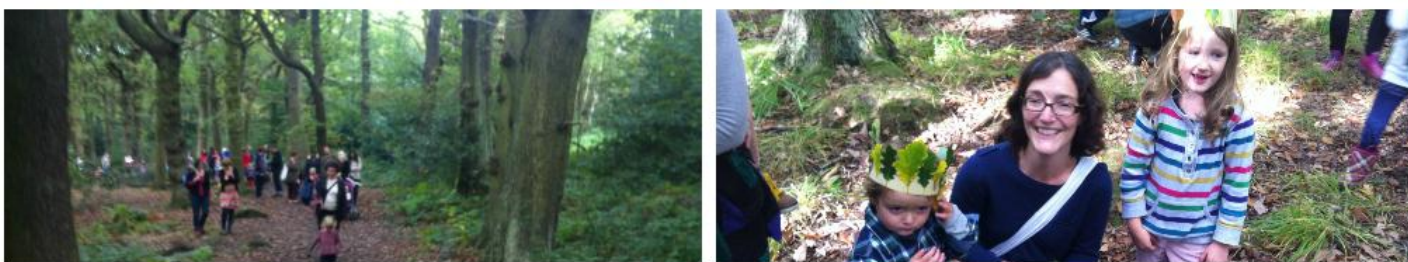
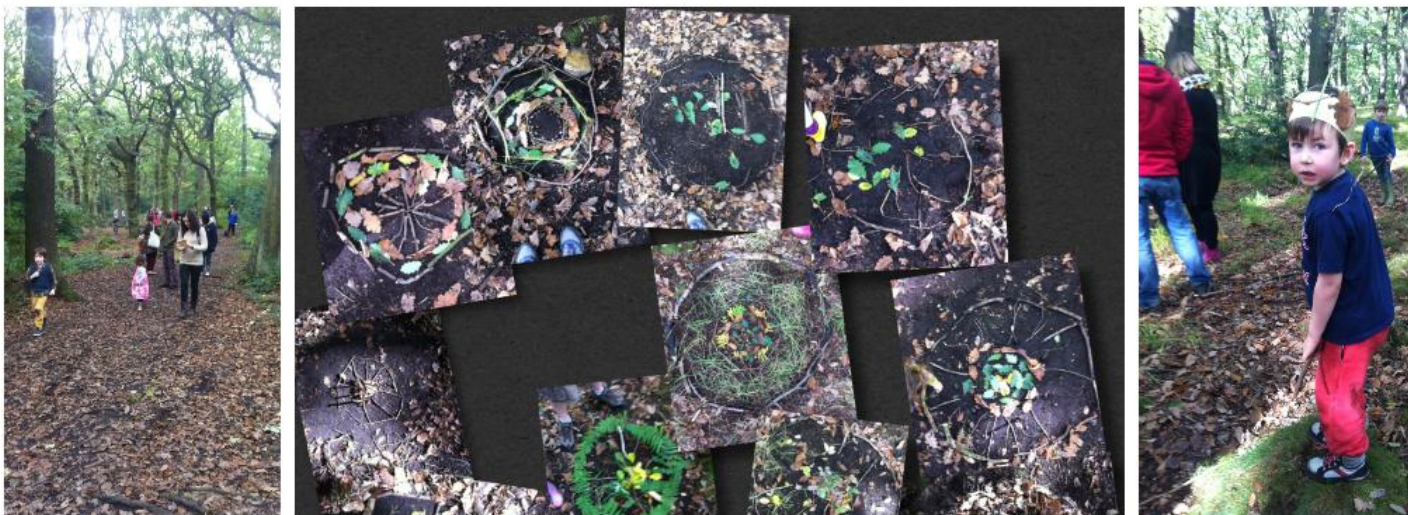




Dear Parents and Carers

It has been lovely to get the chance to talk to so many of you this week. I believe we had nearly 100 children (not all Shire Oak age yet) at the FOSOPS **Woodland Activities** event on Saturday in Meanwood Park. The weather was kind, Ali and Gareth provided a great barbecue and Chris led us in some fun activities, including advanced level Hide and Seek, blindfold tree identification, making crafty 'portals' and various other adventures. A great day, and a good chance for some of our new families to start to get to know each other. Thank you to the staff and parents who made it happen and to everyone for coming along.



Year 1 got our class assemblies off to a great start this year as they shared with us some of the learning they have been doing in their topic about different **celebrations**. It was lovely to see them sharing their work with such confidence and enthusiasm.



This week **Years 3 and 4** also got the chance to



really immerse themselves in their topic **Humans and Other Animals** when they went on a day trip to **Yorkshire Wildlife Park**. Despite the rain they were able to see a good range of animals, enjoy their lunch in a marquee and return inspired for the next phase of their work.



Year 5 and Year 6 also seem to be enjoying their new topic, **Bright Sparks**. I wish I'd had a camera with me when I dropped into a science lesson in Y6 where they were trying to make an electric current using lemons, pennies and other apparatus.

These topics are 3 that we have created or adapted to fit the **new national curriculum**. We are very happy with how they are turning out and how much flexibility we are still able to have in making our topics relevant to our children. If you are interested in the new curriculum, the changes to our topics, the Numicon resources we have bought for helping us to teach the new maths curriculum or the changes that are coming in statutory assessment then please make some time to visit our **New Curriculum stall at parents' evenings** this coming week. Marcelle Maver (the deputy head) will be there to answer your questions and find out how you think things are going so far, as well as what would be most useful to you when we share assessments.

For those of you with children in Y2 or above, you may have noticed a **change in our cycle of assessments and parents' evenings**. Previously we prepared a report card to give out the week before parents and carers' consultation evenings in autumn. We then did the same in the spring and the summer report card accompanied the full written report. We have found, however, that doing the assessments so early in the term didn't give the children enough chance to settle in and show the full range of their skills to their new teachers. Therefore we will be completing those assessments in December and sharing the report cards with you just after the Christmas break. This meeting, therefore, will be a chance to find out how they are settling in, make sure the teacher knows anything you think it would be useful for them to be aware of and to share the specific targets they are working on in maths, English and across the curriculum. Please do ask any questions you like, particularly about understanding these next steps and how to support your child to achieve these. We hope the new cycle will also mean that you feel more informed about your child's progress and next steps throughout the year – do let us know what is working well for you and any 'even better ifs...'

- 1st Autumn half term: parents' evenings
- 2nd Autumn half term: assessments collected and shared straight after Christmas
- 1st Spring half term: report cards given out (Y1-6)
- 2nd Spring half term: parents' evening
- 1st Summer half term: assessments collected
- 2nd Summer half term: report cards (Y1-6) and full written reports (R-Y6) sent home. Opportunity to speak to teachers about the reports.

Reception class parents are invited to view their profiles (Learning Diaries) throughout the year. Please contact us if you would like to borrow your child's profile and you do not drop off or collect at the classroom. Thank you to Reception parents for coming to our **Phonics, reading and writing workshop** this week. I hope you found it useful in knowing how we teach reading and writing at Shire Oak. If you could not attend, don't worry. Please see Miss Grey for spare copies of the handouts and a chat. She may run another session if demand is high from people who couldn't make the last workshop.

Well done to this week's **Superstars** who were chosen by their teachers and the other adults who work in school.

Class	This Week's SuperStars
Reception (Thames)	Rory made T-Rex claws from playdough and ordered them by size and Lizzie challenges herself in all the areas.
Y1 (Nile)	Hannah wrote three fantastic sentences independently and Elsie is a good role model when listening and carrying out independent work.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	Milo has been trying hard to improve his writing and Reece has improved his learning behaviour and therefore his writing.
Y3 (Rhine)	Y3 and Y4 were on their trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park so weren't at assembly, but were excellent ambassadors for the school.
Y4 (Ganges)	
Y5 (Tigris)	Olivia makes good choices and tries her best and Oscar is putting top effort into improving his presentation.
Y6 (Amazon)	Vishal as a good attitude to school and always works hard and Fatimah wrote several fantastic haiku poems for Harvest Festival.

The **Citizen of the Week** was **Aaliyah** in Y5 – a great role model.

We have a **vacancy for a parent governor** to join our committed, hard-working governing body. All parents and carers of Shire Oak children are eligible to be parent governors. (This includes step-parents, relatives, co-habitees, foster parents as well as natural parents who do not live with the pupil – anyone with parental responsibility.) The governing body have

responsibility for the strategic overview of how the school is run. They approve policies and act as a critical friend to the school – supporting and challenging school leaders. We want our parent governors to be representative of our diverse Shire Oak community. It may be that you have skills that are underrepresented on the governing body (e.g. business, buildings, etc.) Please do consider standing. If more than one nomination is received then we will hold a friendly ballot in school. **Please read the attached letter** and do consider standing!

I hope to see you all at parents' evenings next week. Don't forget, if the times we have offered this week are impossible then please do get in touch with the class teacher(s) to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. The children really do think it is important and special when their parents and teachers talk and it is such a good opportunity to work together.

Have a lovely weekend

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk

We take the safeguarding of children very seriously at our school and we appreciate your help with this. If you have any concerns or observations regarding **health and safety**, please contact Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Liz Craven.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding **child protection** issues, please speak to Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Hilary Whitehead.

If you have questions about your **child's progress** or **how to help them** with the learning they find difficult please speak to your child's teacher or make an appointment to see them via the school office.

The governors are always interested in hearing the **views of parents**. If you would like to speak to a governor, then please email the chair, Janie Percy-Smith janieps@aol.com (Janie is also in school most Mondays if you would like to talk to her.)



If you happen to buy **Flora** or **Stork**, at Tesco, please remember us! Tokens can be put in the labelled box in the entrance lobby of school (by lost property).

Reception Class would love your conkers! They are using them in maths and in their outside area. Please just give them to Miss Coulter or Miss Grey in the morning on the circle.



DIARY DATES

Tues 21 st and Wed 22 nd October	Parents Evenings until 6pm and 7pm respectively
Tuesday 21 st October *	Reception Class trip to Pizza Express
Thurs 23 rd & Fri 24 th October	Collection days for donations to the Nepalese orphanage
Friday 24 th October *	Closing date for parent governor nominations
Friday 24 th October	Year 2 class assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 24 th October	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Reception Class please.
Friday 31 st October	Deadline for high school place applications
Mon 27 th -Fri 31 st October	HALF TERM (Kidzone may be running a holiday playscheme)
Monday 3 rd November	Back to school. The provisional training day on this date has been moved.
Tuesday 4 th November	Homework projects due in (Years 1-6)
Tuesday 4 th November	FOSOPS Fancy Dress Disco (Foundation Stage/KS1 4:30-5:30, then KS2 5:45-6:45)
Thursday 6 th November	Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Thursday 6 th November	Sports Hall Athletics Event (18 children from Y5/6) at Ralph Thoresby, 2:30-4pm.
Friday 7 th November	TRAINING DAY. This is the date that replaces the provisional date given before. We will be working on growth mindsets and building confidence in maths.
Friday 14 th November	Year 3 class assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need Day
Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
Wednesday 19 th November *	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, all welcome. 9:15am.
Friday 21 st November	Year 6 class assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Wednesday 26 th November	Winter Festival of Fire straight after school
Thursday 27 th November *	The Power of One anti-bullying show, a.m.
Friday 28 th November	Year 5 class assembly, 9am. All welcome. Staff and students from Leeds City Academy will be available after assembly to talk to parents.
Friday 5 th December	Year 4 class assembly, 9am. All welcome. This is a change from the 7 th November.
Friday 5 th December	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y1 please.
Wed 10 th to Fri 12 th December	Robinwood Residential for Year 6
Wednesday 10 th December	Reception and KS1 Christmas production, pm. (Dress rehearsal the day before)
Tues 16 th and Wed 17 th Dec	Christmas parties
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Carol Service, St Michaels Church , 10:30am All welcome
Thursday 18 th December	School Christmas dinner
Mon 22 nd Dec- Fri 2 nd Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (these dates are corrected)
Monday 5 th January	First day back at school
Thursday 8 th January *	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, all welcome. 9:15am.
Wednesday 21 January	House Team hobbies afternoon
Thursday 22 nd January	Movie Night
Friday 23 rd January	TRAINING DAY
Friday 30 th January	Reception Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 30 th January	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y2 please.
Friday 6 th February	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Mon 16 th to Fri 20 th February	HALF TERM (Kidzone may operate a playscheme)
Friday 27 th February	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y3 please.
Tues 3 rd & Wed 4 th March	Parents' Evenings
Friday 6 th March	Year 6 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 13 th March	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Wed 18 th – Fri 20 th March	Year 4 Residential, Beverley Park, North Yorkshire.
Friday 27 th March	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y4 please.
Friday 1 st May	Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 1 st May	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y5 please.
Friday 8 th May	Year R Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Wednesday 20 th May	House Team hobbies afternoon

Friday 5 th June	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Tuesday 23 rd June	Movie Night
Wednesday 24 th June	TRAINING DAY
Friday 26 th June	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 17 th July	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y6 please.

New or changed items marked with *

SHIRE OAK
FANCY DRESS
DISCO

Tickets
£3
on the door

Music, Games & lots of fun with
Mr Shuffles Disco!
Free Drinks
Food, glow sticks and sweets to buy!

TUESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER

DISCO 1 (4:30-5:30PM)	DISCO 2 (5:45-6:45PM)
for Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pupils	for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6