



Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had a lovely Easter holiday. It has been good to catch up with the children this week and hear their holiday news.

This week the book club celebrated their weeks of good reading with a trip to **Armley Mills old-fashioned cinema**. Thank you to Janie Percy-Smith for running book club, with help from Miss Readman and Ms Andralojc.

Year 5 kicked off their **gardening** work this term with a special lesson about permaculture. Thank you to Valeria (parent volunteer) for all her efforts to get this project off the ground.

This week we were visited in assembly by David Walls, one of our governors, and Rev Tony to explain a little more about **Shire Oak Sunday** (23rd April) and to teach some of the hymns and



songs that will be sung, so that children feel able to join in as much as they would like to. Shire Oak Sunday is the annual invitation from St Michael's to Shire Oak families to join their all-age service. Our children write and read the prayers, we contribute to the readings and the singing. All children who attend will be welcome to join the church choir this Sunday to sing *When I Needed a Neighbour* and perhaps some other musical parts they have learned this week. Children do not need to wear uniform and they can sit with school staff or their families, whatever they like! We are then welcome to stay for refreshments after the service. We usually have a very good turn-out for this event so do join us if you would like to.

Well done to the **football team** who played Hillcrest yesterday at 'home' on the borrowed pitch at Lawnswood School. Although the first match was rich in learning opportunities rather than Shire Oak goals, the rematch was a victory for our school. Well done to players in Year 5 who represented the school so well and thank you to Mr Marshall and Mr Nash for taking them. (I have attached a flyer that might be of particular interest to the girls interested in playing football outside school.)

As this newsletter goes to press, we are enjoying the special musical assembly performance by the **Headingley and Kirkstall Combined School Band**. This will be followed by a chance to join in with a workshop to get a flavour of what rehearsals are like. This band started at Shire Oak and still has a good number of our musicians represented, along with players from other local schools. Even children at the beginning of their musical journey are able to join in and make a very pleasing sound together. They currently rehearse at Kirkstall Valley Primary School on Fridays after school, but I believe our parents often cooperate with each other to drop off and pick up from there. I have attached a flyer for anyone interested in following this up, but I am also happy to talk to parents and carers about this if it would help.

You may have heard that the government's pay offer to teachers was rejected by all the teaching and school leadership unions and that **industrial action** will, therefore, be continuing. The offer was rejected largely because almost all of it was unfunded. Gillian Keegan wrote to us to explain that they felt that there was "headroom" in school budgets and additional capacity as energy costs have not ended up being as high as they were predicted. They were therefore going to fund 0.5% of the pay rise and the one-off payments but the rest would have to be found from school budgets. The reality of this across the sector is ending temporary contracts and potentially making redundancies or cutting back elsewhere – certainly impacting on children's learning conditions. (At Shire Oak I certainly can't find any so-called "headroom" having just set a deficit budget for the year ahead.) With so much going on in school and shorter weeks already due to the bank holiday and additional coronation bank holiday, it has been particularly hard for teachers deciding to strike this time. They have, however, decided to do so on the next two dates: **Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May**. As one teacher wrote to me, explaining all the reasons they didn't want to strike; this was a difficult decision but that ultimately, they felt they should stand up for the long-term outlook of this profession and show solidarity with their colleagues. Helping our children to feel calm and ready for SATs was also one of the many factors making this a difficult decision, so we have moved Pizza Club to Wednesday next week, as Y6 children are finding them a helpful confidence boost in how to tackle the test questions. I hope there is a swift end to this dispute.

I always enjoy seeing the work Ms Lydia Virgin does in art lessons and this Mayan mask by Bethan in Year 5 is no exception. Look at the use of pattern!



I hope you have a good weekend and if you are celebrating the end of Ramadan – **Eid Mubarak!** (Do join us for our special Eid assembly on Wednesday next week.)

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS On Sunday at 3pm there will be a national test of the **new emergency alert**. More information and what to do if you need to keep a phone quiet [here](#).

DIARY DATES

Sunday 23 rd April	Shire Oak Sunday. All welcome to take part in the all age service at St Michael's 10am
Tuesday 25 th April	Reception Class trip to Leeds Beckett Discovery Garden for outdoor learning
Tuesday 25 th April	Rugby match TBC
Wednesday 26 th April	Eid Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Wednesday 26 th April *	Pizza Revision Club for Year 6 after school instead of Thursday this week
Thursday 27 th April *	Industrial action by NEU. School closed to children unless things change.
Friday 28 th April	YR Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
BANK HOLIDAY Monday 1 st May. School closed to pupils.	
Tuesday 2 nd May *	Industrial action by NEU. School closed to children unless things change.
Friday 5 th May	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day.
8 th -9 th to 12 th May	KS2 SATS Week
BANK HOLIDAY Monday 8 th May for the coronation of King Charles. School will be closed.	
Wednesday 17 th May	Y1 Class Assembly 9am in the hall, all welcome.
18 th to 19 th May	D:side workshops across school on medicines, alcohol and drugs
22 nd to 26 th May	Green Week including pedestrian and scooter training
Thursday 25 th May	Y3 trip to Otley Chevin
MAY HALF TERM 29 th May to Monday 5 th June. School closed to pupils.	
5 th to 9 th June	Y6 Bikeability (cycling proficiency and road skills) https://www.cyclenorth.co.uk/children
Wednesday 7 th June	RSE information evening for Y5/6 parents and carers
Thursday 8 th June	Class and team photos
Tuesday 13 th June	Y3 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
TRAINING DAY Wednesday 14 th June. School closed to pupils.	
Thursday 15 th June	Reception Class trip to Harewood House TBC
Friday 16 th June	Non uniform day in return for donating a tombola prize for HYMF
Tuesday 20 th June	Y5 trip to Yorkshire Water Treatment Plant
Tuesday 20 th June	New Reception Parents/Carers meeting (am and evening)
Thursday 22 nd June	Y1 and Y2 trip to Filey TBC
Saturday 24 th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival (HYMF). We put on this event for the whole local community and it is also our summer fair. Please put it in the diary!
26 th to 30 th June	Learning through Sport Week
Wednesday 5 th July	Transition Day TBC
Thursday 6 th July	Music Recital am. All children learning an instrument may play & their parents can watch.
Friday 7 th July	Y2 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
17 th and 18 th July	Sports Days (subject to weather)
Wednesday 19 th July	Teachers available after school to talk about end of year reports
Thursday 20 th July	Y5/6 Performance to parents and carers 6pm.
Monday 24 th July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am.
Tuesday 25 th July	Last day of the school year (Y6 will go bowling or similar)
SUMMER HOLIDAY Wednesday 26 th July to Friday 1 st September. School closed to pupils.	
TERM DATES: https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar	

* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change.

