



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

Thank you to **Year 3** for their lovely class assembly yesterday. When I got back to school it was lovely to hear how proud they were and how confidently they presented their learning across the curriculum to the audience. Thank you for supporting them!



At the start of the week **Y1** enjoyed their trip to **Meanwood Valley Urban Farm**. They enjoyed workshops linked to their Going Green topic as well as visiting the farm itself. They were very well behaved and were excited to talk about the trip on their return.

As you are probably aware, the NUT (teachers' union) have voted to hold a **strike on 5th July**. I have made a risk assessment and it would not be safe to open school on Tuesday. The strike is about two issues: school funding and the deregulation of national pay and conditions for teachers. (This is in response to the plan to force schools to become academies which would mean an end to things like having to have qualified teachers, etc.) I have had a number of parents asking for more information about the campaign and how they can get involved, so I have included the information leaflet with this newsletter. Staff have worked hard to move the **Y5/6 trip** as they knew the children would be disappointed if this was cancelled. It does clash with Eid, but we believe most of our Muslim families will be celebrating on the Wednesday.

Class	Well done to this week's Superstars who have been chosen by the staff in their class.
YR (Thames)	Jovan is doing great writing and Coco is great at writing lessons.
Y1 (Nile)	All of the class for an excellent trip to Meanwood Valley Urban Farm.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	Khi for an improved attitude to his learning.
Y3 (Rhine)	Milo for a fantastic attitude in art and Lily for listening well in PE.
Y4 (Ganges)	Poppy for working independently in maths and Mia who worked well in maths.
Y5 (Tigris)	Antony contributes well in maths and Rean has been making good choices in maths.
Y6 (Amazon)	Oscar has shown enthusiasm and interest in the science topic and Ibrahim is taking responsibility for his work.
Citizen of the Week was Kaisha who was nominated by Niamh because she has been really helpful in lots of ways, including in the cloakroom, when people have problems or when the little ones need help. Well done Kaisha!	

Evie in Y6 has been training all year with a girls' football team and on Sunday her team won a tournament after extra time and penalties. We are pleased that at Shire Oak both girls and boys play football and rugby to a high standard but most importantly for fun and fitness. If there are girls in school who haven't been brave enough (yet) to join our football team, then please talk to them over the summer holiday and convince them to talk to Mr Marshall when they come back in September as he is always looking for new recruits.



Some of the older, international pupils at school have been worried and concerned about the recent unrest and attacks in some parts of Leeds. We feel it is very important to show that we are proud of all our children and we celebrate their differences and their similarities. We will continue to look for ways to make Shire Oak a safe, happy place to learn, but in the meantime **we urge as many of you as possible to come to our Eid Assembly on Friday next week.** This is one of the reflections that we regularly use in school and will be using on Friday:

We are a school of many cultures.

We are from families that came from all over the world and made a home here in Leeds.

We worship in many different ways and none.

We eat food that our friends might not recognise.

We sing songs only our friends know.

We play in teams together and against each other.

We draw, paint, sketch, make and create using all the colours of the rainbow.

We play games our grandparents would recognise but our cousins haven't seen.

We learn about the world and discover more about its languages, its beauty, its turmoil and its promise.

We are noisy. We are silent.

We all belong to Shire Oak. We are proud of the cultures we represent. We are proud of the school culture we make together.

Have a great weekend!

Jane Astrid Devane

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Mrs Bennett has asked us all to check purses, bags and kitchen drawers for any **Sainsburys Sports Equipment vouchers** we might have at home. Please bring them into school as soon as possible as they will be counted and cashed in!

DIARY DATES

Monday 4 th July	*	TV crew filming in Y5 as part of a programme about the academisation of schools
Tuesday 5 th July		Allerton High transition day for September's Y7.
Tuesday 5 th July	*	SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO CHILDREN DUE TO INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY THE N.U.T.
Tuesday 5th July		Year 5/6 trip to the coast
Wednesday 6 th July		Transition Day – meeting new classteachers, etc.
Thursday 7 th July	*	New date for the Year 5/6 trip to the coast.
Thursday 7 th July		Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome.
Friday 8 th July		Eid Assembly, 9am, whole school. All welcome.
Friday 8 th July		FOSOPS Toy Exchange and afternoon tea. Look out for information from FOSOPS.
Monday 11th July		Big Friendly Read summer reading challenge assembly, 9am (children only)
11 th to 22 nd July		Sport for Life Fortnight
Monday 11 th July	*	Skipping workshop for every class and end of day celebration
Tuesday 12 th July	*	Leeds Hockey working with KS2 all day
Wednesday 13 th July	*	Leeds Sports Academy working in each class
Wednesday 13 th July		Leeds City Academy transition day for September's Y7
Thursday 14 th July		Garforth Academy transition day
Tuesday 19 th July		Y3/Y4 Sports Day, 9:15am (weather permitting)
Tues 19 th July		Year 6 production being shown to the children in school, 1:30pm
Wednesday 20 th July		R/Y1/Y2 Sports Day, 9:15am (weather permitting)
Wednesday 20 th July		Y5/Y6 Sports Day 1:30pm (weather permitting)
Wednesday 20 th July		Optional drop-in parents/carers consultation evening to discuss reports
Wednesday 20 th July		Y6 production to parents, 6pm. (Children come back to school about 5:40pm)
Thurs 21 st & Fri 22 nd July		Bikeability training for Year 6 (Rearranged date due to production move)
Thursday 21 st July		End of year concert, 1:30pm
(Monday 25 th July)		Reserve date for Sports Day R/1/2 am and Y3/4 pm
Monday 25 th July		School holiday safety assembly with PC Jamie Wilkinson
Tuesday 26 th July		Leavers' Service, 10:30am, St Michael's Church. All welcome.
Tuesday 26 th July		Reserve date for Sports Day Y5/6 pm
Wednesday 27 th July	*	End of year assembly and attendance certificates (for children only)
Tuesday 15 th November 2016		Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am. (Open Evening for prospective parents who cannot attend during the day, 6pm.)
Thursday 12 th January 2017		Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am.
Wed 1 st – Fri 3 rd March 2017		Y4 Residential to Lineham Farm TBC

Saturday 10 th June 2017	Headingley Youth Music Festival and Summer Fair 12-4pm. All children performing at around 2pm.
* means added or changed since last newsletter	TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change

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 Hilary Whitehead.

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 Julia is often on the playground, particularly at the start and end of the week, if you would like to talk to her.)

Education

Invest, don't cut

Government spending cuts mean

- class sizes up
- less individual attention for children
- fewer subject choices for your child

teachers and support staff being cut or not replaced



Education – invest don't cut

Biggest education cuts in a generation

Schools are already under severe financial strain.

This is going to worsen, with the respected Institute for Fiscal Studies confirming that the biggest real terms cuts to per pupil funding in a generation, are on the way.

Government is increasing schools costs

George Osborne says he is protecting education.

This isn't true. In reality he is FREEZING the cash per pupil he gives TO schools whilst INCREASING what he takes FROM them. He has increased national insurance and pension contributions by about 5% of the teacher pay bill. **For every 20 teachers the school employs it has to give George Osborne back an extra teacher's salary.** There are similar costs on the support staff budget. These increased costs, directly from the Government, are leading to big cuts affecting your children.

Schools cutting back on children's education

Schools have had to cut staff to balance their books. In a recent 'NUT school leaders' survey, 70% of

heads said that lack of funding was affecting education standards in their schools: class sizes up and less individual attention for children, resulting in fewer subject choices for your child.

Wrong priorities – £1.3bn on lawyers' fees

Any responsible government would do everything it could to protect funding for the quality education our children deserve. But this Government is instead ploughing ahead with their costly plans to make every school an academy. Labour estimates this will cost £1.3 billion – mainly spent on lawyers' fees, and none of it spent on your children's education.

A distraction for heads and teachers

The Government also wants to break up the national system of pay and conditions for teachers. Under this plan head teachers will be diverted from focusing upon teaching and learning and will instead, have to spend a big chunk of their time negotiating pay rates with teachers. There will be many more local disputes and an ever-increasing teacher shortage.

Please show your support

Write to your MP asking them to protect funding for schools and your child's education, to give schools the money they need for extra costs and not waste resources on lawyers' fees for academy conversions.

The National Union of Teachers thinks the Government has the wrong priorities for education.

Thousands of teachers have taken the difficult decision to take strike action. Teachers don't want to strike but they feel they have no alternative in trying to persuade the Government of the need for investment in education, rather than hurtful cuts.

Visit www.teachers.org.uk to find out more about the NUT's campaign for investment in education.

#investdontcut

