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Thinking Inside The Box – Leeds primary children hide time capsules within school walls

A Leeds primary school has encouraged its children to think positively about the future by placing shoebox time capsules within its own school walls.

On Friday 12th February, Mill Field Primary Academy, which recently joined the White Rose Academies Trust, placed a series of themed time capsules within one of its walls.

The wall contains a time capsule from each year group, from nursery to Year 6, each containing photos, mementos and letters written by the children to their future selves.

Katie Addyman, who leads the school's early years and foundation phase, commented:

"It's more important than ever to encourage our children to keep positive and keep thinking about the future. Once we can all safely return to the school, our children will be able to feel - just from looking at the walls - that they have the power to make an impact.

"It is a creative activity which brings the whole school together. We love doing activities like this as it gets our children to learn and develop in innovative ways."

The opportunity came about due to current renovation works at the school, where builders asked if the children would like to leave time capsules before the walls are filled in over the half-term.

Kate Rhodes, who joined the school as its new Principal in January this year, commented:

"We love how the idea came about and how spontaneously it has developed. It is a real testament to the community we have where everyone, even building contractors, want to do the best for our children.

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“This will give our children something to hope for and will encourage them to start developing ideas about who they want to be and what impact they want to make on their school and community.

“I joined the school recently and my experience so far has been that our children have many hopes and ideas about the future, especially since the school joined the White Rose Academies Trust. So, it is important to encourage our children to take an active part in the future of the school.”

On 1st December 2020, Mill Field Primary Academy joined the White Rose Academies Trust, which has a reputation for successful school improvement.

Since the school joined the Trust, a series of World-Class transformational programmes have been implemented, and capital investment to improve the school facilities has been secured.

NOTE TO EDITORS

If you are interested in seeking a further interview with a member of staff or want to safely secure a photo opportunity, please speak to Digital Communications and Content Lead, Holly Kirk 07342 673 869, who will be able to help you arrange this.

ABOUT MILL FIELD PRIMARY ACADEMY AND THE WHITE ROSE ACADEMIES TRUST

Following a rapid improvement programme across Leeds City Academy, Leeds East Academy and Leeds West Academy, the young people within the White Rose Academies Trust are now benefiting from a greatly enhanced education.

New leadership, exceptional teaching and cutting-edge facilities equip students with the unique skills and personal confidence to fully meet their aspirations and potential. The White Rose Academies Trust is a local Trust dedicated to raising and fulfilling the ambitions of young people.

Our academies throughout Leeds are at the heart of the communities they serve, which is why we are committed to delivering an outstanding education to every one of our students.

The Trust employs almost 400 outstanding professionals who are committed to unlocking the potential of the next generation.

The White Rose Academies Trust is a member of Luminare Education Group. Other members of the group include Leeds Conservatoire, Keighley College, Harrogate College and Leeds City College. In practical terms, this means that every child that attends Mill Field Primary Academy will have the opportunity to enjoy a life changing educational journey, from early years right through to adult education with the group.

The Chief Executive Officer of the White Rose Academies Trust is Andrew Whitaker.

Andrew joined the White Rose Academies Trust as Executive Principal on 1st September 2016, with a personal determination that all White Rose Academies will become world class providers of education to the communities that they serve by 2025.

In 2018, Andrew was awarded a prestigious Churchill Fellowship. Andrew's previous work includes leading the transformation of Todmorden High School.

Websites – White Rose Academies Trust - www.whiteroseacademies.org

Mill Field Primary Academy - <https://www.millfield.leeds.sch.uk/>

Twitter - @MFPrimaryLeeds

Facebook - Mill Field Primary Academy

LinkedIn - The White Rose Academies Trust