



Dear Parents and Carers

Another joyfully busy week at Shire Oak! Since the last newsletter we enjoyed the **Science Fair** on Friday at the end of last week. Representatives from each class staffed their stalls with experiments, investigations and demonstrations designed to ensure curiosity and wonder – a great event.



We have also heard about the Year 3 trip that didn't quite make it into the newsletter last week. They had a brilliant experience investigating stone age artefacts at **Leeds Discovery Centre** last Thursday. They represented the school very well whilst travelling on the bus to and from Leeds bus station and whilst walking around locations in the city centre where

medieval Leeds had begun. Whilst on the trip, the class also explored the store rooms for Leeds Museums and enjoyed a well-deserved pack up by a windy Leeds Dock.



This week the science focus has continued with a whole class set of **Virtual Reality** headsets for many of the classes to use.



They explored ancient landscapes, modern cities and much, much more. Whilst the kit was set up in their classroom, Year 5 nomadically camped out in freed up classrooms and also in the tipi, which is a gorgeous space that we are using more and more. I have seen parachute games, PE lessons, philosophy sessions and art lessons using the large, peaceful space.



There is a new opportunity for adults to enjoy the tipi space too. Beginning on Tuesday the 21st April at 09:05, there will be a **fortnightly guided meditation and inner reflection hour**. These will be held in the tipi by Lydia Virgin (our art teacher and Drawing and Talking practitioner). She writes:

We will gather in a nurturing circle and allow ourselves the space and time to drop into stillness. We will use a variety of practices such as journalling, intuitive drawing, breathwork and visualisations along with guided meditation. This is an open, non-judgemental space where all are welcomed. No experience or booking required - just turn up as you are! There will be an A frame with poster outside the tipi on the relevant mornings and the charge is £8 - cash or card at the door. (It is a shoes off space - there will be rugs/cushions/blankets - but do feel free to bring extra socks or anything you feel you may need) Do get in touch with any queries on [lydia.v@outlook.com](mailto:lydia.v@outlook.com) - looking forward to meeting you in the space beyond the bustle! Lydia



To fit in with the national focus, Mrs Sara Mitchell held a special **Neurodiversity Celebration Assembly** this week, which celebrated how different and amazing our brains are and how this can look from person to person. She has also carefully chosen books that are making their way round school at the moment, before going to our library for permanent use. These **videos** may help with follow up conversations you are having at home: [Neurodiversity](#) [Autism](#) [ADHD](#) [Dyslexia](#) We have also attached some **posters** to the newsletter that can be used to talk about and celebrate people you know. If the topic has raised questions in your household about any of the children at our school, please do ask to speak to Sara Mitchell about this. The more we understand our pupils, the better we can support them. For families deciding to pursue diagnosis pathways there is also the Cygnet parent course that Lawrence Nash and Alexa Reay facilitate. Please do speak to Sara or Lawrence if you are interested in finding out more about that too.



Yesterday we were pleased to mark the approaching end of **Ramadan** with a special **Eid-ul-Fitr assembly**. I was at a Leeds Learning Alliance meeting and unfortunately missed seeing it, but was pleased to hear about the ways that children had been learning about this special festival and how they shared it with the other classes and parents who were able to join us (thank you for coming). **Eid Mubarak** to everyone celebrating this weekend!



← Year 3 have been out and about again this week at the **LU Sports Festival**. They enjoyed travelling to Leeds University on the bus for Thursday morning's Spring Sports Festival trying out a range of activities, including netball, hockey, cricket and football.

Class	Well done to these Superstars who have been chosen by staff who work with them. Year 6 monitors write down the comments from certificates as they are given out.
YR (Thames)	<b>Alicia</b> for her care and consideration during scientific experiments. <b>Lucio</b> for his wonderful scientific questioning!
Y1 (Nile)	<b>Dylan</b> is so enthusiastic about science and asks very thoughtful questions. <b>Amelie</b> participated so well in our science workshop.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	<b>Seth</b> is always curious in his learning. He wants to find out more and loves to explore. <b>Sylvie</b> did a careful and detailed drawing of an ocean habitat.
Y3 (Rhine)	<b>Gabriel</b> for his curiosity during science week and his excitement to learn more. <b>Evie</b> was asking lots of questions during our workshop.
Y4 (Ganges)	<b>Quinn</b> followed instructions well during a science demonstration. <b>Runa</b> always gets involved enthusiastically in science lessons and is a great role model.
Y5 (Tigris)	<b>Gracie- Mae</b> is an amazing role model at lunchtime with KS1. <b>Clem</b> is an amazing role model at lunchtime with KS1. <b>Vince</b> produced accurate data in science. <b>Lexi</b> has been working hard with fractions, decimals and percentages. <b>Michael</b> produces a high standard of work in art.
Y6 (Amazon)	<b>Beckett</b> has a scientific mind. He asks superb questions and is always curious. <b>Achilles</b> is fascinated by everything scientific and always wants to know more.
<b>Citizen of the Week</b> was <b>Cora</b> for being a great friend to people. She was nominated by <b>Medi</b> . Well done!	

The plans for **A Camps** Easter holiday playscheme are nicely taking shape and I know a lot of children are excited about things like the inflatables day. You can book and pay on their [booking site](#), but if you need to pay by childcare vouchers then please use this [online form](#) instead (it has now been updated accurately) and liaise with the office about the voucher payment.



We have ended the week with a lot of fun and a sea of red in assembly as we joined in with what School Council had planned for **Red Nose Day**, in aid of the Comic Relief charity. Thank you for dealing with Friday morning negotiations about what they could wear and for sending in donations. There is still time to [donate online](#), if you were intending to. (We never check who has and hasn't paid during such events as we believe that charitable giving should be private.) We are already at around the £150 mark and some of School Council will be taking that to the post office to deposit next week. We look forward to seeing each class team's funny contribution to Monday morning's assembly.

I look forward to seeing many of you on Sunday for our **Groundforce Day** – please bring enthusiasm, tools, gardening experience/ expertise and good ideas! (Drinks and snacks might be a good idea too, depending on how long you can stay.)

Have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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#### DIARY DATES

Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 trip to Discovery Centre
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Science Fair in school
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	* Mothering Sunday service at St Michael's, 10am (giving out seeds to take home)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Pizza Club starts (each Monday for the next few weeks)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 football team v Weetwood at Lawnswood (home game)
16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual Reality workshops
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Eid ul Fitr assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome! TBC
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 Sports Festival am
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Groundforce Day – come and help improve our school grounds between 11am and 3pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y6 Tag Rugby at Kirkstall pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Football team playing away at Holy Name Catholic Academy
25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Class visits to St Michael's to explore Easter story
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents and Carers' Evening (appointments this week or next week)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	FOSOPS bun sale and Easter activities after school (buns from everyone this time please)
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Y3/4 Easter production (dress rehearsal to the school)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Y3/4 Easter production to parents and carers in the morning
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Parents and Carers' Evening.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Celebrate Easter together event at St Michaels 12-4pm. All welcome.
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Next all-age service at St Michael's with 4 baptisms.
3 <sup>rd</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> April	EASTER HOLIDAY School closed to children. <a href="#">A Camps</a> will run a holiday playscheme here at Shire Oak.
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	First guided mediation and inner reflection hour for adults in the tipi (fortnightly)
22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	D:Side workshops about medicines, drugs and alcohol safety
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Football match v Holy Name Catholic Academy at Lawnswood (home game)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Vaisakhi Assembly 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Swimming at Scott Hall starts TBC
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY School closed to children
7 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Residential
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Y5 trip to waste recycling plant
w/c/ 11 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS week. As these are statutory, please avoid planned appointments, etc.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Bikeability for Year 6
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Multicultural picnic after school TBC
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y5 this time please)
25 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> May HALF TERM School closed to children. There will be a holiday playscheme.	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Green Week including Road Safety
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	* Pedestrian Training
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	* Year 3 trip to Otley Chevin
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	RSE parents meeting for Y5/6 (optional) 5pm TBC
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Class photos
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Non uniform day in return for tombola prizes for HYMF
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from YR this time please)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 trip to Water Treatment Works
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	New Reception parents meeting am and evening TBC
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Headingley Youth Music Festival (HYMF) 12-4pm. All our children are in the choir and many will be in other performances. We host and run this event for the community, which incorporates our summer fair. Please avoid booking birthday parties, etc. on this day.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 sharing assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Y1 and Y6 trip to Filey (returning after end of the school day) TBC
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Transition day for children moving to Y7 at Lawnswood School and our in-school transition day with sessions for incoming Reception.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Music Recitals and 9:15 and 2pm. TBC
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 Sports Day 1:15pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	YR/1/2 Sports Day c. 9:15am
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Y3/4 Sports Day 1:15pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 production dress rehearsal to rest of school
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 production pm and evening (ticketed entrance to one of the shows)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Teachers available after school to drop in and discuss end of year reports
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	FOSOPS ice cream sale after school
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am.
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Y6 leavers' ten pin bowling trip
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of term. Acorn Club finishes early today.
DATES: <a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates</a>	

\* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is to be confirmed and may have to change.