



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you all so much for your kind messages of support and offers of help this last fortnight – it has been very much appreciated! Thank you also for the way you have been so understanding when bubbles have had to isolate – it’s a horrible thing to have to tell people, but made a lot easier by your calm responses. In the event that your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 during the first weekend of the break and tests positive (or tests positive that first weekend without symptoms) please let me know straight away on janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk so that I can do the necessary contact tracing. Hopefully that won’t be necessary! (Please remember that if someone in your house is symptomatic – however mild – everyone in the household stays home until the negative test result has been received.)



We aren’t able to hold our annual Carol Service at St Michael’s Church this year, but we wanted to keep that connection going in the run up to Christmas. We were very pleased to take Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 (in their bubbles) over to church where they each made a **Christingle**. Rev Angela explained the symbolism of the different parts of the special lamp. Unfortunately, due to isolation, St Michael’s are not now going to be able to host the remaining three KS2 classes next week but they will make theirs in school, as Reception Class are. At home the orange can be studded with cloves to keep it fragrant for longer. Or, once the candle has been lit and the sweets/dried fruits eaten at home, the remaining orange can be made into a lolly. The Children’s Society provide some of the Christingle resources, so we will send out a collecting candle box (once they arrive in school). Please do not feel obligated, but if your family would like to collect coins in them we will collect them before the half term break in February. For anyone who would like more Christingle festivities, St Chad’s are offering an online Christingle service at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

Well done to Year 3, Year 4 and Year 6 who did some **virtual carol singing** for an NHS celebration event this week. 150 staff listened to the children sing and gave us lovely messages back. You can see them too at

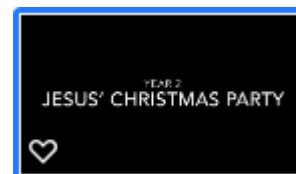
<https://youtu.be/Cu0vGMd2IPo>



We are hoping to do some more Zoom carol singing next week. Key Stage One have also been spreading Christmas cheer by making Christmas tree decorations and individual letters for residents in local older folks’ homes.



Well done to **Year 3** for their lovely **class assembly** that they shared online. Although it is a shame that we cannot perform in person we do know that it has meant that family members who can’t normally get in to school can share them too. We know that will be the case for the three heart warming **nativity plays** produced by Reception, Year 1 and Year 2! Links below!



We are now looking forward to our **last week in school** before the Christmas break and to hearing all about Year 6s trip to Skelton Grange yesterday where they spent the day outdoors doing adventurous activities finishing with a campfire in the dark. Have a lovely week.

Jane Astrid Devane

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DIARY DATES

Friday 11 th Dec →	*	Raffle tickets on sale in the playground before school (Not now online- prizes still welcome!)
Tuesday 15 th Dec	*	School Christmas Dinner Day (if your child has a packed lunch, consider sending a treat or making it a bit festive?)
Thursday 17 th Dec	*	Christmas party day including 'Keep Christmas Cracking' with Santa and Tricky Pixie on a lightning sleigh ride tour. Children will have party food at lunchtime (packed lunches can also have more treats than usual). Children can come to school dressed in Christmas jumpers, Christmassy coloured tops or anything they think is festive. (No precious party dresses or clothes that are hard to play in please!)
The last day of term is Friday 18 th December. We are back to school on Monday 4 th January. ArtCamp are running a playscheme here on 21 st , 22 nd & 23 rd December with discounts for Shire Oak families. Email jon@artcampuk.com to see if there are any places left.		
Monday 21 st Dec	*	FOSOPS are organising an online family quiz evening. Details to follow!
Friday 8 th January 2021		10 th Birthday Party at HEART. Children who are 10 years old around this time are invited!
Thursday 28 th January		TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Tuesday 16 th March		TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Wednesday 16 th June		TRAINING DAY
https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar term dates		
* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change		



Look at these lovely entries to the Christmas card competition from Year 3! Well done Charlie, Teddy, Emily, Patch, Florence, Rhian, Emma and Noah.