



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

What a busy week! Thank you to the family and friends who were able to join us on Wednesday morning for a special **Holi Assembly** to share the learning children have been doing in class about this special Hindu festival. Happy Holi to any of our families (or extended families) who have been celebrating this week.



We have continued to enjoy the special **science workshop** activities that Mr Marshall has arranged in advance of British Science Week. Y2 had a go at



being crime scene investigators in their biometrics workshop. Year 3 explored the properties of magnets and Year 4 enjoyed setting fire to things! (Safely, to investigate the different properties of metals, of course.)



Thank you to all the volunteers (staff and parents) who put on **Movie Night** on Wednesday evening. A fun, social occasion and a helpful fundraiser.

On the topic of fundraising, School Council have decided that they would like to support the Comic Relief charity by taking part in **Red Nose Day** which is coming up soon. They are organising

the following events they would like me to tell you about:

A 'joke off' in class. Children will tell their favourite jokes to their class and the one voted the best will be told in assembly the following week. Time to get practising!

A red nose drawing competition. Children can have a go at designing their own fun red noses that School Council will judge on Friday. We will send home small pieces of paper for the entries early next week.

An after school bun sale. They would like donations of buns and other similar treats that can be brought into school on Friday morning. They will then set up the sale (hopefully in the playground if the weather is fine) so that families can buy them on the way home as a weekend treat. (If School Councillors are able to stay to help with the sale straight after school, that would be very helpful – it shouldn't take too long!)

On Red Nose Day children can also wear any **red noses** they have bought to support the appeal.



I am always impressed and heartened by the generosity and thoughtfulness of Shire Oak children and their understanding of the importance of campaigning and charity work. These three sisters have thrown themselves into a family challenge to walk 40km in March to raise money for the **brain tumour charity**. (A cause close to their hearts.) Here is a picture of them this weekend having just walked 15 miles along the canal from Saltaire to Leeds. They have already raised over £800!

Football at Shire Oak



On Monday the 6th of March the Shire Oak football team participated in our first cup match against Primley Wood primary school. The first Half we played was quite close between both teams and both teams were close to scoring including when we hit the crossbar by a brilliant shot by Charlie (Y6). There was one player that just kept dribbling past our team. During the second half, we went 2-0 up with goals from Leo and Charlie (Y5).

We then later conceded a silly goal and then let another one in a few minutes before the end. That then took the game to penalties. Our penalty Kick order was: Leo, Morgan, Charlie (Y5), Charlie (Y6) and Patch. The final result of the penalties was 4-1 to Shire Oak with Charlie (Y6) scoring the winning penalty.

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The day after our win, we then went to play away at Sacred Heart in a league match. We played well but we had our 2nd defeat losing 7-1. In the first half we had good chances but we just couldn't score. We made some clumsy mistakes but recovered well at the back with Seth and Patch making some brilliant tackles to keep us in the game.

By Charlie & Emily Y5 Football Reporters

Well done to everyone for the great **homework projects** that I have seen celebrated in classrooms and am looking forward to sharing in assembly. It is lovely to see the individual ways that children have approached the tasks. Well done also to everyone who keeps up a good routine of regular reading, practising maths passport facts and times tables and spellings/phonics practice. These are the essentials that make such a difference to children's progress across the curriculum.



**Fairtrade
Fortnight**

FAIRTRADE 27 Feb – 12 Mar

As we go to press, some of the **Eco Club** leaders are preparing to visit the Civic Hall to take part in a Fairtrade celebration. They will join in workshops with other schools and hopefully bring back some great ideas to share in school.

On our **Training Day** this week, several members of support staff refreshed their first aid training certificates. Teachers spent time developing the writing lessons we teach at Shire Oak and the editing

tools we use. We then spent time in the afternoon working on our new PE curriculum and the resources we use to teach it – we even had to get our PE kits on for some practical skills!

Given the weather this week it seems like a good time to remind parents and carers of our approach to **snowy days**. We always aim to stay open. When snow is forecast our staff are great at parking on main routes, investigating bus alternatives or clubbing together in the most rugged vehicles. Sometimes it takes a while to get all staff in, so we occasionally have to combine classes for a little while at the start of the day. If conditions locally are icy then we suspend late marks to allow everyone to get in carefully and safely. We like to make sure the children can still play outside during the day, so please send them in with sturdy boots or shoes and a manageable spare set of clothes – especially socks!

As you can see from the approach to snow days, our teachers really do not like closing school to children and therefore do not take the decision to strike lightly. I have just read that the teaching and leadership unions not striking (NAHT, NASUWT and ASCL) along with the NEU have written to the Secretary of State asking for a day of private conciliation talks arbitrated by ACAS, but that she has refused. It is, therefore, my understanding that the **two planned days of strike action** next week will go ahead on Wednesday and Thursday. There are currently no further strike days planned. We really appreciate your patience and cooperation through these disrupted times.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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DIARY DATES

13 th to 17 th March	Science/STEM Week in school (may be preceded by science visits to school)
Tuesday 14 th March	Football team playing Hillcrest TBC
Wed/Thu 15 th /16 th Mar	NEU industrial action (strike days). School is very likely to be closed unless national negotiations are well underway.
Wednesday 15th March	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day.
Thursday 16th March	First weekly pizza club for Y6 starts after school (may be affected by strike action)
Friday 17 th March	Y6 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Friday 17 th March	Comic Relief/Red Nose Day. School Council have decided on an in-school Joke Off, a red nose drawing competition (to be completed at home) and an after school bun sale today. (Donations of buns gratefully received.)
Monday 20 th March	Football playing Sacred Heart (using Lawnswood pitch as our home ground) TBC
Tuesday 21 st March	Rugby match TBC
Wednesday 22 nd March	First spring parents and carers consultation evening
Friday 24 th March	Y5 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Monday 27 th March	NCMP and vision check YR and Y6
Tuesday 28 th March	Rugby match TBC
Wednesday 29 th March	Y5 trip to Leeds Piano Festival maths trip
Wednesday 29 th March*	Group from Y2, Y3 & Y4 to Cross-Country running event at Richmond House School
Wednesday 29 th March	Second spring parents and carers consultation evening
27 th to 29 th March	Class Easter visits to St Michael's Church
Friday 31 st March	Y3/4 Easter production to parents/carers & Easter raffle draw (prize donations welcome)
	EASTER HOLIDAY 3 rd April to 14 th April. School closed to pupils.
Wednesday 19 th April	Y6 trip to Eden Camp TBC
Thursday 20 th April	Book Club trip to Armley Mills cinema
Friday 21 st April	Headingley and Kirkstall Combined Schools Band assembly and drop in rehearsal TBC
Sunday 23 rd April	Shire Oak Sunday. All welcome to take part in the all age service at St Michael's 10am
Tuesday 25 th April	Reception Class trip to Leeds Beckett Discovery Garden for outdoor learning
Tuesday 25 th April	Rugby match TBC
Wednesday 26 th April	Eid Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.

Friday 28 th April	YR Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
BANK HOLIDAY Monday 1 st May. School closed to pupils.	
Friday 5 th May	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day.
8 th -9 th to 12 th May	KS2 SATS Week
BANK HOLIDAY Monday 8 th May for the coronation of King Charles. School will be closed.	
Wednesday 17 th May	Y1 Class Assembly 9am in the hall, all welcome.
18 th to 19 th May	D:side workshops across school on medicines, alcohol and drugs
22 nd to 26 th May	Green Week including pedestrian and scooter training
MAY HALF TERM 29 th May to Monday 5 th June. School closed to pupils.	
5 th to 9 th June	Y6 Bikeability (cycling proficiency and road skills) https://www.cyclenorth.co.uk/children
Wednesday 7 th June	RSE information evening for Y5/6 parents and carers
Thursday 8 th June	Class and team photos
Tuesday 13 th June	Y3 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
TRAINING DAY Wednesday 14 th June. School closed to pupils.	
Thursday 15 th June	Reception Class trip to Harewood House TBC
Friday 16 th June	Non uniform day in return for donating a tombola prize for HYMF
Tuesday 20 th June	Y5 trip to Yorkshire Water Treatment Plant
Tuesday 20 th June	New Reception Parents/Carers meeting (am and evening)
Thursday 22 nd June	Y1 and Y2 trip to Filey TBC
Saturday 24 th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival (HYMF). We put on this event for the whole local community and it is also our summer fair. Please put it in the diary!
26 th to 30 th June	Learning through Sport Week
Wednesday 5 th July	Transition Day TBC
Thursday 6 th July	Music Recital am. All children learning an instrument may play & their parents can watch.
Friday 7 th July	Y2 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
17 th and 18 th July	Sports Days (subject to weather)
Wednesday 19 th July	Teachers available after school to talk about end of year reports
Thursday 20 th July	Y5/6 Performance to parents and carers 6pm.
Monday 24 th July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am.
Tuesday 25 th July	Last day of the school year (Y6 will go bowling or similar)
SUMMER HOLIDAY Wednesday 26 th July to Friday 1 st September. School closed to pupils.	
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.