



WILLOUGHBY
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of Spring Term 1, we want to thank you for your continued support. The pupils have had a busy and positive half term, full of learning, creativity, and proud moments. Their enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness shine through every day, and we are incredibly proud of them all.

This term we enjoyed a wonderful Reading Week and it was lovely to welcome so many parents into school to share stories with their children. Thank you also to those parents who attended our parent reading workshop; your involvement makes such a difference. We are especially grateful to PBH Rail for generously funding a book for every pupil so that reading can continue to be enjoyed at home.

Our older pupils have made a fantastic start to their work-experience placements. They have been thriving at Bourne Book Shop, the Angel Hotel, Waterside Garden Centre Café, and Lincolnshire Herbs. Staff at each setting have commented on their positive attitudes, growing confidence, and willingness to learn. These opportunities are an important step in preparing our young people for adulthood, and we are extremely proud of how well they are representing themselves and the school.

Across the school, pupils have been taking part in a wide range of learning experiences. Many classes have been working on communication and interaction, using communication aids, visual supports, and structured routines to build confidence. Others have been practising key life skills such as cooking, self-care, and visiting our local community. Creative learning remains a highlight, with pupils enjoying art, dance, music, and sensory activities. Despite the rainy weather, outdoor learning, led by Forest School Dave, has continued and has helped support confidence, wellbeing, and teamwork.

We hope you and your families enjoy a restful and happy half term break and look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 23rd February.

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| Start of Term | Monday 23 rd February |
| End of Term | Thursday 2 nd April |
| Easter Holidays | Friday 3 rd April – Friday 17 th April |
| Start of Term | Monday 20 th April |
| Bank Holiday | Monday 4 th May |
| End of Term | Friday 22 nd May |
| May Half Term | Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May |
| Start of Term | Monday 1 st June |
| End of Term | Friday 17 th July |

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Monkey Puzzle

In Monkey Puzzle we have been very busy. It has been great to get back to swimming, this term our teacher is Sophie. Sophie is in the water with us helping us to swim on our backs, move safely across the water and play lots of games that build our water confidence. Dave has kept us busy at Forest School building houses with nature and braving the elements. We have started our new book in PSED project 'My monster and me' and have worked in teams to help with our skills. Look out on Tapestry for a further post to tell you more about how the project is developing. In maths we have been learning about patterns, measuring. Science, with Nikki, on a Wednesday has been a huge hit, learning about the weather and even tornados! We are very proud of all the pupils in Monkey Puzzle and look forward to next term.



Acacia Class

What a busy and exciting term it has been in Acacia Class! This term we launched a brand-new enterprise project, the students have really shone. Using recycled tin cans, they have designed and created beautiful garden lanterns.

We have practised essential life and motor skills by using hammers and nails to safely pierce patterns into the tins. They loved seeing their designs take shape, the final lanterns look wonderful. We can't wait to share them with you soon!

In PSHE we have been focusing on naming body parts and learning about the jobs our bodies do to help keep us healthy, safe and active. Students have been working brilliantly with visuals and practical activities to build their understanding and confidence.

Our regular trips to the local charity shops have continued this term. These visits help students practise their communication skills, build confidence to interact with members of the public and taking responsibility for their own purses and deciding whether they have enough money to buy what they want.

We have worked incredibly hard on developing our functional life skills in everyday, meaningful contexts. We have been practising measuring ingredients, such as carefully counting and pouring three cups of pasta into a saucepan to help prepare Rachel's tea or putting two teaspoons of chocolate powder in a cup for a nice hot chocolate.



Cherry Tree Class

What a wonderfully busy term we've had in Cherry Tree! The children have loved exploring the topic of *forces*, especially the movement of things going *up* and *down*. Our book this term has been a real hit, sparking lots of curiosity as we explored all the different things that the wind blew away. Umbrellas, balloons and wigs have definitely captured the most interest!

Forest School with Dave has been a highlight each week. We now have a familiar, routine: creating a small fire together and toasting marshmallows before enjoying our story and activity, followed by plenty of time to explore the outdoor area. The children have shown growing confidence and enthusiasm during their time in the paddock.

Our dance sessions with Chloe continue to be a favourite. The children respond so well to the music—moving their bodies to the rhythm and exploring scarves, maracas, bells and egg shakers. These sessions are full of energy, sensory experiences and lots of movement. With all this exploring, moving and learning, it's no surprise that we're all ready for a well-earned break. Enjoy the week off, everyone—you've certainly earned it!



Chestnut Class

This term has been full of exciting learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom. We have thoroughly enjoyed our visits into the community, where the children have become much more confident using self-scanners in supermarkets and locating items on a shopping list.

At Forest School, we have embraced all kinds of weather and made the most of exploring the wooded area. The swing has been a particular favourite, and it has been wonderful to see the children engaging so enthusiastically with the natural environment.

Back at school, the trampoline and roundabout continue to be much-loved activities. We have been so impressed with how well the children are following instructions, taking turns, and developing their physical skills through these sessions. This term also included our special Reading Week. We were delighted to welcome our parents into school to share stories with us. It was a truly wonderful experience for the children and staff alike, and we want to thank everyone who was able to join us.



Sycamore Class

We've had another busy and exciting term in Sycamore Class! One of our favourite activities has been acting out *The Enormous Turnip* sensory story. The pupils have loved getting involved with all the props and signing along with the story. We have also linked our book to our Maths learning by weighing lots of different vegetables, including some large turnips!

Our sensory learning has continued to play an important role this term, helping us make great progress towards our individual targets while also exploring our wider curriculum. Pupils particularly enjoyed our music sessions with Andrew from Lincolnshire Music. We experimented with light-up switch tiles, explored different sounds, and even composed our own weather themed music as a whole class.

Well done for another amazing term, Sycamore Class! We are so proud of all your hard work and engagement; we look forward to more fun next term.



Oak Class

This term in Oak Class, we have introduced a new Fun with Food session. During these sessions, pupils explore a range of food items using their hands, mouths, noses, and eyes. We have begun with dry foods and will gradually introduce a variety of textures as confidence and familiarity increase.



We were very pleased to welcome a music specialist, Andrew, into school. He brought exciting equipment, including COSMO wireless switches, which allowed the children to make their own music using an app.



Roaring Rockets has been our sensory story this term, where we have been learning about forces and how things move up and down. We have all enjoyed dressing up as astronauts, wearing helmets and moon boots.



Rowan Class

One of the highlights of our Spring term has been badminton in PE. We've been learning how to use forehand, backhand and serve correctly. At first, moving around the court and hitting the shuttlecock was tricky, but with lots of practice on our footwork we're now able to return shots over the net and even build up some rallies!

We've also really enjoyed extra cooking sessions this term in the Independence Room. We walked to Tesco to buy the ingredients we needed and then worked together in groups to cook our dishes.

In the classroom, we've continued to make great progress in English and maths. In maths, we've been focusing on measurement, learning how to use a ruler accurately, measuring perimeter, and converting between millimetres, centimetres, metres and kilometres.



Mulberry Class

We settled back nicely into class after our Christmas break for what has been a short but busy term. In Literacy we have enjoyed our sensory story 'We all go travelling by' - singing along to the song, listening to and making environmental noises, then exploring and playing together with vehicles and train tracks. We made sentences describing the vehicle in the story. We LOVE books in Mulberry, thank you for supporting our reading week, as we continue to visit the library and reading 1-1 each morning from our chosen book, See and Learn, and sharing a story at the end of each day.

We have been pairing and counting in twos and looking at prepositions in maths and in science we have been exploring the weather and the seasons, this has been reinforced in our visits to the 4D room.

In PSHE we have been thinking about what's mine and what can be shared, body parts (including private body parts), keeping clean and good hygiene and public and private places. We also have taken time to explore the Chinese New Year (year of the horse) and Valentine's Day. Week 6 had us thinking about internet safety day. We have been keeping active by doing circuits in PE, trampolining and walking, and playing, out and about in the community.

We have explored our eyes in interoception, using descriptors to help us describe how our eyes feel when exposed to different stimuli. We continue to enjoy Forest School, art and cookery. All our learning has been brought together and put into real life settings by our weekly walks to the playground in Elsea Park, weather, seasons, wrapping up warm, keeping safe, environmental sounds. We enjoy these trips and have behaved beautifully making ourselves and the school proud.

Wishing you all a lovely, restful half term. Please keep your tapestry posts coming in so we can see what you have been doing! Mulberry Team.



Elder Class

What an amazingly successful term it has been in Elder class. We are so proud of the progress that our young people have made this term, not just academically but, more importantly, with self-confidence, independence and teamwork! Our text – The Hundred Decker Bus – has given us opportunities for learning about adjectives and sentence structure as well as creating our own bus decks, problem solving through design and developing amazing independent writing.

We have loved our weekly swimming lessons and now confidently put our mouths under the water and float on our backs. This term's Forest School has seen Dave set us a series of challenges, such as protecting an egg, making a bird feeder and building a miniature hide. For these we have had to use our best teamwork skills to achieve the job as a group, and we did them all fantastically! Our teamwork has also extended to music lessons where we have learnt to play notes, on a glockenspiel, along to different pieces of music, sharing and taking turns. As a reward for all the hard work during the week we have Friday Golden Time, a favourite has been our relaxing Spa time, where we give and receive hand massages, hair dressing, nail painting and foot spas.



Fir Class

The highlight of our term has been our wonderful dance sessions with our dance teacher, Chloe. Throughout the term, the children's attention, confidence, and engagement have continued to grow. Each lesson begins with the whole group sitting together and taking turns to hold and pass a cuddly toy, helping everyone feel calm and ready to learn. We then move into our warm-up, which includes lots of fun movements such as stamping, tapping, and stretching. After warming up, we practise our dance sequence, adding a little more each week. The children have been so proud of how much they have learned! We finish each session with free expression time, exploring something new every week. This has included dancing with scarves, feathers, and even shimmering space blankets. It has been a joyful experience seeing the children express themselves through movement. We are very proud of their progress and cannot wait to see how they grow as dancers in the months ahead.



Cedar Class

During this term we have been very engaged whilst sharing our sensory story, 'Mrs Armitage, Queen of the Road'. We used our switches to recreate sounds, explored light sources and encountered stimuli with our hands.



We have continued to enjoy our weekly music sessions with Andrew from Lincolnshire Music Service. This term he brought along some fabulous music switches, so we were able to make our own tunes. This was lots of fun!



We were 'feeling the force' during our 4D sessions! We encountered racing cars and ventured into the open water in our sailing boats. Then we flew high in the sky in our hot air balloon and zoomed into space in a roaring rocket.

During sensory cookery, we continued to create some lovely baking whilst exploring fruit and accessing our switches to operate the mixer. We hope you enjoyed them!



Holly Class

Wow, what a fantastic term it's been for Holly Class!

Yet another great term full of learning, growth, and so many proud moments. We can really see the progress everyone has made, especially in their communication and interactions.

We are starting to learn how to self-regulate and use our adults to support us doing this. The confidence and independence growing week by week has been brilliant to see, and the effort from everyone has been amazing.

This term has been packed with exciting experiences. We've loved getting creative in Art, spending time outdoors at Forest School, showing off our moves in dance with Chloe, and taking our first steps into the world of Science Explorers. Each activity has helped build new skills, spark curiosity, and create lots of smiles (and mess!) along the way.



A massive well done to every single member of Holly Class. You should all be incredibly proud of how far you've come this term. We certainly are! Wishing everyone a well-earned break and we can't wait to see what next term has in store.



Jacaranda Class

Jacaranda class have been engaged in a wide variety of different activities this term. These have included a real focus on life skills, working with money and planning and creating beautiful art pieces. We have continued our Tuckshop for adults, but have asked pupils to become more involved in the whole process, little by little. This term, the focus has been on taking stock, starting with watching an adult do it, doing it with an adult and then doing it independently. They have worked so hard on this, and have shown a great commitment to making sure it is completed properly.

Our life skills lessons have centred around thinking about our favourite meals, with a distinct focus on following a recipe step by step independently, with minimal support from adults. So far, we have made chicken fajitas, our own pizza dough, pizza wraps and mac and cheese! We have learnt about pre-heating an oven, turning the temperature button to the correct spot for the recipe and cleaning up after ourselves. We will continue this into the next term. Our art work this term has us looking at planning, deciding what materials we need, following safety rules and creating something that we can eventually exhibit. This is all in aid of completing our OCR units and will continue into the next term.

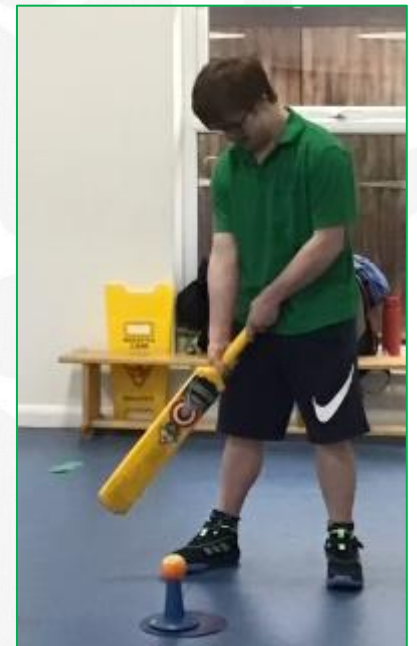
We have enjoyed visiting the local Bourne library again, using this time to find books that we are interested in and using these books to complete our reading challenge. Finally, a highlight of our term so far, has been dance with Chloe! We have learnt some cool dance moves and enjoy being able to move our bodies to the music.



Redwood Class

This half term may have been shorter, but it's certainly been full of fantastic learning! We have explored different types of measure and planned, prepared, and tasted a range of delicious meals, from soups and pasta dishes to curry and chilli.

Our introduction to dance with Chloe has been a real highlight and a big hit with everyone. In creative studies, we have begun planning what we will be making for next half term's art gallery afternoon and are excited to get messy with papier-mâché, glitter, and more. Although we are sad to see our forest school sessions come to an end, we are looking forward to replacing them with new Duke of Edinburgh expedition skills! Bring on next half term!



Willow Class

This term has been another busy one for Willow Class, with us focusing upon the topic: Feel the Force. We have had great fun exploring a range of forces throughout our science work, as well as using the story 'Paper Chase' by Julia Donaldson for our Sensory Story.

For part of our PSHE work, People Who Help Us: we were so lucky to have a visit from Graham a local School Crossing Patrol Officer (aka Lollipop Man). He told the pupils a little about his job, allowed them to try on some smaller versions of his Hi-Viz gear and helped all of Willow Class use the crossing safely in our school car park.



Willow Class have all got stuck into their Cookery sessions this half term. They've loved tasting a variety of breads, with different smells, textures and flavours. Baking bread has been something all pupils have engaged in so well, particularly when it comes to the kneading. What amazing bakers you are, Willow Class!



As part of Reading Week 2026, we invited our Parents and Carers to join our Library and Story Massage session. Thank you to those family members who were able to visit. We loved being able to show you what we do and hope you enjoyed coming to see us. Thank you everyone for your continued support. We will see you in the new term when we will be focusing our learning around the topic: How Does Your Garden Grow?



Magnolia Class

Magnolia Class have had another wonderful and engaging term! Our topic, 'Feel the Force', has inspired lots of hands-on learning, including exploring the sensory story 'We All Go Travelling By'. The children loved identifying different vehicles and getting messy with themed activities such as track-making and sensory play. One of the highlights was our exciting science lesson where we made erupting volcanoes, a fun and enjoyable activity for everyone!

In cooking this term, we have enjoyed "fun with dough," kneading to 'dough-disco' and creating our own different breads and pizzas. Yummy! It's been a fun-filled, busy term with lots of fantastic learning moments!



Maple Class

This term's 'Feel The Force' has certainly lived up to its name for Maple Class. We had the pleasure of welcoming Dan, a Science Teacher from LSST, to spend an afternoon with us investigating different forces such as thrust when chemicals react similarly to that which propels space rockets. We launched our own versions in the playground and analysed the process of the experiment.

Our cricket skills were put to the test this term as well when we took part in a table cricket tournament against other local schools, it turns out we can work well as a team. And finally, reading has been top of our agenda as we have embraced the National Year of Reading. We have searched for books, reserved them at Bourne Library and spent a lot of our time deep in a reading book!



Food and Nutrition

In Food and Nutrition lessons we have been looking at Mechanical, Chemical and Biological raising agents. All of these use 'force' in aiding food to rise or to have shape and texture. Pupils from all pathways have made products that have risen with the results being outstanding. Cedar and Oak have made some delicious cakes using chemicals like baking powder and baking soda. Holly and Magnolia Classes have really developed their kneading skills while making an array of bread products using yeast. Lots of classes have really got to grips with the science of food and their retention of knowledge and application of skills has been marvellous to see. I have loved seeing pupils taking recipes home this term and not only making them again but adding their own twist to them. Enjoyment while cooking is what it is all about, and to think about the needs and wants of others while doing so takes it to another level. Another successful term achieved by all.



Art

This term in Art, we have had so much fun exploring the connections between art and science as part of our whole-school theme, *Feel the Force*. We loved experimenting with different reactions, getting messy, and discovering how movement can create amazing effects. A personal highlight for me was the pendulum art, it was fascinating to watch the patterns form and to see everyone so engaged!

