

Dear Parents and Carers

Another busy week in school has flown by! We ended the week with two great **class sharing assemblies** from **Year 6** and **Reception Class**. We were impressed by the learning they shared and the confidence and understanding with which they shared it. At both ends of the school the children's ability to challenge themselves and keep going to solve problems was noteworthy. We particularly enjoyed finding out about Year 6's residential trip to Robinwood Activity Centre and the tricky maths they have been doing. We also loved the



enthusiastic talk (and actions) for writing, the spoken poetry and the Matisse inspired artwork that Reception shared.



For Reception Class it has been a particularly busy week as they enjoyed their **first class trip**. They all walked to **Pizza Express** in Headingley and learned how to make their own delicious pizzas. This has inspired a lot of great playing and storytelling back in school!

Parents in Year 2 may know that their teacher is having an operation today. The children have all been told and they know that, whilst she is recovering, they will be taught by **Mrs Liz Bennett**, our regular supply teacher, except on Thursdays when they already have art with Ms Lydia Virgin, maths with Mrs Sara Mitchell and they will have Mrs Marcelle Maver in the afternoon. We try, wherever possible, to cover teacher absences with staff known to the children and are fortunate to have a good relationship with a couple of great supply teachers (Mrs Bennett and Mrs Helen Woodley) who fill in where we can't use internal school staff to cover. (When Marcelle Maver, Sara Mitchell, Carol Hill or I cover in classes it is not only good for the children who are taught by people they know, but it helps us to know the children and their learning well and to see what is working well across school.)

Class	Well done to these Superstars who have been chosen by staff who work with them. Year 6 monitors write down the comments on certificates as they are given out.
YR (Thames)	Lyla always tries so hard and joins in brilliantly on the carpet. Ashley wrote an amazing independent sentence about The Gingerbread Man.
Y1 (Nile)	Hazel is a great independent learner. Edwin always does his best and is a great role model.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	Alun is kind and thoughtful and is always ready to help others. India is always very helpful towards the adults and other children in the class.
Y3 (Rhine)	Evie has been consistently friendly, welcoming and enthusiastic throughout her time in Year 3. Jonas has engaged so enthusiastically with our new volcanoes topic.
Y4 (Ganges)	Alice S has been working so hard in maths and is becoming more independent by using the maths equipment. Aidan always follows instructions first time and is always ready for learning.
Y5 (Tigris)	Emma has a consistent approach to all subjects in class. Bill has started 2024 with a positive approach to all aspects of school.
Y6 (Amazon)	Joe is displaying a good Y6 attitude in class. Darcy has started the new term with confidence and maturity.

I have attached information about **Music Centres**. There are 6 music centres currently running in Leeds, and all offer great value classes and ensembles for all ages and abilities. They also continue to offer bursaries and financial support for families who receive benefits, and free sessions for looked after children. Once again, music centres have a FREE beginner ensemble on offer for children and young people to join free of charge. All the information about how to sign up is on the leaflet and on their website [Music Centres – Artforms Leeds](#) Our nearest music centre is [Horsforth](#). They currently have the following spaces in their classes:

Beginner classes with availability

Beginner guitar 9.35-10.05 (NEW CLASS)
 Beginner piano 12pm-12.30 (NEW CLASS)
 Beginner brass 9am-9.30
 Steel Pans 11.40-12.20
 Drum Circle 10am-10.40
 Music Theory 9am-9.30
 Beginner Bass Guitar 11.20-11.50
 * Beginner Flute 12.30-1pm
 * Beginner Clarinet 10.55-11.25
 * Beginner Sax 10.20-10.50

(* the classes that are starred have been running since Sept so any new starters would ideally need to have some experience with the basics)

JUNIOR ENSEMBLES with availability

Junior Choir (age 6-12) 11.15-11.55
 Senior Choir (age 12-16) 10.35-11.15
 Horsforth First Orchestra (one year playing or longer) 12.15-1.15
 Junior Rock Band 11.15-12.05

As I write this letter it is gently **snowing** outside. That is a good reminder to share with parents our approach when it snows. We aim, at all times, to keep school open and have only once had to close due to the weather in over 13 years. (That was actually mostly due to the icy conditions of the roads and paths on the way to school.) We encourage families to travel to school safely and take the time they need to get here. It is not possible to clear and grit the whole of the school grounds, so please teach children how to walk safely when it is slippery and contact us if you need support with access. We still play outside as much as possible, so send children to school with good outer clothes and boots. It is helpful to send spare clothes with them (especially socks, gloves and trousers) as these are what most often get wet through. If spares are not strictly school uniform, that is fine – it is most important to be warm and dry. (If conditions lend themselves to snowballing then our rules are 1. Only people who are in the game. 2. No ice or bits in the snow. 3. Shoulder down shots only.) Thank you for your help in making memorable school days safe and fun.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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DIARY DATES

Monday 22 nd January	Leeds Rhinos assembly about healthy lifestyles
Tuesday 23 rd January	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children. Staff will be training in school.
Wednesday 24 th January *	Energy Heroes assembly and Y5 workshop
Friday 26 th January	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y1 friends and family welcome!
Tuesday 30 th January	Y5 chocolate trip to York TBC
Wednesday 31 st January	Y1 trip to Abbey House Museum TBC
Friday 2 nd February	Lunar New Year Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 6 th February *	WWII workshop for Year 6
7 th - 9 th February	Lineham Farm residential trip for all in Year 4.
Wednesday 7 th February	Reception Parents and Carers maths meeting 2:15pm
HALF TERM. School will be closed Monday 12 th to Friday 16 th February. https://artcampuk.com/ will run a playscheme.	
Friday 23 rd February	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2 at the start of the day. Families welcome!
Thursday 29 th February	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y5 friends and family welcome!
Friday 1 st March	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y4 friends and family welcome!
Tuesday 5 th March	Y3 Stone Age trip to the Discovery Centre
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day. We usually dress up as book characters today.
8 th to 17 th March	British Science Week
Mon 11 th & Tues 12 th March	Workshops in school.
Tuesday 12 th March	Y5 piano and science workshop as part of Leeds International Piano Festival
Thursday 14 th March	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 & Y2 at the start of the day. Families welcome!
Friday 15 th March	Hot Cross Bun sale straight after school TBC
18 th to 20 th March	Class visits to St Michael's to learn about the Easter story
Wednesday 20 th March	Parents and Carers Evening (appointments with class teachers)

Tuesday 26 th March	Y3/4 Easter Production dress rehearsal am for classes in school
Tuesday 26 th March *	Parents and Carers Evening (appointments with class teachers) (this is a corrected date)
Wednesday 27 th March	Y3/4 Easter Production PM, families welcome
Thursday 28 th March	TRAINING DAY. School will be closed to children. Staff will be training in school.
EASTER HOLIDAY. School will be closed Good Friday 29 th March to Friday 12 th March. https://artcampuk.com/ will run a playscheme.	
Monday 15 th April	Year 2 intensive swimming lessons start (letter to follow nearer the time)
Friday 19 th April	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 & Y2 at the start of the day. Families welcome!
22 nd & 23 rd April	D:Side PSHCE sessions (Safety around medicines, alcohol, etc.)
Friday 26 th April	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y2 families and friends welcome!
Sunday 28 th April	Shire Oak Sunday at St Michael's Church 10am, all welcome to the all-age service
Friday 3 rd May	Reception Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All YR friends and family welcome!
BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY. School will be closed the 6 th May for one day.	
13 th to 17 th May	KS2 SATs week (Year 6)
Friday 17 th May	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y1 friends and family welcome!
HALF TERM. School will be closed Monday 27 th May to Friday 31 st May. https://artcampuk.com/ will run a playscheme	
3 rd to 7 th June	Green Week, including pedestrian and scooter training
3 rd to 7 th June	Bikeability training for Year 6. This will include road cycling if the assessment is passed and it helps if children are confident so get them practising now!
Tuesday 4 th June	Y3 trip to Otley Chevin TBC
Wednesday 5 th June	R&S Education meeting for Y5 and Y6 parents/carers
Friday 7 th June	Y5 trip to recycling plant TBC
Tuesday 11 th June	Y5 trip to the water treatment plant
Tuesday 11 th June	Y5/6 Girls' Tag Rugby qualifiers 1-3pm
Wednesday 12 th June	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children. Staff working offsite.
Thursday 13 th June	Eid assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 14 th June	Non uniform day (in return for a tombola present for HYMF, thank you)
Thursday 20 th June	New Reception parents/carers meeting (am and evening)
Thursday 20 th June	Y5/6 Mixed Culley Sevens 1-3pm
Saturday 22 nd June	Headingley Youth Music Festival 12-4pm. This is our gift to the community and also our summer fair. All children in school are in our choir that performs, as do Y4 djembe players and other musicians. (Please avoid booking parties today!)
Monday 24 th June	Y5/6 Girls' Tag Final stages (at Headingley) 1-3pm
Wednesday 26 th June	Y5/6 Girls' Contact Festival 1-3pm
Friday 28 th June	Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All friends and family of Y3 welcome!
Wednesday 3 rd July	Transition day TBC
Thursday 4 th July	Music Recital am. All welcome!
Mon 15 th & Tues 16 th July	Sports Days TBC
Wednesday 17 th July	Y5/6 production to rest of school
Thursday 18 th July	Y5/6 production to friends and family, all welcome! (evening)
Monday 22 nd July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am. All welcome!
Tuesday 23 rd July	Y6 Leavers' trip
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.