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FROM SPECIAL MEASURES TO WORLD CLASS: LEEDS PRIMARY SCHOOL ACHIEVES GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Alder Tree Primary Academy has been awarded High Performance Learning (HPL) World Class School status, placing the Leeds school amongst an elite group of schools recognised globally for delivering exceptional educational outcomes and ensuring every child has the opportunity to achieve highly.

The prestigious award marks the latest milestone in a remarkable transformation journey that has seen the school progress from Special Measures in 2020, when it was known as Mill Field Primary Academy, to becoming a nationally and internationally recognised centre of educational excellence.

The school joined White Rose Academies Trust in December 2020, with Principal Kate Burton taking up post in January 2021. Since then, Alder Tree Primary has undergone a period of sustained improvement, driven by a clear vision, high expectations and an unwavering belief in the potential of every child.

Earlier this year, the school received national recognition from the Secretary of State for Education for the outstanding achievement of its disadvantaged pupils. It has also secured a Good Ofsted judgement in 2023 and is now celebrating international recognition through the HPL World Class School Award.

The accolade is particularly significant as Alder Tree Primary was among the first primary schools to undertake the High Performance Learning accreditation journey, helping to demonstrate that an approach originally developed and adopted by leading secondary schools could be equally transformative within a primary setting.

The HPL World Class School Award is reserved for schools that demonstrate world-class standards in teaching, learning, leadership and student outcomes. Schools achieving this status are recognised as being amongst the very best educational institutions globally.

Following its accreditation visit, HPL praised the school for successfully embedding High Performance Learning throughout its culture, curriculum and wider community.

The accreditation report stated:

"Alder Tree Primary Academy has successfully embedded High Performance Learning throughout its culture, curriculum and wider school community. Pupils demonstrate strong learner agency and are able to articulate how the ACPs and VAAs support their success.

"As an accreditor, I was particularly impressed by the school's commitment to enquiry-based learning, which was consistently evident in lessons, curriculum design and pupil discussions, fostering curiosity, independence and deeper thinking.

Principal: **Kate Burton**

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 Alder Tree Primary

"Based on the evidence submitted and seen during the accreditation visit, the school fully meets the World Class School Award standards."

Kate Burton, Principal of Alder Tree Primary Academy, said:

"This award is a proud moment for everyone connected with Alder Tree. Our staff, pupils, families and wider community have worked incredibly hard over the last five years and this recognition reflects that collective effort.

"What makes this achievement particularly special is that it demonstrates what is possible when you combine high expectations with genuine belief in children. Our pupils rise to challenges every day, show incredible resilience and curiosity, and consistently prove that background should never determine future success.

"We are immensely proud to be recognised as a World Class School and excited about what comes next."

Five years ago, White Rose Academies Trust introduced High Performance Learning across its schools with a commitment to ensuring that the benefits of world-class educational thinking were available to all children, regardless of background or circumstance.

Today, Alder Tree Primary Academy stands as evidence of that vision in action.

The school's achievement means it now joins the global Fellowship and Global Community of HPL Schools, alongside leading schools from across the UK and around the world.

As a World Class School, Alder Tree Primary Academy will continue to share best practice, collaborate internationally and build upon the exceptional foundations already established for its pupils and community.

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