

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support and understanding this week. As you will be aware, we have been advised to close Reception Class for a while following a **confirmed case** of COVID. With young children, the advice from the DfE is that we should consider anyone in the class to be a potential close contact as children do not sit still in specified spaces all day. Our Reception Class have settled in so well and so it is particularly upsetting that they have been asked to stay at home. I know that Miss Coulter and her team will be staying in touch and providing learning support via Tapestry, but we look forward to having them back soon. We have now been advised that a further member of our school community has tested positive for COVID-19. They were not actually in school in the days prior to developing symptoms and so no close contacts have been identified. We have still informed DfE and the local authority to ensure we are following all the right advice and to contribute to mapping cases in Leeds. On a related note, I have attached a letter from Public Health England to help with deciding when it is right to take your child for a test. Within our community there is an understandably wide range of attitudes to the risk from COVID, depending on home circumstances, previous infection, etc. Whatever your personal attitude, please continue to model good social distancing when coming to the school grounds in order to make sure we are making people feel as comfortable and safe as possible.

Thank you also for your good communication with us about any children who are absent due to illness, to possible symptoms that are being checked out or because of family isolation. Any KS1 and KS2 children who are off school can complete the following work:

- Practise Maths Passport targets (there is information on our website to help with this)
- Practise their spellings or recent phonics sounds. They may have login details for apps/sites to help with this.
- Read, read and read! For Year 2 upwards we have packs of books with reading comprehension questions available on request if you have somebody who can collect them for you.
- Write a diary or a recount of something they have done recently (e.g. holiday news)
- Start researching their new topics and make notes on what they are interested in. We are in Cycle B of our two years.
 - Year 1 and 2: Let's Celebrate
 - Year 3 and Year 4: Humans and Other Animals
 - Year 5 and Year 6: Bright Sparks
- Practise maths skills on Mathletics and Times Table Rockstars
- Samba dance in a small space <https://imoves.com/home-learning/1254>
- Log on to their Google Classroom to see if the class have been set any learning tasks they can do at home
- Do all the tasks on the homework leaflet



Year 4 have only had two **djembe drumming** lessons, but they already sound very musical and joyful! I am looking forward to hearing their progress throughout the year. It is good to have their teacher, Mr Avtar Manku, with us again.

This week you should have received a **class newsletter** that gives some information about the topics that children will be learning about this term. It also contains practical class information. For now, we are not asking children to bring in **PE kit**, but rather to come to school each day in uniform and shoes suitable for physical activities. As well as the newsletter we will be updating **class pages** on the website. Children in Years 1 to 6 will have also received a **homework leaflet**. At our school we do not set homework with short deadlines that can be difficult to manage with children's other activities and shared care arrangements, etc. We always think that daily reading and talking about the day's learning is the most important homework a child can do and makes the biggest difference to their educational progress at this age. Next most important is practising those facts that need lots of repetition that can't always be fitted in at school, but are good to do when walking or driving along, when in the bath, at dinnertime or whenever there's a free moment: times tables, maths facts and spellings. The homework leaflet then gives ideas for other short tasks that are useful to do. Finally, there is a more open-ended longer task where children can make their own choices, develop stamina in learning and share their ideas with their family. Do ask if there is anything that doesn't make sense and that you can't find information about on our website.



Thank you for all you do to work together with us for our children's learning at home and at school.

Have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane
Jane Astrid Devane

janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk



PS We know that things are still tricky for some families at the moment, so I have pasted information about **local sources of support** at the bottom of this letter.

DIARY DATES

Ordinarily we give as many dates for the year ahead as possible (e.g. Harvest, assemblies, Christmas nativity plays, etc. We are currently having to plan these nearer to the event to comply with the most recent guidance. Instead of a Harvest Festival assembly in the hall this year, we will work on an outdoor celebration instead.	
Wednesday 28 th September	Phonics meeting for Reception Class parent. This year it will be a video followed by questions and answers on Zoom at 5:30pm.
Thursday 8 th October 2020 *	UK Clean Air Day. Children are invited to bring posters and other artwork about Clean Air Stories (after school until 5pm) to the protest outside St Michael's Church.
Friday 16 th October 2020 *	Harvest Festival including a collection of food for PAFRAS/local food banks
Friday 23 rd October 2020	WE HAVE POSTPONED THIS TRAINING DAY. DATE TO BE CONFIRMED LATER. This is because it is difficult for us to book appropriate staff training currently.
Thursday 5 th November 2020 *	Homework due in (Years 1 to 6) See homework leaflet for details
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th October 2020 HALF TERM HOLIDAY (Kidzone and/or Art Camp should be running a playscheme)	
Friday 8 th January 2021	10 th Birthday Party at HEART. Children with a birthday today may be invited!
Thursday 28 th January 2021	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Tuesday 16 th March 2021	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Wednesday 16 th June 2021	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	

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 Nicholl, shireoakgovernors@gmail.com. Our parent governors are often on the playground, if you would like to talk to them.)



ADVICE SERVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Appointments available every week by telephone and video

Telephone: 0113 275 4142

Email: advice@betterleeds.org.uk

Web: www.betterleeds.org.uk

@betterleeds [facebook.com/BetterLeedsCommunities](https://www.facebook.com/BetterLeedsCommunities)



ADVICE SERVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

If you are responsible for a child up to 16, or you or your partner are pregnant, you can get free confidential, independent, impartial advice about;

- Money worries
- Benefit or tax credit problems
- Problems at work
- Housing problems
- Immigration questions

Call to make an appointment

0113 275 4142

@betterleeds [facebook.com/BetterLeedsCommunities](https://www.facebook.com/BetterLeedsCommunities)



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where Rainbow Junction, LS6 1NP



contact 07738 104 698 (Holly)

