

OAK

This term Oak have been developing their knowledge of the outdoors and looking at how animals live.

We have been carrying out Wild Passport and improving our hand-eye coordination and physical fine motor skills during these sessions. All pupils have been practicing manipulating simple tools. They used different types of screwdrivers to insert a variety of screws to fix the bird boxes together. The students worked with pre-cut and drilled kits and built the bird boxes with different levels of support. Oak pupils tried an electric screwdriver, a ratchet screwdriver and a manual screwdriver with different levels of success.

Students were very proud of their creations and sold them at the Christmas fair for friends, family and staff to buy for Christmas gifts. Well done to all of Oak class who have taken on all of the challenges and are continuing to progress in their ability and confidence when using simple tools!



ROWAN

Rowan have had a busy but brilliant Autumn term. Everyone has been working hard on their ASDAN, NOCN and AQA accreditations and are enjoying their new units of work. There has been some great work experience opportunities with the Just Love Project, Gibside National Trust, Vindolanda Lodges and Willowburn Hospice Café and our students have proved themselves to be great representatives for our school. We're also continuing to enjoy our sessions with DAAC and the variety of local businesses and people we have been able to connect with. We've had some very successful enterprise cupcake sales and are excited to spend the money on a Christmas treat for ourselves. A couple of highlights this term have been trying indoor bowls for the first time and making decorations and then decorating the tree at Vindolanda lodges.



SYCAMORE

Sycamore class have thoroughly enjoyed being out on educational trips during the term. We have visited South Shields, Herrington Park, The Story and Hexham Abbey. We have all enjoyed exploring buildings, sculptures, art work, looking at stained glass windows and learning about local history.



WILLOW

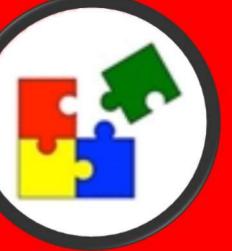
In Willow class we have been fortunate to experience Outdoor Education. We went to Seaburn beach where we had a lovely costal walk. We explored the sand, found shells, seaweed and stones. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed it.



Our other group went to Chopwell Woods. We looked at a different variety of trees and found a variety of items including acorns, sweet chestnuts, conkers and a mixture of different leaves.



VILLA REAL CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER - 2025



HEADTEACHER COMMENTS

May I wish you all a very happy holiday. It has been a very busy term in which we really appreciate your support. It has been lovely seeing so many parents and carers attending our parental events. Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Se Basie

GOVERNOR COMMENTS

Hello everyone,
I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors. I have served on the Governing Body since my daughter started Villa Real September 2020. It's a privilege to take on this role and to work alongside such a dedicated team of staff, parents, and governors to support our school community. Education plays a vital part in shaping the future, and I'm passionate about ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential. My background is in project management and change management, and I hope to bring that experience to help the school continue to grow and succeed. I'm looking forward to listening, learning, and working together to make a positive difference. Thank you for welcoming me into this role. I'm excited about what we can achieve together. Warm regards,

Lindsey Robinson, Chair of Governors



Lindsey at the Christmas fair, face painted by her daughter, Darcy.

ASH

This half term we've been incredibly busy celebrating a variety of holidays and events. We marked Children in Need with a special visit from Pudsey Bear, explored light and creativity during our Lumiere celebrations, and of course spent lots of time practising for our annual nativity!

All pupils have engaged enthusiastically in our outdoor education programme, showing resilience, teamwork, and determination, particularly during the colder weather. A highlight of the term has been our visits from Bruno, the therapy dog, whose calm and friendly presence brought joy and comfort to the whole class.

Pupils in Class Ash have gone above and beyond with their positive attitude to learning, and their social interactions have been truly heart-warming. We're seeing some wonderful new friendships beginning to flourish, and it's been a joy for staff to watch these relationships grow. We wish you all a restful and festive holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the new year! Merry Christmas, with love Class Ash.



SCHOOL NEWS

Many thanks to everyone who attended our school Christmas fair. It was very successful and we raised a total of £1935.70! Well done to everyone who helped with the organisation and set up and to everyone that won prizes.



We would like to thank David and Kate from Consett Gas for again supplying our Christmas tree. It is much appreciated!

We would also like to send our heartfelt thanks to all of the parents and carers that have attended our parental engagement events this term. With your help, we have been able to give our library a makeover and our allotment some much needed attention.

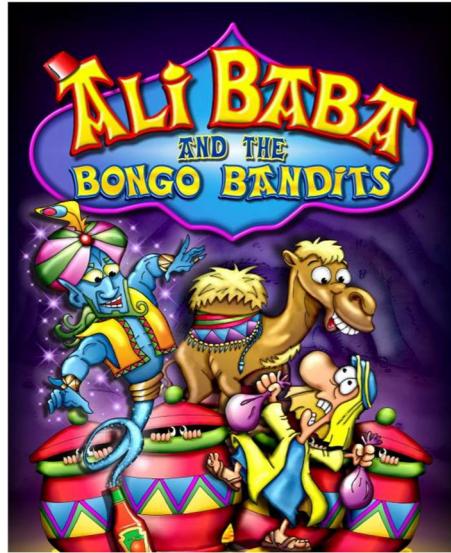


Merry Christmas from everyone at Villa Real School!

Thanks again and look out for more parental events happening in the New Year!

ASPEN

Aspen has been buzzing with excitement as we rehearse for this year's Christmas performance, "Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits". Our talented students are stepping into the mischievous roles of the bandits, bringing energy, humour and creativity to every practice. From perfecting lines to mastering lively dance moves, the class has shown incredible teamwork and enthusiasm. Costumes and props are adding the final touches to what promises to be a spectacular show. We can't wait to share our hard work with families and friends - get ready for an unforgettable performance full of laughter and festive cheer!



BEECH

We have been exploring two wonderful stories: "The Hungry Caterpillar" and "The Snowman". Pupils enjoyed retelling the tales, sequencing events, and bringing the characters to life through writing and art. In Numeracy, pupils have been developing their counting skills and learning to find and represent quantities. Our Science lessons focused on sound. Pupils experimented with everyday materials to discover how vibrations create noise, sparking lots of curiosity and hands-on fun. Creativity shone through as pupils designed and created their very own stained-glass windows, reflecting themes of light and celebration. We also ventured into our local area, exploring a variety of community venues. These visits helped pupils connect their learning with the wider world and appreciate the importance of community.

We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



BLOSSOM TREE

We have had a super busy term doing lots of fun activities. In Science we have been reading our sensory story "The Sound Collector". We have explored sounds in lots of different ways including in our natural environment. We have explored the sounds that rain, snow and wind made while outside and the different sounds musical instruments made. We have also had lots of celebrations; we explored colour and light for bonfire night, making our own fireworks using a balloon and tissue paper. We also had a visit from Lumiere where we explored different forms of light - we had so much fun exploring.

Throughout the term we have also enjoyed baking, making our own playdough, celebrating Remembrance Day and looking at different careers. We welcomed our new class hamster Rusty - he is so much fun! He now has a new house where we can see him running around in the different tubes. We had our first class trip to the Tim Lamb Centre and we had so much fun! We were all amazing, exploring the outdoors, sensory room and soft play. In December we also discovered that Jingles the elf appeared in our class. He is having so many adventures with us in class but also escapes with one of us at the end of the day, even with staff! We wonder what he will be doing next?!



CEDAR

This term Cedar class have enjoyed a sensory journey into the story of "Hansel and Gretel". The children listened carefully, explored the characters and setting and imagined what it might feel like to walk through the forest, dropping pebbles and bread along the way to then discover the gingerbread house. We brought the story to life by baking our own gingerbread, filling the classroom with delicious smells, and then tasting sweets from the house, making sure to sneak them without the witch catching us! It was a wonderful way to combine storytelling, imagination, and sensory experiences. Cedar class loved every moment.

Merry Christmas from all in Cedar class!



CHERRY

Cherry class have had a festive half term learning all about Pantomimes. We have talked about and researched the meaning of the word, to build our understanding. We read the story "Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits", which is our school performance this Christmas. We took on the roles of the traders, dressing up and setting the different scenes. As a treat we went to the Consett Empire Theatre to watch a live pantomime, "Sleeping Beauty". The students laughed, danced and sang along to the songs and we all had a fantastic time! Afterwards, we went to Sambucas for lunch and it was delicious. A great experience within the local community and boosting our self-belief and confidence.



ELM

In Elm, our students thrive in the classroom, so we've taken that enthusiasm beyond the four walls! This term, we've embraced outdoor learning as a way to enrich experiences and make learning even more engaging. From exploring our school grounds to venturing out on local visits, students have shown incredible curiosity and confidence in new environments. Outdoor sessions have allowed us to bring subjects to life through cross-curricular activities. These experiences have not only supported academic progress but also encouraged teamwork, communication, and independence. In typical UK style, the weather has never stopped us! Whether it's sunshine or drizzle, Elm students have embraced every opportunity with smiles and enthusiasm.

Have a lovely Christmas break and Elm class staff look forward to hearing all about your time off in the New Year. Stay safe and enjoy. See you in 2026!!



HAZEL

Hazel Class have had a fantastic term. There have been so many highs, such as enjoying our visits from Helen and the Durham Music Service, enjoying our Therapy Dog visits, listening to talks from the Durham Police Force, meeting a Hamster and enjoying a Pudsey Bear visit for Children in Need. What else have we been up to?

Brilliant Learning: We've explored exciting topics in class, from sensory story reading in Literacy and life skills in Numeracy, practising our teeth brushing routines in ICT as well as ball skills in PE. The curiosity and hard work of the pupils has shone through!

Life Skills: We have also been practicing our independence skills, teamwork and communication. These are super important for the future and we will keep this going throughout the whole year.

Looking ahead to next term, we'll have even more opportunities to learn and grow. There will be new challenges, but remember – every challenge is a chance to show how amazing you are.

Thank you to all pupils for your effort and kindness this term. Thank you to families and class staff for supporting our learning journey.

Together, we make our school a great place to be.

Have a wonderful holiday! Rest, relax, and come back ready for more adventures.



MAPLE

What a lovely half-term it's been in Maple Class! The pupils have truly impressed us with their enthusiasm, imagination, and growing confidence across all areas of learning.

In Literacy, we explored the sensory poem "Leaves Are Falling," which brought the sights, sounds, and textures of autumn to life in an engaging, hands-on way. To add a touch of festive magic, we also enjoyed the sensory story "The Polar Express," which was a real highlight of the term!

In Maths, our theme was "Maths at Home". The pupils took part in a range of practical activities and enjoyed catchy number songs that helped them connect everyday experiences with key mathematical skills. We've seen some fantastic engagement and problem-solving throughout the term.

One of the biggest highlights was our trip to the pantomime to see "Sleeping Beauty". The pupils' laughter and engagement were fantastic to see for everyone involved.

We are incredibly proud of everything Maple Class has achieved this term and look forward to building on this fantastic progress as we head into 2026. Wishing all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

