



Owlcotes Multi-Academy Trust

Spring Newsletter – April 2025

Message from Lesley West, CEO.

This newsletter provides a brief 'round up' of some of the events that have happened in our schools during the Spring Term.

Owlcotes MAT continues to grow. We are a now community of 8 schools as we have welcomed Fountain Primary School in Morley to the Owlcotes Trust. Fountain Primary is a fabulous school with a commitment to achieving the best for its pupils and the school community and we are delighted to be working together in close partnership.

I am, as always, impressed by all our schools, by the commitment of staff to provide a full and engaging curriculum for all our pupils, including trips, visits and visitors, indoor and outdoor experiences and participation in music and sporting events.

This term we have celebrated the Shakespeare in Schools Festival, with some of our Year 5 pupils performing at the Carriageworks Theatre. Our schools have also taken part in a successful Owlcotes Literature festival. We are looking forward to our next Focus week at the end of May which has an 'Outdoor' theme, and our annual Year 6 debating competition in June.

Thank you to all our schools, their staff and pupils, and of course to the fantastic families in all our communities. I wish everyone a 'happy holidays' for the forthcoming Spring Break and Easter Holiday and I look forward to working with everyone again next term.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter, which includes information about some of the events that have happened in our individual schools.

If you want to keep up to date with what is happening or find out more about Owlcotes Trust you can do so by visiting our website: www.owlcotesmat.org or by following us on X [@owlcotesMAT](https://twitter.com/owlcotesMAT).



Owlcotes CEO, Lesley West, with Fountain Primary School Headteacher, Emma Walker, and children from each year group.

Round Up of News from Owlcotes Schools

News from Pudsey Primrose Hill Primary School

Year Three Visit the Art Gallery

Year 3 have visited the Leeds Art Gallery as part of their Appreciation of Art Owlcotes Element. The children had a great time being art detectives and exploring the artwork of Curtis Holder. They then had the opportunity to apply their sketching skills to recreate one of their favourite portraits and finally a tour around the painted art exhibition!



Reception visit to Pudsey Library

Children in Reception had the opportunity to visit Pudsey Library. The librarian, Lizzie, talked to the children all about how libraries work and shared the story of 'The Everywhere Bear' by Julia Donaldson with them. We then had the opportunity to look at some of the books and even picked some to borrow and bring back to school. Library cards are free and you can borrow up to 20 books for 3 weeks!

Eco committee - Food waste project

The Eco-Committee have been busy working on various parts of our ASDA Heroes programme at school. We launched the energy saving week assembly for all of the KS2 pupils, where we talked about the importance of saving energy at home, including reducing our food waste, turning off lights when we are not using them and opportunities to reduce our water usage.



We also spent some time gathering data in the dinner hall where we collected the waste food after children were finished with their dinners. We observed what was being thrown away most in terms of food groups and also which year groups were creating more food waste on average per pupil, depending on the amount of children that were eating a school dinner that day. This has inspired us to create some posters to share with children in school about reducing our food waste and looking at the importance of healthy eating.

Year Five Space Camp

Year five took part in space camp. They undertook astronaut training, stargazing and planet building before settling down to a film and hot chocolate before climbing into their tents for a good night's sleep! The children had a great time and we were so impressed with the maturity and enthusiasm they showed us. This experience links to their current science topic and supports the development of their investigative mind.

Owlcotes Literature Festival Focus Week

We have had a wonderful week in school focussing on the themes of belonging, family, journey, and identity through the text 'Here I am'.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the parents and visitors who gave their time to come into school to talk to our children about their real-life experiences of migration - it was amazing to hear from you.



Year 4 Science - visit to Drax power station

Our Year 4 pupils recently embarked on an exciting educational trip to Drax Power Station. The children were given a tour of the site and were fascinated by the sheer size of the cooling towers! They learned about the power station's commitment to renewable energy, and how 4 million homes in Yorkshire are now powered by trees grown in the USA and Canada.

News from Pudsey Waterloo Primary School

Literature Theme Week

Pudsey Waterloo embarked on a magical journey "Into the Woods," for our literature theme week with a focus on fairy tales. The school was abuzz with excitement as children delved into the enchanting world of classic tales. The children produced wonderful artwork and imaginative writing inspired by some of the stories. They listened to lots of stories and even created their own versions of familiar tales.

Thanks to all the parents that came to view the children's fantastic work. It was a wonderful celebration of the children's hard work and imagination and it was lovely to see so many proud children and hear so many appreciative comments.

Nursery

The children have made their own pizzas to take home after reading 'The Runaway Pizza', and the children said that they were delicious!

Year 3

In Year 3 we enjoyed making tasty gazpacho in their Design and Technology lessons. The children chopped up the ingredients and used the blender to create this tasty Spanish cold soup. Our next step is to get better at portion control when adding salt and pepper!



Year 4

The Year 4 students who attended the skipping festival did a fantastic job representing our school and had a wonderful time. We are incredibly proud of all the children for their amazing skipping skills this year, and as a school, we earned several bronze and silver medal certificates. Thanks to those who accompanied us to the festival for their invaluable assistance. We will continue to develop partner skipping skills throughout the year, so keep an eye out for updates!



Much Ado About Nothing

Huge congratulations to our wonderful Year 5 children who performed a fantastic version of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' at the Carriageworks Theatre on Wednesday night. It was a funny and thrilling performance and we were enormously proud of each and every one of you. An incredible achievement - well done to all of the cast and our wonderful directors - Miss Reynard and Mr Hutchinson.



Year 5 Space Camp

Year 5 have recently enjoyed staying over in the school for Space Camp! We took part in Astronaut training, did some stargazing using telescopes and binoculars and learned more about the planets. We then camped out for a night of (some) sleep. The children were wonderfully behaved and loved the unique experience!



Lego Club

Lego club has been a great success this term with some very impressive models being built in record times. The children have really enjoyed choosing from the large variety of sets on offer and have worked collaboratively to build them systematically and carefully. Keep your eyes peeled to see which year group has a chance to join lego club next half term!

News from Calverley Parkside Primary School

What a wonderful Spring Term it has been at our school! We've been buzzing with activities and learning.

Celebrating Neurodiversity Week

We were thrilled to celebrate Neurodiversity Week, a time dedicated to recognizing and appreciating the unique strengths of individuals with differences like ADHD, ASD, dyslexia, dyspraxia, and Down Syndrome. Our KS2 children poured their creativity into making informative and inspiring videos, and we were honoured to have an alumnus share their personal experiences, offering valuable insights and encouragement.



Igniting a Love for Reading and Writing

Our students had the fantastic opportunity to meet and learn from visiting authors. These engaging workshops have sparked a real passion for reading and writing, encouraging our young learners to explore their own creativity and imagination.



Empowering Student Voice

We've been actively working on developing our students' self-advocacy and emotional management skills. Through thoughtful assemblies and engaging classroom activities, we're helping our children learn to express themselves confidently and manage their feelings effectively.

Enhancing the Curriculum

We're always looking for ways to make learning even more dynamic and engaging. This term, we introduced "Get Up and Move" strategies to incorporate physical activity into learning, and we've been developing "Owlcotes Elements" to broaden our students' learning experiences and provide them with a well-rounded education.

Immersive Learning Experiences

Our students have enjoyed a variety of workshops and themed days that have brought learning to life. From a fascinating visit by the Wonderdome to the always-exciting World Book Day, these experiences have created lasting memories and fostered a love of learning.



Prioritizing Student Well-being

The well-being of our students is always our top priority. We've implemented initiatives like check-ins and check-outs to ensure our children feel supported, and we've been using emotion coaching to help them understand and manage their feelings. We also held parent workshops focused on anxiety and managing emotions, providing valuable tools and strategies for families.

News from Armley Park Primary School



Robinwood Residential

Our Year 6 class had a fantastic time at Dobroyd Castle in Todmorden for their residential. They all conquered their fears, took on new challenges and every single child completed each of the activities! Their behaviour and attitudes were exemplary throughout the visit and although they were very tired by the end, they all had huge smiles on their faces when they returned to school.

Macbeth at The Carriageworks

Year 5 performed a contemporary version of Shakespeare's Macbeth at The Carriageworks theatre. Their modern twist on the story involved gangsters, rapping witches, the battle between Gotts Park and Town Street and part of the story took place in Armley Spoons!



Art Gallery Visit

As part of the Owlcotes Elements, Year 2 visited Leeds Art Gallery to develop their appreciation of art. They had a tour of the art which is exhibited throughout the gallery, learnt lots of information about artists and created their own sketchbooks.



News from Manor Wood Primary School

This British Science Week, our incredible children (from ages 2-11) showed what it truly means to unite for a cause! Marching through our local community, they raised their voices (and signs!) for our planet.

From saving our planet to tackling global warming and ditching plastics, their passion and solidarity was truly inspiring. It's amazing to see the next generation taking action and advocating for a better future!

Year 6 took part in the No Device Week, raising an impressive £570, while Year 5 raised over £800 for their year group.

Upper Key Stage 2 have been showcasing their debating skills, presenting brilliant arguments and rebuttals. Year 6 have also been embracing the spring spirit by planting sunflower seeds and drawing them—we're all eager to spend more time outdoors! Meanwhile, Year 5 delivered an exceptional performance on climate change, blending music, choreography, and spoken word to create a powerful and inspiring showcase.



The children in reception have been embracing the glorious spring weather, fully immersing themselves in all that the outdoors has to offer. They have been observing new signs of life—spotting vibrant flowers, budding trees, nesting birds, and even frogspawn—while listening carefully for the sounds of spring. Through observational drawings, they have captured these seasonal changes with great attention to detail. Their imaginative play has been



deeply connected to nature, fostering curiosity and creativity and leading them into a world of exploration, storytelling, and discovery, where they bring the wonders of the natural world to life through their play.

Our Reception children recently enjoyed a wonderful trip to Nell Bank, where they took part in an Outdoor Explorers programme, while our Nursery children are looking forward to their upcoming visit to Harlow Carr after the Easter holidays. Key areas of interest have included the life cycle of frogs, planting and growing, and an impressive collection of observational flower drawings and

paintings. We have also loved welcoming parents to our Stay and Play sessions, where each colour group took part in interactive and immersive experiences. From flipping pancakes at Stay and Shrove, to planting seeds at Stay and Sow, singing together at Stay and Sing, and capturing nature's beauty at Stay and Sketch, these moments have been a wonderful way to bring our families into our learning environment. Thank you to all who joined us—it has been a joy to share these experiences with you!



News from Spring Bank Primary School

Literature Theme Week

At the end of Spring 1 half term, the whole school participated in OMAT's literature week by reading "The Elves and the Shoemaker" and responding to the text in different genres.



Year 3 was also visited by local poet James Nash as part of the Headingley Literature Festival. The students wrote and performed poems with the title "Walking in Headingley" and impressed James Nash with their writing and performances.

The school also held a Book in the Box competition and a Book Swap where students could swap books they no longer wanted for new ones.

You can read more about Year 3's poetry experience on the Headingley Lit Fest blog page: <https://headingleylitfest.blogspot.com/2025/02/antarctica-at-springbank-primary-school.html?m=1>

We also held a "Book in the Box" competition and a Book Swap. There were many excellent entries and winners in the competition, which were showcased on the school's Dojo page. The Book Swap encouraged children to bring in a book they no longer wanted and swap it for a new one.

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Year 5 and Year 6 students at Spring Bank had a visit from the fantastic Young Shakespeare Company this year. This time, it was a performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', a comedy, and the whole audience had great fun. The performances are always very high quality, and it's great that everyone gets a chance to participate during their time at Spring Bank. In the past, we have seen a tragedy, so it's good to mix things up!



News from Morley Victoria Primary School

Curriculum and Reading

This term at Morley Victoria has been filled with diverse learning experiences and a strong emphasis on reading, which the school considers a vital life skill. The school is actively collaborating with other schools to enhance its educational practices and is also focusing on improving writing skills through staff training and targeted activities. The development of the curriculum, with a focus on metacognition, remains a key priority.



Whole Child Approach

Morley Victoria is committed to the “whole child approach,” ensuring a safe, supportive, and enriching environment.



The school has implemented the Zones of Regulation to support students' emotional well-being and continues to deliver PSHE lessons focusing on health, safety, and understanding the law. Various trips, workshops, and assemblies have been organized to broaden students' knowledge and awareness of topics such as World War II, recycling, online safety, and cultural celebrations.

Extracurricular Activities

The school also continue to offer a wide array of extracurricular activities, including sports, arts, and academic clubs, promoting teamwork, skill development, and engagement.

