



WILLOUGHBY
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, I want to thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our Willoughby community. We have had an incredibly busy and exciting term, filled with hands-on learning, special events, and wonderful opportunities for all of our pupils. This term has been packed with activities that have inspired curiosity, confidence and creativity across the school.

Careers Week

One of our standout highlights was Careers Week, where pupils met a fantastic range of visitors. We welcomed a wide range of visitors from a window cleaner, police officer, fitness instructor, lollipop person, beekeeper and numerous talented local artists. Pupils explored tools, tried activities and asked amazing questions. We finished the week with a fantastic Futures Fayre, and it was lovely to see so many of you there.

Science Week

Science Week brought lots of excitement, with some amazing experiments and especially as we incubated chicks; an experience the pupils (and staff) thoroughly enjoy. Alongside this, classes took part in numerous investigations and sensory based science activities.

Comic Relief

Thank you to everyone who donated to Comic Relief. Your generosity helped us raise money for others, and pupils enjoyed taking part in themed activities throughout the day.

Easter Celebrations

We have also enjoyed some wonderful Easter activities to round off the term. We were delighted to welcome the Cummins Easter Bunny, who hopped into school to give every pupil a special treat, there were lots of smiles across the classrooms and all staff were provided with a very kind Easter treat from Kingsgate Community Church. The whole school gathered at Bourne Abbey Church for a fantastic Easter celebration, where each class showcased a song, dance or activity.

It was wonderful to see so many families at events this term. Your involvement and support are greatly appreciated and make a big difference to your child's experience in school. Unfortunately, our planned Makaton course for parents had to be cancelled due to the low uptake but we will try to rearrange later in the year. To end the term, PFA classes hosted an open 'Art Afternoon', where parents explored the creative work pupils have produced. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported this lovely event.

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Wishing you all a wonderful Easter and we hope you enjoy a peaceful and enjoyable holiday with your families.



We look forward to welcoming everyone back into school on Monday 20th April 2026.

Monday 20 th April	Start of Term
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday – School closed
Monday 18 th May	Sports Day - Further details to follow.
Wednesday 20 th May	Sports Day - Further details to follow.
Friday 22 nd May	End of Term
Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May	May Half Term
Monday 1 st June	Start of Term
Friday 10 th July	Awards and Summer Fayre - Further details to follow.
Friday 17 th July	Leavers Ceremony - Further details to follow.
Friday 17 th July	End of Term

Sycamore Class

It's been such a busy and exciting term for Sycamore Class! From Careers Week and Science Week to fun STEM experiences and a trip out, the pupils have engaged so well with it all!

Our topic, "How Does Your Garden Grow?", has been a hit. We've loved spotting signs of spring and enjoying the sunshine when it's appeared! In English, we've explored nature poetry, and in Maths we've used flowers to help with our fraction work. In Science, we've even started creating our own Sycamore Garden. Watch this space to see if we can grow anything!

The pupils have also been working hard on their individual targets, taking part in sensory experiences through Attention Autism and Story Massage, and learning about how to stay safe around medicine in PSHE. Forest School and our visit to the local garden centre have definitely been highlights too. Another brilliant term, Sycamore Class. Well done for all of your hard work!



Art

This term in Art, students explored the theme “How Does Your Garden Grow?” Through this topic, they engaged with a variety of nature-inspired activities, including creating collages using seeds and experimenting with leaf printing.

During Careers Week some classes had the opportunity to work with local artists from Bourne. They explored the artists’ work, asked thoughtful questions, and even tried out some of their techniques.

The room was full of creativity, curiosity, and lots of fun!!! A huge thank you to the wonderful artists who joined us, Paige, Michelle, Nicky, Rowena, and Eva, for inspiring our students and sharing your passion.



In addition, students had the exciting opportunity to take part in a community project in partnership with the Town Hall. Together, they contributed to a unique piece of artwork that will be placed inside the walls of the building, serving as a time capsule for future generations to discover. Every pupil in the school played a role, whether by colouring a panel, signing their name, making a mark, or adding a fingerprint, each leaving a personal imprint on this special project. This meaningful collaboration ensures that Willoughby’s pupils’ artwork will remain a lasting part of the community’s story for years to come.



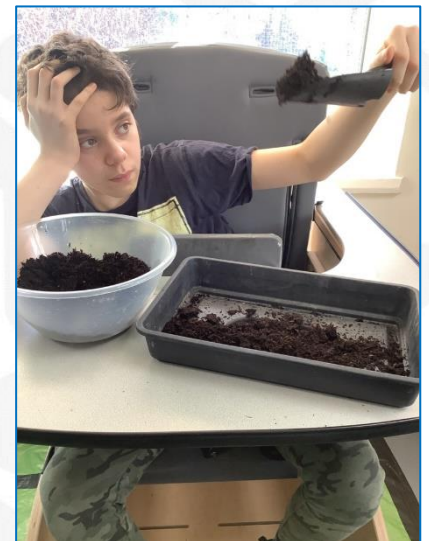
Acacia Class

This term, Acacia class has been enjoying horticulture sessions. Pupils have spent time planting seeds, watering them, and watching their vegetables begin to grow. They have explored different textures and smells and have shown great care for their plants. When the plants are ready, we will move them outside so the pupils can continue to look after them in a larger space.

A big part of our learning this term has been our Art module for the OCR qualification. Pupils have created a wide range of colourful and creative artwork. They have used paint, collage materials, mixed media and clay, and they have taken great pride in their finished pieces. Over the last week, the class has been helping to put up displays and get everything ready for our special event. On the final day of term, our hall will be transformed into an Art Gallery. Families and classes have been invited to come in and enjoy the artwork the pupils have produced. This is a wonderful chance for everyone to celebrate the pupils' creativity and hard work.

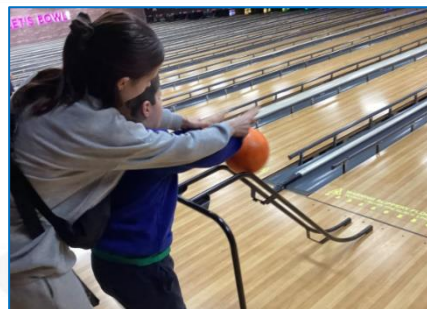
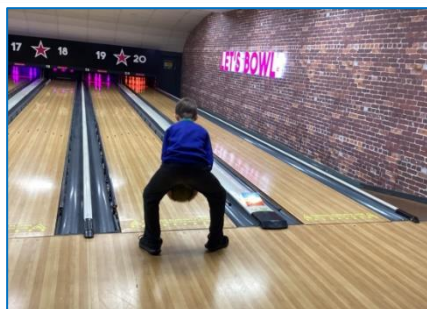
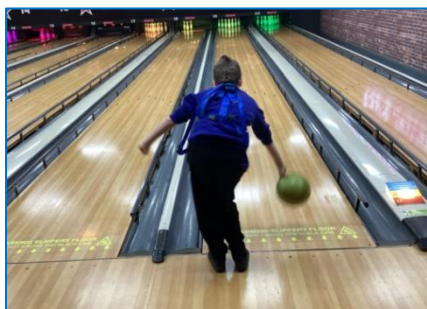


Finally, the highlight of the term was the visit from the chicks during Science Week, I think some of the pupils would have liked to take them home!!



Chestnut Class

This term Chestnut class have thoroughly enjoyed our topic. We have been learning all about plants and even started to grow our own vegetables in our garden area. We have really enjoyed our weekly trips into the community and are getting much better at walking by the roads and knowing how to cross a road safely. We particularly enjoyed our bowling class trip; it was so much fun! This term we have also had Careers Week, Science Week, World Book Day, Red Nose Day and Easter too which has made it a very busy but very fun filled term. The highlight was showcasing our Easter poem to the parents!



Cherry Tree Class

What a wonderful and busy term it has been!

We have absolutely loved this term's theme. The children have explored soil, watering cans, seeds and a range of exotic fruits through our sensory story sessions.

Alongside this, we've celebrated World Book Day, enjoyed Science Week with the chicks and lots of exciting experiments, and taken part in Careers Week with some fantastic visitors, including a School Crossing Patrol Officer, PC Chris and Kevin the window cleaner. Our trip to the Delaines bus depot, complete with a ride through the bus wash, was a particular highlight!

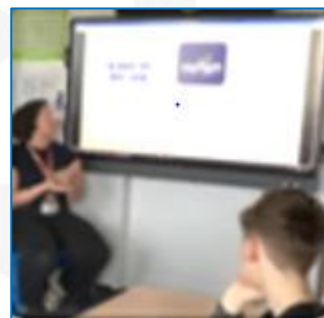
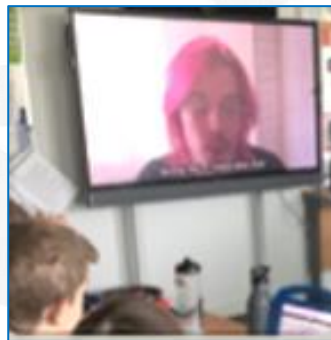
It has truly been a term full of discovery, excitement and fun. The children have worked so hard, and we are all ready for a well earned Easter break!



Rowan Class

This term in Rowan Class has been incredibly busy, but one of our favourite moments came right at the start with Careers Week. We were extremely lucky to hear from so many people about their jobs, either by visiting us in school or sending in videos. We had sessions led by TK Maxx shop assistants, pot washers, dog walkers, school kitchen staff, video editors, software developers, bakers, aquarium shop workers and artists. We explored the different skills each job requires, the tasks people complete each day, and we came up with brilliant questions to ask our visitors.

A particular highlight was our catering day, when a baker visited to tell us all about their role before challenging us to design our own cookie flavours. We adapted a recipe, created a shopping list, and then headed to Tesco to buy the ingredients, with the adults under strict instructions not to help us find anything! In the afternoon, we worked in teams to bake (and, of course, taste test) our cookies. We also loved our trip to McDonald's, where everyone independently ordered their food and had the opportunity to ask staff questions about the different aspects of their jobs.



Elder Class

Wow, what a busy term! We had great fun during Careers Week with a visitor from Minecraft showing us how to design animals and vehicles for the game and a trip to Bourne Woods, where we learnt about all the jobs needed to keep the woods healthy for plants and animals. During this trip we were given some oak tree saplings which we have planted in the Paddock, we hope by the time we leave Willoughby they will be as tall as us!

As part of our 'How Does Your Garden Grow' topic we have also planted sunflowers and bean seeds and watched them grow. We have looked very closely at different parts of plants, including cutting seeds and bulbs in half to see what is inside, and collecting pollen from tulip flowers. On a trip to the park, we explored the different patterns on tree trunks by taking bark rubbings and investigated seed dispersal by designing a parachute to carry a seed away. We tested these by dropping them from the top of the climbing frame. We have harnessed the power of the sunlight, like leaves, and used it to make solar pictures for our Mother's Day cards. What with all this and a Red Nose Day silly hair salon, stroking tiny chicks, swimming and cooking cakes with vegetables we are ready for a rest! Happy Easter.



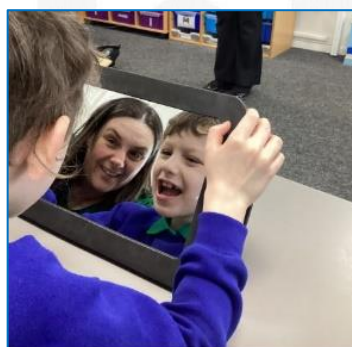
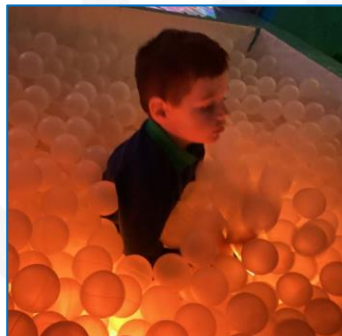
Holly Class

What a fantastic term we have had in Holly Class! We are so proud of all the children and everything they have achieved. In Science, we have been busy exploring our senses, helping us to better understand the world around us through touch, sight, sound, taste, and smell. We have also enjoyed learning about plants, looking at how they grow and what they need to stay healthy. One of our favourite activities was investigating what floats and what sinks there were lots of exciting predictions and splashes along the way!

In Literacy, we have immersed ourselves in a wonderful sensory story, bringing learning to life. We have explored how important it is to look after our environment. The children helped to sort materials, learning about looking after our planet.

We have also absolutely loved our cookery sessions this term! The children had so much fun exploring different ways to make pizza, choosing toppings, spreading sauces, and of course enjoying the delicious results. It has been a fantastic way to build independence and try new foods. Another highlight of our term has been our dance sessions with Chloe. The children have really enjoyed moving to music, expressing themselves, and building their confidence through dance.

We hope you all have a lovely break and look forward to another exciting term ahead!



Cedar Class

We have had a busy start to the term whilst experiencing Careers Week. We explored the role of a beekeeper, an artist, a musician, and a chef to name a few!



The following week we engaged our senses during our Science Week activities. We planted seeds, created some beautiful sun catchers and nurtured our fluffy chicks.



We explored lights, textures, sounds, and smells as we encountered the story, 'The Secret Garden'. Also, we nurtured our cress and beans whilst continuing our topic theme 'How Does Your Garden Grow?'



Towards the end of term, the weather was beautiful, so we enjoyed exploring the great outdoors during our Forest School sessions. Also, we had a wonderful time experiencing bouncing on the trampoline!



Maple Class

Maple Class began this term as we meant to go on – being kind. We have collected a huge number of donations for Bourne Food Bank from the Willoughby family which we have taken to the Butterfield Centre ourselves and hopefully shown how we can actively support the community around us. Maple pupils devised the campaign themselves when some of us first came up with the idea when we read a story about a food bank. Another highlight of our term has been our latest visit to Wood Grange Care Home in which we enjoyed tabletop games, arts and crafts, painting and conversation with our friends there. Even Willoughby Careers Week brought out our generosity as we focused on caring for others. A visit from a veterinary nurse allowed us to get involved in the practical side of caring for animals and an afternoon at Don't Lose Hope Café taught us how to use a till, take an order and wash up. This term has also seen us sit our Pearson Functional Skills examinations as we look forward to college courses in the future.



Jacaranda Class

This term in Jacaranda, we have continued to enjoy our weekly swimming sessions and our time running the tuckshop, where we have also been building confidence in using money. We have been practising our coin recognition skills and applying what we know in real-life situations, taking turns to pay for our own items. In the kitchen, we've cooked a range of meals, preparing each one independently with growing pride. Some pupils also completed exams this term, and we are incredibly proud of their effort and resilience.

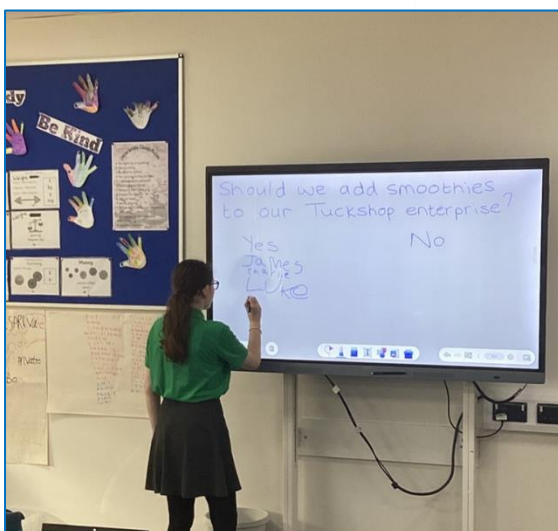
We have continued to develop our speaking and listening skills, focusing on how to add to conversations and communicate thoughtfully with others. Our weekly trips to the library have been a wonderful opportunity to explore books and nurture a love of reading. Dance with Chloe has become a firm favourite, and our Easter performance at the church was a lovely highlight for everyone.



This term we also enjoyed preparing a small gift and card for Mother's Day, putting a lot of care and creativity into making something special. Our art projects have been calming and expressive, with each student bringing their own unique flair to their work. Careers Week was another exciting part of our learning, and it has inspired us to consider starting a new enterprise next term, more information on this will be released soon!



What a full, fun and productive term it has been for Jacaranda!



Oak Class

We have had a very busy and exciting term! Highlights included Careers Week, where the children enjoyed a visit from a Bee Keeper and lots of sensory learning as we became chefs and gardeners. During Science Week, we watched eggs hatch into chicks and loved seeing them grow.

With the weather improving, we've spent more time outside, especially on the trampoline, and our topic work has allowed us to plant seeds and watch our sunflowers begin to sprout.



Monkey Puzzle Class

This term we have enjoyed lots of green fingered activities. We were excited to welcome back Jayce's Dad to help us plant sweet peas for Mother's Day, and more recently we planted sunflowers too.

Our book *Rainbow Fish* has supported our PSED learning, especially in understanding the emotions of others. This has been an important focus, as we have had to revisit feelings many times throughout the term.

Swimming lessons have continued, and the children have done a brilliant job, along with the adults! It has been wonderful to see so many pupils grow in confidence and develop new skills.

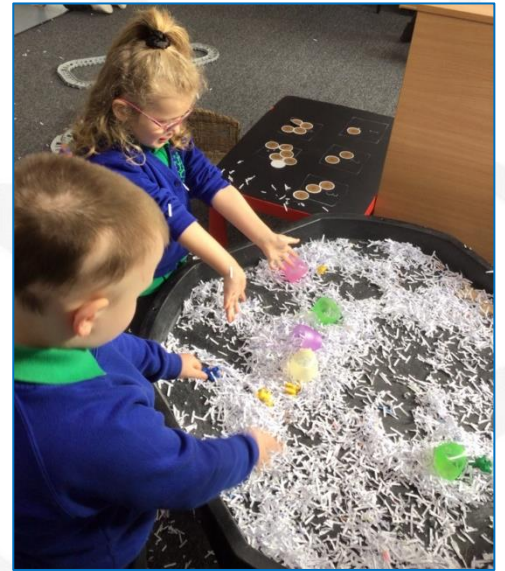
We also managed to fit in a trip to Tesco, which was fantastic. The children were polite, friendly, and followed all the rules for staying safe in the community. Each child had an item on their shopping list to find in the store. When we returned to school, we enjoyed a delicious tasting session with different flavours of hot cross buns. Yummy!



Magnolia Class

Magnolia class have had a fantastic and engaging term, with lots of hands-on, sensory learning. Our sensory story, Jasper's Beanstalk, has been a real highlight, supporting communication, sequencing and engagement. The children have been developing their early maths skills by counting to 5 and beyond through songs and activities such as "Five Currant Buns," building confidence in number recognition. We have also enjoyed cooking sessions, where the children made a variety of pizzas, encouraging independence and life skills.

During Careers Week, the children explored different roles through play, including a spa, hairdressers, and construction work, which they thoroughly enjoyed. We also focused on road safety and put this into practice through activities such as our car wash, helping the children to understand real-life skills in a fun and meaningful way.



Fir Class

It has been an extremely busy and exciting term, with Careers Week, Science Week, and World Book Day. One of Fir Tree Class's highlights was the work we did during Careers Week, where we explored a range of real-life jobs through hands-on experiences. We met a police officer, helped a school crossing patrol officer stop the traffic, and discovered how a pharmacist supports people when they are feeling unwell. Another memorable moment was our visit to the Bus Museum. The children enjoyed a ride on a bus to the museum, explored buses from different eras, and even sat in a bus as it went through the bus wash. It was a thrilling experience for everyone!



Mulberry Class

What a busy term we have had in Mulberry class! Our topic 'How Does Your Garden Grow' has been a big hit, with the class enjoying lots of time outdoors. We have planted different seeds such as spring onions and beans and have enjoyed seeing how much they have grown each week. Our sensory story 'Jack and the Beanstalk' has provided lots of exploring opportunities!

We are really proud of how well the class have taken to the weekly shopping trips to Tesco. We have done a lot of work on learning to exchange money to buy items and the Friday Tuck-Shop has become a weekly class favourite!

In PSHE we have been learning about healthy lifestyles. We have explored lots of healthy foods through our tasting sessions and during our dance sessions we thought about different movement by following simple dance routines. A firm favourite has been the superman action song!

In emotional literacy our topic has been ears. We have enjoyed listening to how we hear different sounds by playing instruments fast, slow, loud, or quiet. We have explored lots of different types of sound through instruments including the big drum, chimes and rainmaker.

We also managed to fit in Careers Week this term, where we had a visit from the lollipop man and a vet. We all hope you have a lovely Easter.



Redwood Class

This term has been another wonderfully arty one in Redwood, with pupils working incredibly hard to produce some amazing pieces. On the last day of term, all of the pupils in PFA proudly hosted an art exhibition; classes were invited to view the collection in the morning, and in the afternoon, pupils welcomed their own guests, showing them around, preparing snacks, and confidently answering questions about their work.

On Wednesday, we were finally able to showcase the dance we have been developing with Chloe, our dance teacher, and it was a huge hit with both peers and staff. We also enjoyed a lovely visit to the community library and look forward to making this a regular part of our routine next half term. In cooking, pupils have continued to expand their recipe repertoire, creating fajitas, stir fry and cottage pie. We are all looking forward to our Easter break and returning refreshed, ready for our new theme and hopefully some good weather!



Willow Class

Although this is a relatively short term, Willow Class have been able to fit in a surprising amount of varied activities. This has included: Exploration and visitors during Careers Week; experiments and seeing the chicks during Science Week; not to mention, commencing our Forest School sessions, dressing up for World Book Day and focusing on our overarching topic: 'How Does Your Garden Grow?'

Willow Class really loved seeing the chicks and enjoyed touching their soft feathers and especially loved listening to their little chirps. 🐣

It was lots of fun to undertake some different science activities. Lots of focus from the pupils was observed within the messy tasks such as oobleck and chia slime, probably the favourite for all was the Bouncing Bubbles. Staff and pupils alike were so engaged to see if they could hold and bounce the bubbles on their gloved hands. 😊

We have also ventured out into the community to go shopping at Tesco's, experiencing using money in real-life situations. We have purchased items for our cognition and math's learning about fractions. We also bought some foodstuffs to contribute to the collection being carried out by Maple Class for Bourne Food Bank.

We wish you all a Happy Easter. 🐰

