



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School



How lovely to see so many of you on Wednesday at the **Headingley Lights Switch On**. It is a lovely non-commercial community event in Advent that I am pleased school can support. Thank you to St Michael's for hosting!

There are definitely signs of preparation for Christmas throughout school. The Mexican **posada** has started its journey from class to class, the three youngest classes are busy practising their singing and acting for their **nativity** plays and there seems to be an outbreak of festive headgear and advent calendars in the older classrooms. With all the fun of these preparations going on, it has been great to get into lessons and see the fun of learning still carrying on. I have been watching **writing lessons** throughout school and have been so pleased with the care and thought that is going into the planning of sequences of writing lessons that are based on quality books and very often linked to the topic that children are currently immersed in. It is also very pleasing to see children really getting to grips with editing to correct and editing to improve their writing. This can be the overlooked step in the writing process that many try to avoid, but it has been great to see children working hard, using their purple pens and the information from teachers to really check and polish their work. The way that lessons (in writing, but also across the whole curriculum) build on those that have gone before it is why prioritising good school attendance is so important to children making great progress. Thank you for all you do to help your children come to school every day. Apart from one week in October our attendance has been above the national average this school year because of these efforts:



There are now two weeks left until the Christmas holidays because this year the term dates set by Leeds have us breaking up quite early. If you need childcare in the first week of the holiday, **Art Camp** will be running their activities here at Shire Oak. We do have access to some free and subsidised places for this if you would find that helpful. Please contact Mr Nash in confidence or speak to him on the playground. (lawrencen@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk)

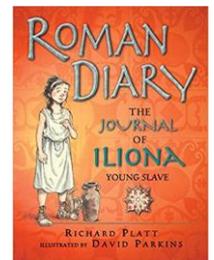
Whilst we wait for the **Children's Centre** building to be rebuilt, I am pleased to say the staff are still working hard in our community with Pram Walks, outreach and invitations to their other centres. Please see the attached What's On Guide.

The cost-of-living crisis is impacting families in many ways including food shopping with 49% of families on lower household incomes buying fewer fresh vegetables recently. To support families during these challenging times, Veg Power has launched a new campaign 'Simply Veg' which aims to make it as easy as possible to navigate the cost-of-living crisis by serving affordable as well as sustainable and healthy veg-packed meals that families will love. More information at www.simplyveg.org.uk

I am glad that the roadsweepers have now been out and cleared the pavements near school that were becoming impassable due to the mass of leaves. Hopefully that means that we can again show our children that the safest way to walk near traffic is on the pavement. Most of our families now walk to school, but I know there are a few car users especially in colder, wetter weather. Please remember to keep the double yellow lines free at all times so that children can cross the road safely to get to school. Always park with consideration for our neighbours and other road users please.



Well done to **Year 4** for their lovely **class assembly** this morning. We particularly enjoyed all the learning about the Romans you have been doing in your history topic and the way you brought it to life in your acting and writing, inspired by your class novel. Great singing too, thank you!



Year 6 will be busy packing this weekend ready for their **residential trip** to **Robinwood**. Please don't let them convince you they need new or fancy clothes for this trip – old layers and lots of socks are best! Some will have nerves as they might not have been away from home as much as in years past. Please reassure them that there are staff on duty all night and they will be well looked after – don't forget to pack a cuddly toy!

If your child has been coming to choir practice at lunchtime they may be going **carol singing** in the next fortnight. We have quite a few opportunities lined up to sing for the Headingley community and it is a lovely way to give a little back to our local area.

I have tried to summarise below the main events happening in the next two weeks. They are busy weeks and the children will be tired and need help to pace themselves and the excitement of things happening inside and outside school.

Monday 5 th	Tuesday 6 th	Wednesday 7 th	Thursday 8 th	Friday 9 th
<p>Y6 at Robinwood</p> <p>Some of choir singing at Victoria Court care home during the morning</p>	<p>Y6 at Robinwood</p> <p>Y3 Forest School as usual</p> <p>Some of choir singing at Wheatfields hospice in the afternoon</p>	<p>Y6 at Robinwood</p> <p>Dress rehearsal of plays for the rest of school to watch a.m.</p>	<p>Nativity Plays</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception 9:30- c.9:45am • Year 1/2 10:15 – c.11 am • Reception 1:30 – c.1:45pm • Year 1/2 2:15 – c. 3pm (Y6 will hopefully watch too.) <p>Book Club are going to the theatre to see Charlie & the Chocolate Factory</p> <p>Year 4 are launching Day 8, their advent window (the Alma Road gate)</p>	<p>Additional tours of school for prospective parents who missed Open Morning</p> <p>Y3 swimming as usual</p> <p>Y4 singing and doing Christmas crafts at Grove Park care home in the afternoon</p>
Monday 12 th	Tuesday 13 th	Wednesday 14 th	Thursday 15 th	Friday 16 th
<p>Raffle tickets being drawn</p> <p>Some of choir singing at Headingley Hub in the morning</p>	<p>Carol Service in church, am</p> <p>School Christmas dinner</p> <p>No Y3 Forest School today</p>	<p>Y3 Forest School pm</p> <p>Christmas discos after school, Y1 Y2 3:45 until until 4:45pm. Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6 5:00 – 6:00pm</p>	<p>Class Christmas parties and Christmas party lunch</p> <p>Dip and Dab's Christmas Mix Up show 1:45pm</p> <p>Children can wear a Christmas jumper, top, or their own choice. Bottoms do not have to be school uniform, but should be appropriate for indoors and outdoors – no frou frou skirts please!</p>	<p>No swimming in the final week</p>

Have a great weekend! I may see some of you tonight at the [free concert](#) which includes the **Headingley and Kirkstall Combined School Band** and some of our players.

Jane Astrid Devane

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janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk PS We have just heard that we have our church (SIAMS) inspection on Thursday next week. The inspector will want to talk to some parents about life at Shire Oak as part of the day. A letter is attached.

DIARY DATES	
5 th – 7 th December	Year 6 Residential at Robinwood Activity Centre, Todmorden
Monday 5 th December	Group from choir singing at Victoria Court care home
Tuesday 6 th December	Carol singing at Wheatfields Hospice (a group from choir)
Thursday 8 th December	YR, Y1 and Y2 Nativity Performances am and pm. FOSOPS will serve lattes and pastries before the first performance and mince pies with the second performance. The morning performance will start once children are in, registered and dressed – usually about 9:30. The afternoon performance will likewise start after the hall has been cleaned from dinners and children are ready again so about 1:30pm.
Thursday 8 th December	Book Club visit to Leeds Playhouse production of Charlie & the Chocolate Factory
Thursday 8 th December	Our Advent Window day as part of the local Advent Calendar (Y4)
Friday 9 th December	Carol singing and crafts at Grove Park Care Home Year 4
Monday 12 th December	Group from choir singing at Headingley Hub
Tuesday 13 th December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am. All welcome!
Tuesday 13 th December	School Christmas Dinner (children on packed lunches can book this in advance via office)
Wed 14 th December	Christmas Disco KS1 3:45 to 4:45pm KS2 5:00 to 6:00 pm. (No Reception class this time)
Thursday 15 th December	Alive and Kicking Theatre in school
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Monday 19 th December to Monday 2 nd January. School closed to pupils.	
TRAINING DAY. Tuesday 3 rd January. School closed to pupils.	
Wednesday 4 th January	Welcome back to the spring term!
Friday 6 th January	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day. TBC
Wed 11 th January	Reception Class 'How we teach maths' meeting 2:15pm TBC
Thursday 12 th January	Open Morning for prospective parents.
Thursday 12 th January	Group to attend Youth Summit in the Civic Hall and museum
Friday 13 th January	Y6 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Thursday 19 th January	YR Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Thursday 2 nd February	Y1 trip to Abbey House Museum
Friday 20 th January	Local MP Alex Sobel visiting Y2
Tuesday 24 th January	Y5 trip to Chocolate Experience in York
Friday 27 th January	Chinese New Year Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Tuesday 7 th February	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day.
8 th to 10 th February	Y4 residential trip to Lineham Farm
Thursday 9 th February	Y3 trip to the Discovery Centre
FEBRUARY HALF TERM 13 th to 17 th February. School closed to pupils.	
Tuesday 21 st February	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Sale after school in the hall
Monday 27 th February	Planetarium visit to school (at least Y5 and YR)
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day. This is usually a dress up day.
Friday 3 rd March	Y4 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome
Wednesday 8 th March	Holi Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Wednesday 8 th March	Movie Nights TBC Reception 3:05 – 4:30pm Rest of school 4:45 – 6:45
TRAINING DAY Thursday 9 th March. School closed to pupils.	
13 th to 17 th March	Science/STEM Week in school (may be preceded by science visits to school)
Wednesday 15 th March	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day.
Thursday 16 th March	First weekly pizza club for Y6 starts after school

Friday 17 th March	Y6 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Friday 17 th March	Comic Relief/Red Nose Day (depends what School Council decide)
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
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 and carers
EASTER HOLIDAY 3 rd April to 14 th April. School closed to pupils.	
Wednesday 19 th April	Y6 trip to Eden Camp TBC
Sunday 23 rd April	Shire Oak Sunday. All welcome to take part in the all age service at St Michael's 10am
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 to 12 th May	KS2 SATS Week
Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles. School will be closed. It is not yet announced what will happen to the SATS timetable this week.
Friday 12 th May	Y2 Class Assembly 9am in the hall, all welcome. This date is likely to change due to the BH
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
TRAINING DAY Wednesday 14 th June. School closed to pupils.	
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)
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 Assembly
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.	

