



'Child centred learning in the heart of the community'

23rd May 2025

Dear Parents and Family Members,

It has only been two weeks since our previous Newsletter and yet the children have been incredibly busy both in and outside the classroom.

In our assemblies, we have been focusing on being 'caretakers' of our environment and our responsibility to respect our property and look after our equipment, our school and our community.

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

Class 3

The children have enjoyed listening to, reciting and performing poems as part of their learning in English. Their favourites are definitely the poems that make them laugh! This week, we have been studying poems from the children's book 'Zim Zam Zoom'. They will be planning and writing their own rocket poems using verbs and adjectives.

The children have also been working very hard in phonics, recognising phonemes and sounding out real and 'alien words'. This will really help them in the phonics assessments that will be carried out next half term.

In Maths, we have been continuing to improve our fluency with division and multiplication number sentences and problem-solving activities. The children are very confident when counting in 2s 10s and 5s. Great job, Class Three.

As part of our learning in Science, we have looked at a variety of bulbs and seeds and learnt about how they grow and what they grow into. We visited the polytunnel at the Junior School and looked carefully at all the different plants that

were growing there including potatoes, beetroot, courgettes and raspberries. The children enjoyed trying to match the seeds to the plant.

In History, we have been learning about the first flight. We studied transport before flight such as horse and carts, boats and trains and added these modes of transport to a timeline. We learnt about the first balloon flight and the first glider flight before finding out about the Wright Brothers and the famous first powered flight. The children loved acting as news reporters and creating short films to report the first flight in detail.



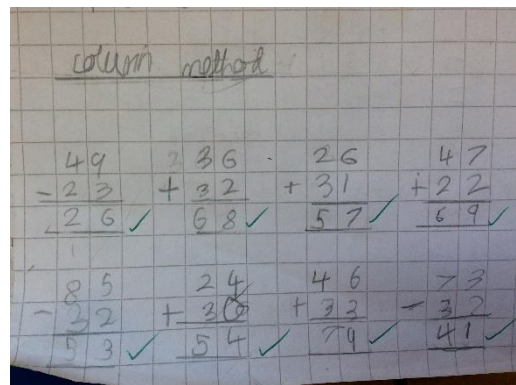
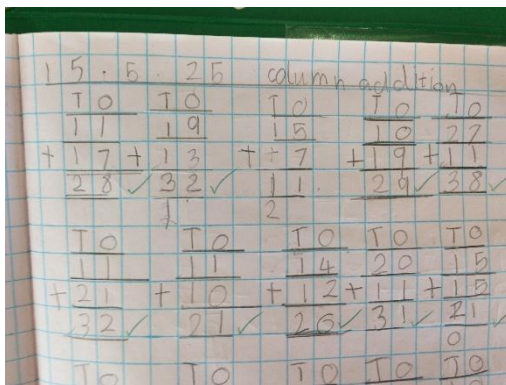
Class 4

Class 4 children have been very enthusiastic in completing lots of learning in their books. We have worked really hard on our presentation. From daily handwriting, Class 4 can write beautifully and neatly. There are still some reversals and or letters formed incorrectly, you know who you are! Keep practising at home! Year 2s have been practising their joining strokes. I am really proud of you all, your writing is fantastic!

In English, we have received a letter from Algernon (Big Bad Wolf). We have looked at the features of letters and written fantastic letters back. The children had fantastic ideas and really thought about how the wolf could say sorry. They came up with ideas of how the three pigs and the wolf can be friends. We have also been working on conjunctions. The children have a good understanding how to make their sentences longer using *and*, *but*, *because*, *or*. We have practised joining two phrases together to make a longer sentence.

In Maths, we have been working on our 2s, 5s and 10s counting (3s too for the Year 2s). The children have been working on their number bonds and recalling facts quickly. We have all had a go at column addition, even the Year 1s. The Year 2s have been subtracting too and exchanging, this has been a challenge. They got it! See below photographs of some Maths work; beautiful presentation from Lily G and Amelie.

In Science, we visited the polytunnel at the Juniors. We looked at all the growing plants and guessed what they could be. Class 4 had lots of prior knowledge and it was really interesting to see what they could recognise. The children were really interested in seeds and bulbs; we discussed these in detail again, recognising lots we see every day. For circle time we have been talking about friendships and worries. This has been a great time to share as a class and talk about when we fall out how this can be resolved.



Class 5

In English, we have been working on non fiction texts. Linked with our History unit in flight, we have been finding out about significant people and events in the history of flight. We have written biographies about Amelia Earhart and produced information pages about the 'pioneers of flight'. This including the first powered flight in 1903 by the Wright Brothers and the first hot air balloon designed by the Montgolfier brothers way back in 1783.



Amelia Earhart



The Wright Brothers



Montgolfier Brothers' balloon

In Maths, we have been working really hard on using column addition and subtraction, including with carrying and exchanging, to solve calculations and real problems. We even looked at some trickier 2-step problems that required us to really use our thinking skills. I have been impressed with the progress Class 5 is making using the column method for addition and subtraction in Maths. The children were also really excited this week to bring home their login details for playing TT Rockstars to practise their times tables.

In Science, we have continued our topic on plants and have been looking at seeds and bulbs and finding out how a plant makes seeds and what is inside them. Lots of children have told us about the plants they are growing at home for their home learning project.

In Art, this week we have completed our unit on sculpture by creating 3D paper bird sculptures using a range of techniques to create a 3D effect with paper. Check out some of our finished birds.



[Class 6](#)

During our outdoor activities last week, the children learned how to construct stick frames which they used to capture the beauty of nature through photographs. This hands-on experience allowed them to appreciate their surroundings while developing their observational skills. It was delightful to see their enthusiasm as they creatively framed their pictures.

In addition to photography, the children had the opportunity to explore their artistic talents using pastels. They created vibrant illustrations inspired by the

natural world around them. This not only helped them express their creativity but also encouraged them to observe details in their environment more closely.

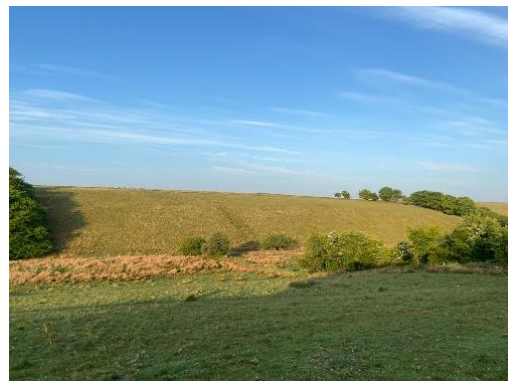


Class 7

In our English work over the last few weeks, the children have explored the classic Mary Howitt poem 'The Spider and the Fly'; a cautionary tale that supports the message warning against being lured into danger by deceitful flattery and false promises. Although written nearly two hundred years ago, the message holds true today. The class experimented with the rhyming couplet rhyme pattern to create rhythm, producing some fabulously imaginative innovations of the original.

Multiplication and division facts knowledge has been the maths focus recently in the run up to the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check which will take place when we return after half term. Keep practising those tables over the holiday, please. (<https://ttrockstars.com/>).

The big news of the week has been the Year 4 residential at Pinkery on Exmoor. The weather has been glorious and the children have had a fabulous time. No doubt they will return tired but thrilled with many stories to tell about all of their new experiences, and a big bag of dirty washing...



Class 8

It has been an absolute tornado of positive experiences for Class 8 since our last update!

We've been diving deep into the world of journalism in English; putting the finishing touches on our very own newspaper articles! We've also been on a mission to polish our punctuation skills. It's so crucial that our fantastic ideas are presented with well-constructed sentences, and we've been working hard to make sure our commas, full stops and apostrophes are all in the right places!

In Maths, we've been tackling the fascinating world of fractions and decimals. It's been great to see everyone getting to grips with these essential concepts. And speaking of applying our learning, our famous trip to Pinkery (which I will discuss shortly) showcased the dedication of our mathematicians, and I could hear them quizzing each other on their times tables while on woodland walks. We even had discussions about determining what fraction of the sheep in the field were lambs.

Now I can talk about Pinkery! Class 8 (and the Year 4s from Class 7) have blown me away. In the history of taking children there, I have never seen a group demonstrate such bravery in the face of new challenges and kindness towards others. The rock climbing was an opera of children scrambling up to the top whilst the rest of the class cheered them on and managed their ropes. The black hole was a conveyor belt of children conquering their fears with unrelenting positivity and determination. "I'm nervous" quickly became "I'm going to do it again", which quickly became "I'm going to try it without my torch!".

There is honestly not enough space in this newsletter entry to write down all the ways I was proud of Class 8 during our time at Pinkery. As a fitting finale, as we walked across the coastal path, several times members of the public stopped one of the adults to compliment the children on their collective politeness and respect towards others. As lovely as it was to hear it so many times, it was never once a surprise. I am very proud of you, Class 8. Well done!



Class 9

This week, Class 9 walked down to the Ilchester Museum which was a brilliant way to bring our Roman topic to life. We explored fascinating artefacts and learned about daily life in Roman Britain, particularly focusing on the presence of the Romans in Ilchester.



In Art, we embraced the challenge of creating architectural models of tiny homes using cardboard and foamboard. This project pushed our creativity as we designed our homes through to making. It meant we had to try things out and experiment ideas as we created our models, changing our ideas as we went.



In English, we delved into narrative writing inspired by our class book, Darwin's Dragons. We have been creating scenes filled with tension to make our writing exciting for the reader.

We have been continuing our learning about evolution and adaptation in Science. We investigated the remarkable finches of the Galápagos Islands, exploring how their beaks have changed to suit the different environments they live in. We put our knowledge to the test with an experiment to find out which beak shapes are best adapted for picking up different seeds—an exciting way to see natural selection in action!

We hope you all have a lovely half term and we look forward to seeing you all when we come back!

[Class 10](#)

It's been a busy few weeks in Class 10 and there are definitely some big congratulations in order!

Firstly, I would like to say a huge congratulations to all of our Year 6 pupils for their incredible effort and determination during SATs week. You approached each test with focus, resilience and a positive attitude, and I am so proud of how hard you all worked. No matter the results, the dedication you have shown is something to be truly proud of—well done!

Secondly, a big well done also goes to our Year 5 pupils, who have been working hard on their recent research projects with Mrs Holland. The quality of your work has been fantastic and it's clear that you have put great thought, time and creativity into your presentations. Your curiosity and enthusiasm for learning have really shone through—keep up the brilliant work!

To conclude this busy half term, the children visited Ilchester Museum, where we were able to see different artefacts and resources found from the Roman era. The children were able to explore the museum and even explored a full-sized skeleton!



Class 11

Class 11 children have been working incredibly hard this term. We are now beginning to enjoy/looking forward to some of the 'Post-Sats' fun that we have planned.

Recently, in Science, we have begun to talk about Evolution and Inheritance. We spent a lesson thinking about how animals and plants have adapted to the environment they live in.

In Computing, we have been using a programme called Tinker Cad to create some 3D designs. The children have enjoyed exploring the platform and how to work with shapes in 3D. They have so far managed to create 3D name badges and a 5-part desk tidy.

In Art, the children have been looking at making miniature homes using foam board and cardboard skills using skills they have developed over the last half term in architecture.

We hope the children have a restful, well-earned half term. We look forward to enjoying the final weeks at Ilchester with them and making memories to last a lifetime!



Pinkery

What an unforgettable time our Year 4 children had on their residential trip to Pinkery! They truly outdid themselves, demonstrating extraordinary bravery and independence every step of the way.

From the moment they arrived, the children embraced the residential experience, enthusiastically taking on various chores. Whether meticulously laying tables, sweeping floors or drying dishes after meals, they tackled every task with a fantastic attitude. The staff at the Pinkery centre were incredibly impressed, constantly flooding us with comments about how polite and friendly the children were. This politeness shone through even when we were out and about; members of the public frequently stopped the adults during our woodland walks to commend the children's exemplary manners.

It wasn't just their politeness that stood out; their determination and courage were truly inspiring. We've never seen a group of children take on the daunting 'black hole' cave and rock climbing with such gusto. Their determination to conquer fears and push themselves was genuinely amazing.

The positive spirit was infectious, and some of the most heartwarming comments we heard from the children throughout the residential included: "I don't even miss my Switch!", "I don't mind if it rains, it will still be amazing!", "I wish I could do archery every day," and a triumphant, "I didn't think I would be able to climb to the top, but I did it both times!".

This trip was a fantastic opportunity for our Year 4s to develop resilience, teamwork, and independence, creating memories they'll cherish forever. Well done, Year 4!



Bugfest

This half-term, Reception and Pre-School have been busy exploring the fascinating world of minibeasts and nature!

Inspired by the beautiful book 'Tiny Perfect Things', the children have been noticing the small wonders all around them—from wriggling worms to fluttering butterflies. As part of our learning, we've been investigating the lifecycles of frogs, bees, and plants, observing how living things grow and change. We even got to meet some tiny tadpoles!

We read the story 'The tiny seed' by Eric Carle, and discussed the similarities of the lifecycles of plants and animals. The children were especially excited to conduct their own experiment to discover how cress grows in different environments. It's been a joyful and curiosity-filled exploration into the natural world!

On Wednesday 16th May, we had a visit from Nick from Bugfest, alongside his creepy crawly friends! Reception and Pre-School children were captivated by the different creatures, and some children were brave and had a go at holding. We met millipedes, tarantulas, stick insects, cockroaches, African land snails and more! As we had been learning lots about insects and mini beasts, the children showcased and explained their knowledge to Nick confidently. What a fantastic experience!



Deployment Support

We are acutely aware that we have many family members currently deployed overseas for a significant period of time. If you require any additional support during this time please contact our Family Link Worker, Mrs Dickinson via the school office. You may find it beneficial to visit our military family support page on the school website which can be found here:

[Ilchester Community School - Military Family Support](#)

During the first week back after half term, we will be running a parent and child deployment session for those who are serving abroad. There will be an opportunity to engage in some creative activities such as 'Daddy/Mummy boxes' and 'Countdown/Memory Jars'.

There will be a session for the Junior children on Thursday 5th June 9-10.30am in the Junior Hall and one for the Infant children on Friday 6th June 9-10.30am in the infant hall. There will be a ParentMail sent out for families to sign up to the sessions.

Ilchester Troopers will be returning after half term and will take place on Tuesdays after school at the Junior department.

VE Day

The children did an incredible job during the VE Day celebrations in the Ilchester Community. The Coffee Morning and Diners celebration lunch raised an incredible £467.35 for Combat Stress. Julie Stapleton has communicated the

numerous positive comments our children received from members of the community. As always, our children represented the school brilliantly and lived our mission statement to the full.

E-Safety from Mr Raine

In our increasingly digital world, children are growing up surrounded by screens. While technology offers incredible learning opportunities, it's crucial for us as parents to actively manage our children's online and screen time. This isn't just about limiting access; it's about fostering healthy habits that support their emotional and cognitive development.

A growing body of research has highlighted the potential impact of excessive and unmanaged screen time on children. Beyond the physical effects, there are significant developmental considerations:

- **Impact on Empathy:** Constant engagement with screens, particularly content that is fast-paced or lacks social interaction, can sometimes limit opportunities for developing empathy. Real-world interactions, imaginative play, and face-to-face communication are essential for learning to understand and empathise with the feelings of others.
- **Intolerance of Boredom:** Many digital platforms are designed to provide constant stimulation and immediate gratification. This can inadvertently reduce a child's tolerance for boredom, a crucial state that encourages creativity, problem-solving, and self-directed play. When children aren't comfortable with downtime, they may struggle to entertain themselves or engage in activities that require sustained effort.
- **Challenges with Delayed Gratification:** Similarly, the instant feedback loops standard in online games and social media can make it difficult for children to persevere with tasks that don't offer frequent, immediate rewards. Learning to accomplish tasks that require sustained effort, such as practising an instrument, solving a complex math problem, or even building a LEGO masterpiece, often involves periods of challenge without instant positive reinforcement. This skill is essential for academic success and overall well-being.

What Can We Do?

We encourage you to have open conversations with your children about their screen time. Consider:

- **Setting clear boundaries:** Establish consistent rules for when, where, and for how long screens can be used.
- **Encouraging offline activities:** Prioritise opportunities for imaginative play, reading physical books, outdoor adventures, creative arts, and face-to-face interactions with family and friends.
- **Being a role model:** Children learn by observing. Your own screen habits are influential.

- **Co-viewing and discussing content:** Engage with what your children are watching or playing, and discuss the themes, characters, and messages they convey.

By actively managing screen time, we can help our children develop essential social-emotional skills, foster resilience, and encourage the kind of creative thinking that can have a positive influence in all aspects of their varied lives.

[Visit to Ilchester Museum](#)

KS2 children recently visited the Local Museum to deepen their understanding of Roman history, particularly focusing on the presence of the Romans in Ilchester, historically known as Lindinis. This educational trip offered pupils a unique opportunity to engage with real artefacts and explore the significant impact the Romans had on the area. The museum's collection included pottery, coins, tools and even fragments of Roman buildings, all of which helped bring history to life in a tangible and memorable way. The highlight was definitely seeing the human skeleton!

During their visit, the children also explored detailed information displays that explained the importance of Lindinis as a Roman settlement. They learned how it served as a key location in Roman Britain, featuring roads, a fort, and a bustling town. The museum staff provided insights into how everyday life might have looked during the Roman occupation, helping the pupils connect what they had learned in the classroom with real historical evidence. Overall, the visit sparked great enthusiasm among the class and enriched their understanding of this fascinating period in local history.



[Staffing News](#)

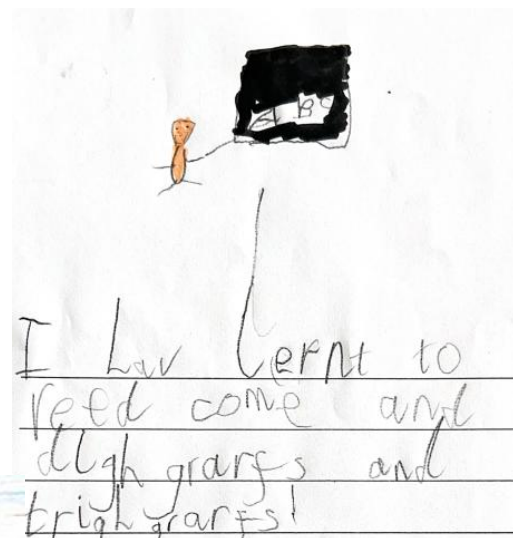
As I am sure some of you are aware, Mr Raine and Mrs Kenworthy will be leaving us at the end of the Summer Term. I would like to thank them both for all they have given to the children and Ilchester Community Primary School. We will look forward to celebrating their time with us after half term. I am sure you will join me in wishing them both every success for the future.

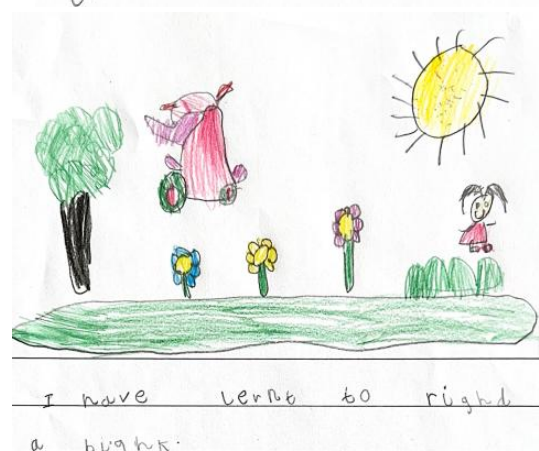
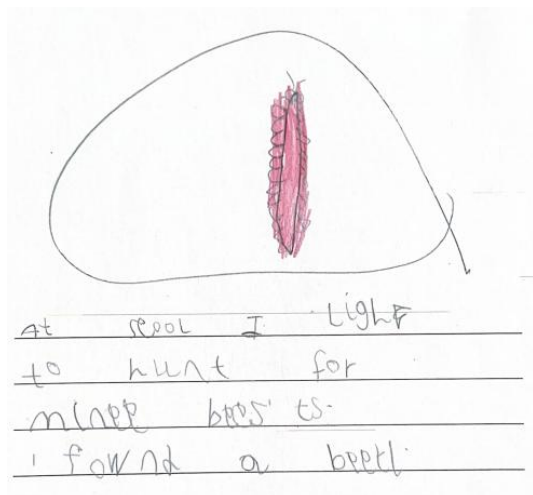
We will be welcoming Miss Dowling and Mrs Poulton to the teaching team. Miss Dowling is looking forward to using her music and sporting skills to enrich the children's experiences. Mrs Poulton is re-joining the Ilchester team after teaching here for many years; she brings with her a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion for the Ilchester Community.

It has been a lovely, albeit very short, half term here at school. The children have worked exceptionally hard, particularly our Year 6 children who were amazing during their SATs week. They are now busy planning all of their celebration activities for their last half term here at ICPS which will be thoroughly deserved.

I wish you all a wonderful half term break with your children and families and I look forward to welcoming you all back when we return on Monday 2nd June.

To bring this half-term to a close, the Reception children have been writing about and drawing their favourite things at school -





Thank you all for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Mordue
Headteacher

SUMMER TERM 2025



KEY DATES FOR DIARY (Subject to change)

May	26.05.25-30.05.25	Half Term week- school closed
June	02.06.25	School Commences Juniors 8.55am/Infants 9.00am
	02.06.25	Imago Group class photos for Reception and Year 6 pupils
	04.06.25	War Horse Bristol Hippodrome Years 5 and 6 FIS Coffee Morning Town Hall
	05.06.25	Ilchester's Got Talent Classroom Rounds (PM)
	05.06.25	September 2025 Reception Entrants' Evening 6.00 pm
	09.06.25 - 11.06.25	Year 6 Great Wood Residential Visit
	12.06.25	Ilchester's Got Talent Grand Final (PM)
	20.06.25	Sports Day – Infants 10.30am/Juniors 1.30pm (Reserve date 27.06)
	23.06.25 – 27.06.25	Sponsored Bike Ride Week
	25.06.25	Reception 2025 Stay and Play 3.30-4.30pm
July	02.07.25	School Transition Day
	02.07.25	Stay and Play– Reception 2025 10.00 – 12.00
	08.07.25	Upper Junior Production Dress Rehearsal 9.30am
	08.07.25	Upper Junior Production Evening Performance 6.00pm
	09.07.25	Upper Junior Production Evening Performance 6.00pm
	11.07.25	FIS Summer Fete
	W/C 14.07.25	Annual Reports to Parents
	17.07.25	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly, Junior Department 4.30pm followed by meal for Year 6 pupils
	18.07.25	School Closes for Summer Holiday Infants 3.15pm / Juniors 3.20pm

Autumn Term 2025

September 02.09.25

School Closed- Staff Training Day

03.09.25

School Commences Juniors 8.55am/ Infants 9.00am

Community News and Events

RN FPS Community Support

DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT DROP IN

Book your place through the RN Forum



Aggie's DEPLOYMENT SUPPORT

Community Drop-In
Tuesday 10 Jun 25

Tall Trees Community Centre,
Ilchester, BA22 8JP

1500 - 1700

Booking essential so we know how many Hot Dogs need cooking!

<https://forum.royalnavy.mod.uk>

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