

Whitecote Primary School

Headteacher: Frances Stead

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6th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another successful school year, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved and celebrated across our school community. Our children have embraced new challenges, developed their skills and confidence, and created many special memories along the way. We are incredibly proud of their achievements, as well as the dedication of our staff and the continued support of our families, all of whom have contributed to making this a positive and rewarding year for everyone.

This year has been packed with memorable experiences and enriching opportunities for our children. We were delighted to welcome Antony Cotterill through the Greatest Athletes Programme, inspiring pupils to aim high, show resilience and believe in themselves. We also opened our new SEMH cabin, funded by Wooden Spoon and officially opened by Adrian Morley, providing a valuable space to support children's wellbeing and development.

Our pupils enjoyed a wide range of trips and residential visits. Year 5 developed teamwork and independence during their residential to Lineham Farm and proudly performed Romeo and Juliet at the Carriageworks Theatre, while Year 4 explored Roman Britain during their residential visit to Hadrian's Wall. Other highlights included Year 3's visit to Bagshaw Museum, Year 2's adventure to Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Year 1's trip to the seaside, Reception's magical pantomime visit, and Bowland Farm's visit to Nursery.

There have also been many memorable whole-school events, including Best of British Week, Takeover Day, and watching chicks hatch in Nursery. Our children proudly represented Whitecote at both Young Voices and the Leeds Rhinos Sing and Dance Spectaculars, showcasing their confidence, creativity and talents on larger stages. We have also continued to benefit from our strong partnerships with Leeds United Foundation and Leeds Rhinos, who provide valuable opportunities for our pupils throughout the year.

These experiences are underpinned by a rich and engaging curriculum. This year, we were particularly proud to achieve the History Association Gold Award, recognising the strength and quality of our history curriculum. This achievement reflects the hard work and dedication of our staff alongside the enthusiasm and engagement of our pupils.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff team and Governing Body for their continued commitment to Whitecote. Our staff go above and beyond every day to provide the very best education, care and support for our children, and I am incredibly grateful for their hard work, professionalism and unwavering dedication. I would also like to thank our governors for the support, challenge and guidance they provide throughout the year. Their commitment plays an important role in ensuring Whitecote continues to thrive and provide the best possible opportunities for all pupils.

Staffing Updates

As always, the end of the school year brings some changes to our staffing team.



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At Easter, we said goodbye to Mrs Barkerwood. During her time at Whitecote, she made a positive impact on many children and families, particularly through her work with our Year 6 pupils. We thank her for her hard work and commitment and wish her every happiness in the future. We also said farewell to Mrs Pal, who has been a valued member of the Whitecote team since 2012. During her time with us, she has made a significant contribution to the life of the school and has supported countless children and families. We thank her for her dedication, commitment and many years of service, and wish her every happiness as she enjoys more time with her family.

After an incredible 25 years at Whitecote, Mrs Fowler will be retiring from her role in the school office. Throughout her time here, she has supported countless families and seen generations of pupils pass through our school. We thank Mrs Fowler for her unwavering dedication, care and commitment to Whitecote and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

We are also delighted to share some happy family news. Mrs Knight is currently on maternity leave and has welcomed a beautiful baby boy. We send our warmest congratulations to her and her family. Miss Wright will begin her maternity leave at the end of this week, and we wish her every happiness as she prepares for this exciting new chapter.

Looking ahead to September, we are pleased to welcome Miss Arnott, who will be teaching Year 5, and Miss Moore, who will be joining the Year 4 team. We are sure they will be fantastic additions to our Whitecote family. We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Tonner to the school office in September and to Mr Saville-Gill's return to Whitecote after his time away from school.

Getting Involved

We currently have a vacancy for one Parent Governor to join our Governing Body. This is a fantastic opportunity for a parent or carer to play an active role in shaping the future of our school and supporting the success and wellbeing of all our children. Further information, including nomination and voting arrangements, will be shared at the start of the new academic year. We warmly encourage anyone who is passionate about education and our school community to consider putting themselves forward.

The Whitecote Community Group, now officially a registered charity, is always looking for parents and carers to get involved. Whether you'd like to become a full member or simply help at one-off events, we'd love to hear from you. If you would like more information, please contact the school office.

Looking Ahead: OPAL

We are also excited to introduce OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) across the school from September 2026. OPAL will transform our playtimes by providing children with even greater opportunities for creativity, teamwork, problem-solving and imaginative play. We are excited about the positive impact this will have on children's wellbeing, social development and enjoyment of school.



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We would like to thank all the parents and carers who have already donated resources to support the project. Your generosity has helped us prepare for this exciting initiative, and we cannot wait to see our children benefit from these enhanced play opportunities in the new academic year.

Before we finish for the summer, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for your continued support, encouragement and partnership. Your involvement plays a vital role in your child's success, and we greatly appreciate everything you do to work alongside us.

Finally, we say goodbye to our wonderful Year 6 pupils as they prepare to begin the next stage of their educational journey. They have been fantastic ambassadors for Whitecote, demonstrating resilience, determination and maturity throughout their time with us. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and of the many ways they have contributed to school life. While they will be greatly missed, we know they are ready for the exciting opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We wish each and every one of them every success, happiness and confidence as they move on to secondary school.

We hope that the summer holidays provide an opportunity for children to relax, enjoy time with family and friends, and create many special memories. We would also encourage children to continue reading over the summer and to stay curious by exploring new interests and experiences. As we prepare for the new academic year, we would like to remind families that attending school every day is crucial to children's learning, progress and wellbeing, helping them to make the most of every opportunity available to them and develop positive friendships and routines.

We are already looking forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning, achievement and opportunity. Together, we will continue to nurture a school community where every child feels valued, supported and inspired to achieve their very best.

Please keep an eye on our website and social media channels for news and updates over the summer.

In the meantime, I would like to wish all of our children, families and staff a safe, happy and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Frances Stead
Head Teacher

