



WILLOUGHBY
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of term, I want to take a moment to look back on some of the wonderful experiences and achievements our school community has shared. It has been a really busy and exciting time, filled with fun, learning, creativity, and opportunities to come together.



Cummins Community Support

We are incredibly grateful to our friends at Cummins for their continued support. This term, they have:



Tidied and refreshed our sensory area, creating a calm and welcoming space for pupils. Funded a brand-new sensory tunnel, which has already become a fantastic addition to our school environment. Led a Cultural Day, giving pupils the chance to explore traditions, music, and food from around the world and hosted a Classic Car Day—a real treat for pupils and staff alike, sparking curiosity and conversation. They also arranged for Father Christmas to visit and present every pupil with a gift.

Special Moments of Reflection

We came together as a school to mark Children in Need, raising awareness and funds for this important cause. For Remembrance Sunday, our Head Boy and Head Girl represented Willoughby with pride by laying a wreath at the Bourne memorial—a poignant and respectful moment for our community.



Christmas Celebrations



The festive season began with a wonderful production of Aladdin by the British Forces Pantomime team, bringing joy and laughter to all. Our pupils showcased their creativity by designing and decorating a LEGO-themed Christmas tree, proudly displayed at the Methodist Hall. Willoughby's choir also performed beautifully at the Bourne Christmas Light Switch-On, spreading festive cheer to the wider community. The Lower School Nativity was truly magical, and the Upper School filled the church with music and festive spirit during their performances.

Headteacher: Mrs V Billyard

Willoughby Academy, South Road, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 9JD

Tel: 01778 425203 **Email:** willoughbyenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk www.willoughbyacademy.co.uk

The Priory Willoughby Academy is part of The Priory Federation of Academies Trust. For further information please contact:

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

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We were delighted to welcome Father Christmas, who brought smiles to every face, and our Christmas Disco was full of fun and dancing! A couple of cheeky elves also appeared around school, getting up to some festive mischief and bringing lots of laughter to pupils and staff!

We are also incredibly grateful to Dunelm Peterborough Community Support and everyone who kindly donated to the Delivering Joy Christmas tree. These generous donations meant that every pupil was able to take home a wonderful gift making this festive season magical for all of our pupils.



Finally, we are looking forward to our Christmas Fayre —thank you in advance to everyone who is able to attend and supported this event. We will let you know how much we raise in the new year.

The children have been amazing and thoroughly enjoyed all the activities. We cannot thank parents and carers enough for your incredible support, whether attending events, providing costumes, donating raffle prizes, buying tickets, or simply encouraging your child and Willoughby. We are so grateful for everything you do.

Ben, Luke and Jess helped the Site Team to select the perfect Willoughby Christmas from South Fen Christmas Trees. They worked as a team to help cut the tree and carry it to the mini-bus. The Christmas Tree has been decorated by pupils and is on proud display in the school Dining Hall. On behalf of everyone at Willoughby, I would like to wish you and your families a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.



We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Tuesday 6th January 2026**.

Term Dates

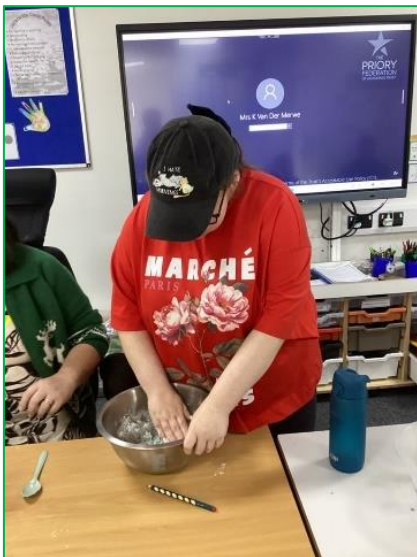
Start of Term	Tuesday 6 th January 2026
End of Term	Friday 13 th February
Half Term	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February
Start of Term	Monday 23 rd February

Jacaranda Class

This term has been a truly wonderful and very busy one for Jacaranda Class. Each week, we enjoyed our Breakfast Club where we prepared delicious treats such as pancakes, sausage and bacon baps, and waffles. We demonstrated kindness throughout the term by making sensory playdough and serving hot chocolate to pupils around the school for Children in Need. In addition, we treated staff to hot drinks in the lead-up to the end of term as a gesture of appreciation. We implemented a project called One Kind Act for the last 3 weeks of the term, which included us reading with and joining other classes in creating some arts and crafts. We wanted to remind our pupils that Christmas is more than just about presents, but also about kindness to others.



Our pupils worked extremely hard on their mock examinations and showed great determination and effort. We also continued our exciting enterprise projects, including creating and organising the printing of our yearly calendar to be sold at the Christmas Fayre, as well as running our tuck shop. Jacaranda class excitedly performed their Christmas song at the Christmas concert this year and were delighted to see so many parents and family members there to watch us. It has been a term full of learning, creativity, and community spirit, and we are proud of everything we have achieved together.



Mulberry Class

We have had a fun and very busy term in Mulberry. We began the term with celebrations of bonfire night and the story of Guy Fawkes and took the opportunity to learn about firework safety and dark night safety. We remembered the soldiers who had died in the war and linked themes by wearing a reflective poppy on our bags. After the celebrations we focused on emotions and zones of regulation. Time in the 4D Room has supported our learning of these themes.

We have enjoyed our sensory story 'Giraffe's Can't Dance' and have used our writing skills to write our own version of the story. We have also used our literacy skills to invite friends to a class jungle party, write a letter to Santa and write Christmas cards.

We have been sorting in Maths – by colour, shape, object, money and some of us have begun to complete Venn Diagrams. We are doing very well on our class starter writing numbers and we request a number song to end.

We have explored different habitats in science and studied an animal from each of the habitats and thought about how it is suited to that environment.

In PE we have tried our hand at football, hockey and 'tails' (a tag rugby) - working in very small groups with 1-1 support, our skills have improved. We have extended PE with time in the sensory room, sensory gym, physio and swing room and this term saw us using the new trampoline for the first time, which is great fun. We continue to enjoy art, forest school and cookery. We loved the Tesla cars and the light show!



The term finishes with Christmas celebrations starting with the wonderful pantomime Aladdin. We have worked hard on our performance at the church and have loved making decorations and decorating our classroom. We have also enjoyed listening to and writing about the Christmas Story and listening to all the carols which tell that story. Wishing you a very merry Christmas and happy 2026!



Cedar Class

We have had a fabulous term in Cedar class! During our sensory story sessions, we went on a journey with Mowgli and his friends whilst we encountered the story 'The Jungle Book'. We were also jungle detectives; discovering sounds, textures and some amazing animals along the way!



Our cookery sessions were a great success and we hope you liked our delicious soups and festive bakes. We had great fun using our switch to operate the blender whilst creating our culinary masterpieces!



As the term progressed, we were feeling very festive. We explored foliage, cinnamon and oranges and made our Christmas wreaths. We also added a touch of sparkle to our Christmas decorations and hung them with pride on our Cedar class Christmas tree!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



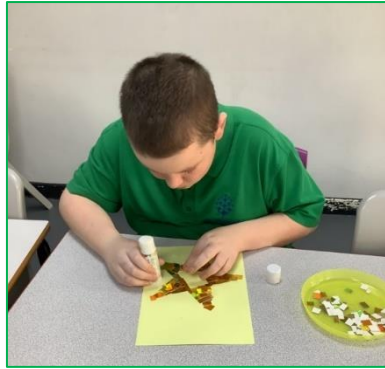
Sycamore Class

Sycamore class have had another amazing half term; working hard in all our lessons and engaging brilliantly with our "Rumble in the Jungle" topic. Reading our sensory story, "Slow down, Monkey" has been a lot of fun, and has helped us develop the use of adjectives in our language and Colourful Semantics sentences. In maths, we've been working on addition, using number bonds and time within our daily routines. We've also continued to develop our numeracy skills within Sycamore shop! This term has been especially exciting as there's been a Christmas twist to the shop - no spoilers though! We have loved having our first set of Forest School sessions with Dave for the year; a firm favourite is having time around the fire! Thank you for a wonderful half term, Sycamore class, we look forward to seeing you all in the new year!



Art

This term, our budding artists explored exciting events and celebrations through creative projects, with a special focus on collage. We ended on a festive note,



crafting beautiful Lego decorations together for the Willoughby Methodist Church Christmas tree, a beautiful highlight that showcased all of our Willoughby's teamwork and creativity!



Cooking

Another term has come to an end and what a busy, great one it has been. I would like to thank all of the pupils for their interest, enthusiasm and big smiles which they bring to their lessons. For lots of classes' cooking has been based on plant foods to tie in with the 'Rumble in the Jungle' theme. Health and safety have underpinned everything with careful peeling, cutting and grating being displayed. The bridge and claw holds are definitely being developed. Pupils have also used a range of equipment this term, including, blenders, food processors and the soup makers. Again, showing an awareness of safety at all times. Maple Class also had the pleasure of Kim and Ananya from Cummins in their lesson, the end result being some delicious Christmas Cookies. I thank them for their time and look forward to welcoming them back in the spring. Lee Oleksow, the chef from Cummins also visited to look at all the wonderful Christmas Cakes that Sycamore, Redwood, Rowan, Maple and Jacaranda Classes have produced. The creativity this year is just outstanding, well done to all involved. Thank you to everyone who supports their young people, for the feedback comments on Tapestry, for food donations to the Food Bank and for sending in containers. (If you eat those chocolates, have a take away etc in the holidays please keep the tubs, thanks ☺) I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and I look forward to more cooking in the Spring Term.



Chestnut Class

This has been such a busy but fun term in Chestnut Class. We have thoroughly enjoyed all of the different experiences and people that have come to visit us. We have been into the community, celebrated special days and enjoyed fun and interactive lessons. Here are photos of just some of the highlights from this term...



Cherry Tree Class

We have had an amazing term filled with learning, laughter, and lots of adventures! Our theme, *Rumble in the Jungle*, has been a big hit, and our sensory story has definitely been a class favourite. Swimming lessons have now come to an end, and we couldn't be prouder of how confident every pupil has become in the water. We've continued to enjoy our woodland walks, spotting signs of the changing seasons. From muddy puddles to crunchy autumn leaves, there's been plenty to explore! This term has also been packed with festive fun: a disco, a trip to Waterside, a visit from Santa, performing in a wonderful Nativity, and finishing with a Cherry Tree party... phew! We hope you all enjoy the holidays and wish you a very Happy Christmas.



Rowan Class

This term has flown by, and we've been incredibly busy! Everyone has engaged brilliantly with our class book, *The Last Firefox*. We've created our own versions of the characters and even planned our own take on the story, producing some fantastic storyboards.

PE has been a real highlight this term. We've been learning to play volleyball and have had great fun developing the key techniques of the 'dig', 'set' and 'spike'. Over the weeks, we've learnt how to return the ball to one another and even how to play over the net.

On our weekly community visits, we tried geocaching for the first time! We followed a map and clues to find treasures in a hidden location. Although we found following the map a little tricky, we really enjoyed searching for the box and signing the logbook. This is definitely something we'd love to try again. Not forgetting the visit from the panto, the classic car visit, and of course all the Christmas festivities. Merry Christmas to all from the Rowan Class team!



Oak Class

Oak Class has had an incredibly busy and exciting term! We've explored lots of wonderful topics, including Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, and our theme *Walking Through the Jungle*. In cooking, we created a variety of tasty soups before moving on to our festive Christmas bakes, they were absolutely delicious!

One of the highlights was watching the Aladdin Pantomime when the performers visited our school – the whole class loved it!

During the last two weeks of term, we've been learning all about the Christmas story and working hard to prepare for our Christmas performance. You were all such amazing angels – well done! We'd like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hope you enjoy a magical Christmas break.



Maple Class

Maple Class ended this term on a high and celebrating our talents at our Christmas service in the Abbey Church - a poem written by Maple to which every pupil contributed - amazing! All of the accompanying props showcased some of our artistic abilities as well. We have enjoyed extra-curricular clubs this term - Art Club in which some of us have undertaken individual projects on canvas, Games Club in which some of us have battled together in Dungeons & Dragons, and our competitive nature takes over in football club although fewer red cards were given this term! It has been a very busy few weeks in which we have sat mock Pearson Functional Skills examinations, some of us have visited our prospective college courses as we look forward to next year and practised our formal interview techniques with Evelyn our Careers Lead. As we show signs that we are growing up, it is probably very fitting that one particular highlight of these last few weeks was a community visit we planned using the Delaine bus timetables, routes and tracker to Market Deeping and home again. We used Google maps (street view) to look at the location of bus stops and we used the internet to research where we would be able to buy ourselves a treat, ensuring the opening times suited us. We all chose our food from a fish & chip shop, ordered ourselves, worked out what we could afford, and all sat together munching through the odd burger or chips! A sunny Friday afternoon could not get any better than this we thought to ourselves!

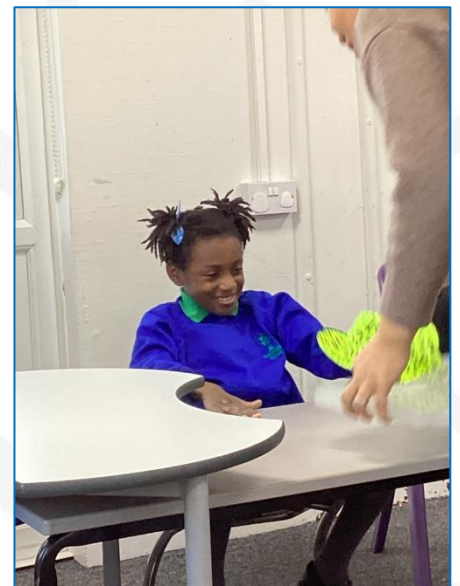


Holly Class

What a fantastic start to the academic year it has been for Holly Class! We can hardly believe it is Christmas already. The children have achieved so much in such a short space of time, and we are incredibly proud of every single one of them.

One of our biggest highlights and a wonderful way to end 2025 was our school nativity performance. The children shone on stage, showing confidence, joy, and teamwork. It truly was a special moment, and we couldn't be prouder of how brilliantly they all did.

We have also seen remarkable progress in communication. Many children are beginning to realise that their words and vocalisations have meaning and they are learning how to use them to engage with the world around them. Watching this understanding grow has been one of the most rewarding parts of our term. We cannot wait to see what 2026 brings for our wonderful Holly Class. Thank you for your continued support and we hope you all have a lovely Christmas.



Fir Tree Class

The children in Fir Tree Class have grown more comfortable with one another and are beginning to form wonderful friendships. This term has been full of exciting adventures, with swimming being a firm favourite. It has been amazing to watch their confidence grow, especially as we ventured into the deeper part of the pool. We were also extremely fortunate to explore some classic cars that visited our school, which was a real treat. As Christmas approached, the children made us all proud of their enthusiastic participation in the school's Nativity. As a reward we enjoyed a magical trip to the Waterside Centre to admire the festive lights.



Willow Class

This term has been a very busy one for Willow Class. Not only have the pupils engaged well with learning focused around our topic: 'Rumble in the Jungle'; they have had the opportunity to encounter a range of special opportunities, such as the car visit from Cummins, our Culture Day, the Pantomime and Table-Top Cricket with Max. It's sometimes hard to believe we've fitted this and class-based learning into the seven weeks! But we mustn't forget; we also have several more fun things coming our way as we navigate the final week before Christmas.

Our topic has seen us considering layers of a jungle and what animals we would discover among these different layers, accumulating in a fantastic corridor display. As well as this, the pupils have loved exploring the story: 'Now you see me, Now you don't' in the 4D Room, allowing for exploration of a variety of animals and camouflage resources.

PE sessions have allowed us to have stretching opportunities, alongside getting to know our own bodies, before working on developing our aim with Target Games, some superb skills shown. Well Done, Willow Class. We are proud of you. We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas. We are already looking forward to seeing the pupils in 2026 when we commence our new topic: 'Feel the Force'.

Willow Class Team 😊



Redwood Class

What a fantastic half term we've had! Our culinary creativity has been in full swing as we experimented with a variety of sausage roll flavours. After much taste-testing (and plenty of crumbs!), the cranberry and bacon creation has emerged as the clear favourite. Don't miss your chance to grab one at the Christmas Fayre!

We've also been busy spreading festive cheer by putting together a lively Christmas mash-up for the church performance, our pupils have loved getting into the holiday spirit.

Academically, we're celebrating success! We've completed our unit on money, and every pupil has achieved this section of their OCR qualification, a huge well done to all! In literacy, our sessions have been full of personality, with pupils reporting their weekend news and exploring "All About Me" themes like favourite foods, pets, and places.

Swimming continues to be a highlight, supporting progress toward the Duke of Edinburgh Award, and it's wonderful to see how much everyone enjoys these sessions. Finally, we're looking forward to our end-of-year treat, a visit to Waterside to admire the Christmas decorations and indulge in a slice of cake, funded by our well-earned enterprise profits. A perfect way to celebrate a term of hard work and fun!



Acacia Class

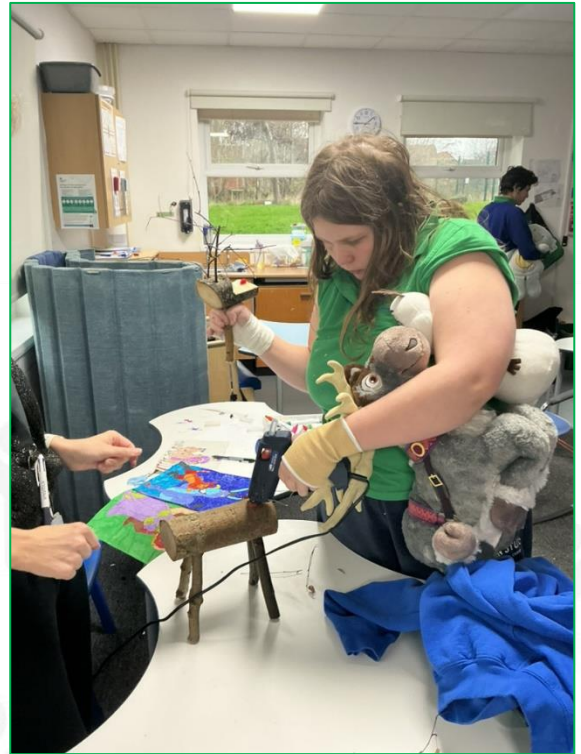
This term has been full of exciting activities and wonderful achievements! We have absolutely loved our dance lessons with Chloe, where we learned a very special routine for our performance in the church. It was such a joy to showcase our hard work and creativity!

Our swimming sessions have been another highlight, giving everyone the chance to build confidence and have fun in the water.

In Enterprise, we've been busy crafting some amazing wooden reindeers, which will be available for sale at the Christmas Fayre—perfect for adding a festive touch to your home!

During our Independence lessons, we've become budding chefs, creating a variety of delicious muffins. We're getting much better at cleaning up after ourselves, what a fantastic skill to learn!

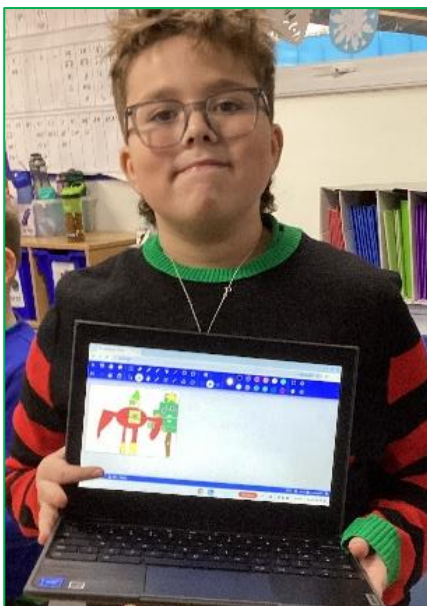
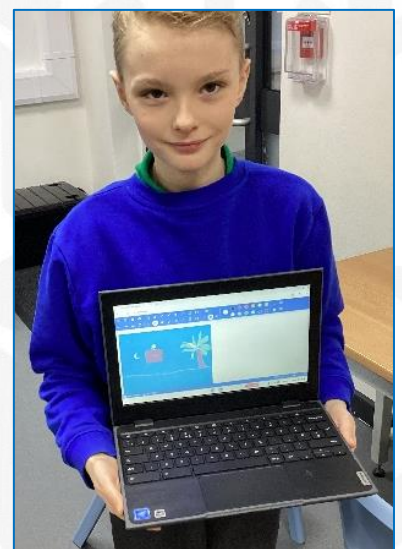
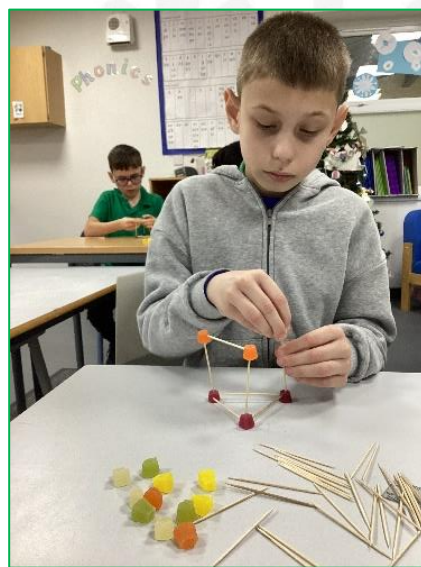
As we wrap up this term, we want to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to more exciting learning adventures in the new term!



Elder Class

It's been another busy term in Elder, jam packed with fun and learning, beginning with a Boccia tournament against 6 other teams. Our rainforest topic has been a hit with everyone finding out fascinating facts about many different animals. Did you know an anteater eats 30,000 ants a day and a sloth only come down from the trees to go to the toilet! The pupils did such a brilliant job of creating their fact files that we took them to other classes to teach them about the animals.

Computing has also been a favourite and this term we have learnt to log on to computers safely and how to use a drawing app to create colourful shape pictures. We have been especially excited by all the Christmas activities, especially the pantomime and a challenge to build the tallest shelf for an elf from sweets and cocktail sticks.



Monkey Puzzle

This term Monkey puzzle have been taking part in a PSED project (Personal, Social and Emotional Development). Through the use of a special book 'In my heart' we have explored emotions and used octopus' toys with happy and sad expressions to help express and understand different feelings. The children have been enthusiastic and engaged in the learning.

The exciting time of the year arrived with Christmas. This year for the Nativity the children were played various tracks of music and decided upon the angel music they liked. They have had so much fun learning their dance and, in the Nativity, did themselves proud with a perfect dance. The smiles and energy from everyone were wonderful to see. We wish all our families a wonderful Christmas together and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.



Magnolia Class



This term, Magnolia Class have had a wonderful time exploring our sensory story 'Dear Zoo'. In maths, we enjoyed singing 'One Elephant Went Out to Play' while learning to count, recognise numbers, and even add using fun props!

We wrapped up the term with festive Christmas activities, including plenty of creative crafts,

a visit from Santa, a panto, a lively disco, and, of course, our incredible performance in the Willoughby School Nativity. Well done, Magnolia Class, for another fantastic term!

