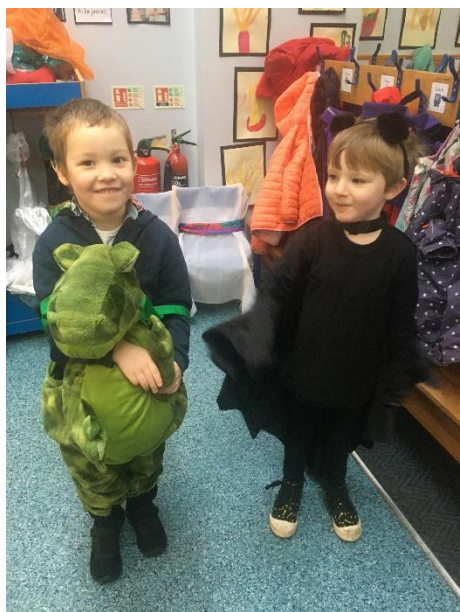




Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you all had a good half term break. It has been good to have the children back in school this week and I have enjoyed looking at their homework projects and hearing about the reading they have been doing at home. We know that children's social activities have been restricted and will be increasingly restricted in the next few weeks. We will continue to try hard in school to put in as much of the 'normal' pattern of the year for them so that they don't miss out. Children have certainly taken that opportunity today with Autumn Dress Up Day! We have had scary costumes that might ordinarily have gone to parties last week, we have had Autumn colours, glittery like firework clothes, character dressing up and cosy clothes... everything that cheers us up when the nights are drawing in!



The national restrictions mean that we have had to delay our plans for starting **after extra-curricular school clubs** and the Headingley and Kirkstall Combined Schools band that some of our children attend is also having to take a break. We will review this as soon as we can! We are able to continue offering childcare for parents to work (or for respite) so Kidzone will be able to continue at this time. We are investigating whether we might be still able to offer the Movie Nights to Years 1 to 6 as respite for parents so will confirm dates for these when we can.

Susan Koyuncu has asked me to let you know that if you pay for full time **school dinners**, the cost for this half term is £84 if you pay all at once. The children are pleased to be back on the full choice of hot school meals now and Mrs Taylor is even sneaking in some extra warm (usually fruit-based) puddings when I am not looking!

Year 6 are still taking on special roles and responsibilities, even though they can't cross bubbles much. Well done to these two early bird volunteers who have been taking donations for **poppies** and selling other poppy items. They will be in the Quiet Zone (outside Y2 and the Community Room) each morning until the 11<sup>th</sup> November.

One role Year 6 usually enjoy is acting as tour guides on our Open Days. As they can't do that this year, they have made their own 'Virtual Tour' working in pairs to film and present information about school. We think they have done very well indeed! You can see it by following the links to the Virtual Open Day on [www.shireoak.org](http://www.shireoak.org)



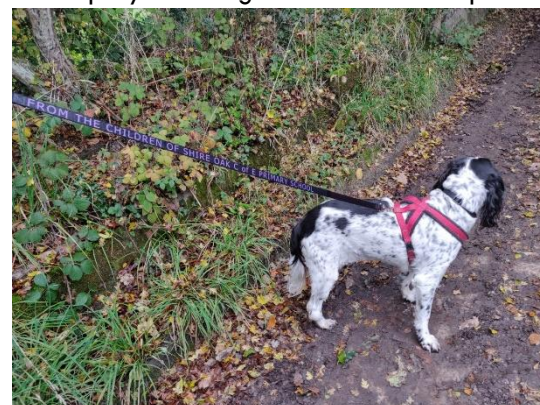


School Council have decided to support **Children in Need** this year after they were donated a cuddly Pudsey and some wristbands by Greggs. They have decided to run a **drawing competition** and a **bun sale**. Children can bring in a picture – with their name clearly written – to enter the competition. School Council have suggested they draw Pudsey and/or Blush. If they could bring in a donation to Children in Need to go with their entry, that would be fantastic. (Year 2 were so enthused by their School Councillors that they have already all drawn a picture – but they are welcome to enter another picture from home or send in a donation if they wish.) There will be a winner of

the bear, some winners of wristbands and the rest of the entries will go into a raffle for the remaining wristbands. We will also hold a bun sale at morning break and we are asking Y1 and Y2 parents to help by donating a few buns to this please (homemade or shop bought – but remember we will be charging no more than 50p so don't spend much!) Thank you in advance for your support.

Well done to Year 1 and Year 2 who both shared lovely **class assemblies** with us this week and to Y5 who did theirs recently. It is great to still be able to share in the learning the class has been doing and I hope you have been able to watch them at home.

We had a lovely thank you message from the happily retired **Rev Tony** and a picture of Meg the dog sporting one of the presents from school:



We are looking forward to having time to talk to you next week about your children and how we can work together to help them make the most progress possible. Your **parents' evenings** slips and texts should have come home yesterday. We have never done this by phone before, so please be patient with us if the timings go wrong. We will make sure we catch up with you all! At any time you can get in touch with us to let us know you would like a phone call if we don't see you in the playground or you need a more private conversation. The next few weeks may well be challenging for parents juggling working from home or not having enough work whilst managing the isolation that lockdown can bring. Please remember that we are here and can support with a friendly ear, parenting support and some signposting to other sources of support, etc. Just ask to speak to Jane Hinchliffe or me!

Have a lovely week.

Jane Astrid Devane  
Jane Astrid Devane

[janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk)



### DIARY DATES

9 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Fortnight
11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> November	Theatre Workshops on the theme of bullying
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Day. Judging of the drawing competition and bun sale.
16 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> November	Virtual Divali assembly
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Winter Festival of Fire. This year it will take place during the school day in children's bubbles. (There may be 'takeaway' food to buy at the end of the day.)
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> & Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	D:Side working with KS1 and KS2 on Internet Safety (may be rearranged due to lockdown)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December *	Nasal Flu immunisations – we will email the consent link when we get it
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec *	Height and weight checks for Reception Class
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	10 <sup>th</sup> Birthday Party at HEART. Children with a birthday today may be invited!
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY
<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar</a> 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 Nicholls, [shireoakgovernors@gmail.com](mailto:shireoakgovernors@gmail.com). Our parent governors are often on the playground, if you would like to talk to them.)