Rooted in the community – growing for the future

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC)Primary School

Letter 8
22nd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

This has been a short week but a busy end to the first half term of the year. We are very impressed with how Reception Class (and other new children) have settled in to life at Shire Oak and seen great strides in the confidence, independence and learning of children all across school. It has been great to celebrate this with you at the **parents and carers consultation evenings** this week and last and we have now spoken to almost every family in school. If you have not been able to catch up with us yet, please prioritise this when we return after half term – just ask the teacher or the office to arrange a mutually convenient time.



Congratulations to B, B A and G who made up the Y5 boys cross country team. They represented our school at the **regional cross-country competition** in Otley last week. The top 3 teams from each year group race qualified for the Leeds Final and our team came second overall with 85 points! This was a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of them. Thank you, Mrs Pakalna, for taking the team.







It has been a busy week for Year 4, despite being only 4 days long for the children. On Tuesday they worked with local artist Cassy to help with the planting and development of **St Michael's Garden**. The following day they impressed their families with a great **sharing assembly**. We particularly enjoyed their artwork, their singing, their teamwork and all their interesting topic work.

Year 6 have also been getting to grips with their history topic and on Monday enjoyed welcoming a very special **Viking visitor** who brought replica artefacts and immersed them in a day learning about Viking life, invasion and settlement. They really threw themselves into it and many even dressed up in great costumes!















Tomorrow's **training day** will be a day off for the children while the teachers work on how to help children with their **learning over time** (both retrieving

prior knowledge and also making links between themes and ideas). We start back on the Monday following the half term break.

Half term is a great time to re-establish or get into great habits for the rest of the autumn term. As well as reading, practising maths facts and spellings, it is a good time to get on top of hygiene habits that help us all. Unfortunately, **headlice** are prevalent in UK schools and we can tell from the size of the lice that there is nobody ignoring them and allowing them to breed unchecked. Their natural cycle, however, means that it is very easy to be reinfected by someone at a different point in the detection and eradication process and then they go round and round. We have attached a very helpful sheet that explains the measures a household can take to really get on top of the problem. If everybody checked this weekend and started a regime to get rid of any found then we would have a very good chance of making sure that next half term saw fewer cases in school. (Don't forget that older siblings and parents can also pick them up and unwittingly be carriers.)



Now that I have made you all itch (sorry!) I will compound that by mentioning **threadworms**. Worms can be present in nearly half of all young children and can be asymptomatic but can also cause sleep disturbance and irritation. If this is something you have not been familiar with before, it is worth reading about it so that you are vigilant to any signs and indicators. Whilst we are talking about health, please can I let you know that if you keep your child off school but then realise that a little rest and some Calpol means they are absolutely fine and bouncing round the house, then we are always happy for you to bring them back in to school. (Actually, we prefer it, as it gives the clear message that school is something we do whenever we are able to). Unfortunately, that isn't the case if they have had sickness or diarrhoea as we need to stick to those exclusion periods.

Thank you to Mrs Maver and a very capable Year 6 volunteer for an interesting and informative assembly about **allergies** this week. As ever, we encourage children to be kind, be safe and be their best and they can really show these attributes in the way that they include, protect, and look out for their classmates who have severe allergies.

As children settle in I know that this can mean a change in your wraparound childcare arrangements and this may include joining **Acorn Club**. We like children to be able to play outside a lot during their free time and it helps us to keep children safe if all parents coming onto and leaving site close gates behind them. If you are using Acorn Club for the first time it would be helpful if you could read this guide so that you know how things run. For those of you who need childcare during half term (or who want to give their children a treat that week) then please do book in with **A Camps** who run on our site and use some of our staff.



If your child is in Year 6 then the deadline for **applications to secondary school** falls during half term, on the 31st October 2026. If you need help once school is closed then please contact startingsecondary@leeds.gov.uk If you know anyone applying for primary school this year, please let them know about our **Open Days** and also about the Leeds City Council's You Tube video about applying for a school place

I hope you have a lovely half term break.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane
Headteacher
janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk PS Please find attached our latest **e safety newsletter** to help keep all our children safe.

DIARY DATES

Friday 23rd October	TRAINING DAY school closed to children (Last day of term – have a good half term break)
Mon 26th - Fri 30th October	HALF TERM. A Camps will be running all week at school. Book here.
Monday 2nd November	First day of the half term
Thursday 5th November	Flu immunisations in school
Friday 6th November	Diwali Assembly in the hall, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 6th November *	Comics and Creatures Draw a long author webinar with Thiago de Moraes
Wed 11th November	An Act of Remembrance will be held
Wednesday 11th November	FOSOPS AGM in the school hall, 6:30 to 7:30pm
Thursday 12th November	Individual photos day (prints will be back before Christmas)
Friday 13th November	Y3 Class Assembly in the hall, 9am. All welcome.
Monday 16th November	Anti Bullying Workshops as part of Anti Bullying Fortnight
Wed 18th November	Winter Festival of Fire straight after school. All welcome!
Friday 20th November	Year 6 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Tuesday 24th November	Headingley Lights Switch On at St Michaels TBC
Wed 25th November	Open Morning for prospective parents (although current parents may attend too)
Thursday 26th November *	Book Club trip to Saltaire 3
Thursday 26th November	Hanukkah assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 27th November	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 3 for all families to buy from
Mon 30th Nov to 2nd Dec	Robinwood residential school trip for Year 6 children
Wed 2nd to 3rd December	D:Side sessions on Internet Safety across school
Wednesday 9th December	Nativity play dress rehearsals for KS2 to watch
Thursday 10th December	Reception Class Nativity Play am
Friday 11th December	Year 1/2 Nativity Play am
Tuesday 15th December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church 10:30am TBC
Tuesday 15th December	School Christmas lunch (can be booked in advance)
Wed 16th December	School Christmas disco night YR 3:45 – 4:45 movie night in classroom; Y1/2/3 3:45 – 4:45 disco in the hall; Y4/5/6 5-6pm disco in the hall.
Thursday 17th December	Christmas party day with party lunch and Christmas music performances by Chestra
Friday 18th December	Last day of term – have a good Christmas holiday. Acorn Club closes early today.
Monday 4th January	First day of term
Thursday 7th January	Open Morning for prospective parents (although current parents may attend too) s
Friday 15th January	YR Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Wednesday 20th January	Parents and carers meeting about Y4 residential, 5pm. TBC.
Friday 22nd January	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 22nd January	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 4 for all families to buy from
Monday 25th January	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 27th January	YR and Y6 national measurement and vision checks
Friday 29th January	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 & Y2 at the start of the day. Lunar New Year theme. All welcome.
Monday 1st February *	Cross Country final TBC
Tuesday 2nd February	Y5 trip to York Chocolate Story
Tuesday 2nd February	Year 6 World War II day in school
Wednesday 3rd February	Meeting about maths for YR parents and carers 1pm online TBC
Friday 5th February	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 8th February	Water Safety Assemblies by Canals and Rivers Trust
Tuesday 9th February	Shrove Tuesday pancake sale in the hall after school by FOSOPS
Thursday 11th February	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 12th February	Last day of half term – have a good half term break
Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	HALF TERM. A Camps will be running all week in school.
Monday 22nd February	First day of half term – pupils back in school
Sunday 28th February	Shire Oak Sunday, 10am at St Michael's Church. All welcome. TBC.
Tuesday 2nd March	Y5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day including dressing up
5th to 14th March	British Science Week
Mon 8th & Tues 9th March	Hands On Science Workshops as part of British Science Week

Thursday 11th March	After school local netball tournament hosted at Shire Oak TBC
Friday 12th March	Science Fair in the hall during the day
Friday 12th March	FOSOPS bun sale after school run & supplied by Year 1 for all families to buy from TBC
15th to 19th March	Easter visits to St Michaels Church TBC
Monday 15th March	Weekly pizza club for Y6 starts this week
Tuesday 16th March	Eid ul Fitr assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Wednesday 17th March	Parents and carers consultation evening (you will book slots nearer the time)
Friday 19th March	Comic Relief Day TBC
Monday 22nd March	Cycling Day for Year 5 (and a group of children in Year 6 who are not able to ride confidently yet). They will need a bike and helmet for this day. The trainer can provide a limited number for children, but we would need to know in advance. Our hope is to make sure everyone is confident enough to be able to take part in Bikeability sessions in and out of school in the summer term of Year 6.
Wednesday 24th March	Parents and carers consultation evening (you will book slots nearer the time)
Thursday 25th March	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 31st March	Y3/4 production dress rehearsal to the rest of school TBC (may move to week before)
Thursday 1st April	Y3/4 production to families TBC (may move to week before)
Thursday 1st April	Y5 trip to music day at Lawnswood School
Friday 2nd April	Last day of term. Have a lovely Easter holiday. Acorn Club closes early today.
Mon 5th to Fri 16th April	EASTER HOLIDAY. A Camps will be running in school and the swimming pool will be back
Monday 19th April	First day of term
Monday 19th April	Pop up pool swimming due to start TBC
Friday 23rd April	Vaisakhi assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 23rd April	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 5 for all families to buy from
6th to 7th May	Y4 residential to Bramhope Scout Campsite TBC
Friday 7th May	Y5 trip to Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility
w/c Monday 10th May	KS2 SATs week (statutory tests – please avoid appointments, etc. this week)
Friday 14th May	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Mon 17th – Fri 21st May	Bikeability for Year 6. They have the strongest chance of achieving the proficiency standard if they have practised cycling in preparation. Cycle North often run sessions in school holidays for beginners
20th/21st May	D:Side sessions in school on substances
Tuesday 25th May	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 28th May	FOSOPS bun sale after school run & supplied by Reception for all families to buy from
Friday 28th May	Last day of half term
Mon 30th May to Fri 1st June	HALF TERM A Camps will be running in school
Monday 7th June	First day of half term
7th to 11th June	Green Week with road safety activities, etc.
Wednesday 9th June	RSE information meeting for Y5 & Y6 parents/carers
Thursday 10th June	Class photo day
Friday 11th June	YR Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Wednesday 16th June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Thursday 17th June	Y4 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 18th June	Non uniform day in return for prizes for the tombola at HYMF
Wednesday 23rd June	Parents/ carers meetings for incoming Reception class morning and evening TBC
Saturday 26th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival 12-4pm. This is a festival and summer fair we host for the whole community. Everybody in school is performing so we ask families not to schedule birthday parties, etc. to clash with it. Thank you!
Thursday 1st July	Y3 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 2nd July	Orienteering Day Y5/6 Becketts Park; Y3/4 The Ridge YR/1/2 school grounds TBC
Wednesday 7th July	Transition Day with Stay and Play sessions for new Reception Class. TBC
Thursday 8th July	Music recitals 9:15am and 2pm
Monday 12th July	Y5/6 Sports Day 1:15pm TBC
Tuesday 13th July	YR/1/2 Sports Day 9:15am TBC
Tuesday 13th July	Y3/4 Sports Day 1:15pm TBC

Wednesday 14th July	Y5/6 production dress rehearsal to school
Thursday 15th July	Y5/6 productions afternoon and evening 5:30pm (ticketed) TBC
Tuesday 20th July	Leavers' Service St Michael's Church 10:30 am
Wednesday 21st July	Teachers available after school to discuss end of year reports
Thursday 22nd July	Leavers' Bowling trip and last day of the school year.
DATES: https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates	

* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is to be confirmed and may have to change.



Get Ready for a Cozy, Creative Christmas! 🎄✨

Step into the holiday spirit and get crafty with us this festive season! Whether you're looking to make some handmade gifts or just fancy a cozy, creative afternoon, our Christmas Craft Days are the perfect way to unwind, meet new people, and get festive.

Each week features a special step-by-step main project to take home:

Thursday 19th Nov 10-12 📖 Paper Book Christmas Trees

Friday 27th Nov 10-12 🧶 Hand-Sewn Christmas Stockings

Thursday 3rd Dec 1-3 💍 Festive Christmas Jewellery

Friday 11th Dec 1-3 🪵 Rustic Wooden Reindeer

Plus, we'll have side tables set up for extra card and decoration making so you can keep creating!



Where: Swarthmore Education Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square, Leeds, LS3 1AD

Cost: £15 per person per session for a relaxing two-hour workshop.

All materials provided, and everything you make goes straight home with you!

Festive treats & tunes: Enjoy delicious mince pies and background Christmas music while you craft.

How to Book:

Spaces are limited, so booking is essential! To reserve your spot, please message on craftswithrosannaamy@gmail.com or 07988976170

.Come along, get crafty, and make some new friends this Christmas. We can't wait to welcome you! 🎅🎁

@CHILDFRIENDLYLEEDS

We are child friendly Leeds presents your...

Autumn Guide

AUTUMN 2026

TO FREE & LOW COST ACTIVITIES IN LEEDS

Scan the QR code to view the official blog.

We have included as many free and pay-as-you-feel events as possible, along with some low-cost activities. You can download this guide and click on each link to find out more.

KIDS EAT FREE & £1 IN LEEDS DURING SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

There are lots of dining discounts available around Leeds if your heading out this October half term and most offering this deal from October 17 – November 1, 2026.

Pumpkin Patch at Lotherton

Saturday 17 to Saturday 31 October. Pick your perfect pumpkin and enjoy autumn photo opportunities at Lotherton. Weekends from 3 October and weekdays from 19 to 31 October. £4 plus general admission.

Halloween at Temple Newsam

Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Follow spooky trails, enjoy quizzes and crafts, and explore seasonal displays at the farm and house. Included in admission.

Scarecrow Trail at Leeds Industrial Museum

Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Meet the scarecrows and enjoy autumn crafts and seasonal activities. Included in admission.

Glow in the Dark Week at Leeds City Museum

Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Follow a glow-in-the dark trail, enjoy a glow disco and try shadow art workshops. Give what you can; some events need booking.

Junior Ghost Walk at Temple Newsam

Wednesday 28 to Saturday 31 October. Enjoy silly spooky stories, family-friendly fun, and plenty of laughter at Temple Newsam Home Farm. Included in admission; pre-booking required.

Monkey Madness at Tropical World

Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Enjoy monkey facts, bingo, geener talks, a banana toss and a monkey tucker trail. Included in admission.

Spooktacular Family Day at Leeds City Library

31 October, 10am to 2.30pm. Enjoy authors, theatre, draw-alongs and spooky family activities. Recommended for children aged 6+. Free.

Half Term Madness at Leeds Kirkgate Market

Monday 26 to Friday 30 October, 10am to 4pm. Enjoy Lego, Duplo, colouring and Halloween-themed lotions and potions.

Spellbound at Lotherton

Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Use a spellbook to find ten witches and help make a magical autumn charm. Included in admission.

Nocturnal Creatures Trail at Kirkstall Abbey

Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Discover the animals that live among the Abbey runs on a fun family trail. Give what you can.

Spooky Streets at Abbey House Museum

Saturday 24 October to Sunday 1 November. Wander spooky Victorian streets, meet creepy characters and take petrifying pictures. Included in admission.

Pumpkin Competition at Leeds City Museum

Thursday 1 October to Sunday 1 November. Design your dream pumpkin and see the winning ideas brought to life. Give what you can.

400 Stories Art Workshop

Monday 26 to Friday 30 October. Young artists aged 4+ can create story-inspired artwork at libraries across Leeds. Free.

Holiday Clubs at Herd Farm

Monday 26 to Friday 30 October, various dates. Enjoy fresh air, get active and take part in unforgettable outdoor adventures. £48.

Holiday Clubs at West Leeds Activity Centre

Monday 26 to Friday 30 October, various dates. Enjoy fresh air, get active and take part in unforgettable outdoor adventures. £45.

Light Night Leeds

28 and 29 October, 6pm to 9.30pm. Explore illuminated artworks, projections and immersive experiences across the city. Free.

Baby Week Leeds

NOV

14 - 20 November join the city in celebrating Baby Week! Free or 50p events in leisure centres, library and children centre events and much more. Weekend Family Showcase at Temple Newsam and Play Barn. All free and low cost available at babyweek.co.uk.