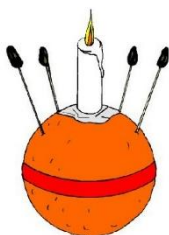




Dear Parents and Carers

What a lovely week to end the autumn term! It was great to see so many of you at our annual **carol service**. This year we explained the stories, traditions and meanings connected to well-known Christmas symbols and decorations and sang carols to match. The readers spoke clearly and all the children did well to sing along with the organ when that is not what they are used to in school. There will be another child-friendly Christingle service at St Michael's, 4pm on Christmas Eve – all are welcome!



As is now our tradition, we returned from church to our **school Christmas dinner**. Crackers were pulled, bad jokes told and delicious food was devoured. Thank you to all the kitchen and school staff who worked together to make it a fun and festive occasion.

The 80 children in **choir** have been taking it in turns to delight members of our community this fortnight. As well as singing from the choir stalls at St Michaels, they have been singing at Wheatfields Hospice, Grove Park and Victoria Court. Rev Tony has accompanied us on a couple of occasions and wrote this to us:

Dear Jane,

I must congratulate the choir for their singing this afternoon at Victoria Court! I had so many positive comments about them. One resident said that they sang so clearly that she could hear every word. Another said that the children were delightful, full of enthusiasm, putting across the music with such conviction. Not a few of them were in tears as the children sang.

It was also very impressive the way the children went to talk to the residents after they had sung, listening to the stories about Christmas when the residents were young, and asking sensible and sensitive questions about Victoria Court.

One resident said to me that Shire Oak was clearly a very fine school and the children did the whole school credit.

Hope you all have a relaxing holiday!

Best wishes,

Tony
Revd. Tony Whatmough



Congratulations to Emma in Reception, who won the Lawnswood School Winter Festival colouring competition!

Along with all the fun of this week we have had the difficult task of saying goodbye and thank you to **Heather Flanagan**. Heather has taught at Shire Oak since it was created from the amalgamation of Headingley Primary and St Michael's. Prior to that Heather had taught at Headingley Primary for a number of years – in fact, she has taught the children of Headingley for over 30 years! Such long service deserves a reward and we hope that she will have more time for going on long walks and spending time with friends and family. We sincerely hope that she remains a part of our school community and wish her every success for the next chapter in her life.

As this is sent to the printer, children are enjoying their **Christmas parties**. Thank you for the donations you sent for Save the Children which School Council will be counting later today. There are rumours of a red-suited (DBS checked!) visitor in the building and the cooks have been busy preparing a party lunch. I know one or two of you were surprised by the text yesterday: Can I respectfully remind you that we use texts primarily as reminders, and post advance notice of dates in the newsletter or other letters home wherever we can. We know that keeping on top of school events and requests is tricky in busy families, so we try to keep the '**diary dates**' section of the newsletter as up to date as possible. Do pop them on your calendar or in your own diary – we will let you know if anything is ever cancelled or postponed.

We know that for many people Christmas is a difficult time of year. The organisations listed at the end of this newsletter can **help families who need extra support** during this potentially tricky period. (If the contact numbers are too small to see then this newsletter is also on our school website so that you can zoom in to the information you need.)

I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. We look forward to seeing the children again on the 7th January full of news about their school holiday.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane
janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk

PS Parents and carers deserve a break at Christmas too. Children who **see their adults read for pleasure** are much more likely to develop that habit themselves, so you're not being lazy – you're helping their education!



We take the safeguarding of children very seriously at our school and we appreciate your help with this. 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, Julia Kelly shireoakgovernors@gmail.com. Our parent governors are often on the playground, if you would like to talk to them.)

DIARY DATES

Mon 24 th Dec to Fri 4 th Jan 19	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. Children do not attend school.
Thursday 10 th January	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15-11:15am.
Friday 11 th January	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 17 th January	Maths Focus Day including Puzzles afternoon for Y6 by Lawnswood staff
Friday 18 th January	Stay and Play for Reception, Y1 & Y2 families. All welcome at the start of the day
Monday 21 st January	Year 4's turn to make/bring buns for the bun sale
Friday 25 th January	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Sunday 3 rd February	Shire Oak Sunday at St Michael's Church 10am. (We will join their all age service)
Wednesday 6 th February	Reception Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 6 th February	Movie Night 5-7pm TBC
Thursday 7 th February	Training Day – school closed to children TBC
Monday 11 th to 15 th February	Reading Week – including our Book Day dressing up day and House Team Hobby Half Day
Thursday 14 th February *	School nurses doing health checks for Reception and Year 6
Mon 18 th to Fri 22 nd February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY. Children do not attend school. Kidzone plan a playscheme.
Tuesday 26 th February	Bun Sale with donations by Year 3 but available for all to buy
w/c Monday 25 th February	STEM Week including Geography Focus Day 27 th & Escape Rooms on the 28 th
Wed 6 th to Friday 8 th March	Lineham Farm residential for Y4
Thursday 7 th March	Geography Focus Day
Thursday 14 th March	Stay and Play for Reception, Y1 & Y2 families. All welcome at the start of the day
Friday 15 th March	Y5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 25 th March	Bun Sale with donations by Year 2 but available for all to buy
Thursday 24 th March *	RNLI water safety assemblies KS1 and KS2
Thursday 28 th March	Y4 visit to Piano Concert at town hall
Sat 30 th March -Sun 14 th April	EASTER HOLIDAY. Children do not attend school. Kidzone may offer a week.
Thursday 18 th April	Easter Production by Y3/4. All welcome!
Fri 19 th /Mon 22 nd April	School closed for Good Friday and Easter Monday
Friday 26 th April	Stay and Play for Reception, Y1 & Y2 families. All welcome at the start of the day
Monday 29 th April	Bun Sale with donations by Year 1 but available for all to buy
Thursday 2 nd May	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 6 th May	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY. Children do not attend school.
Friday 10 th May	Y4 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 13 th to Fri 17 th May	KS2 SATS Week for Year 6
Tuesday 21 st May	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 23 rd May	Countryside Live trip to Ledston, Year 6s
Friday 24 th May	Non uniform day (bring in items for Headingley Youth Music Festival tombola stall)
Mon 27 th to Fri 31 st May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY. Children do not attend school. Kidzone run a playscheme.
Thursday 6 th June	Reception Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Saturday 8 th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival (includes our summer fair) All welcome! TBC
Tuesday 11 th June	New Reception Parents meetings (am and evening)
Tuesday 11 th June	Reception Class visit to Leeds Beckett Discovery Garden (TBC)
Wednesday 12 th June	SRE (Relationships Education) parents' evening for Y5/6
Friday 14 th June	Eid Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 18 th June	Stay and Play for Reception, Y1 & Y2 families. All welcome at the start of the day
Tuesday 18 th June	Movie Night 5-7pm TBC
Wednesday 19 th June	Training Day – school closed to children
Monday 24 th June	Bun Sale with donations by Reception Class but available for all to buy
w/c 24 th June	Multicultural Arts and Faith Week TBC
Wednesday 3 rd July	Transition Day (visiting new classes)
Thursday 4 th July	Y3 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 10 th July	Music Recital (TBC) for children who learn an instrument or singing
Thursday 11 th July	Y5/6 production (dress rehearsal in the morning) performance in the evening
Monday 15 th July	Y3/4 Sports Day (subject to weather) in the morning

Tuesday 16 th July	Y5/6 Sports Day (subject to weather) in the morning
Wednesday 17 th July	R/1/2 Sports Day (subject to weather) in the morning
Wed 17 th to Fri 19 th July	Y6 Bikeability (be practising ready for this!) TBC
Monday 22 nd July	End of year celebrations (
Tuesday 23 rd July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church 10:30am
Wednesday 24 th July	Last day of term before the summer holiday.
https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar term dates	
* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change	

FEEL LIKE YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH?

citizens advice Leeds

Can help with legal, money and other problems by providing free, independent and confidential advice.

To find out about the different services in Leeds call 0113 223 4400

Money Buddies

If you're having problems with money or need support dealing with debt, visit Money Buddies for free, confidential, impartial advice.

0113 2350276

www.leedsmoneybuddies.weebly.com

Leeds Food Aid Network

If you need emergency food parcels, contact Leeds Food Aid Network.

www.leedsfoodaidnetwork.co.uk

07557 331519

mary@leedsfoodaidnetwork.co.uk

Leeds City Council

volition

NHS

Leeds City Council

LEEDS HOUSING OPTIONS

Advice service for people who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or simply want advice about housing options.

0113 222 4412

07891273939*

*not all Leeds City Council services are available in all areas

If you are worried about money problems and help and support at:

www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk/money-worries

MindWell

MindWell is a single go to place in Leeds for up-to-date information about mental health. Get information about support and services available in Leeds and learn some self-help tips and techniques. MindWell is a city-wide initiative funded by the NHS.

www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk

childline

Open 24 hours, 7 days a week, anytime.

0800 111 111

If you're 13 or under, you can chat to Childline about anything. No problem is too big or too small. Speak to a counsellor straight away on 0800 111 111 (free phone).

The Starbed Project

Support, information and counselling for young people in Leeds aged 13-25.

0113 2461855

www.the-starbedprojectleeds.org.uk

MindMate

If you're a young person, MindMate can help you understand the way you're feeling and find the right advice and support.

www.mindmate.org.uk

FORWARD Leeds

Advice, information and support if you are worried about your alcohol or drug use or someone else's. You can also call to refer yourself to services in Leeds.

0113 887 2477

Are you struggling to cope or feeling overwhelmed? Talk to someone now about how you are feeling.

YOU ARE NOT ALONE.
YOU ARE IMPORTANT.
AND IT IS OK TO ASK FOR HELP.

SAMARITANS

Need to talk to someone? Confidential and emotional support 24 hours a day.

116 123 (Freephone)

0113 245 6789 (local call charges apply)

jo@samaritans.org

LEEDS SURVIVOR-LED CRISIS SERVICE

Support in times of crisis

Feeling desperate and need a friendly face? Visitors can access Dial House when they are in crisis. It is a place of sanctuary. Open from 9am - 2am on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Wednesday.

Call 0113 249 6228 or text 07702249452 on the night you wish to request a visit. Periods in crisis can bring children with them. We can support deaf visitors using BSL. 12 Chapel Street, Malton, Leeds, LS15 7JW

Dial House @ Touchstone

Crisis service for people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups. Open 6pm - 11pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. 53-55 Harehills Avenue, Leeds, LS6 4EX

Call 0113 249 6075 or text 07763 501 953 on the night you wish to visit.

www.lsics.org.uk

CONNECT HELPLINE

Emotional support and information for people in Leeds open 8pm-2am every night of the year.

0808 800 1212

Call Connect if you are feeling suicidal, angry or just need to talk.

Run by Leeds Survivor-Led Crisis Service

In a medical emergency

CALL 999

If you need medical help in a non-emergency

CALL 111

Are you struggling after the death of someone close?

Cruse Bereavement Care

Provides support, information and practical advice.

0113 234 4150

0800 808 1677

www.cruse.org.uk

LEEDS SUICIDE BEREAVEMENT SERVICE

If someone you were close to has ended their own life you can access one-to-one support, group support, or counselling.

0113 305 5803

LDVS

Experiencing violence in the home?

Support and information about all domestic abuse services in Leeds.

24 hour Helpline

0113 246 0401

SARSVL

If you have been affected by sexual violence of any kind call SARSVL for confidential emotional support.

CALL 0808 802 3344

TEXT 07797 803 211

EMAIL support@sarsvl.org.uk