

# Autumn Term Newsletter 2025

HOLBEACH  
PRIMARY ACADEMY



## Academy Lead Update

Autumn has brought a busy couple of terms with new staff as well as children. We welcome our new CEO of the Trust, Stuart Anderson, who is a regular visitor to our Academy and is working closely with Mrs Boor in her work as the Director of Primaries for the Trust.

Also, we have welcomed a new cohort of Early Years pupils who have settled well. Hard work across all staff supported all pupils entering happy and learning effectively across their new classes and year groups. Effective involvement from the pastoral team has ensured pupils finding the start of term difficult were well supported. Thank you to all families for your investment in parent/carer evenings and the feedback you provided. This will support us working together to further improve elements. We were so pleased by the number of families that were able to join us across the Open Day and hope it was valuable to witness and observe how hard all our pupils work and the good attitudes to learning they exhibit.

The children have continued to learn well with year 6 pupils showing their great skills of resilience and perseverance ensuring progress towards their end points and readiness for secondary transition. Year 6 particularly enjoyed their Residential trip allowing opportunities to form relationships with pupils from Holbeach Bank Academy also. Many have enjoyed WOW days allowing them to become superheroes or Romans for a day. This enrichment allowed the pupils to place themselves within these roles further extending their learning.

We have experienced several festive and Winter events across this term, brightened by the addition a festive jumper. We are particularly proud of the musical achievements the children have made and their enjoyment in performing these across Church services and the Academy Festive Event which, we hope you enjoyed. The pupils were incredibly engaged across a Winter Craft day allowing them to utilise and develop their Art and Design Technology skills. As we close across term 1 we continue to take pride in all of the children's achievements and wish you all a great Festive break to bring a close to 2025. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

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## Elm, Cherry, Walnut Classes Round up

In Autumn 1, pupils explored the Roman Empire, learning how it shaped Britain. They designed Roman sandals and mosaics in Art/DT, investigated rocks and fossils in Science, and developed narratives and reports in English linked to The Queen of Darkness. Maths focused on place value, addition, subtraction, and times tables, while PSHE encouraged teamwork and responsibility.

In Autumn 2, the focus shifted to The Iron Man and the question: How have trains changed over time? Children wrote poetry, narratives, and instructions, created Iron Man-inspired art, and designed robotic hands in DT. Science explored forces and magnets, while computing introduced audiobook projects. Maths covered multiplication, division, and related facts, and PSHE celebrated differences. RE examined the meaning of Christmas, and French lessons introduced musical instruments.



## Acer, Magnolia & Sycamore Classes Round up

In Autumn 1, we explored the Industrial Revolution, discovering its impact on Britain. Children investigated forces in science, built truss bridges in DT, and created artwork inspired by William Morris. English focused on descriptive writing, newspaper reports, and discussion texts linked to Cogheart. Maths covered place value, multiplication, and division, while PSHE explored identity and rights.

In Autumn 2, we asked: Could humans survive the polar regions? Pupils examined Arctic climates, adaptations, and cultural traditions. English moved from detective mysteries to adventure stories and reports, while art captured the Northern Lights. Maths focused on fractions and conversions, and computing introduced spreadsheets. PSHE celebrated differences, and RE explored the meaning of truth in the Christmas story.



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## Maple and Chestnut Classes Round up

The children have settled well and are working hard.

### Term 1 – Making Waves

They explored different instruments, types of music, and sounds, and learned about various artists and musicians. A highlight was a visit from Holbeach Town Band, where they enjoyed hearing brass instruments.



### Term 2 – Starry Night

The children learned about space and planets, created artwork related, and were thrilled by an “alien crash landing” in the outdoor area! They also performed nursery rhymes and poems at a concert with Small Saints and Holbeach Bank Academy.

Currently, they are preparing for the annual nativity, Easy Peasy Nativity, learning songs and understanding the story of the first Christmas.

## Ash, Willow and Oak Classes Round up

In Autumn 1, pupils were inspired by super heroes and real life heroes too!

They explored qualities that made a hero shine such as resilience and compassion for others through stories such as ‘Superkid’. They researched nurses that are significant in our history and had an impact on the profession plus they interviewed a dentist! In Art, they replicated Roy Lichtenstein and his comic style dotted paintings. How we can learn from sacred and special stories gave an insight to morals in RE.

In Autumn 2, pupils were introduced to the concept of prehistoric times on the history timeline through the topic of dinosaurs. They created their own dinosaur characters through descriptive poetry and making sock puppets in DT. In History, another significant woman was added to their timeline knowledge as Mary Anning, fossil hunting pioneer, showed how one person’s discoveries can have a global impact on scientific knowledge.



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## Children in Need

To support Children in Need, we wore something spotty and had a bake sale. We challenge each class to do 25 or something. EYFS and KS1 made 25 Pudseys, whilst KS2 did 25 Physical challenges. Y3 & Y4 learnt 25 Dance steps inspired by Strictly Come Dance



## Festival of Light Project

As part of the 800-year celebrations at All Saints, our school was proud to take part in the Festival of Light Project. We were delighted to welcome Marian, who worked with our pupils to design and create beautiful stained glass windows. The theme for the artwork was "What Makes Us Happy", and the children's creativity truly shone through. These stunning pieces are now on display in the church for everyone to enjoy.

The windows were unveiled during a special ceremony, where many of our pupils took part and sang as members of the church choir—making it a truly memorable occasion for all involved.



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## Hello Yellow

The pupils came to school in non-uniform, wearing a splash of yellow to show support for Young Minds and World Mental Health Day. We also launched our new Mental Health and Wellbeing Champions initiative, led by the pastoral team. As part of the launch, a virtual assembly took place for pupils in Years 1–6 across both academies, streamed in classrooms.

Thank you to everyone who joined and supported this important event!



## Jeans for Genes

### Thank You for Supporting Jeans for Genes!

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our Jeans for Genes fundraiser – we raised over £198! It was wonderful to see the academy filled with denim. The Academy Council also challenged each class to create something new from an old pair of jeans, and we were amazed by the creativity and imagination on display. Well done, everyone!



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## Remembrance

Our academy proudly took part in the local Remembrance Parade, laying wreaths to pay tribute to those who served and sacrificed. We were especially proud of Max and Aimee, who were chosen to read their poems from the many wonderful entries. Their words captured the spirit of remembrance beautifully.

In addition, a group of Year 5 pupils joined the Remembrance Service, where two of our children, Thomas and Weronika, read poems to mark this important day. Their contributions helped make the ceremony truly meaningful.



## PGL

Year 6 had an incredible time at PGL this year, blessed with fantastic weather that made every activity even more enjoyable. From soaring through the sky on the zipline to conquering the lake while rafting on a group-made raft, the adventure never stopped!

Our days were packed with excitement — abseiling down the climbing wall, navigating through orienteering challenges, building dens, and learning how to safely start fires. Evenings brought a magical atmosphere with roasted marshmallows around the campfire and a lively silent disco.

The food was excellent throughout, keeping everyone fuelled and happy. PGL was a perfect blend of fun, learning, and teamwork — a truly memorable experience for all!



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## DEMOCRACY DAY

As part of UK Parliament week, Year 5 children experienced a democracy day at Spalding County Council offices. This provided the pupils with the opportunity to interview MPs, take part in debates and learn about the work of the councillors.



## Attendance

At the academy, we aim for 97% attendance. In Term 1, our overall attendance was 95.5%, and at the time of writing, it stands at 95.2%. We are proud to celebrate 164 children who have achieved 97% or above, including an impressive 93 children with 100% attendance—well done to all! For more details about attendance and how we support families, please visit our Academy website.



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## PE Days for Spring 2026

**Maple- Mondays and Tuesdays**  
**Chestnut- Mondays and Tuesdays**  
**Ash- Mondays and Tuesdays**  
**Willow- Mondays and Tuesdays**  
**Oak- Mondays and Wednesday**  
**Cherry-Tuesdays (swimming) and Thursdays**  
**Elm- Wednesdays and Fridays**  
**Walnut- Tuesdays and Fridays**  
**Magnolia- Wednesdays and Fridays**  
**Acer- Wednesdays and Fridays**  
**Sycamore- Mondays and Fridays**



## Term Dates 2025/2026

- **Term 3 starts - Tuesday 6th January 2026**
- Term 3 ends - Friday 13th February 2026
- Term 4 starts - Monday 23rd February 2026
- Term 4 ends - Thursday 2nd April 2026
- Term 5 starts - Tuesday 21st April 2026
- Term 5 ends - Friday 22nd May 2026
- Term 6 starts - Monday 1st June 2026
- Term 6 ends - Wednesday 22nd July 2026

