



JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2016

ILSHAM C OF E ACADEMY

'Together we empower excellence'



Head of Academy

Dear Families and Friends,

A slightly belated Happy New Year! A very warm welcome back after what was a wet, but I hope very enjoyable Christmas break for everyone.

On behalf of all of our staff I would like to thank you all so much for the lovely Christmas gifts and cards that you sent in at the end of last term. It is lovely to feel so appreciated! It's been wonderful to hear about the Christmas gifts the children received, and about all the special time spent together over the holidays.

It has been a fantastic start to the new term with all of the children getting stuck straight back into their learning and challenging themselves to make progress. It has been amazing to see so many fabulous home learning projects on the gate in the morning; from enormous dinosaurs and tudor houses to Eiffel Towers and an entire French meal made from ceramics!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for working in partnership and supporting in your child's home learning - it's crucial.

On the subject of parent partnership we would like to thank you for all of your feedback around Nativity and Christingle this year - many of you took the time to write in our Visitors Book and share that you thought it was the best yet!

It has been wonderful to welcome so many of you in already this term to support your child's learning; both our Year 1 Phonics meeting and Year 2 Reading Fluency workshop were very well attended and also the Maples and Hollies Class Worship and open classrooms.

You will have by now received the Spring Curriculum Booklets which are an invaluable source of information for parents and give you an overview of what is coming up over the Spring Term in each class. The teachers have some fantastic learning opportunities planned for the children - including some exciting visits and visitors! We have already had children in The Rowans experiencing life as paleontologists for the day and there were mysterious dinosaur footprints all over the school which arrived overnight!

We have experienced our first LAP Writing Day! Our Monkey Puzzles spent a fabulous day working with Year 6s across the LAP being fully immersed in amazing writing opportunities. This was a fantastic opportunity for both pupils and staff to work together and we look forward to many more events in the future.

We tweet every day about what is going on in school so if you don't already follow us please do @ilshamLAP

We have such an exciting term ahead and we are very much looking forward to working with you all!

Best Wishes

Mrs E Bone

Dates for your Diary

- 5th & 8th February - Life Education
- 11th February - Year 5 Sports Hall Athletics
- 12th February - Year 5 Taster Day at TBGS & TGGS
- 8th - 12th February - E Safety Week
- 9th February - Safer Internet Day
- 15th - 19th February - Half Term
- 10th March - School Disco
- 11th March - The Willows Fire Brigade Visit
- 11th March - Share a Book
- 18th March - Share a Book
- 21st March - Parent Consultations
- 21st March - Hollies & Oaks 'Easter Tree'
- 22nd March - Parent Consultations
- 23rd March - Parent Consultations
- 23rd March - ERC Music Festival (6pm tbc)
- 24th March - Easter Service & Tea
- 24th March - End of Term

Child of the Month

Congratulations to Sienna Wilschere, Savanna Scott, Isabelle Cummings & Aaron Mills who received the Child of the Month awards in Act of Worship today.



Willows - Super Hero Kitchen

The Willows have been enthusiastically creating super healthy vegetable soup in their Super Hero outdoor kitchen.

It has given the Super Heroes lots of energy and super powers!



Home Learning



We have been 'blown away' by the quality of the home learning projects this half term. There has been a real buzz around our new Curriculum topics and we thank you for your engagement and partnership in this. Wow!

The Opening of the Qube

It has also been wonderful to finally be able to open the Qube! The children have been so excited to have this fabulous new space which we are using for: Collective Worship, Lunchtimes, PE and Drama to name but a few - the possibilities are endless. I know that those of you who have already been in to share Class Worship have really loved the new space!



Our New LAP Mini Bus

We have also been thrilled to unveil our LAP Minibus - and we have used it for a variety of purposes already, much to the children's delight! They have described it as 'luxurious!' We are using it for After School Clubs so that we can transport the children up to Warberry to use their outdoor space, to take The Hollies Swimming, Mathematicians group and a whole host of up and coming curriculum events.



Dinosaur Dig

You may have spotted The Rowans in the Herald Express last week! It was wonderful to welcome them on the gate in their full palaeontology gear!

They kicked off their topic with a trip across the hottest palaeontology sites in the world. The whole class took part in researching and plotting out specific digging sites ready to hunt for prehistoric fossils.

Everyone has a wonderful time matching up the artefacts discovered to recreate the skull of a Tyrannosaurus Rex, the spine of a Diplodocus and the skeleton of a Velociraptor!



Welcome to the LAP

You will have noticed that there are a few new faces to Ilsham and the wider LAP this term: including Mrs Boon and Miss Bradshaw in The Willows and we also welcome Mrs Guntrip who has joined us as RE and Christian Distinctiveness Lead across the LAP.



LAP - Family Support Team

Mrs Bertram, from the LAP Family Support Team, visits our school weekly on alternating on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Bertram has a wealth of experience in helping families and supporting parents and carers. Sometimes Mrs

Bertram will be able to help you directly, and sometimes she'll be able to link you up with the right people who can support you. If you would like an appointment please ring, email or call in to the Academy office.

Attendance

We are challenging ourselves to meet an attendance target of 98% this year and we know we can do it! We are currently running at 97%.

Please help us to achieve this target by not taking your child out of school in term time. Excellent attendance really does make a difference to the progress your child makes - and improves their life chances. Thank you for working in partnership with us to ensure that each and every child has the best possible start in life.

Worship



As you know this term we are exploring our Christian Value of Humility. Through our Collective Worship and Family Groups we are learning about how Jesus taught us, through his actions, the importance of Humility. The Hollies and The Maples led us in thought-provoking Class Worship centred around 'Enjoying your talents and those of others' and how although we cannot see our Values on the outside like we can our clothes we show that we are wearing them through our actions towards others.

We have been delighted to welcome families and friends from the Hollies and Maples over the last couple of weeks to Class Worship and open classrooms. We really value your feedback in our Worship book and the children love to share your comments in checkins.

' A great message ... Enjoy your talents and those of others! Let your lights shine!' (Hollies parent)

' You were all amazing... 'wearing' your best qualities gives joy to others and can make you feel good in yourself too' (Maples Parent)



All Saints Teaching School Alliance

Do you want to be a Primary School Teacher?

We are currently holding interviews for our School Direct Teacher Training Programme starting in September 2016.

- Train in one of our schools alongside excellent teachers and learn 'on the job'
- Established training programme working in partnership with University of St Mark and St John
- A valued member of the teaching team from day one
- QTS and PGCE awarded with 60 masters level credits
- Learn from outstanding practioners and up to date research to put theory into practice
- Be considered for a teaching post in one of our schools

To find out more please contact -

teaching school@astsa.org or call 01803 219252

Childcare Provision

We are looking into the possibility of providing a Breakfast Club in our new hall and extending our After School Club.

Attached to this newsletter is an Expression of Interest for childcare provision. If you are interested and would like to know more information please complete this form and return to the academy office..

Office News

Online Payment System

We are very excited to announce that we have now implemented an e-payment system to give parents more options to be able make payments for trips, visits and clubs.



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CHILDCARE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Please return this slip if you would like to express an interest in a Breakfast Club or require childcare after school.

Child's Name	Breakfast Club Provi-	After School Club

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