

Whitecote Primary School

Headteacher: Frances Stead

Telephone: 0113 2164800

Website: www.whitecoteprimary.co.uk

Twitter: @Whitecote

Facebook: Whitecote Primary School

Instagram: whitecoteprimaryschool



Wellington Grove
Bramley, Leeds
LS13 2LQ

17th July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's the end of another fantastic school year at Whitecote, and I am writing to you to share some of the amazing things that your children have been up to this year. We have been so proud of their hard work and progress, both in school and outside of school.

One of the highlights of the year, as always, has been our trips and visits. Year 4 went on a residential to Hadrian's Wall, where they learned about the history of the wall and the Roman Empire. Year 6 went on a residential to Lineham Farm, where they took part in lots of outdoor activities. Year 5 visited Whitby, where they explored the town and learned about its history. Year 2 visited Leeds Art Museum where they were given opportunities to practice their art skills, and Year 3 visited Bagshaw Museum and Yorkshire Sculpture Park, seeing some amazing art. Year 1 enjoyed a day at the seaside and Manchester airport, where they saw planes taking off and landing. Reception and Nursery went to the pantomime, Bowland Farm visited school and we watched chicks hatch from eggs. We had our first even Advent Trail around our school community, many thanks to the families that allowed us to display some of our art in their windows. This is only a snapshot of all the enrichment activities that they enjoyed, and I do hope that our Curriculum Events Calendar is proving useful to you.

We have also had some great visitors into school this year. Lisa Riley, of Emmerdale Farm fame, came into school and did a workshop with our Year 5 and 6 children. A local author, Kate Pankhurst, worked with Year 4, and we had a DJ who talked about his work too. We have to mention Luke Ayling who visited some of our children in school to talk about work they had been doing around autism, and also handing out our INC certificates to that week's winners. Little Lifesavers came in and worked with our Year 5 children on some first aid techniques such as CPR and the Heimlich Manoeuvre. We had a firefighter come in to talk to the children about fire safety, a police officer come in to talk about road safety and keeping yourself safe, as well as a doctor to talk about healthy eating.

Takeover Day was a big success again this year. The children in Year 5 and 6 took charge of the school for the day, and they did a fantastic job. They ran the assemblies, taught the lessons, and even took care of the lunch break!

But we will also be saying goodbye to some of our staff members at the end of this school year. Mr. Willmott, who started with us as a learning mentor, has accepted a position in Abu Dhabi and we wish him all the best in his new role.



Mr. McKinney is also leaving us to work nearer to home, as it currently takes him over an hour every morning and night to cycle to school from his home!

We are also saying goodbye to Miss Clark, who has been an excellent teacher in Reception. The children have learned so much from her, and we wish her all the best in her new position at a school in Kirkstall.

Mrs. Khan and Mrs. Readhead have successfully completed their teacher training year, and they will be moving on to new jobs in September. We are very proud of their achievements, and we wish them all the best in their future careers.

Miss Ibbotson, our TA in Year 1, is also moving on to another exciting position and we wish her well.

Finally, Miss Crawford, who has worked in Year 5 and Year 3, will be starting her teacher training year in September. We will miss her enthusiasm as well as wishing her all the best in her studies.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of all of these staff members. They have made a significant contribution to our school, and we will miss them.

We also have some good news to share with you. Miss Murray will be getting married over the summer holidays and will be returning to school in September as Mrs. Lockwood. Miss Maltby will also be getting married over the summer. We are all so happy for them, and we wish them all the best in their married lives.

As your child moves from one year group to another, there are some very important things that you can continue to do this summer to help them succeed. There is still a lot of learning to catch up on, so to make it easier for them in September, we would ask you to take the time to listen to your child read and make sure that they are reading each day for at least 15 minutes. Practice their maths facts and times tables so that they will be ready for their maths challenges and lessons – Times Tables Rockstars is a fantastic app that challenges and rewards the children with their multiplication tables so keep using it over the summer. Encourage your child to write often – on the school website you will see that a summer project has been set by each class teacher encouraging your child to find out as much as they can about our whole school topic week in September, they can decide how they present this information and I know the teachers are looking forward to seeing what the children find out. All of these things will help your child achieve big successes in the next school year.

As always, we continue to improve our environment and provision for all the children. In the autumn term you will notice that the old Little Doves cabin has been demolished, and a new one should be put up in its place! We are still awaiting confirmation from Leeds City Council around dates, but our provision for the Little Doves children will still be in place, and the children will join our nursery environment until the new cabin is in place and all fittings have been completed. We are still awaiting confirmation from Leeds City Council about the actions they will take to fix the wall in the bottom playground – we are hoping that this is done as soon as possible, so we all have our fingers crossed.

We will continue with our programme of painting inside school so that it reflects the work going on inside school, purchasing more resources to improve learning experiences for all children, subsidising visits and visitors as much as we can so that learning is even more interesting and exciting.



Some of the events that the Friends of Whitecote have planned next year are for a Christmas Fair, an Easter event and our ever-popular Summer Fair. However, they desperately need more people to get involved. If you can help out – even if it's only for 1 event – then contact school and talk to Andrea Gillard who will be only too happy to pass on details.

We are so proud of all that your children have achieved this year. They have worked hard, learned a lot, and had a lot of fun. It just remains for me to thank you all for supporting both your children and the school over the last year. On behalf of all the staff, we send a big thank you out to all our families and hope you have a happy and safe summer.

Yours sincerely,



Frances Stead
Headteacher

