



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

We are so glad that the period of self-isolation for **Reception Class** children comes to an end today and that we will be able to welcome them back to school on Monday. I think almost every child has been engaging with the learning Miss Coulter has been posting on Tapestry and we have enjoyed seeing what you have posted back. It was also good to see Reception Class parents at the virtual meeting this week on how we use phonics to teach reading and writing at Shire Oak.

The full **governing body** met last week to plan their work for the year and organise the various sub-committees that oversee areas of school: Teaching and Learning; Resources; the Children's Centre; and Pupils, Parents and Partnerships. After several years as Chair of Governors, Julia Kelly has asked that somebody else be nominated for this position. We would like to thank Julia for all her work in this role at Shire Oak, although we are looking forward to still having her expertise as a governor. The former Vice-Chair, Antonia Nicholls, was elected as our new Chair and she can be contacted using the details at the bottom of this newsletter. Thank you, Antonia, for taking on this important role in school.

Guidance still does not permit us all to meet in the hall together for **assemblies**, but we are finding ways to gather and **worship** together virtually and separately. We have been having SuperStars assemblies using Google Meet; each class presenting their certificates whilst the rest of the school watch. We are recording assemblies that can be watched in class, and this week we have been having one class at a time in the hall for assembly so that (although it takes nearly a week) we can all share the same experience. Year 6 have been tasked with working out the cubic litre capacity of air in the hall to see if it is possible for us to have more than one bubble in at a time!



Across school you may have noticed some new faces in your child's class. As the lead school in the Springboard Cluster for **School Direct teacher training**, we work with Leeds Beckett University to train post-graduate teachers who will be qualified teachers by the end of the year. Ordinarily our group of students are spread across the local schools that we work closely with, but this year their first placements are all with us or Spring Bank Primary as so much of their university input is online. We are very pleased to welcome: Danielle Ford (Y3), Amy Tumber (YR but currently Y2), Sanna Amreen (Y1), Shannon Ellerton (Y5) and Ruth Hutchison (Y6) and the three students placed at Spring Bank. Please welcome them to our community! Student teachers bring enthusiasm and new ideas to their class teams as well as career development opportunities for our current staff (and welcome income to our deficit budget!) Many of our recent NQTs (newly qualified teachers) have gone on to secure teaching posts within our cluster of schools because they are of a very high quality indeed.

Thank you to **FOSOPS** for organising their first virtual meeting yesterday on Zoom. There were some great ideas for future events, both virtual and real life. They are currently working on the logistics for Movie Nights in class bubbles but they will need more volunteers than usual to make this work! Please let Jayne, Sapna, Liz, myself or any member of staff know if you would be willing to help with these. Thank you.

For those of you planning childcare for October half term you may be very interested to hear from **Art Camp UK** who ran very popular sessions at Shire Oak this summer for the first time. As our building work has now finished, they will be able to use the hall, the larger classrooms and more of our outdoor space this time so it looks like it should be a very good option. They are running two bubbles of 15 children (but would consider running a third if there is sufficient interest.) They are offering children at Shire Oak a 10% discount on booking so please contact jon@artcampuk.com for the discount code prior to booking at <https://artcampuk.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>



Most **Year 1** parents will have heard that Mrs Hopkins has had some long-awaited surgery this week that had been significantly delayed due to the pandemic. We all send her our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery. In the meantime Mrs Sara Mitchell continues to teach the class for the first half of the week and Mrs Helen Woodley and Mrs Marcelle Maver (both of whom the children know well) are teaching when Sara's SENCo duties take her away from Year 1. They are ably supported by Ms Sue Strange and Mrs Mandeep Atwal who support the class all week.

Children in Years 1 to 6 are now starting to visit the **library**. We are practising good hand hygiene and quarantining books on their return to school but we felt it was so important to get this key resource up and running as quickly as possible so that children can **read for information and for pleasure**. Please do ask your children what they are reading and, as the nights draw in, re-establish good routines around listening to your children read. For older, more independent readers protecting time for them to read and then talking to them about what they've read is just as important as when you listened to them read when they were just starting out.



Have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane
Jane Astrid Devane
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DIARY DATES

Ordinarily we give as many dates for the year ahead as possible (e.g. Harvest, assemblies, Christmas nativity plays, etc. We are currently having to plan these nearer to the event to comply with the most recent guidance. Instead of a Harvest Festival assembly in the hall this year, we will work on an outdoor celebration instead.	
Wednesday 7 th October	* Year 4 trip to Meanwood Park for seed gathering and woodland activities with LCC park rangers
Wednesday 7 th October	* Lawnswood Virtual Open Day https://www.lawnswoodschool.co.uk/for-parents-and-carers/virtual-open-evening Carr Manor High School Virtual Open Day 4.00–4.45/6.00–6.45/7.00–7.45pm
Thursday 8 th October	* Individual and Sibling Photo Day
Thursday 8 th October	UK Clean Air Day. Children are invited to bring posters and other artwork about Clean Air Stories (after school until 5pm) to the protest outside St Michael's Church.
Friday 16 th October	Harvest Festival including a collection of food for PAFRAS/local food banks
Friday 23 rd October	WE HAVE POSTPONED THIS TRAINING DAY. DATE TO BE CONFIRMED LATER. This is because it is difficult for us to book appropriate staff training currently.
Thursday 5 th November	Homework due in (Years 1 to 6) See homework leaflet for details
Monday 26 th to Friday 30 th October 2020 HALF TERM HOLIDAY (Art Camp are running a playscheme)	
Friday 8 th January 2021	10 th Birthday Party at HEART. Children with a birthday today may be invited!
Thursday 28 th January 2021	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Tuesday 16 th March 2021	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Wednesday 16 th June 2021	TRAINING DAY
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	

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 Hincliffe.

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. Our parent governors are often on the playground, if you would like to talk to them.)

Can my child go to school today?



Do they have any COVID Symptoms?

- a **high temperature** - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a **new, continuous cough** - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** - this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Yes

They have a COVID symptom

Self Isolate and Book a COVID Test

Book the test online or call 119

All members of the household should stay at home until the test result is known.*

*Visit [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) for advice on when to stop isolating and return to school after a positive or negative test.

No

They do not have a COVID symptom

Do they have diarrhoea or vomiting?

No

They do not have diarrhoea or vomiting

Yes

They do have diarrhoea or vomiting

Do they feel unwell?

It is important that parents keep children at home when they are unwell

No

They do not feel unwell

Yes

They feel unwell

Send to school

So long as your child feels well, has not been told to self-isolate and there are no other household members with COVID symptoms, it is OK for them to attend school.

Keep at home

- Remain off school until they feel well enough to return. Seek medical help from a GP if needed (or 111 if your surgery is closed).
- Remain off school until at least 48 hours after the last episode of diarrhoea or vomiting. A COVID test is not required for diarrhoea and vomiting without the other symptoms above.