



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School



It has been good this week to see our first **school trip** of the year take place. **Year 4** walked to Meanwood Park to take part in seed-gathering and other woodland activities with the park rangers. The children behaved well and impressed with their interest in the environment. If you are interested in seed-gathering then Leeds Parks and Countryside are asking the public to get involved this autumn. (See flyer below for details.)



We are continuing to play and learn outside as much as possible, but also to **ventilate our rooms** throughout the day. That can mean it is chillier than usual and we want the children to be comfortable. I have noticed a few **purple fleeces** appearing in the last fortnight and I have to agree that fleeces are a great idea this autumn and winter; they are less bulky to sit and work in than coats, and mean that coats (which may have been rained on) can be saved for playtime and lunchtimes.

Thank you very much for your open and transparent **communication with us about covid-testing and isolation** as well as any other absences. We are required to monitor cases, potential cases and other illnesses or absences that could be linked to covid to make sure we follow all public health advice accurately and as quickly as possible. Therefore, if a child has been tested – even if this happens during the weekend, please let us know and let us know the outcomes. If you need to let

us know of a confirmed case outside of school hours please email office@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk or send a private direct message via Twitter on @shireoakce. Thank you for your cooperation, as ever – it helps us to stay safe and open.

There is currently speculation about some sort of national extended October half term or a week of **remote learning**. It is not at all clear yet if this will happen, and if it will apply to primary schools as there is a national commitment to keeping them open if possible. It seems prudent, however, to make sure we are ready for any eventuality. In March we sent home packs with stationery, whiteboards, number squares, etc. We are assuming that families have kept these, but if you do not still have one and would not be able to replenish it at home please let class staff know. Similarly, Chris Marshall sent out a questionnaire to check what access families have to computers and the Internet at home. (This is so that we can try to share our own resources fairly but also to apply for government resources in the event of a lockdown.) It would really help if you could fill it in or let a member of staff know your situation if you can't access the form. Thank you. <https://forms.gle/iApyWZgkKTqmbTwkZ>

I met with Dawn from **Kidzone** this week to check how things are going in the wraparound care she provides for school. I am glad we were able to organise for them to use the hall and further break out spaces in school in the evening sessions even more than usual. She has assured me that Reception parents will not end up out of pocket for the recent bubble closure and that she can offer additional sessions with the credits. I do understand she will have to keep this policy under review in this strange year, but please be assured school are keeping a close eye on the situation to make sure we have a fair and sustainable wraparound offer for our families. I am always interested in hearing feedback on the wraparound care and we can also help pass messages on if getting in touch is tricky ever.

On Friday next week we are going to be hosting our **Harvest Festival**. Unfortunately, we cannot invite you to a special assembly, but we will be sharing a virtual assembly online. We will also be making a collection of non-perishable food at the front of school in the morning which Year 6 will take to St Michael's Church later (for Rev Heston to collect and take to Rainbow Junction). This year St Michael's have asked us to solely support the Rainbow Junction at All Hallows as it is doubling as both a food bank and hot food distribution centre for many local people including families experiencing short term food poverty, refugees and asylum seekers and anyone else in need of good food for free or at a price they can afford. Rev Hannah of St Chad's explains more in the article from the parish magazine attached to this newsletter. I do hope you can support our collection on Friday as it really helps our children to understand that food is to be appreciated and shared.



Have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane
Jane Astrid Devane
janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk

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 Jane Hinchliffe. / 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, Antonia Nicholls, shireoakgovernors@gmail.com. Our parent governors are often on the playground, if you would like to talk to them.)

DIARY DATES

Saturday 10 th October *	Virtual Open Day for Ralph Thoresby High School WWW.EXPLORERTS.ORG
Thursday 15 th October *	Online FOSOPS meeting 10:30am. All welcome as we try to plan Movie Nights, etc. https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74897588065?pwd=a1dISm9FWEdudHN4TzFmYlRtZTZlZjZ09 Meeting ID: 748 9758 8065 Passcode: 151020
Friday 16 th October	Harvest Festival including a collection of food for local food bank and kitchen
Friday 23 rd October	WE HAVE POSTPONED THIS TRAINING DAY. NEW DATE TO BE CONFIRMED LATER
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th October 2020 HALF TERM HOLIDAY	
(Art Camp are running a playscheme. They are offering Children at Shire Oak a 10% discount. To receive this discount contact jon@artcampuk.com for a code prior to booking. https://artcampuk.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login	
Thursday 5 th November	Homework due in (Years 1 to 6) See homework leaflet for details
Mon 7 th & Fri 11 th Dec *	D:Side working with KS1 and KS2 on Internet Safety
Friday 8 th January 2021	10 th Birthday Party at HEART. Children with a birthday today may be 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	