



Owlcotes Multi-Academy Trust

Summer Newsletter – July 2025

Message from Lesley West, CEO

Welcome to the Owlcotes summer newsletter which contains information on some of the events and activities that have happened in our schools during over the term.

Owlcotes MAT has gone from strength to strength this year. We have had a very positive Ofsted inspection at Manor Wood Primary School and we have continued to grow as a Trust.

In April, we were thrilled to welcome Fountain Primary School to the Owlcotes family of schools. Fountain Primary is a well-established primary school in Morley, with a well-deserved positive reputation in the local community. The development of an Owlcotes Hub on the site of Fountain Primary School has also increased our space for meetings and collaboration between schools in our trust.

We are also preparing to welcome a ninth school to the Owlcotes MAT after the summer holidays. Hovingham Primary School is expected to join on 1st September 2025. Hovingham Primary school is a large primary school which sits at the heart of its community in Harehills. Their staff team is led by Mrs Kellie Halliday. Owlcotes is already working in partnership with the school and I have no doubt that Hovingham Primary will be another great addition to our family of schools.

All our schools play an important role in their communities and this term is a busy one, in which each school has engaged in a number of community events for pupils and families.

In July, the annual Owlcotes Debating Competition was held Year 6 pupils across our MAT. The pupils displayed excellent listening and debating skills, as well as great confidence to speak in front of an audience. A big thank you to all of the staff, parent/carers, and pupils who helped prepare for the competition, and a thank you to Therese O'Sullivan who had been working with the children in each school over the course of a term to prepare them to be great debaters; and to our judges who performed the very difficult task of judging the competition. Thank you also to Pudsey Grammar School and Carr Manor Community School for allowing us to host the event in their schools.

All of our schools strive to provide a full and engaging curriculum for all pupils, including trips, visits and visitors, indoor and outdoor experiences and participation in music, arts and sporting events. This is a strength of all Owlcotes schools, and you will be able to read about some of these school events in the 'round up' of news from Owlcotes schools.

This is the time of year when we say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 pupils across Owlcotes MAT who will be starting high school in September and taking the next step in their school journey. These pupils have all made a contribution to their schools during their primary years and I hope they continue to embrace all the opportunities that secondary education has to offer. We wish every pupil well for the future.

We also say goodbye to some members of staff in our schools. I wish our outgoing staff every success for the future, and we look forward to welcoming any new members of staff starting in September.

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).

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter which will give you information about some of the events that have happened in our schools this term.

Thank you to all of the staff; pupils and families at Owlcotes schools.
I wish you all an enjoyable summer holiday.



Pudsey Primrose Hill Primary School

Lego Workshops in Year 2 and 3

Year 2 and 3 took part in a Lego STEM workshop. The children became engineers and learnt how to create algorithms to control the lego and built a roundabout for the men to play on!



Eco Committee visit to the bees

Eco-committee were some of the first children in school who were invited to visit our honey bee apiary. The children observed the happy bees in their hive. We



talked about how the containers were built up, and looked at photos from when Gareth, our beekeeper, visited the apiary. We are happy to report back that the bees are thriving in their new outside oasis, on our school grounds!

Outdoor and Adventurous Focus Week

We had a brilliant week of outdoor and adventurous learning with children learning new skills, working together to solve problems and pushing themselves out of their comfort zone,

developing perseverance and resilience. We are looking forward to our after school workshop with families invited to join in some of the activities in our wonderful school grounds. Our Year 5 children took on the Big Hike challenge up Pen y Ghent!



Raising Aspiration Week

What a week! Y5 and Y6 pupils have had the opportunity to think about life beyond school this week. They have learnt about the skills and qualifications needed for numerous jobs and professions. They have had visits from police dog handlers, the fire service, Yorkshire Water, civil engineers, a scientific researcher, a climate change expert, an ITV news reporter, Yorkshire Water, a tree surgeon, a pharmacist, an active travel champion, a national account manager. During these visits our pupils have learnt about what a day in life looks like and they have had plenty of opportunities to pose questions. The visits have been a balance of presentations and hands-on experiences. Thank you to all our staff, parents and members of the local community who have contributed to a very successful and worthwhile week!

Leeds Youth Music Concert at Leeds Arena

Our Year 5 and 6 choir took part in the Youth Music Concert 2025 at the Leeds First Direct Arena. After weeks of rehearsals and learning all their words, the children sang beautifully alongside the other Leeds primary choirs. It was a truly memorable experience filled with excitement, pride and the joy of sharing music with others in the heart of Leeds. Well done girls!



Pudsey Waterloo Primary School

Stockeld Park

The children really showed their adventurous spirit on their trips to Stockeld Park! We've been so proud to see them embrace every challenge and opportunity there.



Our young adventurers had a blast exploring all that Stockeld Park has to offer. They climbed and challenged themselves in the Play Hive, even in the really high and sometimes "scary" parts! They also enjoyed exploring the magical forest, getting lost in the maze, and bouncing to their hearts' content on the inflatables.



Poetry Slam

Congratulations to all the Year 5 children who performed their poem in the Leeds Poetry Slam competition at the Carriageworks Theatre. We were awarded Third Prize for our poem about 'Bob The Astrocat' which the judges said was the funniest, most original and informative poem of the night! Well done Alana, Alice, Blake, Elliott and Hugo - especially those children who stepped in to perform at short notice! And congratulations are also due to Archie, Evelyn, Harper and Skyler who wrote the original poem with Alana and Hugo.



Trip to Malham

Year 6 started their geography unit about rivers and the Yorkshire Dales by going on a trip to Malham. They were very lucky with the weather and as part of their trip they



enjoyed visiting Janet's Foss and Gordale Scar. This trip will enhance their understanding of the stages of a river - the upper, middle and lower course. Please see our social media channels for some more photos from the day.

OPaL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

OPaL was launched in school this term and has been a great hit with the children. The children are particularly enjoying den building, using the dressing up boxes, and relaxing in the social spaces. We just need to order some more high heels for the dressing up boxes - they've been a big hit with the Key Stage 2 boys!



Visit from Cait McEniff

Year 2 had a fantastic visit from textile artist Cait McEniff. The children were captivated by her work and then got hands-on, creating their own artwork using paper and felt. Their creativity really shone through!



Debating Competition

Our Year 6 debating teams showcased their incredible skills at the Owlcotes debating competition at Pudsey Grammar School this morning. After weeks of preparation, learning how to debate, and crafting their arguments, three teams were selected to compete. They were absolutely fantastic! 6SW debated "Professional sports teams should be mixed gender," and 6NW tackled "Homework should be banned." We're thrilled to announce that two of our teams won their debates! A huge congratulations to our brilliant Waterloo debaters!

Summer Fair

What a truly fantastic Summer Fair we had! It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the games, delicious food, and all the fun activities. A massive thank you goes out to our incredible Friends of Waterloo for organizing such a brilliant event. Their hard work and dedication made the day a huge success, raising nearly £2,000! This amazing amount will truly benefit our children, and we are so grateful for all your support.



Calverley Parkside Primary School

A Spectacular Summer Term!

What a wonderful and action-packed summer term it has been! As we head towards a well-deserved break, we want to reflect on the incredible achievements, adventures, and learning that have taken place across our school. It has been a joy to see our community thriving.

A Fond Farewell to Our Amazing Year 6s

A huge and heartfelt shout-out goes to our fantastic Year 6 pupils for their outstanding evening performances of the end-of-year play. They showed incredible talent, confidence, and teamwork, and we couldn't be prouder! To celebrate their time at Owlcotes, they've had a fantastic send-off with a host of memorable experiences. They have taken part in the Owlcotes Debating Competition, enjoyed a trip to the cinema, and had an unforgettable day out at Malham, filled with screams of delight and cool drinks in the hot sun. We wish them all the very best as they move on to secondary school. We also loved getting muddy at Junior Warrior!



Exciting New Developments

We are thrilled to announce that for the first time, we will be running a Summer Holiday Camp here at Parkside! We are also excited to be increasing our sports offer for the next academic year.

This term, we have also reflected on the huge success of our new 'Pod' provision, which has been instrumental in helping children develop socially, emotionally, and academically. Alongside this, we've seen fantastic progress with our super-powered initiative across the school, led brilliantly by our provision leader, Miss Poole.

Adventures in Learning!

It has been a busy term for trips and special events right across the school. Our Year 4 class travelled back in time during their trip to Armley Mills, where they were completely engrossed in a hands-on Victorian workshop. We are

also so proud of the strong partnerships we are forging with other schools in the area. Our Year 5s thoroughly enjoyed their experience days at Benton Park, getting a taste of secondary school life.

Our whole-school theme week, based on 'Birds of Prey', was a soaring success! The week kicked off with an incredible visit from some feathered friends – including a slightly misbehaving owl! Everyone loved the whole-school flight display, producing stunning artwork and exploring other adventurous experiences.

Wellbeing, Faith, and Fun!

A highlight for everyone has been our new Active Wellbeing Days. Taking place every two weeks, the children have loved learning through outdoor orienteering, taking on Commando Joe's missions, and enjoying Forest School-style experiences. The feedback has been amazing, so a huge well done to Miss Parker for successfully launching this fantastic new offer!

We have also enjoyed strengthening our links with our local church. This term, every class has visited for workshops related to their RE topics, enriching their learning and their connection with our local community.

Y5 come alive!

This term, our Year 5 pupils also showcased incredible athleticism and perseverance by completing the Brownlee Triathlon – they certainly tired themselves out and enjoyed a very active afternoon! We also loved their enthusiasm during the hip hop experience, led by the fantastic Hip Hop Phil, where the children were able to express themselves creatively through dance.



Farm Fun for Reception!

Our youngest learners in Reception had an absolutely delightful day out at Hesketh Farm! They loved caring for the guinea pigs, riding on a tractor, and exploring with all the farm animals.

Thank you to all our staff, pupils, and families for making this term so memorable. We wish you all a safe, restful, and happy summer holiday.

Armley Park Primary School

Leeds Market

This term, our students embarked on an exciting journey into horticulture, cultivating a variety of fruits and vegetables that they proudly sold at their own stall at Leeds Market. Collaborating with a skilled gardener through the School Food Matters program, the children gained hands-on experience, learning the intricacies of planting seeds and nurturing produce such as potatoes, carrots, lettuce, and blackcurrants. Beyond the garden, they honed valuable entrepreneurial skills, mastering the





art of setting up an inviting market stall to attract customers and employing clever bargaining tactics to maximize their profits.

Adventure Week

In May, our school came alive with Adventure Week, a thrilling series of activities designed to inspire and challenge every child. Each class delved into the remarkable stories of adventurers who conquered significant obstacles to achieve their dreams.

Students then had the opportunity to experience similar challenges first hand, from canoeing at Yeadon Tarn to competing in a triathlon and scaling a climbing wall. With 100% effort, all children embraced these activities, demonstrating incredible perseverance and taking immense pride in their achievements.

The Deep

To foster understanding of ocean conservation, Year 3 children embarked on an educational visit to The Deep in Hull, where they investigated the detrimental impact of plastic pollution on marine animals. They thoroughly enjoyed observing the diverse aquatic life and participated in an insightful workshop, learning how discarded plastic bottles, once in the ocean, can ultimately enter the human food chain.



Manor Wood Primary School

It has been a busy and exciting time in the FSU as both Nursery and Reception have been working hard to bring their projects to a close, ready to share their wonderful learning journeys with parents. In Nursery, the children have explored a variety of rich and engaging projects:



The *Scribble Project* celebrated early mark-making as a form of expression; The *Dark Project* invited children to explore light, shadows, and their own fascinations with the night; The *Technology Project* encouraged hands-on discovery with tools, buttons, and cause-and-effect learning; and The *Food Festival Project* brought cultures and community together through shared tastes, cooking, and sensory experiences. Over in Reception, the children are bringing their final projects to life in their last week: The *Family Tree Project* has given them a meaningful way to explore their identities and connections; The *Forest Project* has deepened their relationship with nature through exploration, storytelling, and art; The *Storytelling Project* has nurtured language, imagination, and collaboration as children created and acted out their own tales; and

The *Celebrations Project* has been a joyful reflection on special traditions, festivals, and the ways we mark important moments. Each project has been rooted in the children's ideas and questions, allowing their voices and interests to lead the way.



Year 1

An exciting project Year 1 has been busy with has been based on our 'Leeds and Yorkshire' History and Geography topic, focusing on Yorkshire grub. A member of our Year 1 classes has been extremely kind and sourced us some very local rhubarb from his garden ! We used this to prep, chop and cook fresh rhubarb crumble on our fire during our forest schooling morning. We did a taste test and it was very popular with the children, especially with the biscuity crumble as a topping. Year 1 have proven themselves to be excellent wild chefs! We are very excited for our follow up trip to Meanwood Valley Farm to continue exploring and learning about local produce.



Year 1 recently found themselves in a rhubarb crisis when they found out that Meanwood Valley Urban Farm (MVUF) would

not be able to supply them with any of the delicious fruit for their upcoming cooking of rhubarb crumble on the fire pit during their weekly 'Wild Wednesday sessions. They needn't have worried though Ludo and his wonderful family came to the rescue, offering up a very generous amount of their home grown rhubarb to ensure this activity could go ahead. Ludo even took the extra initiative to record himself showing us how he harvested the rhubarb alongside all the other wonderful fruits and veggies he is growing in his garden. In addition to this, on our trip to MVUF we were greeted by Andrew (Bethany's dad) who not only showed us around the farm, and most importantly what rhubarb looks like when it is growing in the ground, delighted the adults and children with coffee and ice cream during their visit. We are so grateful to all our families who support our school activities in this way - it really makes a big difference to the experiences your children have in school.



Year 3

In an effort to combine our Science unit (plants) with outdoor learning in our Forest school session, Year 3 created nature frames from sticks and leaf art through printing. They utilised their outdoor resources to create these, and for many children this involved learning to tie a knot for the first time! Filling the frames with beautiful things found in



nature, others went a step further and filled their frame with litter, making a meaningful statement on the countryside treatment of our environment.

Year 4

In Spring, the Leeds United Foundation delivered a Healthy Eating Programme with Year 4. As part of the finale, we were invited to tour Elland Road and make our own healthy wraps. The children loved this once in a lifetime experience.

Year 5

Year 5 had a fantastic time on their trip to Armley Mills, where they travelled back in time to learn all about the Industrial Revolution! The children were brilliant at spotting old machines and understanding how things used to be made, a particular highlight being the Spinning Mule. Everyone especially enjoyed dressing up and experiencing what it was like to be a pupil in a strict Victorian classroom – luckily, our teachers are much kinder!



Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard to bring their production of "The Greatest Showman" to life, and it promises to be a truly sensational performance for parents. They've poured immense effort into choreographing routines and perfecting their singing, ensuring every note and movement is just right. Mrs. Stoodley has gone above and beyond with the stage setting; we now boast our very own stage curtain, adding a professional touch. A dedicated group of students has taken charge of the lighting and music, showing great responsibility and skill. Mrs. Tasker has been instrumental in helping the children design the vibrant backdrops and props, while Mrs. Hayes has worked tirelessly with a group of students on the choreography, all contributing to what will undoubtedly be a memorable show.



Spring Bank Primary School

Healthy Sports Week

What an amazing Healthy Sports Week we just had! Everyone, from Nursery all the way up to Year 6, got stuck into some fantastic activities. First aid training from Reception to Year 6 kick-started the week, followed by competitive rounders matches across KS2. Years 1 to 6 received cricket coaching from an ECB coach, which they thoroughly enjoyed! A huge thank you to Leeds Rhinos for leading an awesome dance competition that got everyone moving. And our Nursery and Reception superstars had a blast with their scavenger hunts and gymnastics fun. We wrapped everything up with a fantastic Sports Day - it turns out that our parents are as competitive as our children!



Year 4 & Year 5's residential to Nell Bank

This was our very first time doing a residential outside of Year 6, and it went so well. The kids had a brilliant time and experienced a number of different activities. They learned to find their way around with orienteering, worked together in some fun team-building challenges, and even conquered a big hike up Ilkley Moor! Pond dipping, den-building and of course the late-night adventure playground were amongst the favourites of children and staff.

Sense of Adventure week

Our Sense of Adventure Week was a resounding success! It was fantastic to see all the children step outside their comfort zones, try new things, and genuinely support and encourage one another. The enthusiasm was palpable, and the children particularly enjoyed seeing the adults joining in the activities too. Year groups joined together to complete den-building, which has now become part of our daily lunchtime provision, a caving van put child to the test, conquering fears of confined spaces, and the climbing wall was the pinnacle of the week, with all children impressing us - especially our Reception pupils who scaled the wall in seconds.



Morley Victoria Primary School

Morley Victoria has completed a busy year, prioritizing a well-rounded curriculum and abundant opportunities for its students. A key focus remains on reading, with initiatives like well-stocked school libraries, recommended read



boards, lending libraries, and reading volunteers. The curriculum is carefully designed, and subject leaders actively work to enhance their areas. Highlights include Easter School for Year 6 SATs revision, student participation in Young Writers Challenges, and the acquisition of new iPads and a 3D printer for computing and DT. Cooking is a popular subject, now incorporating an "Agents of Change" unit that supports climate change education and DT. The school also recognized Earth Day. External collaborations include subject leader training, a visit from MP Mark Steward, and participation in a debating competition. A SEND audit confirmed the school's strong position in special educational needs support.

The school also emphasizes a unique and externally recognized "whole child approach". Their PSHE curriculum is a significant strength, utilizing resources like "1 Decision" and "PoEd," and addressing serious topics such as knife crime with Year 6. Community engagement is strong, with events like a "Positive Noticing Day" and a Grandparents Coffee Morning, and collaborations with Asda Heroes and the National Food Pantry Project for food support. Core focuses include life skills, Mind Mate Mondays, and strengthening relationships and behavior. A Neurodiversity Curriculum is in development. Celebration assemblies acknowledge various achievements, both in and out of school. The school is committed to cultural inclusivity, evidenced by their CCQM journey and the work of Diversity Developers and Anti-bullying Ambassadors. The Eco Council and Rethink Warriors actively work on environmental issues and food waste prevention.





Year 6 students, wishing them success in their future endeavors.

Extracurricular activities are a source of pride, contributing to the school achieving the Gold School Games Mark for the fourth consecutive year. Students participated in a Mini Marathon, the Elstub Cup, and various tournaments and events in rugby, football, golf, wheelchair rugby, and dance, often collaborating with organizations like Leeds Rhinos Foundation and Leeds United Foundation. Life skills such as first aid and road safety are also taught. The school acknowledges the vital contributions of all staff members. Planned summer work includes improvements to the school facilities. The school also bid a fond farewell to its

Fountain Primary School

The summer term at Fountain has been packed with excitement and learning.



Year 4 experienced their first residential trip. They visited the Yorkshire Dales and stayed in the youth hostel at Malham. They climbed Malham Cove, conquering the 400 steps and then traversed some of the rocks at the top. They also walked to Janet's Foss and even climbed up to see a cave. The weather was kind, though fun was had in the mud!

Year 6 enjoyed a three-day city break in Edinburgh. They travelled by train and stayed in a city hostel. The children enjoyed watching street performers on the Royal Mile and visited Mary King's Close; an old street that showcases the Edinburgh of the past. The next day took them to Holyrood Palace, which is still a working Royal palace. They then braved Arthur's Seat. They reached the summit in record time for Fountain, 45 minutes! The day ended with a Ghost walk in the underground vaults. Edinburgh Castle was our final stop and did not disappoint. We had a wonderful trip.

Year 1 finished their topic 'Come Fly with us!' with a visit to the Yorkshire Air Museum, They were able to sit in a plane cockpit and learnt even more about flight. Year 2 visited Harewood House and were impressed by the grandeur of the main house. They spent time exploring the grounds and learning how to measure the age of the trees. Year 3 explored Bolton Abbey. They walked to the river and into the woods and enjoyed the experience of being in the great outdoors.





Across Key Stage 2, the children have completed amazing learning linked to our topics about ancient civilizations, including learning about the birth of democracy and the tombs and treasures of Ancient Egypt. In Early Years and Key Stage 1, our topics focused on different geographical areas. Nursery and Reception have focused on the places we can go and where we are in the world. Year 1 learnt about the history of flight and Year 2 considered what life would be like in Japan in comparison to Morley.

We challenged ourselves during our Health and Sport Week, trying new sports, understanding our mental health, and creating healthy playtime snacks. We had a climbing wall in the playground, a visit from a golf professional and learnt some judo. Our Fountain Teams also competed in Sports Day.



We wrapped up the year with our 'Celebration of the Arts' Week. We listened to our composers of the month to decide who was our favourite and enjoyed learning about some modern artists. Our wind band also performed an impressive array of songs in assembly. We ended the last week with our whole school Performance Poetry competition and also enjoyed an amazing Year 6 show of "The Jungle Book."

