

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to everyone able to join us this morning for our **Harvest Festival**. It was good to be able to share some of the things the children have been learning about autumn, crops and how harvest festivals are celebrated. Thank you also to everyone who brought in donations of food which St Michael's church are collecting this afternoon to distribute via **PAFRAS** and the local **Food Bank**.



On Monday's training day the teachers worked with their colleagues from Spring Bank, St Chad's and Weetwood. Reception staff were working together on developing Outdoor Learning in the Early Years whilst KS1 and KS2 worked together on feedback, autonomy, challenge and engagement. We shared lots of good ideas and will be working on this together in staff meetings.

On Wednesday we held the year's first **House Teams Hobby Half Day**. These were set up because the children said that they enjoyed working in their mixed age house teams with different adults from across school. The activities including maize modelling, gardening, cricket, decorating bags, cooking and art. Thank you to the school staff, coaches and volunteers who put so much effort into making these sessions enjoyable and educational.

Thank you to Mrs Vollans for organising **school photo day** yesterday. Your child should have brought home a preview card for you to look at the photos, but don't worry if it got lost as we will be sending out proofs as soon as they come back to us. Any profits made from selling school photos go back into school funds to help pay for extras like transport to sporting events and trips. Towards the end of the year we have another day to take class photos.

Well done to this week's **Superstars** who were chosen by their teachers and the other adults who work in school.

| Class | This Week's SuperStars |
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| Reception (Thames) | Grayson is a positive role model for the other children and Lucas is eager to learn and ask lots of questions. |
| Y1 (Nile) | Sophie has put a lot more effort and concentration into her writing and James sets a good example by answering lots of questions and getting on quickly with his work. |
| Y2 (Aruvi Aru) | Layten T had a great end to the week and showed an improvement in his learning behaviour and Lydia consistently shows a good example in class. |
| Y3 (Rhine) | Melita is always polite and considerate to others, Phoebe and Mia are always trying to make their work better. |
| Y4 (Ganges) | Keira has shown that she can work well with others and Theo pays attention to the fine details in his writing. |
| Y5 (Tigris) | Braydon for top quality work in art and Emily because she brings a positive attitude to everything she does in class. |
| Y6 (Amazon) | Kobe for his excellent focus in English, resulting in some fantastic writing and Amelia for her cheerful approach to all we do in school. |

The **Citizen of the Week** was **David** in Y6 who was nominated by Jago for always being happy and helpful. Well done also to **Marcus in Y4** who passed the audition to get into the prestigious Opera North Children's Chorus and is now enjoying learning to sing and perform with them.

You may remember that last year we stopped supporting Operation Christmas Child because of concerns about how they organised the distribution in some countries. I know, however, that many of you liked assembling the shoeboxes with your children as it gave a chance to think about other children in the run up to Christmas, and help our children learn the value of even small things like a hairbrush to children who have very little. We will still be looking for a Christmas themed campaign to support, but in the meantime I thought you might be interested to hear about a **project in Nepal that supports children**

in an orphanage. One of our families is involved in working with this charity and will be going out to the orphanage in November themselves. As this is a good way to reassure ourselves that donations are going to the intended recipients without aggressive evangelism it seems an appropriate cause for us to support. Kate and Oli will be able to come and talk to the children after their trip to tell them more about where their donated items have gone and I am sure would be happy to speak to interested parents too. Please see the attached letter from them for more information.

The **strike action** that was planned for Tuesday has been **called off** by the GMB and UNISON (the support staff unions) after negotiations. School will be open as usual. I hope you all have a good weekend and that many of you can join us tomorrow at the park.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

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Did you know?

FOSOPS are holding **Woodland Activities** in Meanwood Park tomorrow (Saturday 11th October). This is a great chance for new families to get to know each other and for the children to play together outside school. If the weather is atrocious we will send out a text postponing the event, but otherwise I hope to see you there from 11 am. (Meet at the picnic tables.)

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, Janie Percy-Smith janieps@aol.com (Janie is also in school most Mondays if you would like to talk to her.)

Family Fun & Food

Shire Oak Woodland

(free)

BBQ

+

Wonderful
woodland activities!

11am - Saturday 11th October
Meet at Meanwood Park
picnic tables

organised by foSops

DIARY DATES

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|---|---|
| Saturday 11 th October | FOSOPS (Friends of Shire Oak Primary School – our PTA) Woodland Activities and barbecue. All welcome, particularly new families. 11am, Meanwood Park |
| Wednesday 15 th October | Meeting for parents in Reception to find out more about how we teach reading (including phonics). 2:15 for a 2:30pm start in the school hall. |
| Friday 17 th October | Year 1 class assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Tues 21 st and Wed 22 nd October | Parents Evenings until 6pm and 7pm respectively |
| Thurs 23 rd & Fri 24 th October * | Collection days for donations to the Nepalese orphanage |
| Friday 24 th October | Year 2 class assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Friday 24 th October | FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Reception Class please. |
| Friday 31 st October | Deadline for high school place applications |
| Mon 27 th -Fri 31 st October | HALF TERM (Kidzone may be running a holiday playscheme) |
| Monday 3 rd November | Back to school. The provisional training day on this date has been moved. |
| Tuesday 4 th November | Homework projects due in (Years 1-6) |
| Tuesday 4 th November | FOSOPS Fancy Dress Disco (Foundation Stage & KS1 and then |
| Thursday 6 th November | Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Thursday 6 th November * | Sports Hall Athletics Event (18 children from Y5/6) at Ralph Thoresby, 2:30-4pm. |
| Friday 7 th November | TRAINING DAY. This is the date that replaces the provisional date given before. We will be working on growth mindsets and building confidence in maths. |
| Friday 14 th November | Year 3 class assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Friday 14 th November | Children in Need Day |
| Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st Nov | Anti-Bullying Week |
| Friday 21 st November | Year 6 class assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Wednesday 26 th November | Winter Festival of Fire straight after school |
| Friday 28 th November | Year 5 class assembly, 9am. All welcome. Staff and students from Leeds City Academy will be available after assembly to talk to parents. |
| Friday 5 th December | Year 4 class assembly, 9am. All welcome. This is a change from the 7 th November. |
| Friday 5 th December | FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y1 please. |
| Wed 10 th to Fri 12 th December | Robinwood Residential for Year 6 |
| Wednesday 10 th December | Reception and KS1 Christmas production, pm. (Dress rehearsal the day before) |
| Tues 16 th and Wed 17 th Dec | Christmas parties |
| Thursday 18 th December | Christmas Carol Service, St Michaels Church , 10:30am All welcome |
| Thursday 18 th December | School Christmas dinner |
| Mon 22 nd Dec- Fri 2 nd Jan | CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (these dates are corrected) |
| Monday 5 th January | First day back at school |
| Wednesday 21 January | House Team hobbies afternoon |
| Thursday 22 nd January | Movie Night |
| Friday 23 rd January | TRAINING DAY |
| Friday 30 th January | Reception Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Friday 30 th January | FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y2 please. |
| Friday 6 th February | Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Mon 16 th to Fri 20 th February | HALF TERM (Kidzone may operate a playscheme) |
| Friday 27 th February | FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y3 please. |
| Tues 3 rd & Wed 4 th March | Parents' Evenings |
| Friday 6 th March | Year 6 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Friday 13 th March | Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Wed 18 th – Fri 20 th March | Year 4 Residential, Beverley Park, North Yorkshire. |
| Friday 27 th March | FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y4 please. |
| Friday 1 st May | Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Friday 1 st May | FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y5 please. |
| Friday 8 th May | Year R Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Wednesday 20 th May | House Team hobbies afternoon |
| Friday 5 th June | Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Tuesday 23 rd June | Movie Night |

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| Wednesday 24 th June | TRAINING DAY |
| Friday 26 th June | Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome. |
| Friday 17 th July | FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y6 please. |

New or changed items marked with *

Change the World... one child at a time.

With your help, we want to support a small orphanage in Nepal. A family from the school is going over to visit the orphanage in November, and is looking for old toys, clothes, sports stuff and stationery to take over and give to the children (age 5 and above). These gifts mean so much to these children and their appreciation for the little they have is incredibly heartening. Please find the time to put a few unwanted items into a bag and bring them into school before half term and put a big smile on the face of one of the most adorable little kids in the world!



Also your money will make a huge difference. Each child needs £345 a month to pay for shelter, food, education and health care. If you want to make a one off payment you can bring cash into school before half term in an envelope and write 'Change the World...one child at a time' on it.

HEART OF A CHILD



There are about 1 million orphans in Nepal, according to UNICEF. Causes for abandonment are death of parents due to the Maoist militancy movement, sickness, and/or difficult living conditions as well as natural disasters which have left hundreds of thousands homeless and hungry. The damage is again on the verge of being catastrophic for millions of children. An aid worker, referring to a remote village in Nepal, said, "Very tender children are dying here, uncared for, unlooked after - orphaned by the untimely death of their parents. You can see hundreds of real orphans here...those who don't have a father or a mother."



We hope to create a long term relationship with this orphanage so that with your help we can brighten up these children's future.

Feel free to contact Kate and Oli: 07773186247 kateschonbeck@live.co.uk or obrandondavies@hotmail.com

Shire Oak School Collection

Bring any donated items such as clothes, toys, sports equipment and stationery into school on the **23rd and 24th October** (the last two days of half term). Items should be fairly small and suitable for taking by aeroplane.

Money donations can also be brought in on those two days in a clearly labelled envelope or donated via PayPal give.nepal@outlook.com