

Learning Academy Partnership (South West)

ILSHAM CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

September Newsletter 2013

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Child's name.....Class.....

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EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER INTRODUCTION

Welcome back to the brand new school year and we hope that you have had a good and enjoyable summer. The new school year is always a very exciting time; a new beginning filled with new learning opportunities and unlimited possibilities. It is a very exciting time of year!

Throughout the year, we look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure that your children are supported and challenged to experience the best possible start to achieve "excellence for all.

As well as welcoming new children and families, we are also happy to welcome some new members of staff to our school family.

We would like to welcome Miss Edge who will be joining the Reception teaching team working alongside Mrs Edwards in the Willows. Mrs Palmer will also be joining our Foundation team, from Ellacombe.

We would also like to welcome Miss Thompson and Miss Woodhall to our teaching team who will be teaching in the Rowans and the Maples respectively.

Mrs Smart is moving across from Ellacombe Academy to join our teaching team working as one of our specialists delivering one to one maths tuition and leading RWinc at Ilsham. Mrs White is also moving across from Ellacombe Academy working as a specialist in PE and Music.

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We welcome Miss Fisher who will be working alongside Miss Coombe in the Monkey Puzzles. We also welcome MRs Edwards & Mrs Brooks who join us in a voluntary capacity as part of their NVQ training.

At the end of last term we also welcomed a new MTA Ms Holmes to our lunchtime team and this term we sadly say goodbye to Mrs Fairbrother and wish her well for the future.

We are very fortunate that they will be joining our talented team and wish them well in their new roles.

As you are aware, my role involves overall responsibility and accountability for The Learning Academy Partnership, which consists of: Ilsham Academy, Ellacombe Academy and Little Stars Nursery. I work very closely with Mrs Bone (Ilsham) and Mrs Pitocco (Ellacombe) but as I operate across sites, Heads of Academies manages the Academy on a day to day basis. I do, however, look forward to seeing you at the many events that we will be organising throughout the year.

Mrs L Atkinson

HEAD OF ACADEMY INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents

Welcome back to what promises to be yet another fulfilling and hugely exciting school year. There is a really positive vibe in the academy about the new school year and all the children have returned eager to get started and are full of enthusiasm and excitement about their new class and the year ahead.

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I would like to extend a special welcome to all of the children and families who have joined the Learning Academy Partnership and the Ilsham Academy family. For those of you who are new to our school family, each month you will receive a newsletter which contains news on events, the children's work and what is happening in the Learning Academy Partnership. Most reply slips will also be placed in the newsletter. A copy can also be found on the school website if you prefer an electronic copy (www.ilsham.com).

In addition to the monthly update, each week, the class teacher will place a class newsletter in your child's home learning book. This will keep you up to date with class based information, including attendance figures.

We work very hard to ensure we have effective communication with parents and your feedback has shown that you value the newsletters and the weekly newsletters. Please let me know if there are any ways in which we can improve how we pass information along. Also see the section on the website later in the newsletter.

If you have any questions, please make an appointment to see your child's teacher. If you feel that it is a matter where you are unable to speak directly to the teacher please make an appointment with the Assistant Head who is leading your child's team: Miss Coombe KS2, Mrs Edwards EYFS and KS1. Mrs Parr is also on hand to support with any pastoral needs and questions.

As you know, Mrs Davidson is currently working in a school in Nairobi, Kenya. Mrs Pascall has taken on the role of SENCO across

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the Learning Academy Partnership. She will be able to support you and your child if they have a special educational need.

In the July Newsletter, Mrs Atkinson highlighted what a successful year the Learning Academy Partnership had had. We know that this year will be even better and even more successful. Working in partnership is the key to the success that we are able to secure for the children and their school life. We have many events coming up over the autumn term: class acts of worship, harvest festival, parent consultations and many more. We know that you will support your child by attending these events. If there has been any change of circumstances over the summer then please let the class teacher know or fill in the change of circumstance form at the end of the letter. This will be forwarded to Mrs Parr and the pastoral support team.

WELCOME TO THE ILSHAM FAMILY

We would like to welcome the following pupils to our academy family:

The Willows: Sophie, Leona, Niiia, Aeryn, Tymon, Igar, Ashton, James, William, Liberty, Delilah, Daisy, Olivia, Harry, Honey, Tyler, Henry, Lilia, Frankie, Reuben, Savanagh, Bella, Sophia, Kit and Lucas

The Rowans: Jessica

The Beeches: Sophie

The Maples: Holly

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There are dates at the end of the newsletter and lots of opportunities for you to come and be part of school life. I wish you a happy and successful Autumn Term.

Mrs Bone

Head of Academy

ATTENDANCE

As you may know, attendance is a high priority within the Learning Academy Partnership. Why? In order to ensure that your child achieves the very best that they can they need to be in school every single day. Children have one chance to have a successful primary school career, they cannot go back and do it again so we need to make sure that they are in school to learn and develop in order to be the best that we can be.

- Last year, by working in partnership with you, our attendance improved slightly from 95.17% in 2011/12 to 95.46% in 2012/13. Whilst this wasn't quite the target of 96% it shows that we are moving in the right direction - this year we will smash it!

As you know, the directors of the Learning Academy Partnership do not authorise holidays in term time. In order to support families to access cheaper holidays, we have a two week half term in June. We had fantastic feedback from parents who valued this week to access more reasonably priced holidays. By not taking holidays in term time, you are maximising the amount of learning and progress that your child is able to make.

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Illness is often the reason behind absence, however, last year lots of you considered if your child was just a little under the weather or really too poorly to come to school. Quite often once a child is in school they are distracted by the busy nature of the school day and feel a little better for coming into school. Some parents had commented that they normally wouldn't have considered sending them in but saw the value in sending them in. We would always send home a child who is too poorly to be in school.

If your child is too poorly to come to school, please telephone the school office, as soon as possible. If we do not have a message, the office will ring home. This not only provides us with a reason for the absence but it is also a child protection issue. If we cannot contact you, we may make a home visit or in some cases contact Children's Services if we have any concerns about the absence. Please let us know as soon as possible.

We know that you are committed to ensuring that your child achieves their best. Throughout the year we will be having various initiatives to support and motivate the children to come to school every day. First of all we create a safe, happy and welcoming environment where your child can thrive. Secondly, we have designed a curriculum to inspire and engage your child so that they want to be in school learning and making progress. Thirdly, individuals, and classes are rewarded for having the best attendance and beating the 96% and achieving 100%! The Class Award is the one of the most eagerly awaited announcements at the Friday Celebration Assembly.

In order to support families with attendance, Mrs Parr and the pastoral team are on hand to support. Please contact Mrs Parr if you

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have any questions or need some support with encouraging your child to come to school regularly.

We look forward to celebrating AMAZING attendance over the next year!

PARENT VIEWS MATTER

Two years ago, parent questionnaires highlighted that parents, whilst appreciating the improved communication, wanted further improvements to be made. We did this with the newsletters, weekly newsletters, home work journals, text messages, teachers on the playground, notice boards and lots of opportunities to be in school.

This year we will be developing the Ilsham Academy website. Copies of important letters and useful documents are already on there. However, we will be improving the site by having weekly class updates from the teachers. Copies of the weekly newsletters, homework and other information will also be available.

GRAMMAR SCHOOL 11+

As you will no doubt already be aware if your child is in Y6, the deadline for 11+ applications is fast approaching (13th September). This is just a quick reminder - if you would like any help or advice, please do not hesitate to talk to Miss Coombe (KS2 Assistant Head) who will be more than happy to answer any questions.

CHANGES TO MEDICAL CONDITIONS

It is essential that the school holds the most up to date information about medical conditions and a change to doses of medicine, including

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asthma inhalers. It is vital that we hold correct contact numbers and details for each child so that we can contact you immediately in case of an emergency.

You will find a medical form in the back of the newsletter. If there has been a change to your child's medical condition or medicines have been altered, please can you fill in the form and return to the office. This will ensure that we always have the most up to date information on your child.

SUNDAY 6th OCTOBER 3PM: CHURCH SERVICE FOR CIVIC MAYOR

As you may know, Cllr Julien Parrot is a special member of our academy family. Not only is he one of the LAP directors but he was also appointed as Civic Mayor earlier in the year.

Cllr Parrot is also an active member of the local community and champions and supports the Ellacombe ward.

On Sunday 6th October, there will be a church service for Cllr Parrot which will be held at Ellacombe Christchurch at 3pm.

The Learning Academy Partnership choir will be part of the service and we not only invite families of the choir but all children and families of Ilsham Academy. We look forward to seeing you there.

CLASS ACTS OF WORSHIP

We have had so many wonderful and positive comments from families and guests both verbally and in the Visitors book who enjoyed the opportunity to be in school and share in the children's learning

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journey that we have reflected on this feedback and wanted to continue to provide even more of these opportunities. Therefore, spread across the school year, each class will be organising a class assembly. This will be an opportunity for them to share their learning with their families in the form of an Act of Worship. Following the Act of Worship you will be able to view some of their work in their classroom.

We understand that parents diaries are always busy so below are the dates for the year so that you are able to attend with enough notice.

Friday 25 th October @9:00a.m	Monkey Puzzles: Y6
Friday 8 th November@9:00a.m	Oaks: Y5
Friday 15 th November@9:00a.m	Hollies: Y4
Friday 22 nd November@9:00a.m	Maples: Y3
Friday 29 th November @ 9:00am	Beeches: Y2
Friday 6 th December @ 9:00am	Rowans: Y1
Friday 10 th January @ 9:00am	Willows: EYFS

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WE LOVE READING!

This is the year of reading across the Learning Academy Partnership. Our aim is to create a life long passion and interest in reading, for enjoyment. Read Write Inc is our incredibly successful programme which teaches the children how to read, rapidly. However, reading is much more than the actual skill. It can enrich our lives, take us to new places, inspire us, introduce new ideas, inform us and widen our vocabulary.

To inspire this LOVE of reading in each and every child, throughout the year, we will be working with poets, authors, the library and other story tellers. Alongside class novels, reading to inform and reading for fun we would ask parents to also take up the challenge to inspire and excite your child about reading.

How can this be done? Bedtime stories are a fantastic way to not only have some quality time with your child but help them develop a love of books. We often think that children's reading can be improved by them reading to an adult. However, a child hearing an adult read to them is essential, they hear the expression and can focus on understanding what is happening in the story and enjoying it rather than having to focus on decoding new words. A balance of reading to and being read to is the perfect mix.

Join the library! At the induction meetings, at library visits and at assemblies we have signed up most children in the school to Torquay library. There is also the Book Quest competition which can be accessed through Torquay library. We have had lots of children

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from across the academy who took part in the summer reading scheme: Creepy House. The children won various prizes as they worked their way through six books. These six books even count towards the Book Quest mission where the children are challenged to read 100 books. Lots of the children have brought their certificates and medals in and we have shared them in Celebration Act of Worship.

So, let us work in partnership to ensure that every child in the partnership is inspired to read for fun and develops an essential and life long skill!

If you have any questions about how to support your child's love of reading, please speak to their teacher.

READ WRITE INC: OPEN CLASSROOMS

This will be our first full year of Read Write Inc but its impact has already been huge. It's success was proven by a phenomenal **89% of our children passing the governments Phonics Screening** assessment in June.

The RWinc programme is aimed at children in EYFS - Y2 but older children who have gaps in their phonic knowledge benefit from the programme as well.

It is a rapid and daily programme which develops their knowledge of letter sounds and how to Fred Talk them and blend them. It also teaches them how to segment the sounds to spell words.

Children bring home books which are books they can already read in order to help them practice their Fred Talking.

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In order for parents to understand how we teach the children and how they can support at home we will be running a week of open mornings for parents and family members. Come along and be part of a RWINC lesson and learn alongside your child. Come and find out how to Fred Talk and use your Fred Fingers! If you are a superstar you might even get treated to a firework! Last year the parents who came and took part in a lesson said it was brilliant and really informative as well as good fun.

We will be running a crèche that week so that little people can be entertained while family members come and join in the fun. You will be able to join your child's lesson and see, firsthand, how they are learning to read and spell.

We would urge all parents of children on the Read Write Inc programme to come along for a session in order to help you support your child's learning and help them achieve the best that they can.

In order for us to cater for the crèche and ensure enough chairs are available, please can you indicate on the reply slip below if you would like to attend one of the opening morning sessions. We look forward to seeing you there!

MEET THE TEACHER: CURRICULUM MEETING

We would like to give all parents the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and find out about the new procedures and protocols in their new, year group.

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In order to do this we would like to invite all parents to a meeting with the teachers. During the meeting you will be able to put a face to the name of your child's teacher, meet the Assistant Head who is leading your child's team and find out about the curriculum and how you can support. The meetings will take no longer than 30 mins. Unfortunately we will be unable to provide a crèche on this instance, however, please feel free to bring along smaller people if you are unable to find alternative childcare.

Working in partnership is vital and therefore we would see it is crucial that all parents attend these meetings.

The meetings will take place at the following times:

Monday 16th September @2:30pm in The Rowans	Y1 Meet the Teacher meeting. All parents of children in Y1 invited to meeting with Miss Thompson and Mrs Edwards
Monday 16th September @3:00pm in The Beeches	Y2 Meet the Teacher meeting. All parents of children in Y2 invited to meeting with Miss Weyman and Mrs Edwards
Wednesday 18 th September @ 3.05 pm in The Maples and The Hollies.	Y3 and Y4 Meet the teacher meeting with Miss Woodhall and Mrs Bradfield
Monday 16 th September @ 3:05pm in The Oaks and The Monkey Puzzles	Y5 and Y6 Meet the Teacher meeting with Miss Saunders and Miss Coombe

We look forward to seeing you there.

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FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Are you eligible for free school meals? If you receive any of the following your child may be eligible for free school meals:-

- Income support (IS)
- Employment Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Child Tax Credit without Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part V1 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you think that you may qualify for Free School Meals but choose not to claim, possibly because your child prefers to bring a packed lunch or for any other reason, the school will receive a reduced funding in its annual budget allocation. The funding allocation received by school is worked out using a formula and the numbers of children that receive free school meals are an important factor in our annual budget allocation. If you are entitled and have not applied, please let the office know so that the school can receive its full allocation, this can have a huge impact on our budget.

PRICE OF SCHOOL MEALS

Just to let you know that Eden Food Services, who provide our school meals, have increased the cost of school meals to £2.10.

If you think that you may be entitled to free school meals, please see Mrs May in the office. She can help you fill out the appropriate paper work.

By ensuring that the all parents, who are entitled, are registered for Free School Meals, the school is able to benefit from some additional funding which will impact on your child. If any circumstances have changed over the summer, please go and have

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chat to Mrs May who will be able to support and advise over eligibility for free school meals.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

School Starts at 8.45am - All children should be in school at this time.

We have a computerised attendance system and it is **vital** that if a child is absent, parents must phone school before 9:00 am or the absence will be registered as unauthorised. The bell sounds and doors open at 8.40am. Children must be in school by 8.45am each morning when school starts and registration commences.

Lessons begin at 8.50am prompt. Arrival between 8.50 and 9:00 am will be registered as late and all arrivals after 9:00 am will be registered as unauthorised.

CHILDREN ARRIVING LATE INTO SCHOOL

If your child arrives late into school they **MUST BE SIGNED IN BY THE PARENT/GUARDIAN** in the appropriate book in reception. A child must not be dropped off at the gate and left to enter school themselves.

CHILDREN ARRIVING IN THE PLAYGROUND BEFORE SCHOOL

Children should never arrive at school before 8.30am. The school gates open at 8:30 and unaccompanied children arriving before this time are at risk. The school gates open at 8:30am to allow for children to arrive ready for the bell sounding and doors opening at 8:40am. Please note that this is **NOT** a playtime. Children arriving during this time should not be running around the playground or climbing on equipment. They should either be lined up with their parents or in the case of older children, gathered around the trees. The playgrounds are **NOT** supervised for play at this time, become very overcrowded with parents, siblings, pushchairs etc and allowing

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your child to run around poses a risk to themselves and others.
PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHILD BY YOUR SIDE AND UNDER CLOSE SUPERVISION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please can you ensure that all items of your child's clothing are labelled, clearly. Initials can be confusing as many children share the same initials. Please can you label clothes with the full surname.

Name labels which are sewn in tend to be the most robust and eliminate lost property issues.

Don't forget to label coats and PE kits!

Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform, this includes school sweatshirts with the school logo, other variations are not acceptable.

HAIR

I would like to draw your attention to our School Prospectus which clearly states that bleached and dyed hair is not acceptable in school.

RESIDENTIAL MEETING

Please note there will be a meeting for parents of those children who will be going on this year's residential trip on Wednesday 25th September at 3 pm in The Monkey Puzzles.

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MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING - FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning - Macmillan Cancer Support
Friday 27th September.

In conjunction with the PTFA we are going to hold a coffee morning on Friday 27th September from 8.45 until 9.45 am in St Matthias Hall.

We would be grateful to receive donations of cakes on the morning. All donations will go to Macmillan Cancer Support who hope to raise £8 million across the UK to help change the lives of people affected by cancer.

We would ask that as many children as possible get involved with making cakes for this very worthwhile cause.

We all look forward to seeing you there.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Monday 16 th September and Wednesday 18 th September	Meet the Teacher Meetings. Come along to a brief meeting, meet the team and find out about the coming year and the curriculum that has been planned. This is an essential meeting for parents.
Monday 16 th September	CLUBS BEGIN
Wednesday 25 th September	Residential Meeting 3pm
Week of 30 th September: every morning	Every morning - 9.15m - 10.15 am Read Write Inc open mornings. Come along and see a lesson with your child. Learn how we teach the children to read and spell. Come along and have some fun and join in! For parents of Rwinc children only
Week of 7 th October	Learning Academy Partnership Y5 and Y6 Residential to Heatree House - Dartmoor.
Sunday 6 th October 3Pm	Civic Service at Ellacombe Christchurch @ 3pm. All members of choir to attend and all children and families invited.
Wednesday October 16 th @ 2pm	Harvest Festival in St Matthias Church
Friday 25 th October	Monkey Puzzles AOW and open classroom
WEEK OF 21 st OCTOBER	NO CLUBS DUE TO PARENT CONSULTATION MEETINGS

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Friday 25 th October	Half term ends. Return to school on Monday 4 th November
Friday 8 th November	Oaks AOW and open classroom
Friday 15 th November	Hollies AOW and open classroom
Friday 22 nd November	Maples AOW and open classroom
Friday 29 th November	Beeches AOW and open classroom
Friday 6 th December	Rowans AOW and open classroom
Wednesday 11 th December	Nativity Service time TBC
Tuesday 17 th December	Christingle Service 2pm.
Friday 15 th December	CLUBS END
20 th December	Autumn Term Ends

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ACADEMIC DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2013

Start	5 th September 2013
Half Term	28 th October - 1 st November
Ends	20 th December 2013

SPRING TERM 2014

Start	2 nd January 2014
Half Term	17 th February - 21 st February
Ends	4 th April 2014

SUMMER TERM 2014

Start	22 nd April 2014
Bank Holiday	5 th May 2014
Half Term	26 th May - 30 th May
Non Pupil Days	2 nd June - 6 th June
Ends	23 rd July 2014

REPLY SLIPS

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Ilsham Academy

Medical Conditions/Allergies Form

Name Of Child:	Class:
Medical Condition:	
Medication to be administered in school: Yes/No If medication to be administered in school, please complete Medicines to be administered in school form.	
If there is a change in the information given on this form, please complete a new form to update our information.	

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AFTER SCHOOL CHILDCARE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please return this slip if you would require afterschool childcare for the whole or part of the week.

Child's name:

Year group:

How many days childcare are you looking for?

What time would you need childcare until?

Please return this slip to Mrs May /Mrs Yeo in the academy office.

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READ WRITE INC OPEN MORNINGS: REPLY SLIP

Please indicate which day you would like to join a Read Write Inc lesson with your child. Please let us know how many people and if you require a crèche facility. We would urge parents with a child in a RWINC group to attend.

All sessions begin at 9.15 am and will be finished by 10.15 am. Please arrive at the main reception at 9.10am and you will be taken to your child's RWINC class.

My Childs Name _____

Name of
Adult/Adults _____

Date	Number of Adults	Crèche required
Monday 30 th September		YES/NO
Tuesday 1 st October		YES/NO
Wednesday 2 nd October		YES/NO
Thursday 3 rd October		YES/NO
Friday 4 th October		YES/NO

Please return the slip to Mrs May/Mrs Yeo in the office. If you have not booked a slot we may not be able to accommodate you on the day.

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