story, Class 9 children have written a range of outcomes, including a narrative, a setting description, a diary, a fact file and a balanced argument.

In Maths, the children have been extending their learning by focusing on multiplication and division, decimals and measurement - they should be proud of how they've embraced the challenges with resilience and determination.

The Geography topic of natural disasters has continued, with Class 9 creating incredible home learning projects which the children shared with the rest of the

class. Some of the children chose to create interactive models and others created posters to showcase their learning.

A fabulous couple of weeks, Class 9, well done and thank you for your hard work!



Class 10

The children from Class 10 have created some brilliant home learning projects which explored natural disasters - all of them showcased their understanding and creativity. These projects cover a range of topics, with particular emphasis on volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Through their work, the children have demonstrated a secure understanding of the causes, impacts, and effects of these natural events on both the environment and human populations. We had a range of projects from PowerPoint Presentations, detailed information leaflets and Lego volcanoes - well done to every who took part.



Class 11

This year is flying by and we continue to be amazed by the incredible progress your children are making. It is truly a joy to be their teacher and they should be so proud of all they have achieved.

In Maths, the children are growing in confidence and applying their learning to a range of questions.

In English, we have been reading *Boy in the Tower* by Polly Ho-Yen and the children have produced some wonderfully descriptive pieces. They are now writing the final chapter of this dystopian novel, bringing their own creative ideas to the story's conclusion.

Last week, the children presented their home learning projects on natural disasters and we were so impressed with their efforts. Each child had the freedom to choose a format that best suited their creativity and interests—we saw everything from exploding volcanoes and detailed posters to even edible creations in the form of cakes!



[The Start and End to the School Day](#)

Please could I remind all parents that in line with our safeguarding policy, mobile phones are not to be used on the school site. There has been an increase in parents using devices during pick up and drop off times. Your support with this matter is appreciated.

Cross Country

A bright, sunny afternoon with excellent running conditions underfoot saw our cross-country team take on the most challenging course of the season at Aldon Park in Yeovil recently. Some steep hills proved no barrier for our runners who all performed fabulously, gaining some very creditable finishes including fourth place in the Year 4 boys' race.



The final race of the season takes place on Monday 24th March at Mudford Recreation Ground in Yeovil. It would be great if as many children could represent our school as possible to finish the season strongly.

Gymnastics

The school showed what a talented bunch of gymnasts that we have recently when our team took part in a skills event at Westfield School in Yeovil. The girls, under the guidance of a former champion Great British tumbler, challenged themselves in a range of different disciplines including beam, floor, jumps and balances to perform increasingly more difficult routines. One of the team was subsequently awarded gymnast of the day for her bravery and determination and willingness to take on board advice in order to improve. Well done girls.



E-Safety from Mr Raine

Identifying Trusted Sources

Today's children are exposed to a huge amount of information online. While the internet is a valuable resource, it is essential to develop the skills needed to differentiate between genuine and fake information.

The ability to identify trusted sources is vital for several reasons:

- **Misinformation:** The internet can be a maze of false information, which can lead to confusion and misunderstanding.
- **Critical Thinking:** Learning to think about sources fosters critical thinking skills, enabling children to assess (old and new) information logically and thoughtfully.
- **Safety:** Understanding credible sources helps protect children from potential dangers associated with misleading or harmful content.

Tips for Teaching Children to Identify Trusted Sources

1. **Discuss What Makes a Source Credible:** Explain how to check if a source is credible, such as established news organisations, educational institutions, and government websites. Discuss the importance of checking the origin and author of the information.
2. **Check the Author:** Encourage children to look for the author's name and 'who they are'. Who wrote the content? Are they an expert in that field? What are their reasons behind writing the article? This can help filter the difference between genuine information and advertisements.
3. **Evaluate the Website:** Show children how to assess the quality of a website. Does it have a professional appearance? Is the information current? Does the site use proper grammar and spelling? Poorly designed sites may indicate unreliable content.
4. **Cross-Check Information:** Encourage children to search the internet for other articles or websites that are saying, 'the same thing'.
5. **Use Fact-Checking Websites:** Introduce children to reputable fact-checking websites that can help verify claims and information. Resources like Snopes or FactCheck.org can be valuable tools.
6. **Encourage Questions:** Foster a culture of curiosity where children feel comfortable asking questions about what they read. Encourage them to seek guidance if they are unsure about the credibility of a source.

Thank you for supporting our children's learning and e-safety education!

Police Workshop

The Year 6 children had the unique opportunity to participate in a workshop led by local police officers focused on anti-racism and understanding the legal implications surrounding criminal age. The session aimed to educate young minds about the importance of diversity, inclusion, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their background. Through interactive discussions and activities, the officers emphasised the significance of recognising and challenging stereotypes, fostering a sense of empathy among the children. The workshop not only provided valuable insights into the role of law enforcement in promoting equality but also encouraged children to think critically about their own beliefs and behaviours.



World Thinking Day

On Monday 24th February, It was wonderful to see the children celebrating World Thinking Day. The children looked very smart in their Brownie, Rainbow and Scout uniforms. It was lovely to see the support for this global event.



Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day

The children had a fun and educational experience celebrating Shrove Tuesday. They began by learning about the significance of the day for Christians, understanding that it marks the final day before Lent, a period of fasting and reflection. Shrove Tuesday is traditionally a time to use up rich foods, like eggs, butter, and flour, before the start of Lent, which is why making pancakes has become a well-loved custom. The whole school took part in making pancakes, following a simple recipe to learn the process while also connecting it to the cultural and religious importance of the day. After preparing and enjoying their pancakes, the children took part in spirited pancake races, a fun tradition often associated with Shrove Tuesday. In the race, each participant had to flip their pancake in the air while running to a designated point and back, testing both their cooking skills and agility. The event not only allowed the children to enjoy the day's traditions but also to learn about the history behind them. The children thoroughly enjoyed this unique combination of education, culture, and physical activity, making Shrove Tuesday an unforgettable experience.



Celebrating the Joy of Reading: World Book Day Highlights!

World Book Day Author and Illustrator Visit

We were delighted to welcome author and illustrator, Sam Usher, as part of our World Book Day celebrations. He ran engaging workshops for every year group, reading his stories and teaching children how to draw some of his well-loved characters. It was an inspiring experience and we are grateful to Sam for making the day so special!



World Book Day Dress-Up

World Book Day was a fantastic celebration, with children arriving at school dressed as their favourite book characters. From classic heroes to modern favourites, their costumes brought stories to life. Throughout the day, they had the chance to share and talk about the books that inspired their outfits. The children took part in book inspired activities throughout the day and shared their favourite books with each other.



Story Workshops

Over the past couple of weeks, each class hosted a story workshop, inviting parents to join their children in celebrating the joy of reading. It was fantastic to

see so many parents take part, enjoying a story together and getting involved in fun activities linked to books.



[Bedtime Stories by Candlelight](#)

On Wednesday 5th March, children returned to school in their pyjamas for our cosy Bedtime Stories by Candlelight event. With hot chocolates in hand, they listened to stories read by their teachers. It was a magical evening, celebrating the joy of bedtime reading.



[SEN Coffee Morning](#)

Thank you to those parents who attended the recent SEN Coffee Morning, it was wonderful to see networking between parents. During the coffee morning we talked about demand avoidant behaviours and the implementation boundaries to ensure that children feel safe and secure. For those of you that missed the session the presentation can be found on the school website by following this link: [Ilchester Community School - SEND](#)

[FIS Easter Bingo](#)

FIS will be running their Easter Bingo evening on Thursday the 3rd of April – further information from FIS will follow via ParentMail.

A Mufti Day will be held on Friday 28th March – to take part, please bring an Easter Chocolate donation. The donations will be used as prizes at the Easter Bingo.

You can find the term dates for the remainder of the term detailed below. I wish you all a restful weekend.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Mordue
Headteacher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

Half-Term Holiday	
Thursday 20 th March	Vision Screening – Reception 9.30am Scholastic Book Fair 3.20-3.45pm Infant & Junior Department
Friday 21 st March	Scholastic Book Fair 3.20-3.45pm Infant & Junior Department
Tuesday 25 th March	Years One and Two – SW Heritage Trust Toy Workshop
Wednesday 26 th March	Years Three and Four – Easter Performance – Puss in Boots Junior Hall Matinee 2:00 – 3:00 pm Evening 6:00 – 7:00 pm
Thursday 27 th March	FIS Mother’s Day Shop (See ParentMail for details)
Friday 28 th March	FIS Mother’s Day Shop (See ParentMail for details)
	Mufti Day - Donations of Easter chocolate for FIS Bingo
Wednesday 2 nd April	Year Five - Stanchester Academy WOW Day
	Year Three Trip – We The Curious, Bristol
Thursday 3 rd April	FIS Easter Bingo (Details to follow)
Easter Holiday and Easter Bank Holidays	
Tuesday 22 nd April	Return to School