



Dear Parents and Carers

**Reception Class continue to settle in well**, and are coping well with school dinners. They are being helped by their attentive Year 6 buddies, who are looking after them well and taking them back to their outside area. They are getting braver and braver, and from next week will be starting to use the main playground. As a cohort with so many siblings, there are lots of older brothers and sisters looking out for them. That is lovely and we are proud of the way our children look after the younger ones. If you do have an older sibling to a Reception child, it would be helpful if you would talk to them this weekend about the best way to look out for them.

**Big sibling reminders:**

- Reception need to make their own friends, so don't take them off to play with your friends.
- The best way to help if there has been a falling out or other issue is to take them to an adult. (Don't start investigating yourself or handing out reprisals!)
- If they are playing happily, leave them in peace and give them an encouraging smile or thumbs up if they spot you... don't keep coming over asking if they alright, because eventually they will decide that they aren't!



Transition is going well in the other classes too and children are confidently navigating their new spaces and responding to their new adults. Could **Year 1 parents** please help us make the morning a little smoother by not coming with the children into the **cloakroom**. As well as adding to the amount of 'traffic' in the area, we have found that some other children start wanting their parents because they think it is an option, even though they were absolutely fine coming in from the circle independently. Thanks for your help with this. If you missed the Year 1 parents' evening, but need a little more information on how things work in Year 1 then please do ask the teachers.

Yesterday we held the first **house team meeting** of the year. Children elected their Y6 house team captains, discussed ideas for our special party next week and discussed ideas for a new trophy in school. They worked well together and the new house team captains stepped quickly and ably into the role. School Councillors for each class are being elected at the moment and Year 5 have got this weekend to prepare their hustings speech if they are interested in standing for the position of Vice-Chair of School Council. All the children are in Lions, Leopards, Elephants, Rhinos or Giraffes. Reception Class are in house teams too, but are probably unaware of this at the moment and haven't started coming to house team meetings yet. They will soon join us for assembly though.



Our part of **Headingley Community Orchard** is producing nicely at the moment. Look at all these apples Year 2 children picked when they were working with Mrs Dickinson! (If children are picking fruit after school please encourage them to ask someone first and then eat the fruit. If they don't finish it, they should put it in the bin. Thanks.)



Plans are coming on nicely for the **Shire Oak 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party** on Friday next week. You should have received an invitation from your child yesterday for this. Thank you to Katie, Niamh, Millie and Coco for their great cooperation to produce the lovely artwork for them. We would really like this to be an event to remember and we have lots of fun planned. The party will be from 2 until nearly 3. Children will go back to classes to be seen out as usual, but the party can then continue after school.

Checklist of things you could do to help (please!)

- Ask for a spare invitation at school to give to a member of the school community to be our guest.
- Help with putting up the gazebo at the end of the school day on Thursday (front field)
- Help with decorating the site on Friday morning around school drop off time (front of school)
- Help put out food from 1pm on Friday (come to the office)
- Send in celebration food that you enjoy from Britain and around the world. (Anything with nuts please label clearly and send in a sealed container). It would be very helpful to receive this on Friday morning, by 12.
- Help afterwards with clearing up.

At the party **picnic** there will be **party games, food, cake for everyone and some special presents**. Our MP is hoping to join us too. I hope to see as many of you as possible there!

Have a great weekend.

*Jane Astrid Devane*  
Jane Astrid Devane  
[janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk)

**After school clubs start  
this week!**

#### DIARY DATES

Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Shire Oak's 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary community picnic in the afternoon
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> September *	New Reception parents/carers meeting about phonics and reading, 6pm in the <b>class</b> .
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	School photo day (individual and siblings)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> October	Visit from Panamanian teachers
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival, in the hall, 9am. All welcome. (We bring gifts of food to donate.)
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Parents and Carers Consultation evenings (each family will get an appointment)
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Flu immunisation Years 1, 2 and 3.
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> October	HALF TERM. School closed to children – Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	TRAINING DAY school closed to children. We will be working on maths with the other Headingley primary schools.
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Green Week – a themed week about the environment. All good ideas welcomed!
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	House Team Hobby Half Day
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am. (Open Evening for prospective parents who cannot attend during the day, 6pm.)
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Festival of Fire after school
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	TRAINING DAY school closed to children (TBC)
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	d:side Internet Safety sessions for KS2
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov to Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Internet Safety week in school
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Dress rehearsal for the Reception and KS1 Christmas nativity productions
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas nativities.
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Robinwood Residential for all Year 6 children
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	School carol service at St Michael's Church, Headingley. 10:30am.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas lunch

Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper day
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec to Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Switched on Shire Oak Week – growth mindsets and attitudes to learning
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Geography Quiz Day
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Shine a Light on Bullying day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Philosophy sessions with the university start now
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Shire Oak Sunday – we join the congregation at St Michaels, 10am. All welcome.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	House Team Hobby Half Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception Class' first class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Pizza Maths Club starts for Year 6 after school. 3:15-4:45pm on Mondays.
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day sale after school
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y4 Residential to Lineham Farm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Holi Festival assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter production performance by Year 3 and Year 4.
(Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter assembly in school – possibly Easter themed competition judging. No parents.)
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> April	EASTER HOLIDAY. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-opens after Easter
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> and Thur 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Parents and Carers Consultation evenings (each family will get an appointment)
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY. School closed.
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS week for Year 6
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Reading Week. This usually includes a book character dress up day.
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Headingley Youth Music Festival and Summer Fair 12-4pm. All children performing at around 2pm.
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Multicultural Arts Week
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Eid assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Musicians end of year concert (pm)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6/5 dress rehearsal and evening performance of their production
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Reception/Y1/Y2 in the morning. Y5 & Y6 in the afternoon. (if fine)
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Y3 & Y4 in the morning. (if fine)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year parties/disco in the afternoon
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, Headingley. All welcome. 10:30am.
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> July to Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	SUMMER HOLIDAYS. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
* means added or changed since last newsletter      TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change	

Dear Parents and Carers at Shire Oak Primary,

## Parent/Carer survey results 2016

Many thanks to those of you who responded to our annual parent and carer survey this year. We were very pleased to see that we had an increase in the number of responses compared to last year (52 surveys returned in all, representing 68 children: roughly a third of all pupils at the school).



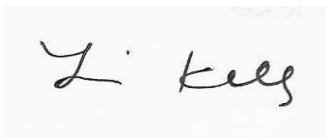
Overall the responses this year were very positive. 90% of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that their children liked school, while 98% agreed or strongly agreed that the school is good, and that it is well-led and managed. There were lots of positive comments about the school, praising its emphasis on outdoor learning, the nurture and care it provides for children, its community feel, the ways in which children feel happy and comfortable here, its strong leadership with an approachable Head Teacher and management team, and the stability of its staff.

In relation to teaching and learning at the school, 92% of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that children make good progress at the school, and 96% felt that teaching was good. Homework is usually a topic that generates varying responses, but this year 88% of responses either agreed, strongly agreed or neither agreed nor disagreed with the amount of homework set at the school. There were a couple of more critical comments about the nature and structure of homework, but overall these were fewer than in previous years. 94% of those surveyed either agreed or strongly agreed that that children's behaviour at the school is good.

The surveys did also capture some of the areas where parents and carers felt there could be room for improvement. These included the school's communication with parents about teaching and learning: informing parents about progress and knowing which areas of school work to improve. This year has seen a big change in assessment methods ('assessment without levels'), which has meant that all schools are developing new ways of reporting and monitoring children's progress, and this was reflected in these comments. Other areas for improvement mentioned in the surveys included: stretching more able children; communication and interaction with class teachers; providing more frequent play and stay sessions; and the appearance of the school and its grounds.

We really do value your feedback in these surveys, as this feeds into next year's development plan for the school. If you have any specific areas you would like to take up with Governors, you can email us at [shireoakgovernors@gmail.com](mailto:shireoakgovernors@gmail.com).

Kind regards,



Julia and the Shire Oak Governing Body

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](mailto: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.)

# **Headingley Voices\***

## **Community Choir**

### **We are looking for new members**

- Never sung in a choir before?
- Experienced singer looking for a new opportunity to sing?
- Sung in a choir in the past and would like to start again?
- Interested in starting a new activity?

**Come to our 'Taster' session  
on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 7.30-9.30pm  
at Shire Oak Primary School, Wood Lane, Headingley**

We are a friendly community choir that enjoys singing a range of music from different cultures and traditions.

No need to audition - our director, Tricia Kyte, encourages everyone to believe they can sing with confidence.

For further information:

email the choir secretary: [percysmithjanie@gmail.com](mailto:percysmithjanie@gmail.com).

Or visit the website: <http://www.headingleyvoices.com/>

\* Formerly Friends of Lawnswood Community Choir



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You are invited to  
Shire Oak Primary School's  
10<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

Date: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016  
Time: 2pm  
Venue: The School Field (if fine)

We are having a bring and share picnic with  
celebration food from around the world, party  
games and presents.