



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a good Christmas and a fun school holiday. The children seem to have had a good time with family and friends and are excited to be back at school.

It was lovely to hear from Anna, who has been working with the Year 5s on their **Wordsworth project**. She writes: *“Overall the pupils responded extremely well to the project. From the evaluation forms, 96% gave positive feedback, with 78% reporting they 'loved it'. Only 4% found it 'a bit hard'. Interestingly, by comparison the schools I worked with in the Lake District were slightly less positive: 88% responded positively, and 55% said they 'loved it'. This is perhaps due to Wordsworth fatigue that students in the Lake District may have, but also I think it reflects the **extremely positive learning environment at Shire Oak** school.”* We are looking forward to seeing their artwork in January.

At this time of year I know a lot of families are trying to get back on track with their usual eating routines, and trying to work on minimising the amount of **sugar** in their children's diets. One thing that might help is making sure parents and carers know there is absolutely no expectation from school that children will bring in sweets or cake on their **birthday**. It is a very sweet gesture that families do include classmates in their child's celebrations (and even try to take into account allergies and special diets) but with 30 children in each class that means that nearly every week there would be an additional treat. As a school we want to respect parents' rules around treats, which is why we give things out at hometime but I know it can be very hard to insist your child hands it over for the Saturday treat box when other classmates are eating theirs straight away! It might help to know that birthdays are marked in school in a variety of different ways, e.g. one class has a special birthday hat, some give out special birthday stickers, some sing, some have a wooden birthday cake with real candles, etc. I am not trying to be a killjoy, but thought I would let you know that we completely support you if you are trying to resist the pester power to bring in sweets for birthdays!



We are predicted to have **snow** in the next week or two. That may not actually happen but just in case it does I thought it would be useful to let you know that we try very hard as a school not to close due to bad weather. If it is particularly cold, icy or snowy then please:

- Take time on the way to school if paths are slippery – we can close registers a bit later when we know people are struggling to get in.
- Wrap children up warmly – hats, scarves, gloves as well as a good (waterproof) coat and boots or closed shoes.
- Bring in spare clothes – we will play outside and as the snow melts clothes can get wet. Spare socks and gloves are particularly useful. If you want to send in spare trousers then we do not mind if the 'spare' can't be school uniform.
- Don't panic about hometime. We follow the local traffic news and know if delays are likely to happen to parents travelling to pick children up. Just give us a ring, if possible, to keep us up to date.

We are pleased that Hannah Black is back with us in Year 2, following her recent bereavement. Our thoughts are with her and her family at this time. I am also pleased to confirm that Jess Miller is expecting a second baby in February. She is intending to work as close to half term as she can but Reception parents should rest assured that we have plans in place to cover the day she teaches in Reception class with staff already known to the children. Finally in staff news, we are pleased to welcome Miss Abigail Taylor – a Schools Direct teaching student – who will be completing her training working in Year 3 alongside Ian Martin and the Y3 team. She has already been inducted into the ways of Forest School, and she is looking forward to working with the class.

Have a good weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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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, Julia Kelly shireoakgovernors@gmail.com Julia is often on the playground, particularly at the start and end of the week, if you would like to talk to her.)

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 11 th January	Year 6 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 12 th January	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am.
Thursday 12 th January	Wordsworth in Leeds exhibition launch event, Year 5, 1-2.30pm
Friday 13 th January	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Mon 16 th to Fri 20 th January	Switched on Shire Oak Week – growth mindsets and attitudes to learning
Thursday 19 th January *	Year 4 visit to Lawnswood School library
Friday 20 th January	Geography Quiz Day
Wednesday 25 th January	Shine a Light on Bullying day
Friday 27 th January	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 27 th January *	Vacuum Cleaner Project (STEM and drama) Years 4 and 5
Friday 27 th January	Philosophy sessions with the university start now
Thursday 2 nd February	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 2 nd February	Tim Peake inspired science session in Y5
Sunday 5 th February	Shire Oak Sunday – we join the congregation at St Michaels, 10am. All welcome.
Wednesday 8 th February	House Team Hobby Half Day
Friday 10 th February	Reception Class' first class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 13 th to Fri 17 th February	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Monday 27 th February	Pizza Maths Club starts for Year 6 after school. 3:15-4:45pm on Mondays.
Tuesday 28 th February	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day sale after school
Wed 1 st – Fri 3 rd March	Y4 Residential to Lineham Farm
Wednesday 8 th March	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Friday 10 th March	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 17 th March	Holi Festival assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 30 th March	Easter production performance by Year 3 and Year 4.
(Friday 31 st March	Easter assembly in school – possibly Easter themed competition judging. No parents.)
Mon 3 rd to Mon 17 th April	EASTER HOLIDAY. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Tuesday 18 th April	School re-opens after Easter
Thursday 20 th April	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wed 26 th and Thur 27 th April	Parents and Carers Consultation evenings (each family will get an appointment)
Friday 28 th April	Year 4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 1 st May	BANK HOLIDAY. School closed.
Mon 8 th to Fri 12 th May	KS2 SATS week for Year 6
Friday 12 th May	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 18 th May	Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 22 nd to Fri 26 th May	Reading Week. This usually includes a book character dress up day.
Wednesday 24 th May	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 29 th May to Fri 2 nd June	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Saturday 10 th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival & Summer Fair 12-4pm. All children perform c.2pm.
Mon 12 th to Fri 16 th June	Multicultural Arts Week
Friday 16 th June	Year 3 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 21 st June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 23 rd June	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wednesday 28 th June	Reception class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wed 28 th & Thur 29 th June *	Transition days for Ralph Thoresby High School
Friday 30 th June	Eid assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 12 th July	Musicians end of year concert (pm)
Thursday 13 th July	Y6/5 dress rehearsal and evening performance of their production
Wednesday 19 th July	Sports Day Reception/Y1/Y2 in the morning. Y5 & Y6 in the afternoon. (if fine)
Thursday 20 th July	Sports Day Y3 & Y4 in the morning. (if fine)
Monday 24 th July	End of year parties/disco in the afternoon
Tuesday 25 th July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, Headingley. All welcome. 10:30am.
Wednesday 26 th July	Last day of term

Thurs 27 th July to Fri 1 st Sept	SUMMER HOLIDAYS. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
* means added or changed since last newsletter	TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change