

Blue Class

Pupils have been exploring their class topic – summer. During a recent art session, pupils painted sandcastles, buckets and spades. Sand was then glued to the sandcastles to give the picture texture and provide a sensory experience.



Yellow Class

Continuing with an art and craft theme, Yellow class have made natural material plaques. Pupils used clay and selected natural materials. These were then pushed into the clay, making an indentation. To set the plaques, pupils carefully poured plaster of Paris over the top, which was left to set. Pictured is Leah making her natural plaque.



Jungle Classroom Display

Lilac Class have continued with their jungle topic and created an impressive jungle classroom display. This features many different animals including monkeys, snakes, parrots, frogs, crocodiles and lions. Well done to everyone in Lilac Class who worked together to create this colourful artwork display.



Willoughby Foundation Fundraising Report – July 2020

The Willoughby Foundation (formerly Willoughby School Fund) is made up of five trustees who meet every term. The main aim of the trustees is to ensure that money raised for the school is well spent and benefits all students. There is a rigorous application process in place for requesting the use of funds. The trustees scrutinise all applications, ensuring that the bidding process has been fully met and evidence given of the impact on students. Successful applicants must also feedback to the Willoughby Foundation.

Some of the successful applications this academic year include:

- Refurbishment of Sensory Integration Suite
- Happy Chick Company incubation of eggs
- Graduate Acheeva work station
- School visit from Zoolab

Below is some of the feedback received from teachers:

"The children were utterly fascinated by the animals and all wanted to touch them. Even the children who are reluctant to look at and engage with new things gave good eye contact and reached out, it was brilliant!" (Zoolab)

"Zoolab provided opportunities to the children to touch or observe animals that they had not seen before. The children felt safe and supported throughout the session. The provider had a calm pleasant approach with the children. All the children in my class were engaged throughout! (Zoolab)

"Our eggs arrived on Tuesday 17th March. We used a time lapsed video over night to see them hatch and by Friday we had ten fluffy little chicks" (Happy Chick). Unfortunately, school then went into lockdown due to Covid 19, but students were kept up-to-date of their progress via Tapestry. The children who still accessed school during lockdown thoroughly enjoyed watching them grow and develop.

In addition to funding the above application, this academic year we have raised £18,000, as a self-help donation towards a new 16 seat wheelchair accessible minibus from the Lord's Taverners charity. We are expecting delivery of the minibus in September 2020.



We are currently raising money for a new climbing stack in the upper school playground, once the new build has been completed. The price of the new climbing stack is in the region of £25,000. To date, £6,500 has been raised for this project.

The trustees of Willoughby Foundation and the whole Willoughby community send thanks to Micky Stokes, a parent of a pupil at Willoughby. Micky has worked tirelessly to raise funds for these two major projects. It would not be possible to provide everything we have for our students, without the very generous donations that we receive. We are very grateful to all who continue to support us.

The photos show Alfie enjoying his sensory routine in the refurbished Sensory Integration Suite and giving it a thumbs up.

Willoughby Time Capsule

Recently, Red Base moved the 2012 time capsule from its current position in the sensory garden to a new area at the far side of school. The capsule needed to be relocated due to building work taking place over the summer. Red Base students located the time capsule after several unsuccessful test holes. The class carefully extracted the capsule and dug a new hole before burying it once again. Then they decided to create another time capsule marking the unique times we have been in since the emergence of the COVID 19 virus.

Classes have been working hard to put together resources to fill the new capsule including photos, letters to themselves in the future, pictures of NHS workers, memories of being at home and poems. The new capsule will be buried in the last week of term. During the dig, Red Base also managed to save several plants and pieces of equipment which will be relocated when the build is complete.

Pictured below, Luke preparing to bury the time capsule.



School Uniform Update

Thank you for the school uniform orders, an order has been placed with the school uniform supplier. We are planning on distributing uniform during the last week of term. Please contact the school office if you would like to pay by BACS.

Free School Meals Update

If your child is in receipt of free school meals, this will be in the form of a voucher over the summer holidays. Further details will follow when they are available to us.

Academic Year 2020 - 2021

Planning and preparation is well underway for the new Academic Year, 2020 – 2021, which starts for pupils on Monday 7th September 2020. The Government has stated that all pupils are expected to attend in the new academic year. I will share plans of how Willoughby will operate, whilst following the Department for Education's guidance on the full opening of Special Schools, as soon as they are finalised.

Term Dates

The end of this summer term is Friday 17th July 2020. The school will be closed over the holiday and will reopen to pupils on Monday 7th September 2020.