LEADING LEARNERS

Guiding children to promising futures



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

WELCOME FROM THE CEO

As we approach the end of this jam-packed term, I am filled with immense pride at all that we have accomplished together across the Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust. The dedication of our pupils, staff, and wider school communities is always inspiring, and this term has been no exception.

This newsletter captures just a snapshot of the incredible achievements across our schools. From outstanding academic progress to enriching extracurricular activities, our pupils have demonstrated resilience, ambition, and a love of learning.

Collaboration remains at the heart of everything we do. By working together, sharing best practice, and supporting one another, we continue to create environments where every child can thrive. As we look ahead to the summer term, I want to extend my gratitude to our fantastic team of educators, support staff, parents, and, most importantly, our pupils. Your hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed.

I hope you enjoy reading about the successes and stories that make our Trust such a special place to learn and grow. Wishing you all a happy and restful Easter break!

Yvonne Brown
CEO

OFSTED SUCCESS FOR TYLDESLEY AND REEVY HILL

Two of our schools, Tyldesley Primary School and Reevy Hill Primary School, have had Ofsted inspections this term, with some amazing outcomes!

Tyldesley Primary School celebrated a highly positive Ofsted inspection that highlighted how 'pupils thrive at this friendly and welcoming school.'

Ofsted inspectors visited **Tyldesley Primary School** in January for a two-day inspection to evaluate whether the school has maintained the high standards identified at its last full inspection in 2020. The school is delighted to have retained its 'Good' rating.

Janet Shorrock, Headteacher at **Tyldesley Primary School**, said: "We are incredibly proud of our school community and the positive, supportive environment we have built together. The report reflects the dedication of our staff and the enthusiasm of our pupils, who truly embody our school values every day.

"While an Ofsted inspection is just one measure of success, it is fantastic to see our collective hard work recognised, particularly in key areas such as curriculum development, behaviour, and pupil leadership."

The report highlighted many strengths of the school, including:

- Pupils rise eagerly to meet the school's high expectations for their learning. This starts in the early years where children settle in well and quickly become confident and enthusiastic learners.
- Pupils value the warm and caring relationships that they have with staff.
- Staff teach a range of subjects with flair and enthusiasm.
- Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), make an important contribution to school life.
- Pupils with SEND are supported well so that they can access the same curriculum content as their peers.
- [Pupils] enjoy sharing their favourite books with their teachers and friends. Skilled staff deliver the early reading programme with fidelity.
- Pupils develop their teamwork skills, confidence and resilience through residential visits and other activities.



The report also praised the school's commitment to broadening pupils' horizons by introducing them to diverse career opportunities, from beekeeping to palaeontology. It highlighted the school's focus on preparing pupils for their future lives through leadership opportunities and participation in eco-friendly initiatives such as recycling and energy conservation.

Staff and pupils at **Reevy Hill Primary School** were thrilled after a recent Ofsted inspection recognised the school's ongoing commitment to improvement and dedication to its community.

Following a two-day visit in February this year, inspectors confirmed that the school has taken effective action to maintain the high standards achieved in its previous inspection where it was rated as a 'Good' school. The glowing report cited the school's strong leadership, ambitious curriculum and commitment to pupil development as evidence of its excellent performance.

Gary Stott, Headteacher, said: "This report is a reflection of the incredible work by everyone in our school community, not least of all our amazing pupils who rightly receive praise for their superb behaviour and academic endeavours.

"We're immensely proud that our collective efforts to create a supportive and ambitious learning environment have been acknowledged. This report is a wonderful milestone, and we look forward to building on our success."

The report praised the school's warm and welcoming atmosphere, noting that pupils "enjoy coming to a school that is a happy place" and "live and breathe the school's motto, 'proud to be our best'".

Inspectors shone a light on the "courteous and respectful" pupils that "thrive at the school" and "live up to the school's high expectations for them".

The school's range of pupil roles, such as prefects, parliament members and mental health ambassadors, was seen as a strength in developing responsible and active young citizens, and "preparing them well for being positive contributors to society."

Inspectors commended the school's ambitious curriculum, which supports pupils in building knowledge from Nursery to Year 6. Reading was identified as a key strength and improvements in mathematics were also recognised, following strategic changes to teaching approaches and staff development.

The report also celebrated the school's strong focus on inclusion, praising its effective support for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The school's SEND 'hub' was highlighted as providing "personalised support in a well-designed environment" for a small number of pupils with more complex needs, demonstrating how the school helps every child to thrive.

Other highlights from the report included:

- Children in the early years get off to a strong start to their education. They respond well to the school's high expectations and clear routines.
- Attendance is a high priority and the school is relentless in its work to improve rates of attendance.
- Pupils demonstrate positive values relating to inclusion and diversity. They celebrate differences between people.
- Teachers provide regular opportunities for pupils to debate and discuss important issues.
- The trust, governors and the school share a strong commitment to serving the pupils, families and community.

Yvonne Brown, CEO, said of the schools:

"We are all so proud of everyone at both Tyldesley and Reevy Hill. These fantastic reports reflect the dedication and passion of everyone involved at the schools, providing every child with a strong foundation for a bright future.

"We are proud to have them as part of our Trust family and look forward to seeing everyone in their communities continue to flourish and thrive."

THE MAT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The Leading Learners team is thrilled to be shortlisted for the 2025 Community Trust of the Year category at the prestigious MAT Excellence Awards!

The shortlisting committee said of our entry:

"Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust exemplifies community excellence by transforming education across ten primary schools in some of the UK's most disadvantaged areas. Grounded in its core value of community, the trust prioritises inclusive practices, innovative SEND provision and vital partnerships. By opening resourced provisions and saving a private nursery, it has demonstrated unwavering support for families and learners."

The awards ceremony will take place on 19th June and we have our fingers and toes crossed for a win!

TYLDESLEY IS OFFICIALLY AN ADHD FRIENDLY SCHOOL

Tyldesley Primary School has been officially accredited as an ADHD Friendly School by the ADHD Foundation. This recognition follows staff-wide CPD training in the autumn term, focusing on neurodiversity and strategies to support all pupils.

To achieve this status, the school met six key pledges, including staff training, increased physical activity opportunities, self-calming strategies, tactile resources in every classroom, whole-school awareness displays and support for parents and carers.

Colin Foley, National Training Director at ADHD Foundation said: "We were struck by how much is going on and the range of support in place [at **Tyldesley Primary School**], in particular, the school's policy ensuring access to breaks, the range of clubs, the wellbeing questionnaire and ambassadors, the resources on offer and the detailed evidence around support for families, I could go on. There is outstanding work going on daily in **Tyldesley Primary School**.

"Thank you for everything that you are doing for your young learners with ADHD."

As part of the ADHD Umbrella Project, Tyldesley has installed vibrant umbrella displays symbolising the strengths and talents of neurodiverse children. These installations aim to educate pupils, staff and the wider community about the value of neurodiversity.





BATTLE WITH A TECH TITAN

A Leading Learners school Deputy Headteacher has successfully taken on tech titan, Google, in a bid to support families in making informed decisions about schools for their children.

Justin Cowley, Deputy Headteacher at **Mendell Primary School**, led a campaign to remove outdated school ratings from Google. In February 2025, Justin sent a letter to Google, signed by 60 senior leaders representing around 50 schools, urging the removal of old reviews. Many of these reviews were more than six years old and no longer reflected recent Ofsted ratings or school improvements.

Google has now confirmed it will fully enforce a ban on school reviews and remove all existing ratings, with changes taking effect from 18th February 2025.

Justin said of the campaign: "On one level it is a small win, but I think it is an important one. The whole purpose of doing this was to help parents make informed choices about their child's education – and there are few decisions as important as that."

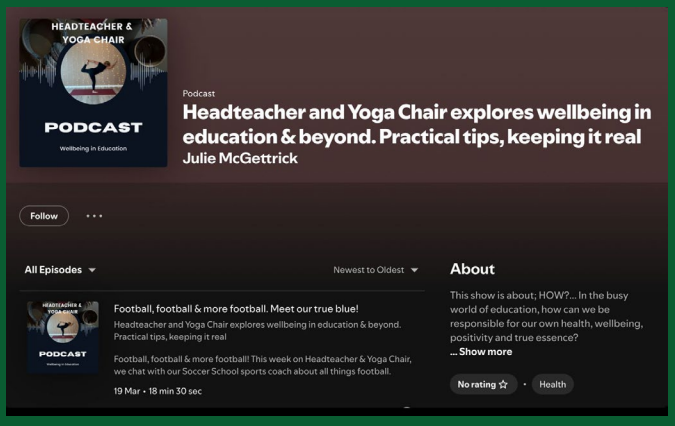
A huge congratulations to Justin on this fantastic achievement!

HEADTEACHER AND YOGA CHAIR PODCAST

A recent Leading Learners meeting on Headteacher wellbeing has inspired Julie McGettrick, the Chair of Governors at Overchurch Junior School, to launch a new podcast on the subject, now streaming on Spotify!

Julie was motivated to start the podcast, called Headteacher and Yoga Chair, to support other school leaders and staff after the inspiring session.

Each episode offers practical advice and insights. Guests range from community members like Nessy, the lollipop lady, to Dame Angela Eagle, MP for Wallasey. Overchurch Junior School staff, including OJS Book Club creator Miss Nickson, Deputy Headteacher Mrs Elwill and Assistant Headteacher Mr Byrne have also shared their experiences.



Anne Sheridan, Headteacher, said: "It is a refreshing podcast that delves into the intricacies of mental health, mindfulness, and overall well-being.

"With discussions on stress management, self-compassion and resilience, the podcast is a must-listen for anyone looking to improve their wellbeing."

Plans are in place to interview Yvonne Brown, CEO, during her next visit to Overchurch Junior School – follow now on Spotify so you don't miss out!

WORLD BOOK DAY 2025

World Book Day 2025 was celebrated in grand style by our schools this March! Here's a little snapshot of some of the wonderful activities they got up to...

Brookdale Primary School had an epic World Book Day this year, with a costume theme of heroes and villains and lots of book themed activities taking place in each class. Pupils also joined live online sessions with authors and illustrators and even competed to design the vouchers for next year's World Book Day.



Carrwood Primary School celebrated World Book Day with a unique vocabulary theme. Pupils and staff dressed as words, showcasing their creativity in an exciting parade, where each class danced around the hall to display their outfits to parents and carers. Throughout the week, pupils visited the World Book Day Shop, selecting a book to take home. A huge thank you to a local independent bookshop for swapping tokens for books, ensuring every child received a brand-new book to enjoy.

Mendell Primary School gave its book swap area a makeover. This new space encourages children to continue building a love for reading by picking a book to take home and enjoy. Pupils can also donate unwanted books, giving them a new life and sharing stories with their friends. Not only does this promote reading, but it also helps the planet by reusing books!

Woodside Academy pupils wowed everyone with their fantastic costumes inspired by their favourite book characters. From superheroes and Harry Potter characters to animals and princesses, a great day celebrating books and reading was had by all.



Pupils at **Worth Valley Primary School** had a wonderful time enjoying an outdoor book reading session, soaking up the sunshine whilst listening to the sounds of nature. After the story, they had fun taking part in exciting activities with friends, making it a perfect day of reading and adventure.



Key Stage 2 pupils at **Sandbrook Primary School** visited Moreton Library to discover the amazing resources available. Each pupil selected a book to temporarily add to their class libraries, encouraging a love for reading. Local librarians shared the importance of libraries in the community and introduced pupils to exciting events they could attend - highlighting the library as a valuable hub for learning and discovery.



WORLD POETRY DAY 2025



March was full of literary fun, with not only World Book Day but World Poetry Day too.

To mark the occasion, pupils from across our Trust schools came together at Tyldesley Rugby Union Club for the second annual Leading Learners World Poetry Day event, a fantastic day of activities and performances.

We were delighted to welcome children's author, poet and illustrator Ray Douglas, who performed poems from his own books. His poem about ambition inspired pupils to think about their dreams and what they hope to become in the future.

The day was filled with fun oracy games and memory challenges, helping to build confidence and encourage teamwork. Pupils had the opportunity to perform poetry on stage too. Some recited well-known verses, while others shared their own original work. From humorous pieces like 'If I Were a Carrot' to heartfelt poems like 'A True Friendship,' the performances were full of passion!

Several pupils' performances were recorded and some will be nominated for the national Poetry By Heart competition, giving them the chance to showcase their talent even further.

To end the day, pupils asked Ray what inspired him to become a poet. He shared how author Dan Worsley sparked his love for storytelling and how using his imagination to create rhyme brings him joy.



This special day celebrated not only poetry but also the ambition of our young writers and performers, reminding us how powerful words and dreams can be.



Yvonne Brown, CEO, said: "What an incredible day! A huge well done must go to all the pupils who took part for their bravery and efforts. I was blown away by how well the children engaged with the day and the enthusiasm they showed. This event is quickly turning into a highlight of the Leading Learners calendar, and I can't wait to see what next year brings!"



Thank you to all our young poets for taking part with such gusto, and our staff for making the day so special!



OUR TRUST VALUES

At Leading Learners, we have five values that underpin all that we do.

These are

- Community
- Ambition
- Resilience
- Integrity
- Pride

Our values lie at the core of everything we do within our Trust. They inspire all our communities' best efforts and direct our actions when it comes to helping each and every one of our children be the very best they can be.

COMMUNITY

We recognise how important it is to help our children experience the world around them and become active, helpful members of their communities.

BROOKDALE BAKE OFF





Brookdale Primary School hosted an amazing bake sale featuring a variety of scrumptious treats from the Bake Off, organised by their wonderful PTA.

The event was a great success, raising £500 to help cover £10 per pupil for school trips and visits, helping to lower costs for families.

The winners and runners-up were celebrated during assembly. Well done to everyone involved!

A BLOOMING LOVELY COMMUNITY AT MENDELL



Mendell Primary School has been improving its outdoor learning space in EYFS thanks to the generosity of two wonderful parents who have built fabulous planters and provided soil, seeds, plants and pebbles for the new outdoor construction area.

Catherine O'Neill Edwards, Headteacher, said: "We are always overwhelmed with the generosity of our school community and a huge thank you goes to these parents for their support in transforming the EYFS outdoor space.

"This is a fantastic example of how the strong Mendell community brings our 'Belong' value to life!"

CARING IN THE COMMUNITY

Pupils at Reevy Hill Primary School and Worth Valley Primary School have been out and about in their communities this term, making new friends at local care provisions for seniors.

Reevy Hill Primary School's little librarians visited a local care home in March to share stories with residents. Though a bit nervous at first, they showed great confidence, respect and fantastic storytelling skills.

The visit marks the beginning of a wonderful partnership with the care home, with Year 6 pupils scheduled to visit after SATs and the school choir set to perform for residents before July.

Year 3 pupils at **Worth Valley Primary School** had a fantastic time playing bingo with the residents at extra care scheme, Stavely Court! With three exciting rounds, Worth Valley claimed victory in one. It was such a heartwarming visit and the children can't wait to return for more!



IFTAR CELEBRATION FOR REEVY HILL

Reevy Hill Primary School welcomed 50 children, parents and carers for a special Iftar meal this term, as part of a school-wide celebration of Ramadan.

Muslims observe Ramadan by fasting from dawn until dusk, praying, reflecting and helping those in need. Iftar is the evening meal that breaks the fast for the day.

Reevy Hill staff stayed to serve and host the meal, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Gary Stott, Headteacher, said: "This was a wonderful evening and brought our school community together to celebrate this important time in the Muslim faith calendar.

"Celebrating all faiths and cultures is important to us and we want our community to feel inclusive and welcoming to all."



GROWING TOGETHER



This term, Sandbrook Primary School hosted a community tree planting event to enhance their forest school area and support local wildlife.

Pupils, parents, local Police Community Support Officers, tree planting team members and a representative from the Trust family all came together to take part.

Yvonne Brown, CEO, said: “Every child in the school contributed to improving their outdoor learning space, creating a wonderful community atmosphere. It was a fantastic day and everyone is excited to watch the trees and hedges flourish for years to come!”





AMBITION

We have the ambition to not only create aspiration and be the very best we can be, but also a passionate ambition to make the best of the world around us and leave it better than we find it.



CAREERS FAIR AT MENDELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mendell Primary School hosted its annual careers fair, supporting its pupils to 'Dream Big'.

Children explored a variety of STEAM careers and met representatives from the emergency services, including female police officers and firefighters.

The event aimed to inspire ambition, helping children to learn about different career paths and dream big about their futures.

PIZZA PERFECTION FOR CARRWOOD PUPILS

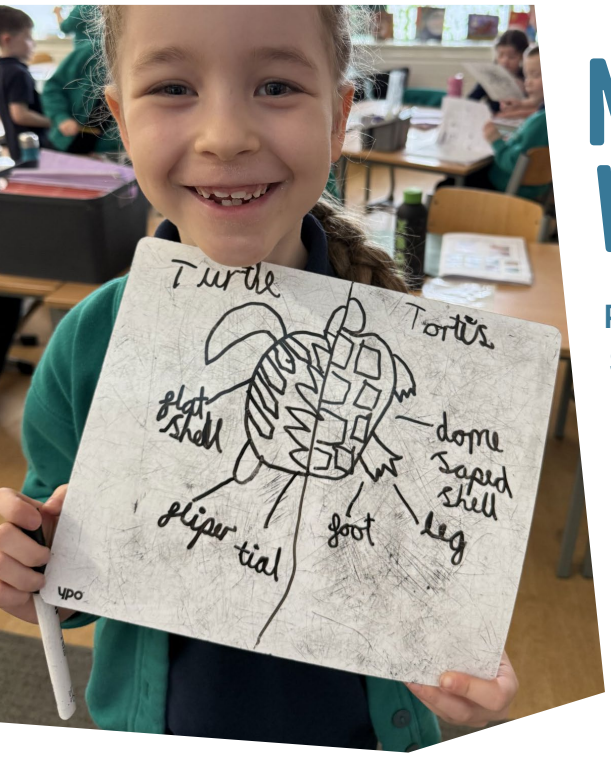
Reception pupils at Carrwood Primary School had an exciting trip to Pizza Express, where they became chefs for the day!

Wearing professional chef hats and aprons, pupils created delicious pizzas from scratch. While waiting for their pizzas to cook, the children also had the enjoyed opportunity to taste different ingredients. Back at school, they shared their homemade pizzas. What a tasty experience!









NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK AT TYLDESLEY

Pupils at Tyldesley Primary School celebrated National Science Week this term with an extra-special visit from wildlife expert, Mike Linley.

Pupils explored reptile adaptations and transformations, meeting frogs, snakes and geckos as part of a live session!

They learned about reptile habitats, diets and the differences between turtles, tortoises and terrapins. Mike also explained how venomous snakes differ from constrictors, giving pupils a fascinating insight into the animal world.



A MATTER OF DEBATE FOR WOODSIDE ACADEMY

At Woodside Academy, pupils from Years 5 and 6 took part in the school's Debate Club, developing their speaking, listening and critical thinking skills.

They demonstrated respect by valuing each other's opinions and aimed high by using high-quality language to express their views.

Pupils participated in a friendly debate competition with **Reevy Hill Primary School**, using big books to support their arguments. Topics debated included "Year 6 SATs should be banned" and "All children should have pets."

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher, said: "It was fantastic to see pupils take this opportunity to form new friendships and show maturity and creativity in their debates. Well done to all involved!"



RESILIENCE

Our children have shown their resilience and determination to try new things or go the extra mile this term, in the classroom and the community.

FIRE SAFETY AT TYLDESLEY

Reception pupils at Tyldesley Primary School had a surprise visit from Atherton's White Watch Fire and Rescue Service this term as part of their PSHE topic on 'keeping safe.'

Firefighters spoke about home and community safety, gave a fire engine tour and let pupils explore firefighting tools and test the water hose. Pupils also learned essential fire skills, including the stop, drop and roll technique, the dangers of matches and lighters, when to call 999, and the importance of smoke detectors and fire escape plans. It was a fun and educational experience for all.







UKULELE MAGIC

Year 4 pupils at Brookdale Primary School have been trying their hands at learning the Ukelele this term, under the guidance of Rosie at EdSential Music Service.

Their hard work paid off in a fantastic performance that had everyone tapping their feet, humming, dancing and singing along!

Kate Ball, Headteacher, said: "Rosie's weekly sessions have helped the children develop strumming techniques, rhythm and a deeper love for music. A huge thank you to Rosie and EdSential for providing our pupils with this wonderful experience!"



STOCKELD PARK VISIT FOR WORTH VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term, pupils from Reception to Year 6 at Worth Valley Primary School, had a very special whole-school visit to Stockeld Park for a day of exploration.

Pupils and staff had an unforgettable time, with perfect weather making the experience even more enjoyable.

Ceinwen Lodge, Headteacher, said: "At Worth Valley, we value real-life experiences and adventures as essential to learning. Since the success of our previous whole-school trip to Chester Zoo in 2023, the school has committed to organising an annual visit to provide pupils with shared experiences.

"These trips are a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to experience new things and get to know each other better. We always have such a wonderful time that plans for 2026's outing are already in progress!"











INTEGRITY

We recognise the importance of instilling strong moral principles in all of our children.

ECONOMIC WELLBEING WORKSHOP



This term, pupils at Tyldesley Primary School had the opportunity to take part in Economic Wellbeing Workshops, led by Michelle Baron from The Money Charity.

Pupils were educated on the importance of money management and financial wellbeing. They explored the difference between 'needs' and 'wants', discovered various payment methods and understood the importance of budgeting, including how to create a budget tailored to their financial situations.

During an assembly, pupils shared their knowledge with younger peers, reinforcing their learning while helping to educate others.

Janet Shorrock, Headteacher, said: "Learning the basics of money management from a young age is incredibly important and we were pleased to welcome The Money Charity to our school to help our children build this vital life skill."



INCLUSIVE SPACES AT WOODSIDE ACADEMY

Over the school year, Woodside Academy has been creating inclusive areas around the school to support pupils with diverse needs.

These spaces provide sensory feedback, sensory circuits, movement breaks and a safe retreat for children who may need them.

Kirsty Porter, Headteacher, said: "Our school is committed to ensuring that every child feels supported and has the resources they need to thrive, and the right physical environment is an essential part of this."

KINDNESS AMBASSADOR AWARDS

This term, Mendell Primary School has launched its new Kindness Ambassador Award, celebrating pupils who embody one of the school's core rules, Be Kind.

Each week, a new recipient wears the Kindness Ambassador badge in recognition of their acts of kindness, reflecting the Trust-wide value of Integrity and doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. We look forward to celebrating the winners soon!





POWERFUL CHOICES

Brookdale Primary School welcomed Bigfoot Arts Education for an assembly and workshop, Powerful Choices, for Years 5 and 6.

The session tackled important topics like peer pressure, knife crime and gang violence, teaching pupils how to stay safe, manage risks and build respectful relationships.

Pupils also learned how to have difficult conversations, understand the laws around carrying weapons and seek support when needed.

PRIDE

We take pride in our achievements and growth, both as a Trust and as individuals.



YOUNG VOICES

The choir at Reevy Hill Primary School joined thousands of children in Manchester for Young Voices 2025 concert at the Co-Op Live Arena.

Young Voices unites children from primary schools across the UK to create the country's largest choir! Through this unforgettable experience, children discover their voices, gain confidence and create lasting memories.

The Reevy Hill singers had an amazing time singing, dancing and performing alongside celebrity guests like Tommy Blaize (Strictly Come Dancing) and MC Grammar. We can't wait for next year's event!

PREMIER LEAGUE PRIMARY STARS



Brookdale Primary School's Year 6 girls' football team competed in the Premier League Primary Stars at Liverpool FC Academy.

They represented the school brilliantly and finished an impressive 4th place across the entire Liverpool region!







PRIDE AND LEADERSHIP

Year 6 pupils at Mendell Primary School applied for the prestigious role of 'Head Pupil' by submitting CVs and interviewing with Headteacher Mrs O'Neill Edwards. Their efforts were outstanding and all applicants were awarded a gold pen!

The school is thrilled to announce their new Head Pupils, Adrija and Jack, and Deputy Head Pupils, Grace and Emily. These four superstars are proudly wearing their golden ties and will play an important part in representing pupil voice for the school.

BRADFORD CITY OF CULTURE 2025



Woodside Academy proudly took part in the Our Bradford art exhibition as part of Bradford City of Culture 2025. Every pupil helped create a beautiful model of St Michael and All Angels Church, a cherished landmark in the community that all pupils visit during their time at school.

Each child worked on different elements: landscape, roof, walls and interior, bringing the project to life. The final masterpiece was fantastic and each little artist was extremely proud of their efforts.

Pupils also created a portrait of their Bradford Hero, Chair of Governors, Gordon Dey, who was Vicar of Tong and Holme Wood in Bradford before he retired some years ago, and he is now involved in the ministry of our local church at St Michael and All Angels Shelf.

The pieces of artwork were proudly displayed at the Dye House Gallery alongside pieces from other Bradford schools, celebrating the city's rich culture and heritage.

PANATHLON SUCCESS FOR WILLOW CLASS



Pupils from Willow Class at Carrwood Primary School (Resourced Provision) in Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in a Panathlon event at Worth Valley Primary School, demonstrating fantastic teamwork and sportsmanship.





They encouraged one another throughout the activities and were thrilled to secure second place.

Nicola Malt, Headteacher, said: "Carrwood is incredibly proud of every pupil that took part. A big thank you must also go to the Worth Valley team for organising such an incredible event."

BROOKDALE WELCOMES THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF MERSEYSIDE





Year 6 pupils at Brookdale Primary School had the honour of meeting the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, who represents His Majesty King Charles III. As part of his visit, he introduced a new programme for primary schools, exploring the history, heritage and contributions of the Royal Family.

The sessions linked to subjects like History, English, Art and British Values, giving pupils a deeper understanding of the Monarchy's role in Merseyside.

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