



SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

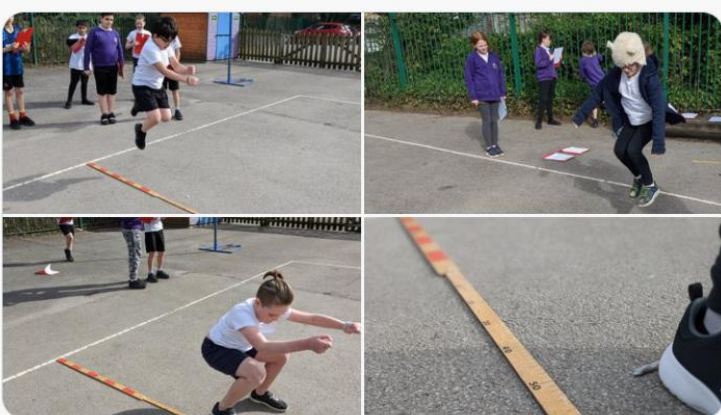
Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your help and support during what has been a tricky week in school. We have had 8 adults and numerous children test positive for **Covid** in our school community and that has resulted in unusually high levels of absence. (Year 5 has now also had an outbreak, but there have been cases in all classes and only Year 6 has had full attendance on any days this week.) I would also like to thank the student teachers in Year 1 and Year 2, Miss Holly Simmons and Miss Sasha Hughes who have risen to the challenge and ensured continuity for the children in their classes along with all the other staff in school who have worked so flexibly, including outside their usual working pattern. Please, please do not assume that stomach bugs, sniffly noses and other symptoms are 'definitely not covid'. Our experience is that those are exactly the sort of symptoms that children get with covid. Lateral flow tests do not always pick up positive cases straight away so please continue to follow the guidance on booking PCR tests, particularly in this time of high case numbers in school. I am pleased that our children have mostly had mild symptoms although the picture is more mixed for the adults. It still is, however, very disruptive as our staff have no choice but to follow the public health isolation advice and this disrupts education for all our children, so please help us to reduce and then keep case numbers low in school by keeping children off school for the recommended periods. (See Monday's text message for a handy infographic.)

Despite the challenges, I have seen some lovely activities taking place as part of **Science Week**. As I started writing this letter yesterday afternoon I could hear shouts of "Worms! Worms! Look at this one!" This was due, apparently, to Y2 having great fun finding out whether the 3 different types of earthworm all lived in different habitats within the school grounds – the previous rain meant that even the deep burrowers had come up to play!



The whole school are **investigating** whether how tall you are affects how far you can jump – with interesting findings! As some plans had to change this week we will continue our science fun next week and share our learning with each other in an assembly at the end of the week, hopefully.



Although we had a smaller and more distanced school audience for **Year 6** this morning, we still very much enjoyed their **class assembly** and finding out about all their learning. We were impressed with the depth and quality of their engagement with difficult concepts. They really do seem to have engaged sensitively with their history topic on WWII. This was also seen yesterday when they all dressed up and enjoyed finding out about life in 1940s wartime Britain even if they decided they were quite relieved to return to 2022. (Diary entries overleaf.)



Year 3 also travelled back in time this week as part of their research on Britain from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. They spent the morning at **Herd Farm** learning about the tools, shelters and habits of people in those times. They asked some great questions in their role as historians.



Well done to members of **School Council** who have worked hard to mark **Red Nose Day** and

fundraise for the **Comic Relief** charity this week. They told children they could wear red noses with their uniform, design a new red nose, have a 'joke off' in their classes and take part in a funny drawing competition. As so many children have been absent, they are extending the deadline until Monday. There are mystery prizes for three age categories (R, 1 & 2; 3 & 4; 5 & 6). Children who are off school can send a photo of their drawing to msdevane@shireoak.online and I will pass it on to the School Council judges.



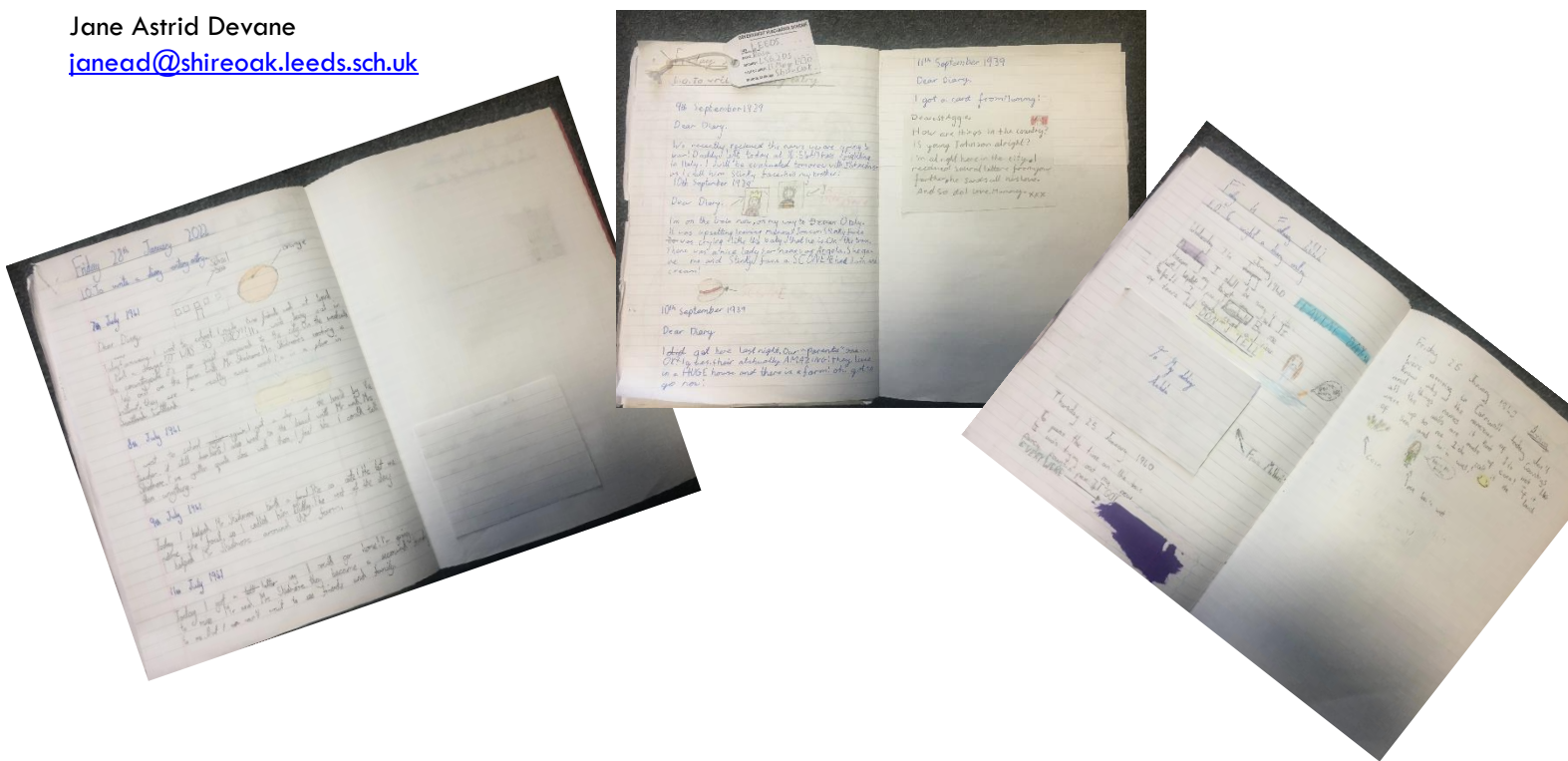
Thank you to everyone for working with the office to book in **parents' evening** appointment slots for the next two weeks. I am pleased to say that almost 100% of families have booked in now. As these appointments are in person it will help us greatly if appointments keep to time to minimise queuing. Please do not attend if you have symptoms or have tested positive for coronavirus. If you have been a recent contact, please consider wearing a mask. If you are unable to attend due to isolation please contact the office to reschedule or see whether a telephone appointment can be offered. I look forward to seeing you in school.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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DIARY DATES

Tuesday 22 nd March	Book Club trip to the little cinema at Armley Mills
Thursday 24 th March *	Year One Soft Toy Day
28 th to 30 th March	Easter visits to St Michael's Church
Tuesday 29 th March *	Year One Toy Swap Day
Tuesday 29 th March	Games Night after school. All welcome.
Friday 1 st April	Easter production by Years 3 and 4 in the morning. Parents welcome.
4 th to 18 th April	Easter holidays (Leeds always has the first two weeks of April)
Tuesday 19 th April	Back to school after Easter
27 th – 29 th April	Lineham Farm residential for Year 4
Friday 29 th April	YR Class Assembly. Families welcome to come and watch at 9am in the hall.
Monday 2 nd May	School closed due to the bank holiday
Thursday 5 th May	Stay and Play YR, Y1 and Y2 at the start of the school day TBC
9 th to 12 th May	KS2 SATs (Year 6) As these are statutory tests appointments should be avoided for Y6.
Friday 13 th May	Eid Assembly 9am in the hall (we hope to be able to invite parents to this) TBC
16 th to 20 th May	Bikeability for Year 6
Saturday 21 st May *	Groundforce Day: Families are invited to help spruce up our grounds in return for free BBQ
23 rd to 27 th May	Green Week Including road/pedestrian safety (YR – Y3 Monday) & scooter safety training (Y4 Y4 Friday)
23 rd /24 th May	D:side sessions on medicines, alcohol and drugs TBC
Wednesday 25 th May	Y4 Class Assembly. Families welcome to come and watch at 9am in the hall.
Thursday 26 th May	Class photos
Friday 27 th May	Y6 trip to Ledston for Woodland Sessions
30 th May to 3 rd June	HALF TERM BREAK
Wednesday 8 th June	RSE meeting for Year 5 and Year 6 parents
Wednesday 15 th June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 17 th June	Non uniform day (please bring tombola prizes for the summer fair at HYMF)
Friday 17 th June	Music recital pm. All children who learn an instrument may perform.
20 th to 24 th June	Multicultural Arts and Faith Week including after school event on Wednesday
Tuesday 21 st June	Meetings for Reception Class 2022 parents (am and evening)
Saturday 25 th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival. We run this event for the local community and it includes our summer fair as well as performances, workshops, activities and other music-making 12-4pm
Thursday 14 th July	Year 5 and Year 6 production in the evening
18 th July	YR Y1 Y2 Sports Day in the morning TBC Y5 Y6 Sports Day in the afternoon TBC
19 th July	Leavers' Service at St Michaels' Church, 10:30 am
19 th July	Y3 Y4 Sports Day pm TBC
Friday 22 nd July	Year 6 Leavers' trip
25 th and 26 th July	TRAINING DAY school closed to children (some of this training may be disaggregated)
Wednesday 27 th July	Day given in lieu of the Platinum Jubilee which falls in the half term break in June
https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar term dates	
TBC means to be confirmed. * marks items that have been added or amended since the last newsletter	