

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our pupils, families and staff for their continued support throughout what has been a busy, exciting and memorable year.

Despite the challenges of the recent hot weather, our pupils have continued to show enthusiasm, resilience and a positive attitude to learning. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved.

A Term Full of Learning and Adventure

This term has been packed with exciting opportunities both in and beyond the classroom. Pupils have enjoyed a variety of educational visits and experiences, helping to bring their learning to life and create lasting memories.

One of the highlights of the term was our Science Week. We were delighted to welcome Animals UK, whose fascinating animal encounters inspired curiosity and excitement across the school. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to have hands on experiences and were able to handle a wide range of animals.



We were also fortunate to receive support from students from Bourne Grammar School, who worked alongside our pupils to deliver engaging science activities. Their enthusiasm and encouragement helped make the week a great success.

Another unforgettable experience was a visit from a talented theatre company whose production truly took us "Over the Moon." The performance captivated pupils and staff alike, sparking imagination and bringing learning to life.

Community Connections

We were delighted to welcome residents from Wood Grange Care Home to Willoughby Academy for a special afternoon tea. It was wonderful to spend time together, share conversations and strengthen the links between our school and the wider community.



We would also like to thank everyone who donated a prize to our summer raffle. Your generosity and continued support of Willoughby are truly appreciated.

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

Registered Company No: 6462935. DfE Registration No: 138819

It was wonderful to see the Willoughby Choir perform at Bourne's Picnic in the Park. They sang and signed beautifully and we were incredibly proud of them. Thank you to all staff and parents who supported this event.



Celebrating Creativity



This term, every pupil at Willoughby has contributed to an exciting creative project in partnership with The Old Town Hall POP Up. The resulting artwork will form part of the Heritage Open Days programme.

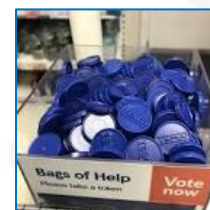
The Willoughby exhibition will be open to visitors on: Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils' creativity and look forward to sharing their work with the community after the holidays.

Supporting Our Future Growth

At Willoughby, we are always looking for ways to enhance our curriculum and provide meaningful opportunities for our pupils.

We are delighted to announce that our application to the Tesco Fruit & Veg Grants Programme has been successful and our project will soon be put forward for a customer vote in Tesco stores in Bourne and Spalding.



Voting will take place from Monday 3rd August 2026 until the end of November 2026.

If successful, we hope to further develop our horticulture programme by investing in a polytunnel, enabling pupils to grow a wider range of fruits and vegetables for use in their food technology lessons.

If you shop in Tesco, please collect the blue voting tokens and vote for Willoughby Academy. Every token could help us bring this exciting project to life.

Farewell and Thank You

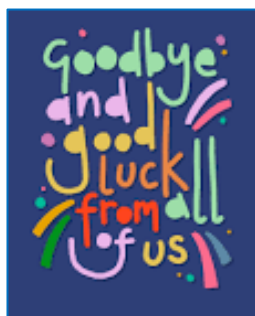
This year we say goodbye to two much-loved and long-standing members of the Willoughby Family. Pat, who has been part of the Willoughby family for 25 years, and Sally, who has dedicated an incredible 27 years to supporting our pupils. We cannot thank them enough for their unwavering dedication, care, compassion and support for the many pupils who have passed through their hands over the years. Their contribution to Willoughby Academy has been immeasurable, and they leave with our deepest gratitude, affection and very best wishes for the future.



We would also like to express our sincere thanks to Wayne Gilding, who continues to kindly make and donate beautiful leaving plaques for all of our leavers. This thoughtful gesture is greatly appreciated and will provide a lasting memento for our pupils and staff.



Wishing Our Leavers Every Success



This summer we also say goodbye to 15 pupils as they move on to the next stage of their education and personal journeys.

Our leavers will be progressing to a wide range of settings: Stamford College, Boston College, Grantham College, Leeds College, The Chapel Centre and Calman Colaiste. We are immensely proud of all they have achieved during their time at Willoughby. We wish each of them every success, happiness and confidence as they embark on their exciting next steps.

Looking Ahead

In September we welcome back Amy and Lauren from maternity leave and are looking forward to having them back as part of the Willoughby teaching team.

As we close another academic year and reflect on the many achievements, milestones and special moments that have made this year so memorable. We would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership in helping our pupils flourish.

On behalf of everyone at Willoughby, I wish you all a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break.



We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 7th September, refreshed and ready for another exciting year of learning.

With very best wishes,

Vicki

Thursday 3 rd September 2026	Staff Training Day
Friday 4 th September 2026	Staff Training Day
Monday 7th September 2026	Start of Term
Tuesday 15th September	NHS Flu vaccinations for pupils with Parental/Carer consent
Friday 23rd October 2026	End of Term
Monday 26 th October – Friday 30 th October 2026	Half Term
Monday 2nd November 2026	Start of Term
Wednesday 11th November	School photographs
Tuesday 17 November	NHS Flu vaccinations (for pupils who have consent and were absent on 15.09.26)
Friday 18th December 2026	End of Term
Monday 21 st December 2026 – Friday 1 st January 2027	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4 th January 2027	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 5th January 2027	Start of Term

Art

We have had a very busy and creative term in Art. We began by creating artwork for our upcoming exhibition in September. Some classes worked hard to plan and create their own individual projects and artworks. While others helped to create a huge sensory landscape. Pupils contributed by producing drawings, mark-making pieces, and a range of creative elements for the final display. I think you are all going to be blown away!

For the rest of the term, we focused on all things summer! Creating a variety of colourful crafts inspired by the season. From seashell decorations to lots of ice cream-themed artwork. Overall, we have had another fantastic and creative year in Art, and I look forward to doing it all again in September!

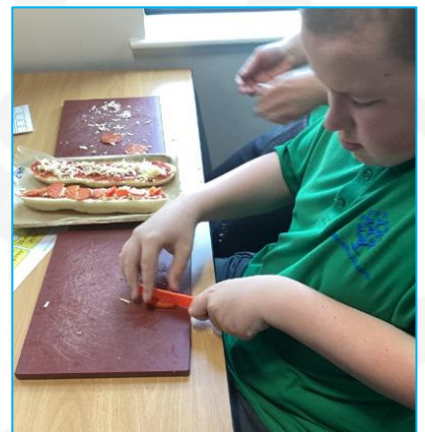
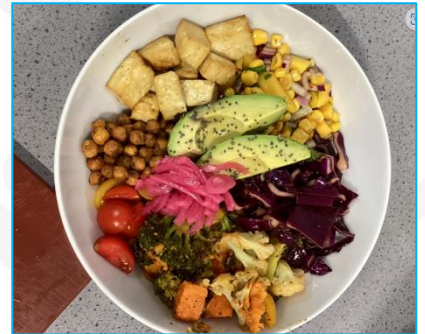


Food and Nutrition

What a brilliant final term in Food and Nutrition. Pupils have been making a range of products that would be suitable for sharing while watching all of the sport on TV this summer. Some classes have been making sharing bread that resemble footballs in honour of the World Cup, while others have been looking at all the different Commonwealth Countries and the fruit that they eat. Picnic food has proved very popular and pupils have really perfected their pastry making skills over the term. Maths and literacy always are highlighted in the lessons and weighing and measuring skills are progressing nicely as well as dividing and doubling ingredients. Pupil's love reading the recipes and looking at the symbols. Sequencing skills have been worked on this year, again with very pleasing results.



A highlight was when Chef Lee Oleksow from Cummins came in and carried out a workshop with Jacaranda on plant-based cooking by making the trendy Buddha Bowl. He was very impressed with their knife skills and commented on the politeness and curiosity. Thank you to all the classes for the effort and enthusiasm they put in every lesson. We certainly enjoy our cooking lessons here at Willoughby. I hope you all have a lovely summer break and please post any cooking you do at home on Tapestry. See you in September, Alison.



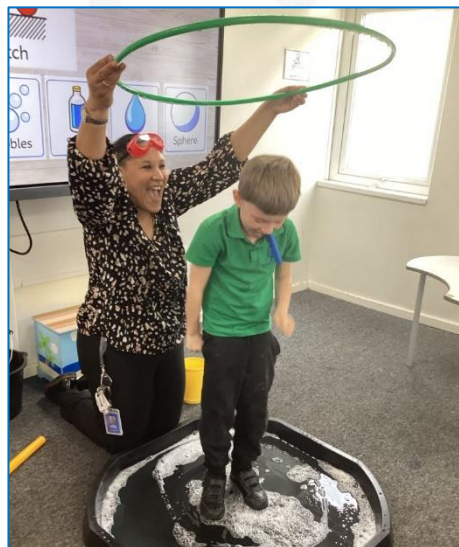
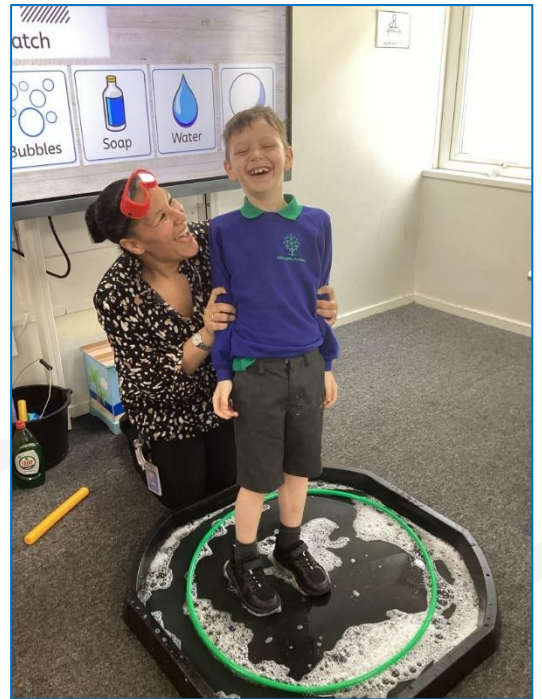
Holly Class

Teaching Holly Class has been an absolute privilege. Every single child has brought something unique, joyful and unforgettable to our classroom, and we couldn't be prouder of everything they have achieved. We've packed so much into this year! We've created explosions, explored, investigated and shared countless enjoyable moments together.

We have celebrated the children as they progress along their communication journeys, whether that has been through spoken words, using their AAC devices, gestures or finding new ways to tell us what they think, feel and need. These moments have been nothing short of extraordinary. As a team, we feel incredibly lucky to have been part of their journey this year. They have taught us just as much as we hope to have taught them.

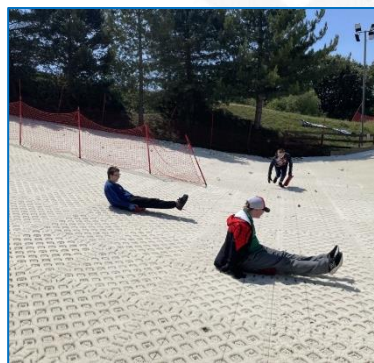
To all of our wonderful families, thank you. Working together has allowed the children

to flourish and we are so grateful for everything you have done throughout the year. You have made the 2025–2026 school year one that we will never forget. We wish each and every one of you the happiest summer.



Maple Class

A very busy year for Maple Class! A key theme throughout has been our growing independence ready for our next steps beyond Willoughby. We have taken our Pearson Functional Skills Entry Level examinations and secured our places at college for our Year 11's. We wish them good luck for their new courses and hope they enjoy their new subjects. We have spent time each week learning to use bus/train timetables, understanding bank accounts and bills, speaking to unfamiliar adults in the community in order to prepare us for adulthood. There have been some fun highlights as always as it hasn't all been work! We have continued our friendship with Wood Grange Care Home in Bourne and visited to play tabletop games, paint and chatter with residents each term. We also invited them to school to enjoy an afternoon tea with us: we baked the cakes and treats, made and served the tea, and enjoyed catching up. Maple has also showed our sporting talents in a table cricket tournament and also at Spalding Rugby Club as we like to keep active. We have also been thinking of those less fortunate than ourselves when we spent a term focused on our Bourne Food Bank appeal. We collected an amazing amount and delivered it ourselves. We haven't laughed as much as when we went to Tallington dry slope for afternoon of tobogganing, a fabulous way to end our year!



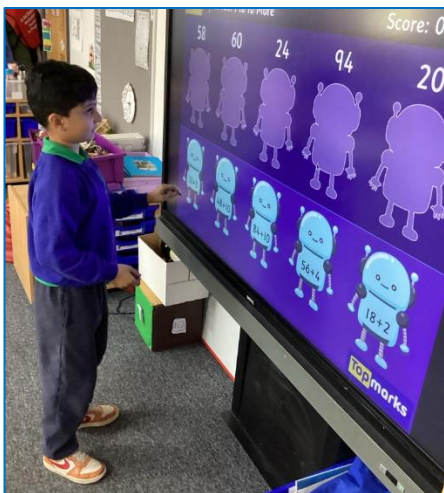
Monkey Puzzle Class

Monkey Puzzle kicked off the term in the most exciting way, with our fantastic school trip to Hamerton Zoo! The children truly made us proud with their impeccable behaviour, kindness towards one another and excellent listening skills throughout the day. From the majestic white tiger to the bears and the wonderfully noisy monkeys, there was so much to see. The children loved spotting the animals, especially those cleverly hiding. One of the real highlights was the huge climbing frame at Hamerton, where many pupils challenged themselves and achieved things, they initially thought were impossible. It was wonderful to see their determination and confidence grow right before our eyes.

Back in school, it has been a busy and cheerful time. We enjoyed a month full of birthday celebrations, coming together as a team to mark each special occasion. We also survived a heatwave, using it as an opportunity to learn all about staying safe in the sun.

This year in Monkey Puzzle has been truly special, and it has been an absolute pleasure to teach such a caring and supportive group. The pupils have consistently looked out for one another, showing kindness, empathy and a strong sense of team spirit that we are incredibly proud of.

There have been so many highlights this year. Swimming, in particular, has been a huge success, with every pupil making fantastic progress. Their resilience and willingness to try new things has been inspiring. Our PSED project has also been a standout achievement. It has been amazing to see how the children's learning has developed and the positive impact it has had across the class. We could not be prouder of everything Monkey Puzzle has accomplished this year!



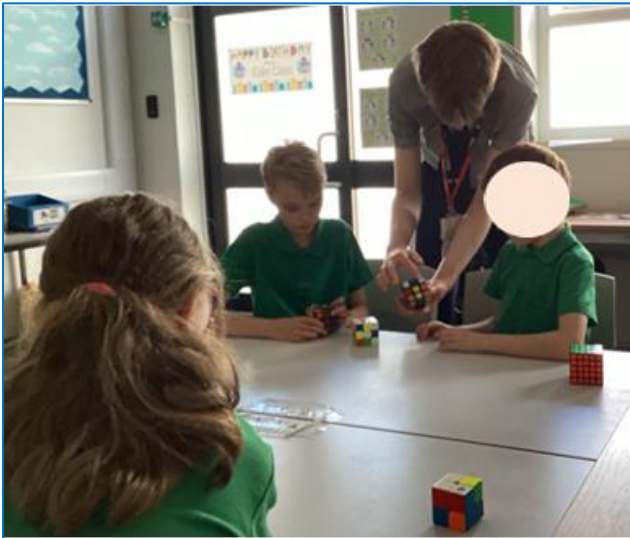
Elder Class



What a fantastic term and a brilliant end to the year for this wonderful class! It has been great to see how they have all grown in confidence and independence, taking pride in their responsibilities, supporting one another, and contributing so

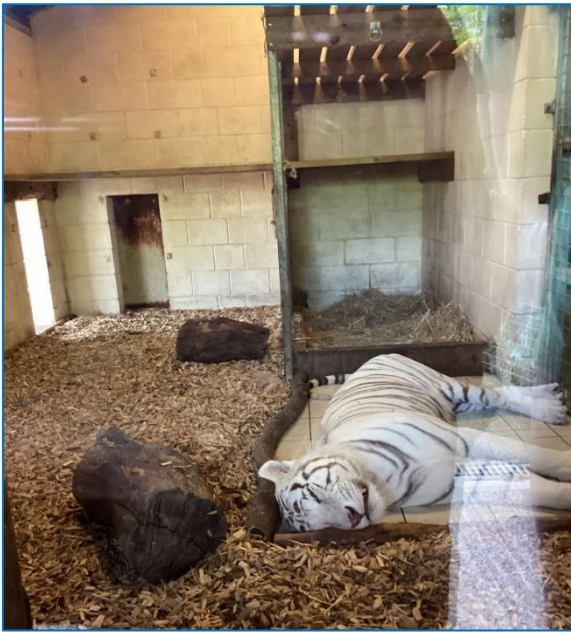


positively to our classroom community. Our visit to Bourne Tennis Club was especially memorable, this term. The volunteers gave us such a warm welcome, and the coaching activities were both exciting and engaging for everyone involved. We were also lucky to have a very special visitor from Bourne Grammar School. Dan, a talented competitive cuber, amazed us all by solving a Rubik's Cube with just one hand! He shared his fantastic skills, taught us some useful techniques, and even kindly donated some of his cubes, so we can continue practising and improving. In science, we've had a brilliant time exploring electricity. The class has become so skilled at building circuits that they went on to design and create their very own switches—what an impressive achievement!



Jacaranda Class

This term, Jacaranda class have enjoyed a range of amazing opportunities and experiences. We have been to weekly Bowls sessions in Bourne, learning about how to play this great game. We have some true talent in our class and have heard that some pupils might want to sign up to play more often outside of school! We have been very grateful for our weekly swimming sessions as it has been hot, hot, hot! Our end of year trip to Hamerton Zoo was an outstanding experience, and we got to see so many things. This has definitely been one of the best school trips ever! We had a pool party at the Bourne Outdoor Swimming pool with Maple and Redwood classes, what a day! The friendships across the three classes made this day super special and an experience we will not forget. As we end this academic year, we say farewell to Jess and Luke, who will be sorely missed. We wish them every success. Enjoy your summer!



Oak Class

This term in Oak Class, we have thoroughly enjoyed exploring our topic, 'Ready, Steady, Go!' Through our sensory story, music sessions, and a variety of exciting stimuli, the children have had many opportunities to learn and engage using all of their senses. We also celebrated another successful Science Week, where we were delighted to welcome students from Bourne Grammar School, as well as visitors from Animals UK. The children enjoyed these special experiences and showed great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the week. The highlight of the term was undoubtedly our summer trip to Ferry Meadows. Everyone had a wonderful time exploring the natural environment and enjoying the different play areas. The swings and slides proved particularly popular! We also enjoyed a picnic together in the lovely warm weather, making it a memorable day for all. We hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing you in the new academic year!



Cedar Class

What a fabulous summer term Cedar Class have had enjoying the great outdoors! We have experienced the trampoline, planted our crop and encountered natural materials during our Forest School sessions.

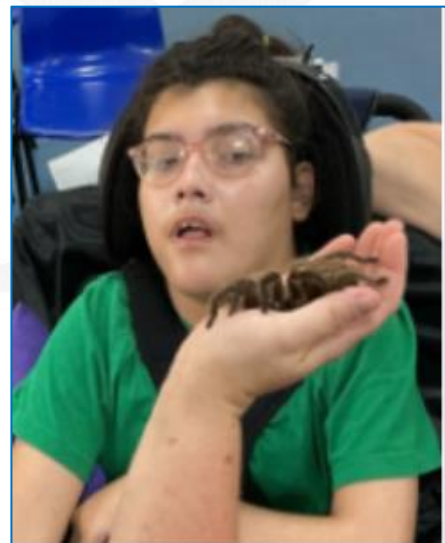


We were very enthusiastic exploring balls, hoops, and streamers during our 'Ready, Steady, Go!' topic session. We also joined Little Aardvark as he took part in 'The Big Race' during our sensory story.



As the term came to an end, we enjoyed a visit from Animals UK as part of our Science Fest activities. We experienced close encounters with a range of furry animals and creepy crawlies! We had a wonderful time exploring!

Have a wonderful, fun filled summer!

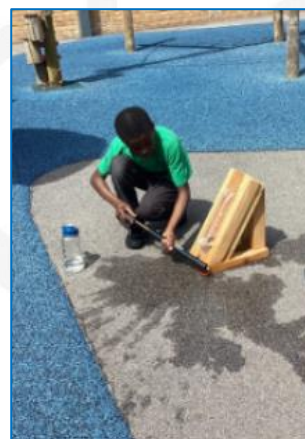


Mulberry Class

What a busy term we have had in Mulberry class. This term our topic 'Ready, Steady, Go' has seen us explore our sensory story 'The Wild Robot'. We have enjoyed exploring the smells, sounds and emotions within our story and our favourite has been the remote-control robot.

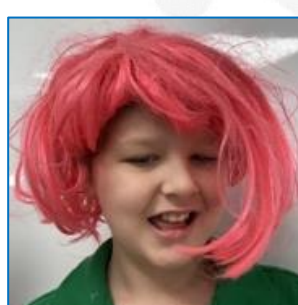
In numeracy, we have done some fantastic work with problem solving simple addition and subtraction sums. In science we have tried many different experiments for our topic 'How I can make it move'. Our class favourite was the water bottle rocket.

We have been learning about keeping our bodies private in PSHE and how our bodies are changing through puberty. We all enjoyed our visits to the park, throughout the term.



Chestnut Class

Wow what a busy year we have had! From trips into the community, performances and sporting events to visitors and fun filled lessons in school, we have done it all. The children have been amazing and took everything in their stride. This term has been no different, we held some very cute (and scary) animals and had lots of water play as it's been hot, hot, hot! We hope everyone has a lovely summer and has lots of fun!



Sycamore Class

Sycamore class have had a busy (and warm) last term! We've loved learning all about different sports and using our imaginations to visit Wimbledon, The Grand Prix and Royal Ascot. The pupils have become fantastic news reporters, and have all written brilliant newspaper articles about their time at these different sporting events.

Pupils have also thoroughly enjoyed our Tuesday sessions of engaging in either horse riding or specialist music sessions. We've seen courage, creativity and enthusiasm from everyone.



Another highlight for us this term was our trip to The Birch Tree Café. The pupils loved showing off the skills they have learnt this year in Sycamore Shop, in a real café.

The pupils have loved having Forest School again this term, using tools, being creative and showing off teamwork skills. A favourite session was making pizzas around the firepit. Sycamore class have had a brilliant year and they should all be so proud of themselves. Thank you for a lovely year, everyone!



Acacia Class

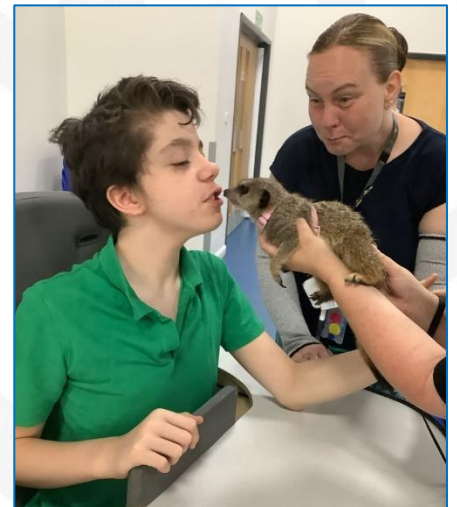
We have had a fantastic and busy term. Our garden area has been a great success, and we have enjoyed growing a variety of vegetables while developing our planting and gardening skills. We have even started harvesting courgettes, beans and have tomatoes ripening!

Students have continued with their sailing sessions, building confidence and enjoying experiences on the water and we have had some great weather.

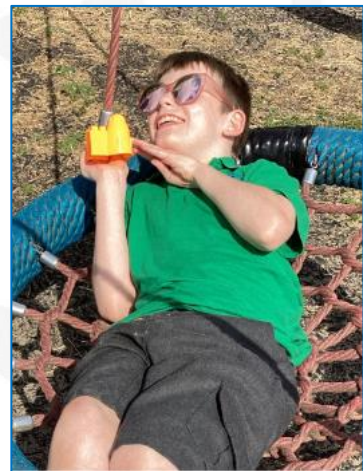
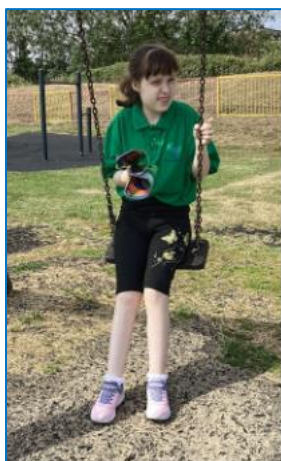
Our enterprise project has kept us very busy with students creating beautiful garden ornaments to sell at the Summer Fayre. They showed wonderful creativity and pride in their work.

During Science Week, we had the opportunity to meet a range of animals. The pupils particularly enjoyed the sensory experience of holding, touching and interacting with them, and overcoming the fear of some!

We say goodbye to four of Acacia class this year and we wish them all the best, we will really miss them.



Willow Class



This term, focusing on the overarching topic: 'Ready, Steady, Go!' Willow Class have been exploring a variety of different sports and sporting events. Within our Sensory Story, we have been learning about the FIFA World Cup, considering the countries where it is being held, the players themselves and the sights and sounds that might be encountered.

In our PE sessions we have been concentrating on the story: 'The Yoga Ogre', thinking about the sports that Ogden tries and having a go at some of these ourselves. Willow class have had great skills with hockey and basketball but the absolute favourite has to have been the chance to be a jockey. The Lone Ranger music got the pupils moving and jumping their 'fences'!

We had a lovely day undertaking our End of Term Celebration. We enjoyed our venture into Bourne to feed the ducks, play at the park, and visit the public library. Then an afternoon of games, as well as messy and sensory play was well received by all.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Summer Holidays. 😊

Anna and The Willow Class Team x

Magnolia Class

What a busy, and fun term this has been. We have made the most of beautiful, if rather hot, summer weather with lots of water and sand play under the shade of our outdoor space. We have loved our sensory story this term 'Going on a Lion Hunt', swishing the grass, getting wet as we go through the lake, squelching in the swamp and tiptoeing through the cave. We have explored animal props and wrote sentences. We have practiced our fine motor skills daily with our dough gym and funky fingers.

Math's has included lots of number songs and we continued our day and evening routine songs. We have shared toys and done lots of volume in water play, with full and empty containers.

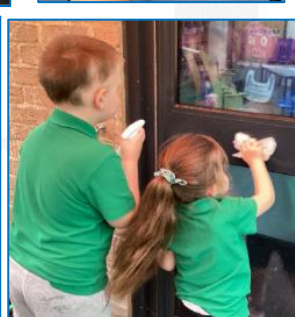
We have learned about forces in science with lots of pushing and pulling, also magnetic force and we enjoyed the animals in the Animal Lab, the show and sensory experiments with Bourne Grammar School during Science Week.

Daily 'hello' has seen us develop communication skills, learning days of the week and all about the weather. It is also where we can check in with our feelings. This was backed up by PSED lessons on Wednesday. Making requests at snack times and at song choices has seen our language, sign and use of symbols develop.

Football with coach Sam has been really popular as has forest school, cookery and dance. We LOVED our trip to the local petting farm Tiny Steps, the bus ride, stroking and feeding the animals, picnicking and playing on the tractors and obstacles. We did ourselves and Willoughby proud!!

We had so much fun at our summer fayre, school disco and awards ceremony. On a personal note, it has been a pleasure getting to know the children this year and you – their wonderfully supportive families.

I wish you all a very happy and safe summer holiday, Maureen and Magnolia team.



Rowan Class

We have had a fantastic final term together in Rowan Class and have enjoyed several brilliant trips out into the community. Many of us experienced our very first journey on a double decker bus, using our bus passes to independently obtain a ticket. We loved taking in the views from the top deck and enjoyed meeting lots of people and animals along the way. Our bus trip took us to a larger park in Market Deeping, where there was a wide range of equipment for everyone to enjoy. It was wonderful to see the pupils playing together, having fun and supporting one another.

The true highlight of the term, however, was our end of year class trip to Silkstone Vineyard. Eeva taught us about the many different tasks involved in growing and harvesting grapes, and everyone listened with great interest and enthusiasm. We even had the opportunity to measure the sugar content of some grapes, an important final step before harvest. During our visit, we also enjoyed playing a variety of games and meeting the vineyard dogs. It was a fantastic day that will be remembered by all.

We have been particularly impressed by how respectful, polite and responsible Rowan Class pupils have been when out in the community. We have received many lovely compliments from members of the public, and it has been wonderful to see the children's achievements and positive attitudes recognised by others.

This term has been the perfect ending to a brilliant year together in Rowan Class. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for your continued support throughout the year. We hope you have a wonderful summer holiday. Thank you, Rowan Class for a fantastic year!



Cherry Class

What a busy and, at times, very hot term it has been! We have enjoyed some fantastic learning opportunities alongside plenty of fun-filled activities.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our topic work and have shown great enthusiasm for all the sports we have explored. The food elements of our sensory stories were particularly popular – strawberries for Wimbledon and oranges for athletics were definite favourites!

One of the highlights of the term was our Willoughby Seaside Day, which was a tremendous success. Everyone embraced the seaside experience and loved every minute of it. It was wonderful to see so much excitement, laughter and engagement throughout the day.

We have also made the most of the warm weather, finding lots of ways to keep cool. From enjoying ice lollies and splashing in water-filled tuff trays to getting sprayed with water, there has been plenty of laughter and enjoyment along the way.

We hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing summer break. 🌞🌊🍦



Redwood Class

As another fantastic year comes to a close, it's the perfect time to look back and celebrate everything our amazing PFA class has achieved together. This year has seen us become true entrepreneurs, mastering the art of enterprise, sandwich making! From bacon butties and sausage rolls to countless tasty treats, our hardworking team has raised an incredible amount of money. Every penny has helped us provide those all-important essentials and opportunities that make our class so special.

Of course, it hasn't all been hard work! We've enjoyed lots of exciting trips and community visits, including swimming sessions, Tesco shopping adventures, and regular library visits. These experiences have helped build confidence, independence, and plenty of happy memories along the way.

One of the highlights of this year has been the wonderful bond that has developed within the group. The friendships, teamwork, support, and laughter we see every day make our class a truly special place to be. I could not be prouder of everything the students have achieved and the way they have supported one another throughout the year.

We finished the year in style with a fabulous trip to Ferry Meadows followed by a game of bowling. To top it all off, everyone enjoyed a well-earned burger and ice cream. It was the perfect way to celebrate a year full of success, fun, friendship, and achievement. We're already excited about what next year will bring! We are looking forward to expanding our class, welcoming lots of new friends, and introducing some exciting additions to the timetable. There are many adventures ahead, and we can't wait to see what we can next achieve together.

We would like to wish our wonderful Alexander the very best of luck as he begins his next adventure at Grantham College. He will be greatly missed by us all, and we are so proud of everything he has achieved. Wishing him every success and happiness for the future! Thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. Have a wonderful summer, and we'll see you ready for another year of fun, friendship, learning, and, no doubt, a few more bacon butties!



Fir Class

We have had an amazing and very busy term! The children's highlight was Science Week. We loved the visit from Animal UK, where we were introduced to a bearded dragon lizard, a snake, a tarantula, a skunk and, our firm favourite, a meerkat. During the week, we were also visited by students from Bourne Grammar School, who showed us how to carry out a range of exciting science experiments. To round off the week, we attended a performance called 'Over the Moon', which was all about astronauts and aliens. It was a fantastic experience and a wonderful way to bring our learning to life.

