



Owlcotes Multi-Academy Trust

Summer Newsletter – July 2026

Message from Lesley West, CEO

Welcome to the Owlcotes summer newsletter.

Owlcotes MAT has gone from strength to strength this year. We have further developed our support offer to schools and have worked collaboratively with all of our schools to expand our professional development offer and our professional networks.

We have continued to grow as a Trust and we are preparing to welcome a tenth school to the Owlcotes MAT after the summer holidays. Cobden Primary school is at the heart of its community in Farnley and staff from Owlcotes MAT are already working in partnership with the school in preparation for the transfer. I have no doubt that Cobden Primary will be another great addition to our family of schools.

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

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.

Across the Trust, our schools have taken part in an outdoor, adventurous focus week as part of our Owlcotes Elements Curriculum and in the annual Owlcotes Debating Competition where Year 6 pupils across Owlcotes displayed excellent listening and debating skills, as well as confidence to speak in front of an audience.

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 a number 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.

At Trust level, we say goodbye to Deborah Kenny who is retiring as the Owlcotes Trust Director of School Improvement. Deborah has made a fabulous contribution to all schools in our trust since her appointment in January 2024, and she will be missed by all our schools and staff. We wish her all the best for a fabulous retirement.

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.



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 Owlcote:
I wish you all an enjoyable summer holiday.

Pudsey Primrose Hill Primary School

Lego Workshops

This week children in 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 monkey playing a drum.

Egg-citing new Arrivals in Reception!

Children in Reception received an egg-citing delivery of ten eggs! The children have learnt about the many different animals which lay eggs with the help of a story - 'Tap, tap the egg cracked'. They then used this knowledge to



consider which animal laid the eggs, and which animals would hatch out of the eggs. The children have been fascinated by the eggs hatching and the development of the chicks. This focus is inspiring observation, discussion, asking questions and writing about all they observe.

Year 5 Pen Y Ghent

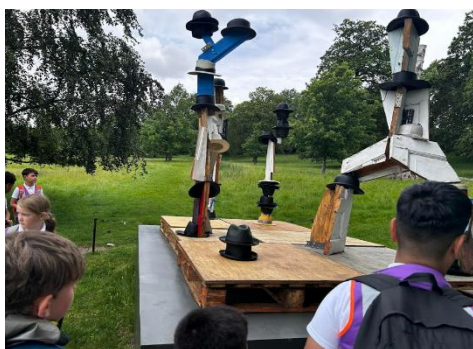
Year 5 enjoyed the Yorkshire Dales on Thursday when they hiked up Pen Y Ghent the smallest of Yorkshire's Three Peaks. They were up bright and early to get to Horton -In-Ribblesdale in good time. They used their resilience, perseverance and determination to tackle uneven terrain and the steep climb near the top. Pen-Y-Ghent is one of our Owlcotes Elements 'Sense and Adventure' and it was a great challenge in our Outdoor Focus Week. We are so proud of them!



A huge thank you to our FOPPH who fully funded the coach, which meant this brilliant challenge was free to every child.

Year 4 Yorkshire Sculpture Park

This week, Year 4 children visited the Yorkshire Sculpture Park as part of their enrichment and the Owlcotes Element appreciation of art. During their visit, they explored a variety of sculptures, including works by renowned local artist Barbara Hepworth.



Reception Hesketh Farm

Reception children have been on an adventure to Hesketh Farm Park as part of the 'Yorkshire Pride' Owlcotes element. They enjoyed exploring the farm and taking part in lots of activities including making milk and bottle-feeding baby calves, collecting eggs, hand feeding goats, caring for guinea pigs and going on a very bumpy

tractor ride!

Raising Aspirations Week

What an amazing week it has been for our year 5 and 6 children -our Raising Aspirations week once again involved a wealth of speakers and visitors explaining their career and job roles to our children. This week is a huge



part of our personal development offer and we hope that the children have been excited and interested to hear about the wide-ranging jobs out there and what they involve. It is a real community effort with parents, staff members' friends and family and members of our community, giving up their time, preparing talks and coming into school. Thank you to everyone who has been involved, we are very grateful.

Pudsey Waterloo Primary School

Nursery

Nursery have enjoyed small group visits to None Go Bye Farm this half term. The animals were very pleased to see us when they realised we had food! As always, the children behaved brilliantly.

Year 1 Yorkshire Wildlife Park trip

Our Year 1 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park was a fantastic opportunity for the children to apply their Science learning about animals in a real-world setting. As we explored the park, the children enjoyed the variety of species, observing first-hand the physical features of mammals, reptiles, and birds. The day ended in an interactive workshop where the children explored different artifacts, by feeling thick camel fur, gently stroking a snake's scales, and even holding a Giant African Land Snail! It was a joy to see them so engaged as they gathered new facts to bring back to the classroom.



Year 2 At Scarborough

Year 2 had an amazing day at Scarborough in June. We were really pleased that it was cooler at the seaside compared to Pudsey! The children had a great day building sandcastles, burying each other, sunbathing and eating a



delicious ice cream. To help cool us all off they were able to have a paddle in the sea which was an added bonus. All of Year 2 were a pleasure to take and this was noticed by members of the public who commented on how well behaved the children were. The coach coming back was rather quiet with lots of tired, sleepy children!

William's Den

Reception to Year 3 had a wonderful day at William's Den. It was incredible to see the children running about in such a beautiful outdoor setting. While they were there, the children made dens, paddled through pools of water, dug in the sand and whizzed back and forth on the zip lines. The children played so well together and we were really impressed with their behaviour. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to supervise on this trip.



Mission Out



Years 4, 5 and 6 all had a wonderful time at Mission Out. The children enjoyed den building, punting on rafts, playing crazy golf, and jumping off huge towers onto enormous pillows, amongst many other fun activities. It was a pleasure to see so many children pushing themselves to try new things and overcoming challenges. The children and weather both behaved

beautifully and so all the accompanying adults had a great day too. Thanks to all the volunteers who joined us and made the visit possible.

Year 4 Leeds Industrial Museum

Year 4 had a fabulous visit to Leeds Industrial Museum last week. Children experienced what it was like to be a child and work in the mill. We were lucky enough to see one of the woollen machines working and then we had a tour of a replica Victorian house. Following that, children visited the school room. They impressed the school master with their outstanding arithmetic, their strength when lifting the dumbbells and their elegant handwriting. As always, the children's behaviour was excellent – they represented Pudsey Waterloo so well. Thank you to our volunteers who came along to make the trip possible.



Dance Spectacular 2026

What an absolute triumph for our incredible dancers at Dance Spectacular 2026! Despite having to rehearse in a short space of time, the children showed true resilience and dedication, proving that talent knows no boundaries.



Their hard work and determination spectacularly paid off in front of a cheering crowd. We could not be prouder of how they represented us. Head over to our Facebook and Instagram pages to see the full dance routine along with plenty of other fantastic pictures from this unforgettable day!

Year 5 Poetry Slam Competition

Year 5 won first prize in the Leeds Schools Poetry Slam competition at the Carriageworks Theatre in Leeds! We entered two teams who wrote their own poems based on the theme of 'Play' and then performed their poems on the night. There were 14 teams taking part, including many from high schools and both teams performed brilliantly. Well done to Zoe, Rohan and Keeley Anne who took the top prize and equally well done to Luca, Savannah and Niamh who also gave a brilliant performance.



Year 6 Malham Trip

Year 6 took a trip to the Yorkshire Dales this week as part of their geography topic on



rivers. They walked from the visitors' centre to Janet's Foss and on to Gordale Scar. Along the route they stopped at different sections of the river to complete fieldwork, such as drawing and labelling the river and discussing geographical vocabulary including: 'erosion, deposition and meander'. The pupils had a wonderful day seeing the upper and middle course of the river and their behaviour throughout the day was fantastic. Well done Year 6!

Calverley Parkside Primary School

Year 6 Prom

The Year 6 prom was a sensational highlight of the term! Everyone arrived looking absolutely fabulous, truly dressing to impress for their landmark celebration. It has been wonderful to reflect on the incredible energy and dance moves on display—from both children



and staff alike! It was a thoroughly joyous evening from start to finish, providing a perfect, memorable send-off for a brilliant year group as they prepare for their next chapter.



Summer Fair

A massive thank you goes out to our incredible PTA and the army of volunteers for putting on such a lovely Summer Fair. We are

also deeply grateful to everyone who attended and supported the event—your community spirit truly shone through! It may have been a little drizzly at times, but a bit of classic British weather certainly wasn't enough to put us off putting on a great event.

From face painting and archery to tombolas, games, bouncy castles, cakes, and raffles—it honestly had it all. It was a wonderful afternoon filled with laughter, and we couldn't have done it without you all!



Junior Warrior!

The Junior Warrior event this term was an absolute triumph of mud and determination! While some children managed to stay remarkably clean, many others fully embraced the challenge and were head-to-toe in mud by the finish line. It was a fantastic

display of resilience and school spirit that captured the very best of our adventurous learners.

Eco-team – Yorkshire Water audit!

Our Eco-team demonstrated fantastic leadership this term during a water efficiency audit with Yorkshire Water. The pupils investigated water usage across the school, identifying areas for improvement such as leaking taps and inefficient cisterns. We are now working toward implementing free replacements for these inefficiencies, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Fern, Toby, Rory, Isla, and Emily.





Year 6 Camping Residential

This term, our Year 6 adventurers embarked on a memorable camping residential. From pitching tents to mastering campfire skills like wood whittling, the children fully immersed themselves in outdoor life. A unique highlight was gathering under the night sky to listen to the England game on the radio, creating a brilliant shared atmosphere. The trip was a resounding success, fostering independence, team spirit, and lifelong memories.

Cultural Capital

One of our Year 1 pupils chose to wear her hijab as she had been inspired by our student teacher. She wore it confidently and with pride, explaining to her peers what it is and why she wears it. The class then read *The Proudest Blue* and had the opportunity to try on headscarves themselves, helping to deepen their understanding and appreciation of different cultures and identities.

Flashback: Year 2 Skipping Festival

Looking back at our sporting highlights, the Year 2 Skipping Festival stands out as a

term favourite. It was a high-action, fast-paced event where our young athletes showed incredible effort, with several children placing brilliantly in individual events. Although they described the experience as "intense and tiring," their smiles and achievements were a testament to the hard work they have put in throughout the term.



Year 2 Beach day!

Year 2 had a fantastic time with their beach day! Thanks to all the staff who were super committed to putting this on for the children – the staff brought their own items to enhance the day, they came early for set up – and also were in good spirits when I blasted them with the hosepipe. I make no apology to Miss McCormack for soaking her.

Armley Park Primary School



Adventure Week

During our Focus Week in May, all classes had the opportunity to experience something new. This included Year 3 trying their rowing skills on the canal, Year 6 completing a Triathlon and Year 4 visiting the local climbing wall. These experiences helped them to develop a deeper understanding of what it would be like for some of the famous adventurers that they were learning about.





Year 3 Young Marketeers Project

Children in Year 3 have been growing their own fruit and vegetables as part of a project run by School Food Matters. The produce was then harvested and taken to Leeds Kirkgate Market to sell! Amongst the customers was the Lord Mayor of Leeds, Stephen Holroyd, and a BBC journalist! More information about the project can be found here - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yzn3grz37o>

Year 6 Junior Warrior

Year 6 tackled the blistering heat to complete the 3km Junior Warrior course!



Everyone gave 100% and despite the very hot day, they all completed the course in record time.

Year 2 visit to Filey

As part of their Geography learning, Year 2 went to the seaside. They enjoyed playing in the sea, building sand castles and just like any good trip to the beach, they finished with an ice-cream!

Manor Wood Primary School

Outdoors Week

Always keen to embrace the outdoors, all of our children from 0-11 threw themselves into the OMAT Outdoors Week this term with gusto! We held a community weave project, with children, parents and families collaboratively creating a giant alfresco work of art using recycled fabric. Our Forest School provision was well-used for campfire cooking and children researched and shared what they had learnt about the benefits to our physical and mental wellbeing when we spend time outdoors.



Sports Day

As always, Sports Day was a highlight of the year with children competing in their School Teams across KS1 and KS2. The weather was a real scorcher, but children demonstrated the school values of "Team Comes First" and cheered each other on. The events were very well attended by parents and

families: the most competitive of which were keen to get involved in the traditional parents' race!





Celebrating Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday

We spent the day learning about the incredible impact Sir David Attenborough has had on our world and how he's inspired people to care for our planet, oceans and wildlife. Our Foundation Stage Unit created a huge Blue Planet collage to celebrate his milestone 100th birthday!

0-3 End of Year Project Finales

We have absolutely loved welcoming our families into the setting to celebrate the end of our project year! Our 3-year-olds have spent the year exploring four wonderful themes: Homes

and Communities, Growing, Baking, and the Farm.

Together, the children became little chefs and gardeners - making their own bread, jam, soup, and oat milk, and even growing their own vegetables. Alongside these delicious sensory experiences, they poured so much heart into their creative work. From building early mark-making skills and painting proud self-portraits to creating beautiful artwork, it has been a joy to watch their confidence and identities

blossom.



Year 6 Residential

This year, our wonderful Year 6 staff and children spent three days exploring the Great British countryside as they celebrated coming to the end of their time as Manor Wood Primary School children! The team ventured out to the Nell Bank activity centre and the children enjoyed the action-packed residential, filled with team building games and even a 6-mile hike across Ilkley Moor! It was a fantastic experience, with lasting memories made.



Spring Bank Primary School

We have had a really busy summer term here at Spring Bank Primary School, with so many trips to so many places in Yorkshire!

Our Early Years children had a fantastic visit to Hesketh Farm, which supported their learning of life cycles. Of course, we cannot forget our chick-hatching experience where we had the pleasure of seeing our very own life cycle in action! To top off an amazing year, our Reception children enjoyed a lovely graduation ceremony in the final week of term.





Our Year 2 and Year 6 children were lucky enough to go to Filey at the end of June to support their learning about coasts. They enjoyed exploring the coastline, paddling in the sea and eating on the beach. A brilliant day was had by all, and the children behaved amazingly - especially when the coach broke down on the way back!

Year 3 pupils had a great time learning about mummification and the Egyptians at Leeds City Museum this term and Year 4 were outstanding on their first residential to Nell Bank. In addition to a residential, Year 4 also enjoyed their final swimming session of the year AND had a trip to Armley Mills to learn about how children used to work in mills.

Year 5 had a fantastic time at Murton Park on a Viking Discovery Day and represented school brilliantly, showing us they are ready to be the oldest in the school in September. Finally, Year 6 have had an exceptionally busy half term after their SATs - they have practised and performed their end of year production, taken part in the debating competition, done a triathlon and had visits to their new high schools!



As well as all of that, as a whole school we had our first ever off-site Sports Day at Leeds Beckett University, which was amazing, a whole school water fight and we thoroughly enjoyed the International Day of Play! Thankfully the weather was on our side for all of these events and we all had a fantastic time. What a busy term!

Morley Victoria Primary School

Curriculum

The Summer Term at Morley Victoria Primary School celebrates a busy and successful end to the academic year, highlighting the children's real progress and proud achievements in statutory assessments. Guided by its School Development Plan and a core commitment to sustainability in partnership with the Owlcoates Multi-Academy Trust (MAT), the school enriched its curriculum with numerous targeted interventions, a bustling cooking and music program, and a vast array of educational visits, parent events, and year-group highlights.

The term also focused heavily on smooth year-group transitions and celebrated David Attenborough's 100th birthday. The staff have worked incredibly hard to deliver a strong curriculum that fits the needs of the children at Morley Victoria.

Whole Child

The Whole Child at Morley Victoria Primary School is central to what we plan and deliver every day. This holistic approach to education is reinforced through a robust PSHE and RSE curriculum, staff training, and the active involvement of the inclusion team. The term featured numerous interactive student initiatives, including the high-achieving "Asda Heroes" fundraising for the local elderly, a World Cup positive behaviour challenge, a community-driven Greggs Breakfast Club, and the training of 11 new Year 4 Young Interpreters to support pupils new to English. One of our stand out events was our grandparents' coffee morning which was a lovely morning of laughter and discussion!

Fountain Primary School



We started the term with our Wow Day. The children were enthusiastic about their new learning and enjoyed finding out about their new topics.

Our Reception children have a new outdoor learning space! They have new climbing opportunities, a sandpit a new stage and much more.

Reception also went on a trip to Canon Hall Farm to learn about different animals and their habitats. Year 2 visited Harewood House, year 3 went to Bolton Abbey and year 2 went to the Yorkshire Air Museum. The Nursery children visited Middleton Railway as part of their learning.



Our year 4 children experienced the great outdoors on their residential to Grinton Lodge. They completed a 7km walk and saw lots of

wildlife in the glorious Yorkshire Dales.



Edinburgh was the destination for year 6's final residential at Fountain. They experienced life in the past at Mary King's Close, a working royal palace at Holyrood, climbed Arthur's Seat. They also visited the castle and went on a very spooky ghost walk.

In sporting news our girls team finished the season with a 2-0 win! Congratulations to them! Our year 6 children also took part in the Owlcoates debate competition. They made some excellent points and represented school incredibly well. Year 6 spent a day building robots in a Robotics workshop and enjoyed taking part in the Brownlee Triathlon.



Outdoor Adventurous week was a huge success. Year 5 worked with their Nursery friends looking for mini beasts and worms. We also braved the climbing wall which was placed on our school playground for all of us to experience climbing. Lots of lessons took place outdoors, including an outdoor vocabulary lesson. We used nature to make art and thought about how we can support our environment. It was great to see our school grounds put to good use all week.



Year 2 attending the skipping festival and huge congratulations one of our pupils in Lakes class who has been selected to represent Leeds Schools Girls Football Team next year. We are incredibly proud of her achievement.



Secondary school.

We are ending the term with lots of exciting events, including our Year 6 production of 'Alice in Wonderland'. The children were outstanding and performed brilliantly for their parents and carers. We wish them lots of luck as they move on to



Hovingham Primary School

Year 6 Girls' Rugby

We are incredibly proud to announce that our Year 6 girls' team won the Leeds Schools Rugby tournament! The team was truly outstanding, not only in their athletic skills on the pitch but also in their exemplary sportsmanship. They represented Hovingham brilliantly and showed wonderful teamwork throughout the competition.



Year 5 in the Dales

Our Year 5 children recently ventured out on an educational visit to the Yorkshire Dales. In true Yorkshire fashion, they experienced a bit of everything with the weather—wind, rain, and sunshine all in one day! Despite the unpredictable elements, the children fully embraced the adventure, showed great resilience, and thoroughly loved the experience.

Year 4 and Phoenix Dance Company

In a truly inspirational collaboration, our Year 4 students partnered with the Phoenix Dance Company to present a performance based on the Windrush generation. The children embraced the opportunity to take centre stage, delivering a powerful and moving piece of work that left us all incredibly proud.



Celebrating Our Community: Culture and Values Day

One of the highlights of our term was our Culture and Values Day—a dedicated time to celebrate exactly who we are. It was a joy to see our school filled with staff and children wearing their traditional dress, proudly showcasing their unique heritages, values, and beliefs. It was a beautiful reflection of the diverse and supportive community we share at Hovingham.



Healthy Schools Award

Last but certainly not least, we recently underwent our Healthy Schools Award assessment. This was an excellent opportunity to showcase the extensive collaborative work we do across the school to keep our children physically, emotionally, and mentally healthy. We are thrilled to share that the assessment was incredibly successful, and the assessors were highly impressed with our comprehensive approach to our wellbeing offer.