



'Child centred learning in the heart of the community'

4th April 2025

Dear Parents and Family Members,

What a wonderful end it has been to the Spring Term with the children enjoying lots of extra-curricular activities to support their learning.

The Junior children have finally made it on to the school field and are thoroughly enjoying the extra space and sporting opportunities at lunchtime.

We have been focusing on being respectful over the last half term; exploring what it means to be respectful and what the impact can be when we are disrespectful to our friends, our belongings and ourselves. We will continue to focus on this during the Summer Term. This is a good opportunity to get the children involved in some jobs at home and learning what it means to value their things.

Some of our Year 5 pupils are taking part in this year's Children's Parliament which is a public speaking competition for upper key stage 2 pupils. The children have been tasked with completing a 5 minute presentation on the theme of 'Making a Difference in our Community'. The children have chosen to focus on kindness within the school community. I have no doubt they will put every effort into the project and make us all proud.

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

In Class 3, we have been planning and writing our own versions of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. The children have completed fantastic story writing; writing sentences that include capital letters, full stops and adjectives. They did such a good job they were each awarded a Star Writer Certificate. Well done, Class 3. I am so proud of you all!

In Maths, we have been practising our fluency in multiplication and division. We have been using different approaches such as sharing and grouping to solve mathematical problems.

In History, we had a wonderful time when a lady from a museum visited with a selection of toys from the past for us to play with and explore. The children investigated the materials that the toys were made from and made links to our learning in Science. We thought about how the materials had changed over time and why.

This week we are putting the finishing touches to our vehicles in DT and will be bringing them home to show you soon!



Class 4

It's lovely to end the Spring Term with some sunshine! In English, Class 4 has really enjoyed 'Grendel: A Cautionary Tale About Chocolate'. Grendel had three wishes, and they all went wrong. The children wrote their wishes, and we discussed being careful of what you wish for! Making links with the story, we melted some chocolate and wrote instructions.

In Maths, the children have been measuring including weighing with scales and rulers. Great focus and understanding using centimetres and metres was shown. The children have been working on their pace to solve sums mentally using number bonds to 10 and 20 to solve challenging sums.

The highlight has been our toys learning! We all (including the adults) had fun playing your homemade games. They were creative and fun! The toy workshop was fantastic for the children to play Victorian games and got to dress up as a Victorian too! In DT the children have learned about axles and wheels; they have created imaginative vehicles. Well done for your determination, Class 4.



Class 5

In English, we have been enjoying the story of Beegu. It is about an alien who crashes her spaceship on Earth. We have used this as the stimulus for lots of great writing including; a letter to her mum and dad from Beegu telling them what has happened, our own version of a story – the day Beegu came to Ilchester School!, newspaper reports of the incident and retelling the full story. The children have loved this story and produced some great work. A sample of writing will be displayed in the corridor.

In History, we have completed our topic on toys. We really enjoyed our visit from the museum service and playing with some toys that were used a long time ago. Thank you also to everyone for bringing in parent and grandparents' toys from home for us to look at and compare with modern toys.



We have loved sharing the children's home learning projects, which was to design and make a game / toy. We had a great afternoon playing the games. It was so much fun learning to play new games and working collaboratively.



This half term in DT we have been designing and making a moving car. We have looked at wheels and axles, planned our design and then got to make them. We also had to be good at trouble shooting during the making process.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break.

Class 6

The focus in our English lessons over the past two weeks has been on poetry. The children have immersed themselves in the creative world of words and have had the opportunity to produce their very own alliteration and rhyming poems. It has been truly heartening to witness their creativity and imagination come to life through their work. The enthusiasm shown by the children has not only enriched their understanding of poetic devices but has also fostered a deeper appreciation for language and expression.

To further enhance their learning experience, I encourage you to engage your children in discussions about their poems. Ask them to share their thoughts on the themes they explored, the words they chose, and the emotions they aimed to convey.

Class 7

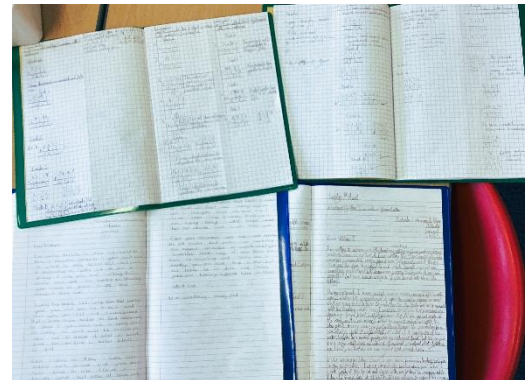
These last few weeks, the children in Class 7 have been busy writing; firstly, non-chronological reports about the fabulous city of Barcelona and lately a very well put together and balanced argument challenging the reader to choose between Paris or Barcelona for their next holiday destination. Where would you choose? In Maths, the children have revisited telling the time on an analogue clock so please feel free to test your child on their quarter to and twenty pasts.

The Year 3s enjoyed a fabulous science trip to 'We The Curious' in Bristol this week where no button was left unpushed or lever unpulled. Meanwhile the Year 4s continued their practical work in DT; learning how to cut and prepare vegetables ready for the Spanish tapas dish potatas bravas.



Class 8

In our English lessons, we have been reading 'The Old Man of the Sea' by Stella Elia. The children have taken on the creative challenge of writing letters as if they are traveling around the seven continents by boat, recalling their adventures and feelings. I have been particularly impressed with the results of our whole class as they push for greater presentation in their work - which has really invigorated the pride they have over their writing.



In Maths, we have been revisiting our understanding of fractions, focusing on converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions. We have since progressed to adding and subtracting two four-digit numbers, including those with multiple exchanges.

In Science, we have been busy exploring nutrition and learning how to understand food labels - which has paired nicely with the work they have been doing in DT. Additionally, we are discussing general lifestyle habits that contribute to keeping our bones, muscles, organs and minds happy and healthy. In Geography, our focus has been on researching the physical and cultural features of Spain. The children have compared these features with those of the UK and France - particularly things like climate, locations of towns and cities and most importantly, food!

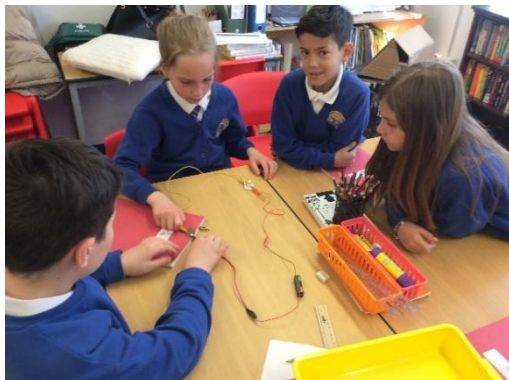
Lastly, I want to express how fabulously proud I was of everyone's effort in the Year 3/4 play *Puss in Boots*! A big 'well done' to all the children; it was a blast seeing their theatrical sides come out, and each student performed brilliantly!

Class 9

In English, Class 9 has been learning about the key features of explanation texts and the children have put their knowledge to the test by writing their own survival guides on *How to Survive in a Rainforest*. They've been using modal verbs to add clarity and nuance and brackets to include helpful extra information for their readers.

In Science, pupils have been investigating different materials and their properties. This week, the focus was on electrical conductivity. After predicting which materials would make good conductors or insulators, they built simple circuits to test their hypotheses. By observing whether or not the materials allowed electricity to flow and light up a bulb, they were able to draw conclusions based on real evidence.

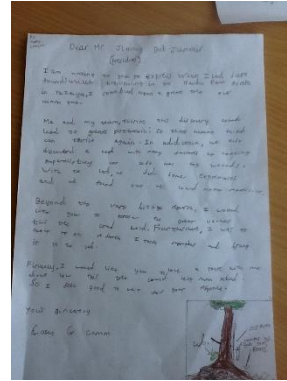
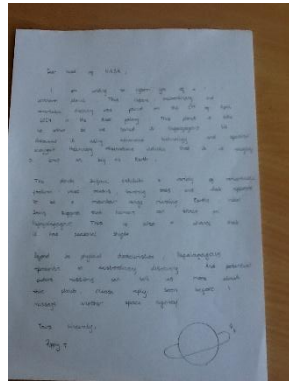
This term, children in Class 9 have been designing and building earthquake-proof structures for their DT project. Using wood, cardboard and paper straws, the children worked in groups to create buildings that could withstand the force of an earthquake. They used a range of tools, including glue guns, saws, and craft knives (with safety always a priority!) and applied engineering techniques such as braces, cross-bracing, and tuned mass dampers to strengthen their designs. Now the real challenge begins, testing their models on a homemade "shake table" to simulate an earthquake.



Class 10

This week, the children have done an amazing job writing formal letters about their discoveries of new plants, animals or locations. They've really impressed us with their use of formal language, advanced punctuation, and brilliant descriptions. Each letter is packed with creativity, making their discoveries sound truly exciting and believable!

It's been fantastic to see how much effort and enthusiasm they've put into their writing. They've carefully thought about their word choices and structure to make their letters sound professional while still letting their imaginations run wild. This has been a great chance for them to develop their writing skills in a fun and engaging way.



Class 11

Class 11 children have worked so hard this term - we are so proud of the effort they have been putting in.

We have had lots of fun in Science, investigating different materials. The children tested to see what makes the best thermal and electrical conductors.

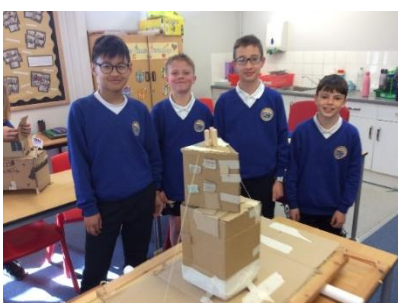
In Music, the children worked in groups to create their own short piece of music with a drum groove and a riff.

In DT the children have been working on creating stable buildings. They have used a range of materials, using hot glue and saws to create their final pieces. We have also started learning how to use Excel for organising a range of data in Computing.

In Maths, we have been practising solving problems that have more than one step as well as revising lots of different areas.

In English, we have enjoyed writing a set of instructions for 'surviving SATS' - the children had some very thoughtful advice for other children in a similar position.

We hope everyone has a wonderful, well-deserved break over Easter. We look forward to welcoming you back in a couple of weeks for our final term together.



Academisation

We were expecting our academy order to be completed on the 1st April 2025. However, we have been informed that this has been delayed for a short period and is expected to happen imminently.

We continue to benefit from the support from Preston Primary Academy Trust (PPAT); Bernie Green, the CEO, visited the school on Monday and spent time across the school.

Year 3 Visit to We The Curious

On Wednesday this week, the Year 3 children from Classes 6 and 7 visited 'We The Curious' (formerly @Bristol) in Bristol to support and enhance their term's work studying the human body. After arrival, the children (and the adults too if we're honest) had a wonderful time trying out the various exhibits and activities that cover all aspects of the science curriculum; from outer space to food production, they experienced it all. Following a well needed break for lunch to recharge the batteries, the children undertook an immersive experience, exploring the workings of the human body, in the centre's studio area.

A great time was had by all and the children's manners and behaviour were a credit to themselves and to the school. Many of the children said that they would love to go again. 'A big thank you' to the parents who gave up their time to support the children on the trip, it is much appreciated.'



T1 Rugby Coaching

Since half term, children in Key Stage 2 have welcomed RFU Community Coach Helen Sheerman into school and have enjoyed sessions with Helen to learn the basics of the beautiful game through the RFU's new school's initiative, T1 Rugby. The children developed their attacking, defending and ball handling skills through a range of fun games, drills and activities and who knows, hopefully the next Marlie Packer or Ollie Lawrence is in our midst.



Year 5 Swimming

The Year 5s in Class 9 have had a wonderful term of swimming at Huish Episcopi Academy. They have understood how to stay safe, built their water confidence and learnt new swimming strokes too. Their behaviour was exemplary, and staff regularly commented on how polite and sensible the children were.

Miss Bullen to Mrs Boon

Miss Bullen has been planning her wedding to her partner for many months now. However, she took the decision during February half term to elope. Miss Bullen and her partner travelled to Las Vegas where they married and enjoyed a once in a lifetime experience together. Miss Bullen has taken the decision to use her maiden name for the remainder of the school year. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Mr and Mrs Boon and wishing them a lifetime of happiness together.



Cross Country

The final race of the season took place last week on a gloriously sunny afternoon at Yeovil Recreation Ground. Our squad of fifteen runners tackled the long course with great determination and many pleasing finishes were achieved including a few personal bests (well done AJ for your 7th placed best finish of the season). The school achieved a creditable five Top 15 individual finishes, including fifth place in the Year 4 boys' event (well done BB) and the Year 3 girls finished third in the team event for their age. Fingers crossed that after his consistently high finishes, BB will be selected to represent the Yeovil Area Team against the teams from other areas of the county in the coming months.



Well done to all those who have represented our school by participating in the various races this year, we hope to see you all again in September ready for the new season.

Years 3 and 4 Play

After weeks of hard work learning their lines and singing the songs, the children in Classes 6, 7 and 8 performed their Spring production of Puss in Boots last week to packed audiences in the Junior Hall. A wonderful production of this much-loved tale was enjoyed by all who were there to see it. The children have worked so hard in pulling the show together and they should be rightly proud of themselves for their efforts. We certainly have some stars of the future in our midst.



Attendance Matters - Punctuality

It is important that your child attends school every day and on time. Arriving late to school is unsettling for children and disrupts the start to their day. Did you Know? 10 minutes late every day = 33 hours lost learning each year!!

The easiest way to ensure your child attends school on time every day is to establish a good evening and morning routine. If mornings are hectic in your household, prepare as much as possible the night before. The children are expected to arrive at school at 8.40am and be in class at 8.55am (Juniors) and arriving at school at 8.45am and in class by 9.00am (Infants).

Please ensure your child is in school before the registers close. If your child arrives after this time, it is important to take your child to the Main Office to sign them in late. These late procedures are in place so that every child is entered onto the register correctly and can be accounted for in the event of an emergency. This is to ensure the health and safety of the children, so please make sure that these procedures are followed at all times.

E-Safety from Mr Raine

As we approach the Easter holidays, it's a great time to remind ourselves about the importance of e-safety, especially when it comes to the apps and games our children use. With more free time, children are likely to spend additional hours on their devices, making it important to ensure they are interacting with things that are age-appropriate.

Age ratings are designed to help you determine whether an app or game is suitable for your child.

Popular Apps and Games to Avoid

Here are some popular apps and games that may appeal to primary school children but are not recommended due to their content and features:

Apps:

1. TikTok (PEGI 12, Apple 12+): While popular for its short videos, TikTok can expose children to inappropriate content and online predators.
2. Snapchat (PEGI 12, Apple 12+): Known for disappearing messages, Snapchat can give a false sense of security and has features that can be misused.
3. Instagram (PEGI 12, Apple 12+): This photo-sharing app includes direct messaging and disappearing photos, which can lead to privacy issues.
4. Discord (PEGI 13, Apple 17+): A communication app popular for gaming communities, Discord can expose children to unmoderated chat rooms and inappropriate content.

5. Omegle (PEGI 18, Apple 17+): A chat platform that connects users with strangers, posing significant risks of exposure to inappropriate content and online predators.
6. WhatsApp (PEGI 13, Apple 12+): Although widely used for messaging, WhatsApp's features like disappearing messages and group chats can pose risks

Games:

1. Grand Theft Auto V (PEGI 18, Apple 17+): Known for its violent and explicit content, this game is not suitable for children.
2. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare II (PEGI 18, Apple 17+): A first-person shooter game with intense violence and mature themes.
3. Fortnite (PEGI 12, Apple 12+): Although popular, Fortnite includes in-game purchases, addictive design and chat features that can be problematic.
4. Apex Legends (PEGI 16, Apple 17+): A battle royale game with violence and in-game purchases.
5. Five Nights at Freddy's (PEGI 12, Apple 12+): A horror game that can be too frightening for young children.

Tips for Ensuring E-Safety

1. Review Age Ratings: Always check the age ratings and content warnings before allowing your child to download an app or game.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/video-games-age-ratings-explained/>

2. Set Up Parental Controls: Use parental control features on devices to restrict access to age-inappropriate content.

<https://us.norton.com/blog/how-to/how-to-set-parental-controls>

3. Monitor Usage: Keep an eye on the apps and games your child is using and discuss any concerns with them.

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/best-apps-to-manage-your-kids-phone/>

4. Educate About Online Safety: Teach your child about the importance of not sharing personal information online and how to report inappropriate content.

<https://lifehacker.com/an-age-by-age-guide-to-teaching-kids-about-online-safet-1850474580>

By staying informed and proactive, we can help ensure our children have a safe and enjoyable online experience this Easter holiday.

Darrell Wakelam - Artist

On Monday we welcomed local paper and card artist, Darrell Wakelam to the Junior department. Darrell worked with the children in Years 5 and 6 to produce a mural for the entrance hall.

Darrell worked with the children to develop their understanding and skills around texture, shape and lines. The children worked collaboratively to produce the amazing piece below.

We look forward to welcoming Darrell for three more dates during the Summer Term. On 30th April he will be working on a piece with the infant children.



Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who attended our Scholastic Book Fair. Together we have raised £175.79 for our school to spend on books.

We very much appreciated our team of parent volunteers who handled the purchase points for us.

Baby Forden

Here at ICPS, we are gaining a reputation for early baby deliveries. Mrs Forden was due to be taking maternity leave from the end of the Spring Term. However, Baby Forden had other ideas and decided to arrive four weeks early.

Mrs Forden gave birth to a healthy baby boy on Tuesday 25th March at 7.15am. Huge congratulations to Mr and Mrs Forden on the birth of baby Billy. We are very much looking forward to his first visit to school.



Mother's Day Shop

A big thank you to Mrs McGrath, Mrs Wood and Mrs Verdon for organising the Mother's Day Shop at the Infant and Junior Departments. The children were thrilled to be able to select something special from the beautifully curated gift shop – and we hear that the 'Mothers and Others' were equally happy when they received their presents! This FIS initiative raised £164.70 which will be used for our children's benefit.

SSAFA Easter Egg Competition

We welcomed Trisha Hymas, Jason Walker, Anna Misiak and Kayleigh Gledhill from SSAFA to our Thursday assembly. They were here to present the prizes for the SSAFA Easter Egg Competition. There were some incredibly creative entries, and the children were delighted with their Easter eggs.

We have been participating in the SSAFA Easter Competition for twelve years and the children always look forward to it. The work that SSAFA do to support our current service personnel and our veterans is remarkable and we look forward to continuing our long-standing relationship with the charity for many years.



FIS Easter Bingo

Last night saw our annual 'Easter Bingo' event at the Infant Department which was full of fun and full-houses! It was great to see you enjoying family time together with the added bonus of Easter chocolate prizes and a very boozy raffle!

The event raised £468.75 towards enrichment activities and trips for the children. I would like to extend my gratitude to Matt Fletcher, Chair of FIS, his wonderful team and our, as ever, supportive ICPS staff for once again working tirelessly for the benefit of our children.



House Point Winners

We would like to say a big 'well done' to all of the children at Ilchester School for collecting house points over the term.

The total number of house points for the Spring Term are:

Unicorn: 8509
Wyvern: 9204
Dragon: 11,490
Griffin: 8523

Huge Congratulations to Dragon!! The children enjoyed their 'house reward' - A playground Easter Egg Hunt, swapping their paper Easter Eggs for sweets or chocolates!



It has been a term filled with numerous engaging learning and enrichment activities for the children. They have continued to work hard and rise to the high expectations the staff team have for them, making us very proud of their achievements.

I am looking forward to seeing the children to continue to thrive and flourish with all the exciting things planned for the Summer Term. You can find the term dates for the term detailed below.

I would like to thank you all for your support over the last term and wish you all a wonderful Easter break with your children enjoying time together and maybe some chocolate!

I look forward to welcoming you back to school on **Tuesday 22nd April.**

Yours faithfully

Michelle Mordue
Headteacher



DATES FOR THE DIARY

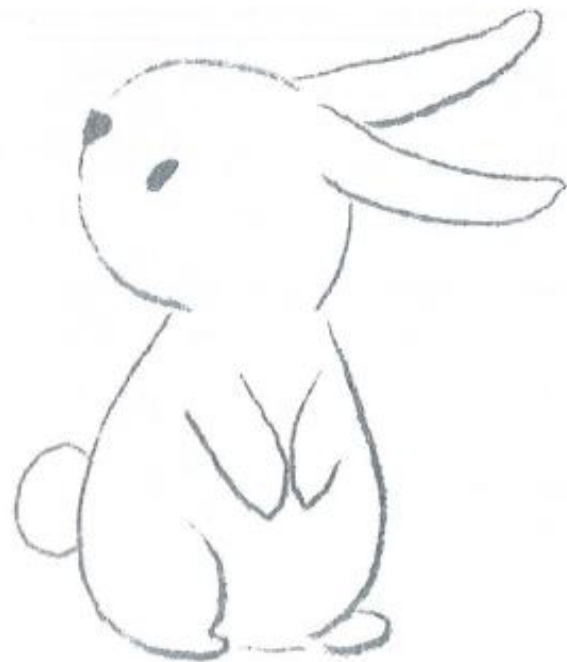
Easter Holiday and Easter Bank Holidays	
Tuesday 22 nd April	Return to School
Tuesday 22 nd April	National Measurement Survey – Reception and Year Six
Wednesday 7 th May	Road Safety Talks by Somerset Council
Thursday 8 th May	Bikeability - Year Five
Friday 9 th May	Bikeability – Year Five
Monday 12 th – Thursday 15 th May	SATS
Wednesday 14 th May	Bugfest – Pre-School and Reception
Monday 19 th May	Vision Screening – Reception
	Pinkery Group A – Monday – Wednesday
Wednesday 21 st May	Pinkery Group B – Wednesday - Friday
Half Term Holiday	
Monday 2 nd June	Return to School

Community News and Events

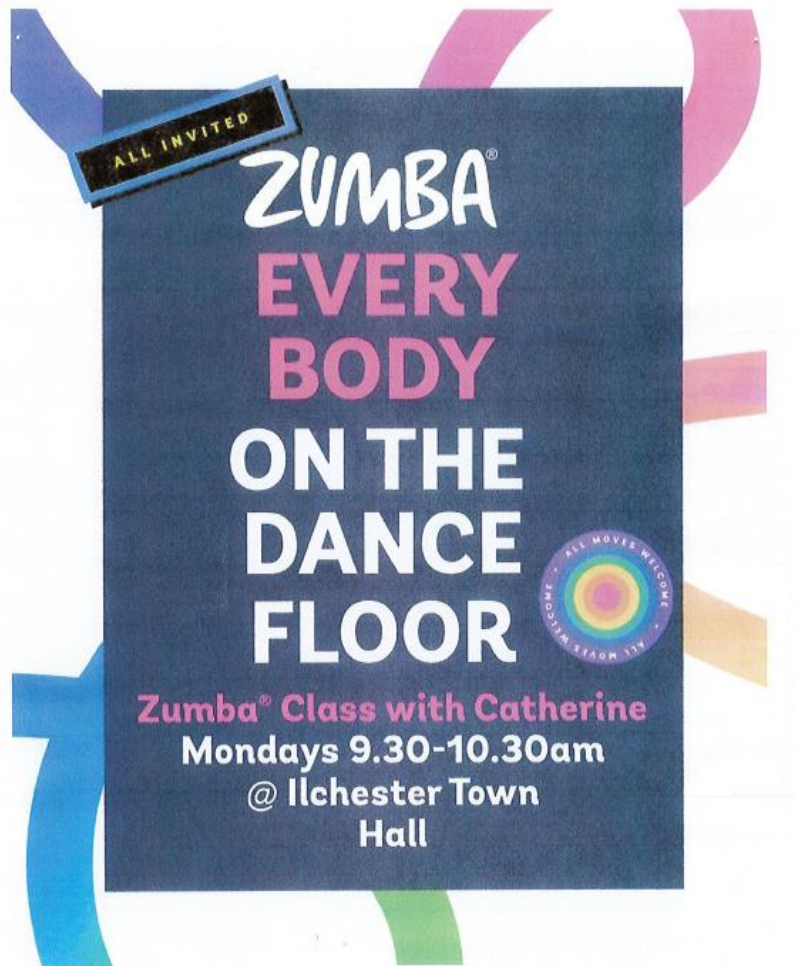
The Great Ilchester Bunny Hunt

1st - 17th April

Pick up a free entry form from outside the town hall or print one off from the IDCA facebook page, then take a walk through the village and see how many you can spot!




When you've found them all, drop off your completed form to the Town Hall to be in with a chance of winning an Easter Egg!



ALL INVITED

ZUMBA[®] EVERY BODY ON THE DANCE FLOOR

Zumba[®] Class with Catherine
Mondays 9.30-10.30am
@ Ilchester Town
Hall



LOST LADY SOCIETY PRESENTS
**POP-UP
MARKET**

16TH APRIL

 REUSE & RECYCLE	 10AM - 12PM	 THE TOWN HALL, ILCHESTER
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lostlady [society](#) We have some old friends coming along to our next pop-up market on Wed 16th April. ...