

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Leeds, UK – December 12, 2023

## **A triumphant milestone for Alder Tree Primary Academy**

The primary school in Potternewton, previously known as Mill Field Primary School, which was judged as Inadequate in October 2019, joined the White Rose Academies Trust by Academy Order in December 2020. Following wide stakeholder engagement, the Trust re-named the school as Alder Tree Primary Academy and began a series of comprehensive improvements, which included the recruitment in January 2021 of a new, dynamic Academy Principal, Mrs Kate Burton.

Mrs Burton, Alder Tree Primary Academy, and the White Rose Academies Trust are proud to announce that during its recent Ofsted inspection, Alder Tree Primary Academy was judged as 'Good' in all areas!

Under the visionary leadership of Kate Burton, Alder Tree Primary has undergone a transformative process which has included curriculum enhancements, staff development initiatives, and an unwavering commitment to providing an enriching educational experience for every pupil. The facilities at the school have also seen vast improvements and financial investment since joining the White Rose Academies Trust, these include a new Early Years outdoor play area, Reception Class renovation, outdoor 'Daily Mile' running track, Forest School provision, new community hub and much more.

The recent Ofsted inspection, which took place in November 2023, validated the success of these endeavours, with Alder Tree Primary proudly securing a 'Good' rating. This achievement reflects the dedication of the entire school community, the effectiveness of the implemented changes, and the positive impact of being part of the White Rose Academies Trust.

Ofsted inspectors said "Alder Tree Primary Academy has high aspirations for every pupil, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The school values, 'believe, belong, become', shine through daily life in school. They epitomise the school's determination that every pupil will reach their full potential."

Kate Burton, Principal of Alder Tree Primary Academy expressed her excitement and gratitude for the school's progress. "This 'Good' rating is a testament to the collective commitment of our staff, pupils, and the support provided by the White Rose Academies Trust. Being part of a Multi-Academy Trust has allowed us to tap into a wealth of resources, expertise, and collaborative opportunities, which have played a pivotal role in our journey towards improvement."

Principal: **Kate Burton**

Chief Executive Officer: **Andrew Whitaker**

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 Alder Tree Primary

Kate continued, "The Academy Trust's 'whole child' approach to education, combined with their unwavering support, whilst also allowing us to remain autonomous, has empowered us to create an environment where every pupil can thrive. We are immensely proud of our 'Good' rating, and we look forward to building on this success to provide an even brighter future for the pupils of Alder Tree and our local community.

The positive Ofsted rating is not just a milestone for Alder Tree but also a testament to the transformative power of collaboration, effective leadership, and a shared commitment to providing quality education. The White Rose Academies Trust and Alder Tree Primary celebrate this accomplishment and eagerly anticipate the continued growth and success of both the school and the trust in the years to come.

Sarah Carrie, Executive Principal of the White Rose Academies Trust commented "Thank you to our Board of Trustees, Alder Tree Primary governors, and the entire school community for their unwavering support, which played a crucial role in securing such a fantastic outcome. This achievement is testament to the hard work, grit, care, and commitment which is demonstrated every day by all staff at Alder Tree Primary. Their practice is underpinned by the highest ambitions and expectations for the pupils. Moving a school in such a positive direction, in all areas, in such a short space of time, is a monumental achievement and we are absolutely delighted."

All four academies within the White Rose Academies Trust are judged as Ofsted 'Good' with Leeds City Academy also being judged as Outstanding for Leadership and Management. All four academies have also recently been accredited with the High Performing School Award.

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