



**WILLOUGHBY**  
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

We were delighted to welcome everyone back to school after the summer break, and particularly excited to meet and get to know all our new pupils and their families. It has been wonderful to see how well everyone has settled in and school has been full of fun, energy and enthusiasm. We also welcomed another member to the Willoughby family - Shaun the Sheep - who was very kindly donated by Robert Hinge and Wordwide Fruit.



It has certainly been a busy and exciting term. Pupils have been involved in a wide range of enriching activities including Sailability, swimming, dance sessions with Chloe, trips in to the community and to Wood Grange Care Home and work experience placements. We are delighted that one of our pupils has begun external travel training, which is an important and invaluable step towards independence.

A highlight for many pupils this term has been the addition of our sunken trampoline. It has brought so much joy and engagement to our pupils. We are incredibly grateful to Worldwide Fruit for their generous fundraising efforts that made this fantastic resource possible – thank you.



It was lovely to see so many parents at our recent Parents' Evening. Your involvement and support are very much appreciated and play a vital role in your child's learning journey. If any parents were unable to attend, please contact your child's class teacher, who will be happy to arrange an appointment with you.

Although it may seem early, we are in the process of preparing for Christmas and will soon be organising the Christmas Raffle. If you are able to donate a prize, or know of any companies who might be willing to donate please do let us know. Please send any donations in to the school office after half term.

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The Priory Federation of Academies Trust, Clayton Road, Lincoln LN5 8RE **Telephone:** 01522 871370

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Classes are also busy preparing their stalls for the Christmas Fayre. We would really appreciate donations of new toys for the Toy Tombola, as well as general tombola prizes to help make the event a festive success.



We are incredibly fortunate that Witham Hall School have chosen Willoughby to be their charity of the year for the second year and would like to highlight the following message.

*The Friends of Witham will be hosting the Witham Hall Winter Fair on Saturday 22nd November at Witham Hall, 10am to 4pm. You are invited to join us for a spectacular day of shopping, delicious food, and the chance to meet Father Christmas, all in support of our school's chosen charity, The Willoughby Academy in Bourne.*



This was a wonderful event last year and it was great to see so many Willoughby families attend.

### Whole School Dates

Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> October at 9am	Ideal School Meals deadline to order school meals for week commencing 3 <sup>rd</sup> November
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Pupil Photographs.
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Sunday Parade - Bourne
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need event – pupils are encouraged to wear something yellow and spotty
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November (for pupils with parental consent who were absent from school on the previous session)	NHS Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lower School Performance 10:00 in the school hall
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	School Meals – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper Day
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Santa visiting Willoughby
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Upper School Christmas Event at Bourne Abbey Church 10:00
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Disco (Christmas Jumper Day/Party Wear)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Willoughby Christmas Fayre 1.30pm – 2.30pm Parents/carers/friends of Willoughby welcome to attend the event.
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>End of Term</b>
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>

## **Rowan Class**

What a brilliant term it's been in Rowan Class! We've really enjoyed getting to know each other and settling into our routine. Everyone has shown fantastic enthusiasm for our class book *Charlotte's Web* in English, and we've seen great progress in our Maths work on place value. The children have worked incredibly hard in phonics and comprehension, and it's been wonderful to see their confidence and fluency growing week by week.

Science has been a real highlight this term! We've carried out lots of exciting experiments, including one where we recreated the human digestive system. It was equal parts fascinating and a little bit gross!



## **Fir Class**

We've had a super first term, and it's been wonderful to see everyone settling so well into the school routine. One of the standout highlights has been swimming—our pupils have shown fantastic focus and enthusiasm, working hard to develop new skills while being sensible and supportive of one another in the pool. It's been a joy to watch their confidence grow each week.

Our adventures have extended beyond the classroom too! With weekly trips into the local woods, where we've loved exploring nature, discovering hidden dens, and embracing the freedom of outdoor learning. A particularly exciting new addition to our school facilities is the sunken trampoline, which has quickly become a favourite with everyone. It's been a term full of energy, curiosity, and joyful learning, and we're so proud of all the children's achievements.





## Oak Class

What a fantastic and busy start to the year we've had in Oak Class!

Our topic this term has been "You've Got a Friend in Me", the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring their likes and dislikes through our sensory story "I Like Bees, I Don't Like Honey" and our lively sensory sessions.

The trampoline has been a huge hit with everyone—it's been wonderful to see the pupils having so much fun, especially as it's a brand-new experience for some of them!

In cooking, we've been focusing on breakfast-themed recipes, our standout favourite has been the delicious banana and honey loaf! We had different fruits to explore and the banana provided a range of different reactions. We wish you all a restful half-term break!



## Mulberry Class

What a busy start to 2025-6! We have all settled really well in class with new adult support. We have enjoyed exploring in our sensory story and writing sentences using our own preferred method of writing. We are all progressing nicely with our See and Learn reading programme. We enjoy daily reading/sharing of books and are now able to help Maureen read 'The Gruffalo' filling in the end of sentences.

We have looked at numbers in math's, extending skills where necessary in our EHCP target work. We have explored animals – their sound, characteristics and habitat in science and have had a look at ourselves in PSHE – finishing with a celebration of Black History Month – learning about Rosa Parks – who 'sat on a bus' and Diwali learning the story of Rama and Sita and the diva lamps.

We love Wednesdays where we have fun in Art, Cookery and Forest School. We have lots of sensory sessions built into our timetable – Tacpac, sensory massage, gym, dance (to shake sillies out), sensory room and snack and playtimes! This helps us regulate ourselves ready for learning. We are looking forward to Autumn 2 and all the celebrations that come with it! Wishing you all a fun Half Term.



### **Cherry Tree Class**

What a busy first term we've had! Our theme this term has been Friendship, and it's been a wonderful way to get to know the new adults and peers in our class. We've spent time laughing, playing, sharing, and even eating together—building strong bonds and happy memories.

We've enjoyed outdoor learning including Forest School, science walks in Bourne Woods and our Tesco trips.

Back at school we have enjoyed sessions on the trampoline and roundabout, the sensory room has been great for movement and relaxation.



## Holly Class

This term, Holly Class have truly amazed us with their enthusiasm, determination, and positive attitudes. From the very first day, they have shown an incredible ability to adapt to new routines, expectations, and challenges with little smiles and a willingness to try. We are so proud of how each pupil has grown in confidence and independence, developing their communication, social, and learning skills in such meaningful ways.

The progress we have seen this term has been fantastic. Each small step forward has been celebrated, and the children have continually reminded us why we love what we do. We are so thankful for the incredible support from our Holly Class families. Your encouragement, patience, and collaboration have played a huge role in helping the children succeed. We could not have achieved so much without you. Thank you for being such a vital part of our journey. We are so proud of everything the children have accomplished this term, and are excited to see what next term will bring.



## **Redwood Class**

Redwood Class have hit the ground running this half term! Our budding entrepreneurs launched their enterprise scheme with sizzling success, selling sausage and bacon baps to eager customers. The theme 'All About Me' has sparked wonderful conversations and writing about pupils' homes, pets, families, and hobbies. Swimming continues to be the weekly highlight, closely followed by our Tesco trips, where pupils are growing in confidence and independence as they shop for their own items. We ended the term on a high with a very special celebration—Happy 18th Birthday to Leah! We're excited to keep exploring our favourite things next half term as the theme continues!



## Cedar Class

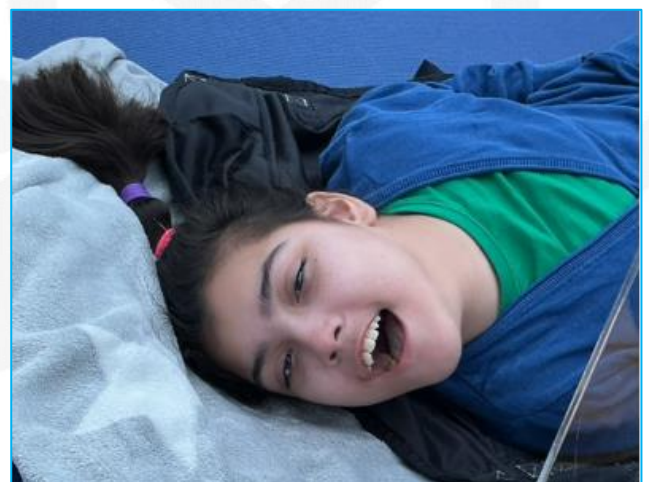
Cedar class has had a wonderful start to the new year! We have been very engaged during our communication and body awareness sessions whilst building friendships, sharing our news and experiencing music/movement. During our 4D sessions we continued our theme 'My Brilliant Body' engaging our senses whilst exploring sounds, smells and light sources.



During our Sensory story sessions, we enjoyed encountering the poem, 'The Dancing Tiger' we engaged with the sensory experiences, activated switches to produce light and sounds.



When the weather has been kind, we have been able to enjoy the trampoline! We have had a wonderful time bouncing whilst experiencing the great outdoors!



## Maple Class

This term has been busy one as always for Maple Class – busy with Maths and Literacy, Reading Comprehension and PSHE but marked by how caring and kind to others we are. It has been lovely to see everyone working together as a team, doing things for the benefit of others around them and showing an understanding of how we are all unique. Our visit to spend time playing tabletop games and enjoy conversation with our friends at Wood Grange Care Home in Bourne epitomised Maple Class this term. We have worked as a team in PE lessons whilst still having lots of fun and focused upon our Functional Skills Entry Level work for the rest of our time. Everything we do, we do together as a team!



## **Jacaranda Class**

This half term, Jacaranda class have hit the ground running with their Tuckshop enterprise project. We each had a turn taking stock, and writing out a shopping list for what we need, and making sure our stock cupboard is tidy and organised. It has been busy on a Monday when delivering orders, but we had noticed that a lot of staff were asking for items from the Tuckshop on days when we were not meant to be delivering. We decided to launch our own UberEats in school called JacarEats! It has been a great success with pupils taking adhoc orders and delivering them to the right classrooms, including following instructions on orders of when they would like their orders delivered.

In addition to our amazing enterprise project, we have also been working on our life skills. Most importantly, how to make our own breakfasts in our weekly Breakfast Club! So far, pupils have made their own toast, hashbrowns, waffles and bacon baps. This process includes learning how to read and follow instructions on packaging, preheating an oven and the reasons why we do this, and thinking about what we enjoy eating for breakfast.

Other fun parts about this term have included learning more about ourselves, including our pets, homes and families, as well as enjoying a weekly slot on our new school trampoline. We have enjoyed reading in the last of the summer sun, and spent some much-needed time learning about diversity in school and in the community.



### **Food and Nutrition Class**

It has been a really happy and purposeful time in Food this term. The theme of being good friends and sharing breakfast has gone down very well. Classes developed their knife skills and some really got to grips with the hob. All pupils took part in making bakes to serve at the MacMillan Coffee Day. We also celebrated Black History Month by exploring unusual fruits and creating Nigerian Chin Chin, Jamaican Cocoa Buns, and tropical bakes. One highlight has been seeing Maple Class preparing, making and eating a full English Breakfast with all components being served hot at the same time. A tremendous result! I have also been impressed by the number of students recreating recipes at home and sharing on Tapestry. Please keep doing this, it is the best feedback ever.

Finally, a big thank you for donating goods for Bourne Food Bank. Your constant support never ceases to amaze us and will make a huge difference to our local community.



### **Magnolia Class**

What a fantastic first term it has been in Magnolia class. We have welcomed five new pupils who have all settled in beautifully. Through our topic 'You've Got a Friend in Me', the children have worked hard on building new friendships and learning how to care for one another. We've enjoyed our sensory story 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' and explored numbers through 'Five Little Ducks' in maths. Magnolia class have also made the most of the sunny weather, spending lots of time exploring outside in the sensory garden and play areas – especially enjoying the roundabout and trampoline!



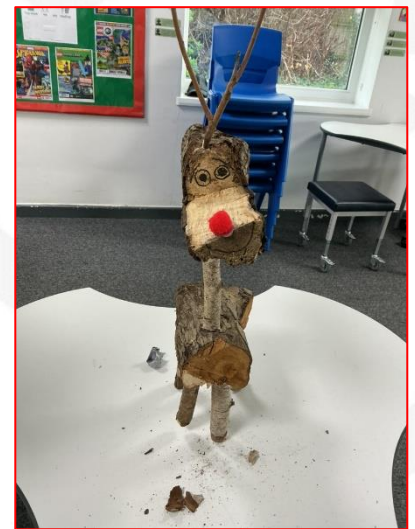
## Acacia Class

What a busy and exciting start to the school year it's been for Acacia Class! We've jumped straight into a wide range of enriching activities that have kept us active, creative, and learning new skills. We've been sailing and swimming, building confidence in the water and enjoying the fresh air. Our dance sessions with Chloe have been a real highlight—full of energy, rhythm, and lots of smiles!

Our visits to the local charity shops have been a great way to explore the community and practise important life skills. We've loved browsing, budgeting, and chatting with shop staff.

Back in school, we've been hard at work preparing for the Christmas Fayre. This year, our enterprise project is all about crafting wooden reindeers. It's been like Santa's workshop in Acacia—sawing, drilling, and hammering away with great enthusiasm!

In our Independent Life Skills sessions, we've been baking up a storm. Each week, we've chosen a muffin recipe, made a shopping list, bought the ingredients and then baked together. After, everyone has pitched in to wash up, clean, and tidy away.



## Willow Class

This first term as the new Willow Class has seen us get off to a flying start. The pupils have settled well and have begun to build some really positive rapports with the new staff team. Our topic of 'You've Got a Friend in Me', has encouraged us to think about working alongside our peers. We've enjoyed sharing our story, 'Meesha Makes Friends', as well as undertaking parachute games. Willow Class have also been fully engaged within activities beyond the classroom, such as accessing the 4D Room, exploring the Sensory Room, playing on the roundabout together in the Sensory Garden and sharing Storytime in the Library. A fantastic couple of months, Willow Class. We are proud of you. 😊



## Sycamore Class

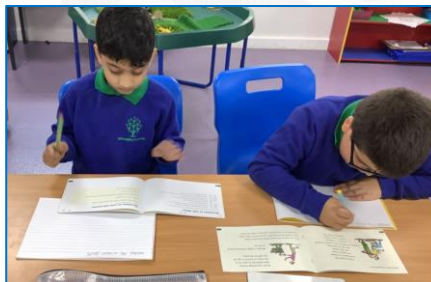
Sycamore Class have had a fantastic and very busy first half term! The children have impressed us with their Colourful Semantics writing in English and their number work in Maths. In Science, we have been learning about our bodies, including making our own poo! And in PSHE pupils have been exploring their strengths and setting personal goals. A highlight for everyone has been the introduction of our Sycamore Shop, where pupils have practised using money and learnt the importance of saving. Well done, Sycamore Class, we look forward to seeing you all after a well-earned break!



## Monkey Puzzle

This term Monkey puzzle class have immersed themselves in the story of The Rainbow Fish. This has been a lovely topic to learn about sharing, being kind to others and overall, how to be a good friend. We have loved our weekly forest school sessions with Dave. Being outside creating in nature is the best! Our first week back was made even more exciting with a heavy rainstorm.

We have enjoyed lots of creative tasks this term and worked on turn taking and team work. It's been a long and busy term, but we have loved it!



### Chestnut Class

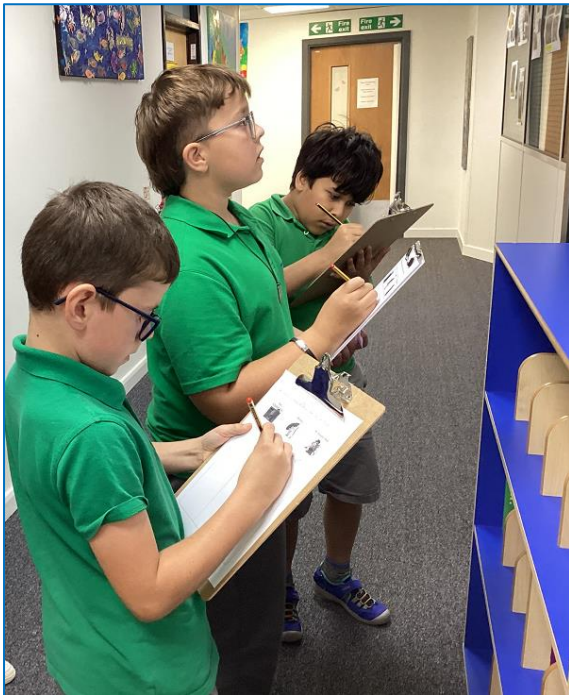
What a long and busy first term we have had! We have had lots of fun getting to know our new classmates and exploring the different areas around school, we especially enjoy the new trampoline! Weekly community visits have been super fun, we have visited the library and Bourne woods, exploring and looking for all of the signs of Autumn.



### Elder class

It has been a great start to the year for Elder class, with all the same children as last year but a new classroom and some new staff. Everyone has settled in really well and the pupil's effort and focus towards their work has been amazing. The class have really enjoyed our Toy Story English lessons, using clips from the film to explore the characters, setting and plot with a particular focus on friendship. The shape hunt around school, a visit to the park and library and using the trampoline on a Friday afternoon have been highlights of the term. The biggest achievement has been our amazing Macmillan Coffee Morning and cake sale, which raised over £300! The children worked brilliantly as a team to plan, decorate, invite, bake and serve their family and friends throughout the day. Thank you to everyone who contributed baked items and donated to such a worthy cause.





We wish you all an enjoyable half term break and look forward to welcoming the children back in school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November for another very exciting term.

