

Whitecote Primary School

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17th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of the school year, it's the perfect time to pause and reflect on what a truly fantastic year it's been. Our children and staff have experienced tremendous growth, embraced new learning opportunities, and shared countless memorable moments together. It's been a year filled with curiosity, creativity, and connection—and we couldn't be prouder of everything we've achieved as a school community.

We've had an incredible year filled with memorable experiences across all year groups. From inspiring visits by Olympic athletes Sean Gaffney and Reynold Banigo, who led a high-energy whole-school sports circuit, to a fantastically loud and exciting drumming masterclass from Jeff Rich, drummer of Status Quo, for Key Stage 2—there's been no shortage of excitement! This year, Year 2 had an exciting adventure at Yorkshire Wildlife Park, while Year 3 delved into ancient history with a fascinating trip to Bagshaw Museum to learn about the Egyptians. Year 1 enjoyed a fun-filled day at the seaside, Reception had a magical trip to the pantomime (oh yes they did!), and our youngest children loved meeting the animals brought in by Bowland Farm. Highlights like Best of British Week, always a favourite with pupils and staff, Takeover Day where children stepped into leadership roles, and the joy of watching chicks hatch in Nursery have all added to the magic. Our school choir proudly performed at Young Voices in Sheffield Arena, and we continue to benefit from weekly sessions with Leeds United Foundation and Leeds Rhinos. These are just a few of the many moments that have made this year so special—and once again, our children have amazed us with their enthusiasm, talent, and brilliant attitudes.

Some of our children proudly took part in the Leeds Rhinos Dance Spectacular, dedicating many hours after school to rehearse and perfect their routine. Their hard work and enthusiasm shone through as they performed with confidence and energy in front of a large audience. Meanwhile, Year 5 wowed the crowd with their brilliant performance of *Macbeth* at Leeds Playhouse, delivering a powerful and dramatic interpretation that truly brought the house down.

We're thrilled to share that a brand-new SEMH (Social, Emotional, and Mental Health) cabin has been built on our school grounds, thanks to the generous support of the Wooden Spoon rugby charity. This dedicated space will provide a calm, nurturing environment where children can access additional support to help them thrive emotionally and socially. The cabin represents an exciting step forward in our commitment to supporting the whole child, and we can't wait to begin using it in the new school year.

We're excited to introduce a newly built roundhouse in our woodland area, made possible through a generous grant from NPower. This unique structure will play a key role in enriching our curriculum,



particularly by supporting children's learning about the Stone Age and Iron Age in an immersive, hands-on environment. Beyond history lessons, the roundhouse offers a versatile space for storytelling, outdoor learning, and group activities, helping to foster creativity and connection with nature. It's a fantastic addition to our school grounds, and we look forward to making full use of it in the coming year.

This year, we are incredibly proud to have achieved the Artsmark Gold Award—a recognition that reflects not only the strength of our art curriculum, but also the rich culture and creativity that thrive throughout our school. This accomplishment highlights the dedication of our staff and the enthusiasm of our pupils in embracing the arts in all its forms. What truly fills us with pride, however, is the strong sense of community we've built together—one where creativity, collaboration, and care are at the heart of everything we do.

Once again, we've seen our children grow in confidence, build strong friendships, and show a real enthusiasm for learning. Highlights such as the Year 4 residential to Hadrian's Wall, the Year 5 trip to Lineham Farm, and the Year 6 adventure at High Adventure have all contributed to unforgettable experiences. The incredible Bubbles fundraising event, supported by our whole community, was another shining example of the vibrant and supportive spirit that defines our school. These moments have created lasting memories and reflect the collaboration, joy, and energy that make Whitecote such a special place to learn and grow.

However, we also have to say goodbye to some of our staff. Farewells are never easy and often bring a mix of emotions. Mrs Fairhall will be leaving us to take up a new position at another school in Leeds. Over her time at Whitecote, she has brought warmth and a genuine care for the children she has worked with. Her calm and thoughtful approach has made a real difference, and she will be remembered fondly by both staff and pupils. We wish her every success and happiness in the future.

I'm also saddened to share that Mrs Chorlton will be leaving us as she relocates to a new area. Mrs Chorlton has been a valued member of the Whitecote community for an incredible 13 years. During that time, she has built strong relationships with our children and their families, becoming a familiar and trusted face to so many. Her dedication and tireless work in the classroom have made a lasting impact, and her presence will be deeply missed by staff, pupils, and parents alike. We are incredibly grateful for everything she has contributed to our school, and we wish her all the very best in this next chapter. Good luck, Mrs Chorlton—you will always be part of the Whitecote family.

Following this, we're delighted to welcome Miss Murray, who will be joining our Reception team. I'm sure you'll all join me in giving her a warm Whitecote welcome!

Miss Owen will be getting married over the summer, and when she returns to school, she will be known as Mrs Lewins. We wish her all the best for her special day and a future filled with love, laughter, and happiness—congratulations from all of us!

We currently have a vacancy for 1 parent/carer governor to join our school's governing body. This is a fantastic opportunity for a parent/carer to play an active role in shaping the future of our school and supporting the success and wellbeing of all our children. If you're interested in getting involved, I'll be sending out a letter and voting forms in the new year with more information on how to apply and take part in the election process. We warmly encourage anyone who is passionate about education and our school community to consider putting themselves forward.

The new Whitecote Community Group, now officially a registered charity, is always looking for parents to get involved. Whether you'd like to become a full member or simply help out at one-off events, we'd



love to have you on board. If you're interested in joining or finding out more, please contact the school office—we'd be delighted to hear from you!

A reminder that from Tuesday, 2nd September, the school day will finish at 3:15pm. Please ensure you make arrangements for this updated end time. We'd also like to take this opportunity to stress how important regular attendance is—every school day counts. Being in school every day helps children make the most of their learning, build strong friendships, and develop good routines that set them up for success.

As we head into the summer break, we hope your child enjoys a well-deserved rest—time to relax, recharge, and explore their interests. We also encourage them to keep their love of learning alive through reading, discovering new hobbies, and perhaps even taking part in summer learning opportunities. We'd like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year—your encouragement, involvement, and partnership make a real difference in our school community. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, refreshed and ready for another exciting year ahead!

As we look ahead to the new school year, we're filled with excitement and anticipation for all that's to come. We can't wait to see our children continue to grow—both academically and personally—as they make progress in their learning, build new friendships, and take on fresh challenges with confidence. Each year brings new opportunities to discover talents, nurture curiosity, and strengthen the supportive community that makes our school so special. We're looking forward to another fantastic year together! We'll keep you updated on upcoming events and developments through our usual social media channels and our website. In the meantime, we wish you and your family a safe, enjoyable, and restful summer break.

Yours sincerely,



Frances Stead
Headteacher

