



WILLOUGHBY
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a short but busy term, we would like to take a moment to celebrate the many wonderful experiences and achievements our pupils have enjoyed.

Have a Go Day – Inspiring Futures

One of the highlights of the term was our fantastic Have a Go Day. Pupils had the exciting opportunity to explore the world of work through a variety of hands-on experiences and visits from a range of local businesses. We were delighted to welcome LCC, Clancy, Anglian Water, Balfour Beatty, Worldwide Fruit, Lincolnshire Herbs and Burmour construction, all of whom provided engaging, practical activities. A definite favourite was the gritter and the smoothie bike.

The children embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and curiosity, developing new skills and gaining valuable insights into the world of work. A huge thank you goes to Evelyn for organising such a successful and memorable event.

Sports Day Success

Our annual Sports Day was another highlight of the term. We had two days filled with teamwork, determination, lots of smiles and thankfully no rain! It was great to see so many parents and families joining us to support and cheer on the children.

Expanding Opportunities

We are delighted to have formed a new link with Riding for the Disabled this term. This is an exciting development, and we hope to gradually extend this opportunity to more pupils over time. In addition, Sailability has now restarted, giving a number of pupils the chance to take part in this enriching and confidence-building activity once again.

We hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to seeing the children back in school on Monday 1st June.



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Monday 1 st June	Start of Term
Week commencing 8 th June	Healthy Eating Week – focused during lesson time with pupils.
Week commencing 6 th July	Science Week
Wednesday 8 th July	School Disco
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
Monday 7 th September	Start of Term

Food and Nutrition

A different term for Food and Nutrition this time due to my absence. However, all classes continued to cook an array of fruit and vegetable-based cakes as well as lots of yummy scones and main meal type dishes. This is credit to all Willoughby's young people who demonstrated how much they have progressed and learned during their cooking sessions, and their ability to apply their skills and to keep calm and carry-on cooking. I would like to thank Kelly, Kerryn, Sue, Susan and all classes for keeping the wheels turning. Your efforts were gratefully received.

This term has ended with some classes using fish in their recipes and producing what I can honestly say was restaurant standard food. Health and safety unpinned everything to create such high-level dishes. Maple class especially loved eating the meal as well as making it. I look forward to next term and wish you all a happy half term.



Art

This term in Art, the children set off on a fun-filled adventure with Andy and Pip, two characters from Lily's very own story. Each week, we uncovered a new part of their journey and created artwork inspired by what we read. The art room this term was full of glitter, imagination, and sensory excitement!

Noah in Chestnut Class has been working incredibly hard in his 'calm and create' session! After visiting the inspiring PFA exhibition, Noah decided he wanted to create his very own art show and he chose *The Gruffalo* as his theme. Every costume, prop, and artwork were created by Noah himself, with only a little help from Art Teacher Lily when needed. His imagination, determination, and creativity shine through in every detail of the scene! Noah's parents along with staff members Alison and Sue were lucky enough to watch the live show performed by Noah and his classmates. A special well done to Edward from Chestnut Class and Sophie from Elder Class for performing you both were superstars!



Mulberry Class



What a busy term we have had in Mulberry class. This term our topic 'Swords and Sandals' has seen us explore our sensory story 'A Pirate Adventure'. We have enjoyed exploring our sensory items such as the pirate hat, parrot, and treasure.



In science, we have been learning about different materials and how they change. We have been looking at who our safe adults are in PSHE, how they help us and what they do to keep us safe.



In numeracy, we have continued our weekly trips to Tesco and enjoy buying food and drink items for our Friday tuck shop. We have enjoyed learning about time and exploring clocks, sequencing activities of day and night and ordering how to make a sandwich and a drink.



This term we started our dance lessons with Chloe and are enjoying moving to the music using scarves and balloons, following key instructions. We hope you all have a lovely half term.

Sycamore Class



Although it has been a shorter half term, we have filled it with lots of fun and exciting learning in Sycamore Class! This term, we have been learning all about the Vikings, which the pupils have found really interesting. We have also enjoyed making the most of the sunshine with horse-riding, gardening, trampolining, and time on the roundabout.



Our focus skill this half term has been teamwork, and the pupils have shown this brilliantly through team games, turn-taking activities, music with Andrew and Sports Day practice in P.E.

It has been another fantastic half term in Sycamore Class. Thank you for all the hard work, we are excited to see what Summer Term 2 brings!

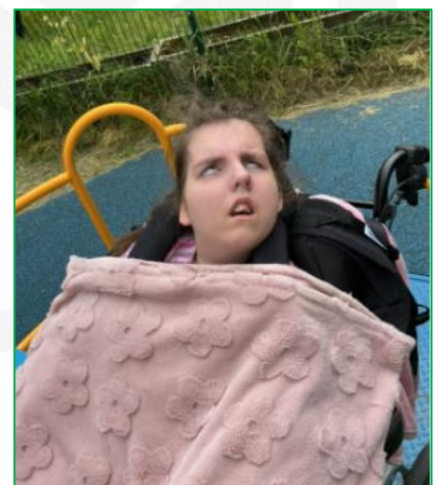
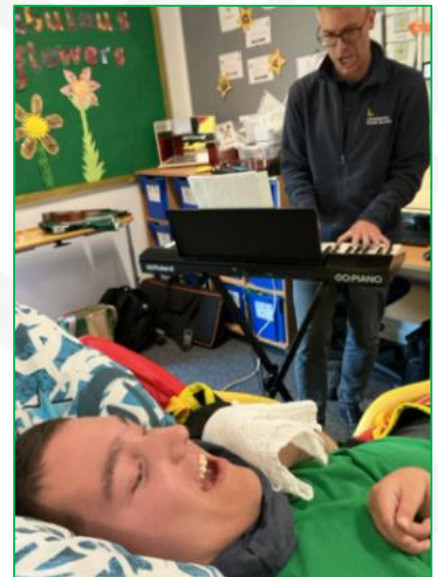


Cedar Class

This term we have enjoyed venturing back in time during our 'Swords and Sandals' topic and 4D sessions. We set sail with the Vikings, explored medieval England and flew high above Ancient Greece whilst encountering sensory experiences.

During our music sessions with Andrew, we explored making sounds using a range of percussion instruments and listening to music played on the keyboard and ukulele. We have experienced some lovely sunny weather this term, so we explored our outdoor environment; enjoying the trampoline and roundabout.

Our Forest School sessions have been great fun too! We loved listening to sensory stories while encountering natural materials.



Cherry Tree Class

What a short but busy term it has been! We have all thoroughly enjoyed our focus story, and the children have worked incredibly hard at asking for resources using their preferred methods. Some firm favourites this term have included wobbly jelly, wiggly jelly worms and, perhaps unsurprisingly, chips!

We have also been very lucky with the weather during our Forest School sessions with Dave. Highlights have included toasting marshmallows, working with clay, building stick houses and exploring the paddock.

Everyone also took part in the 'Have a Go Day', where we climbed up into a gritter lorry (pressing the horn was a big hit!) before having a turn sitting on a small digger. A fantastic time was had by all!



Chestnut Class

This term was only short but it has been jam packed with fun. We have enjoyed visits out into the local community, had visitors in school allowing us the opportunity to learn about lots of different jobs then pupils had a go themselves and we have even had Sports Day! Below are a selection of photographs showing the highlights.



Fir Tree Class

This term, the children have really embraced their weekly Forest School sessions. As the weather has become warmer, the paddock has blossomed into life, providing a vibrant and ever-changing environment for exploration. We have enjoyed a range of activities, including laying a bark path, planting beans, and toasting marshmallows around our campfire. These experiences have encouraged teamwork, resilience, and a deeper connection with the natural world.



Holly Class

As we come to the end of another wonderful term in Holly Class, we would like to take a moment to celebrate the amazing progress all of our children have made. We are incredibly proud of the engagement, confidence and enthusiasm they have shown throughout the term. From sensory activities and communication sessions to group learning, every child has achieved something truly special in their own unique way.



It has been fantastic to see the children's willingness to take on the challenges of both science and maths lessons, approaching each task with curiosity and determination. Alongside this, the class have embraced exciting new experiences, including music sessions with the Lincolnshire Music Service. These opportunities have helped to broaden their horizons, develop new skills and build confidence. We are so proud of the way Holly Class continue to approach each new experience with such enthusiasm and a positive mindset.

Sports Day was absolutely amazing! The children did brilliantly, and it was wonderful to see them taking part, having fun and enjoying the experience together. Thank you so much to all of our families for your continued support and attendance your involvement means so much to us and truly helps make these events extra special for the children. We hope you all have a safe, relaxing and enjoyable break. Please do upload any photos from your week to Tapestry, we love seeing what the children get up to! We look forward to welcoming everyone back for another exciting term in Holly Class.



Monkey Puzzle Class

This term Monkey Puzzle have loved finally getting a turn to experience the trampoline! We have been really impressed with how they have followed the rules to stay safe and to see their skills and confidence developing. All pupils have been brave enough to have a little jump on their own and others are showing how brave they are with some high jumping. We really enjoyed 'Have a Go Day' and experienced the big gritter and watched the Anglian Water men repair a big water leak.

Science with Nikki has been great fun. We have explored lots of different materials and textures and got thoroughly involved. We have learned about telling the time and sequencing our days. We used a giant clock and our bodies to make different hours of the day.



Acacia Class

As we come to the end of another busy term, we wanted to share some of the highlights from Acacia class. We've had a fantastic time out on the water this term, with students really enjoying their sailing sessions. It's been great to see everyone getting involved and building confidence. There have been lots of smiles (and a few splashes!) and plenty of memorable moments.

Back at school, we've been working hard on developing our horticulture area. It's really starting to come together, and we're especially thankful to one of our parents for kindly donating a lovely new shed, it's already proving to be a brilliant addition. Students have been busy planting a range of vegetables, and we're all excited to watch them grow over the coming weeks.

We've also had a go at photography this term. Students have been experimenting with different ideas and techniques, and they've produced some really interesting and creative images. It's been great to see their personalities come through in their work. It's been a really positive and productive term.

We hope you all have a lovely break, and we look forward to seeing everyone next term!



Willow Class

Willow Class have been as busy as ever with us focusing upon the topic: Swords and Sandals. Within this we've visited the Colosseum in Ancient Rome whilst in the 4D Room and have explored the text of Dragon Stew for our Sensory Story. We've also enjoyed the chance to undertake more outdoor activities, as well as sessions with our visiting teachers. The pupils' time on the trampoline has produced lots of smiles and giggles as the bounces get bigger and bigger! We have loved being back outside at Forest School, listening to Dave's stories about The Stickman, as well as the opportunity to cook a little snack on the fire or explore the paddock area. Perhaps our favourite thing this term has been beginning our Dance sessions with Chloe. We love the compilation of music Chloe has put together for us, based upon our personal likes.



Redwood Class

What a busy and brilliant half term it has been, the weeks have flown by! We have been focusing on ICT, exploring different types of technology and beginning to learn about the internet and technology safety. The pupils have shown great curiosity and are already becoming more confident in how to use technology safely and responsibly.

Our horticulture is in full swing and the classroom is starting to look like Kew Gardens, filled with growing plants and budding gardeners. We're very excited to move everything outside once the warmer weather finally arrives!

This has also been our last half term with Libby before she goes on maternity leave. The pupils have had lots of fun guessing baby names (with some very creative ideas!) and planning a lovely afternoon tea to celebrate. We wish her all the very best and can't wait to meet the new arrival in the future. It's been a packed half term with Sports Day, 'Have a Go Day', tag rugby, sailing and even a Bank Holiday squeezed in. It may have been fast-paced, but it has certainly been fun. We're looking forward to continuing with our theme next half term and seeing what comes next including our special end of year trip!



Rowan Class

We have worked incredibly hard in Rowan Class this term and are proud of all we have achieved. We've made fantastic progress with our maths topic on time, and have written some brilliant, creative Viking themed stories in English.

Some of our highlights this term has been Sports Day, where it was wonderful to see so many of you there supporting us, and our exciting 'Have a Go' Day. At 'Have a Go' Day, we had the chance to explore a wide range of careers, from herb growing to highway maintenance. We learned about different jobs and even tried some of them out ourselves! We looked at the drones used in highway maintenance and had a go at flying a virtual drone. We used bikes to make smoothies, collected dirt using remote-controlled diggers and even used power tools to build houses. It was a busy day, but lots of fun was had by everyone in Rowan Class!



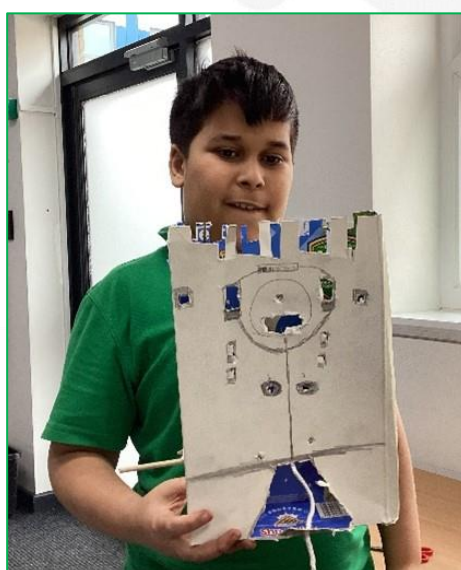
Maple Class

Another busy term for Maple Class which has seen us actively getting involved with our next steps beyond Willoughby. We have been learning about budgeting, bank accounts and shopping. We have got our hands dirty during 'Have A Go Day' in which numerous businesses visited Willoughby for the day to give pupils the opportunity to have a taster of industry and the world of work. Many pupils have been enjoying work experience placements at Pets at Home and also World Wide Fruit, growing in confidence and initiative. Of course, our daily formal lessons, Art and Food & Nutrition have continued as usual but with a couple of changes this term such as Dance with Chloe. We have learned a line dance to a track from Lilo & Stitch with a Hawaiian theme and using scarves as props. We have also thrown ourselves into Sports Day which was such great fun and there were certainly plenty of giggles!



Elder Class

It's been a short term, but in Elder class, we've packed in the fun! We've had great fun learning about what it was like to be a child living in a medieval castle; from clothes and hairstyles to stinky jobs and rooms in the castle. We have made cereal box castles with a working drawbridge, arrow slits and battlements, shields showing our personal coat of arms, trebuchets and catapults for attacking enemy castles. We had great fun holding our own jousting tournament with hobby horse steeds and pool woggle lances! As well as all our classroom learning, Elder especially enjoyed the fantastic 'Have-a Go Day' and took part in all the amazing activities that Evelyn had organised.



Jacaranda Class

This term in Jacaranda we have been building on our confidence in the community and with adults we are less familiar with. We have worked on our speaking and listening and taken it in turns when doing so. I am so proud of everyone in Jacaranda this term and it has been a pleasure to watch their confidence grow throughout. This final week they have been engaging with students from other schools, other students' parents whilst at Sports Day, with all helping in every way they could to ensure it ran smoothly.

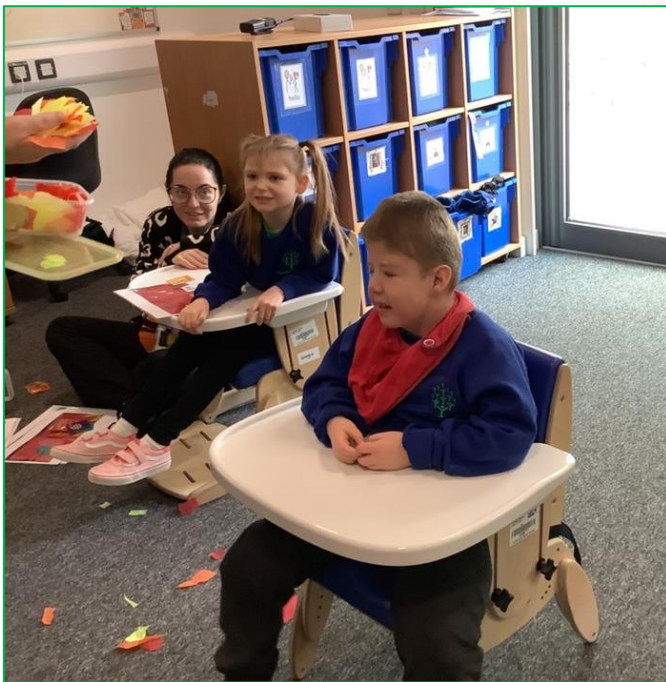
In math's we have been looking at Time, telling from quarter, half and 5 minutes past. Some have used the 24-hour clock to stretch themselves that little bit further where appropriate. In our reading and comprehension, we looked into getting information from such texts as animal information, World War 1 and The Stone Age. Such things like the 'Have-a-Go Day' were excellent and again gave our pupils the opportunity to stretch themselves and explore potential avenues after Willoughby.

We enjoyed our regular swimming sessions and incorporated safety in the community by walking back also, all of the class were amazing and were so proud of showing what they knew about road safety and personal space. Work in the library continued with getting everyone who wanted to, a library card and talking about different apps we can use to read or listen to audiobooks at home.



Oak Class

This term, our “Swords and Sandals” topic has provided lots of exciting and engaging experiences for the children. They particularly enjoyed our sensory story, “There’s a Dragon in Your Book,” where the interactive elements such as the water spray and fan really brought the story to life and kept everyone fully engaged. Exploring different tastes and textures was another highlight, with the children loving the opportunity to try ice cream, sauces, and sprinkles. We have also made the most of the warmer weather and had lots of opportunities to use the trampoline, which is a firm favourite! Sports Day was also a fantastic event, with lots of enthusiasm shown across the different challenges and activities, especially when sharing the experience with parents. The final race was a real highlight, followed by the excitement and pride of receiving their medals!



Magnolia Class

It has been a short but very busy term. We have enjoyed our sensory story, 'The Castle the King Built', exploring building blocks, tools, horses, cloth and spices, selecting symbols and writing sentences. We have looked at ordering morning and evening routines and have enjoyed learning a new song, 'This Is The Way We....' and acting out combing hair and brushing teeth etc. We are working hard on our individual targets.

Understanding the World has been fun this term looking at and naming different materials and recycling/repurposing them into swords and shields, bug houses, Elmer Elephants and junk modeling.

In PSHE we have continued to explore emotions by singing songs, reading stories and throwing bean bags into emotion hoops and talking about that emotion and why we might feel that way. This term we have loved PE with Coach Sam and we have prepared ourselves for Sports Day. It was a lovely event and supported by so many parents 😊. Staying active has continued in the 4D room with dance music and by doing movement to music in class. Dance with Chloe has been a lovely sensory experience. Forest school (singing, cooking on the camp fire, stories and exploration), cooking (making and using different doughs) and art continue to be firm favourites. All these different activities have supported us in our confidence transitioning around school. Of course, most importantly, we have continued to form friendships and explore the world through play.



Have a wonderful half term and we look forward to summer and our class trip!

