



**SHIRE OAK**  
C of E (VC) Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

I am really enjoying watching the children get back into a good rhythm with their **learning**. For many, the stamina needed for early mornings and keeping going all day has been quite a challenge and I am sure there have been some very tired children in the evenings. Thank you for persevering though – it is paying off! I have particularly enjoyed seeing what the children are producing in their art lessons. Here is some lovely printing by Eva that Ms Virgin came to show me.



Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our **Easter raffle** by buying tickets and donating prizes. We will be drawing the winners on Monday afternoon so the last chance to buy tickets, or donate prizes, is on Monday morning. Since this photo was taken we have received another 15 prizes, so there will be lots of winners! You may remember that our fundraising for a **Scrapshed** was cut short by lockdown a year ago; we are trying to reach our goal now again.

We are keeping a close eye on the easing restrictions road map. We do not intend to rush at any step, but again to plan carefully for a return to those aspects of school life that have been on hold for a year. Therefore, unless local or national data or restrictions indicate against it, we are aiming to restart some **after school clubs** when we return from the Easter break. At this stage we will focus on those that are outdoor, physical activities as children have been missing out on those. Watch out for the letter about football, rugby, girls only football and KS1 ball skills club coming out soon. (Our main sports clubs are open to girls and boys, naturally. However, we know that many girls do not see themselves as footballers or rugby players and haven't clocked up the hours of informal practice that build confidence. Therefore, from time to time, we run girls only groups to build that confidence. This then feeds back into our main groups helping to keep them inclusive for all children – expert or novice.)



Class	Well done to last week's Superstars who have been chosen by staff in their class.
YR (Thames)	<b>Jonah</b> has been friendly and kind helping a new classmate settle in well. <b>Yasser</b> is settling in well and making a good start at Shire Oak.
Y1 (Nile)	<b>Aidan</b> always concentrates carefully on his tasks – he gives 100%. <b>Effie</b> is really trying hard with her learning and especially with her super writing.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	<b>Dillon</b> makes amazing vocabulary choices in his writing and always does the right thing in class. <b>Annabel</b> reads very well and was able to discuss her book and ideas connected to it intelligently.
Y3 (Rhine)	<b>Dotty</b> is trying very hard with her writing and is especially good at using and responding to feedback. <b>Dylan</b> has a positive attitude and is getting on and improving his learning, particularly his writing.
Y4 (Ganges)	<b>Molly</b> is very focused in class and notices kindness in others as well as being kind herself. <b>Aiyush</b> contributes fantastic sentences that really sparkle.
Y5 (Tigris)	<b>Arlo</b> has worked independently to catch up on decimals maths learning after being off school. <b>Hope</b> always brings a positive approach to her work and is a good role model.
Y6 (Amazon)	<b>Anna</b> has put top effort into improving her presentation, particularly in her writing. <b>Finley</b> is striving to make his handwriting better and it is really paying off.

Well done to all these children who have achieved their next **Maths Passport** continent and are travelling on to the next one: Charlie J, Amber, Archie, Abdullah, Luke and Edwin. Jai has completed South America and is the first Y6 this year to journey on to Globetrotters!

**Citizen of the Week** was **E** for being positive and switched on about his learning and a good role model in the Y5/6 bubble which he has continued since all children have returned to school. Well done!





Year 1 have already enjoyed their **Class Birthday Party** with dancing, balloons, snacks and dressing up. All classes will be holding their birthday parties next week to celebrate all birthdays from March 2020 to Easter 2021 that couldn't be fully celebrated with friends. Thank you to the parents who have offered help with pass the parcel wrapping or cake-making. We have also been very pleased to hear that some parents would like to make a **donation** towards the parties and we will gladly accept as our budget remains tight. The office are happy to take cash donations or bank transfer to: Account: Shire Oak School Fund Sort Code: 05-00-75 Account number: 11714644 Reference: Parties. Please rest assured, however, that donations remain private and class staff are not told who has or hasn't donated money!

Our school meals provider, **Catering Leeds, are looking for staff** to join their teams, working in schools within this area. They pay the Leeds Living Wage (a minimum of £9.30 per hour) and have part time roles which are term time only on offer. If you are interested, please visit <https://jobs.leeds.gov.uk/> website and complete an application form. (N.B. It is their policy not to place staff at their children's school.)

Thank you to **Rev Angela** from St Michael's Church who came to explain what she believes about Easter and the ways the church has tried to help people this last year.

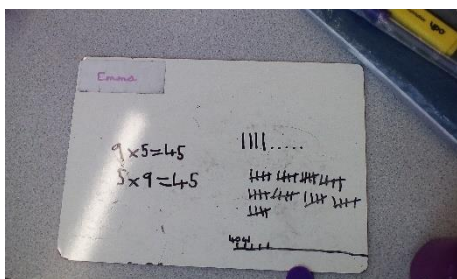


Year 1 and Year 2 asked some very good questions and wrote great recounts about the visit afterwards. All children will have time next week to reflect on the Easter story and have some quiet reflection time in the areas Mrs Hopkins has set up for us in the quadrangle. Y3 have already been exploring the story and making scenes in Forest School.



We continue to make sure we have plenty of time to **play and learn outdoors**. Year 4 were enjoying eating in the quadrangle until the repairs to our large gazebo did not prove strong enough for the wind again! We keep hoping for reliable dry weather to use our sitting mats for one class a day to eat outside.





Year 2 are looking forward to seeing Mrs Sharon Hall again next week, but have been working happily and well inside and outside the classroom for Mrs Handley and Mrs Maver in her absence.



I hope you have a good weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane [janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk) P.S. Don't forget that clocks go forward this weekend!

### DIARY DATES

Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March → *	World Autism Awareness Week sessions in school
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Sun 18 <sup>th</sup> April	GOOD FRIDAY and the EASTER HOLIDAY. Art Camps will be running Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> April <a href="https://www.artcampuk.com/">https://www.artcampuk.com/</a> Discounts for Shire Oakers!
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 3 due to start weekly swimming lessons at Kirkstall Leisure Centre
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	Y2 due to start Wednesday, Thursday & Friday swimming lessons at Armley Leisure Centre
w/c/ 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Y3 & Y4 countryside trips to Ledston TBC
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Local election day. We are a polling station but hope to host in the Children's Centre as usual, to avoid disruption to children.
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 Woodland Session (Countryside live) all day trip
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Bikeability Training for Year 6. The more they practise in advance of this date, the better!
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY
Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Lawnswood transition days
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Shire Oak transition day
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	These two days will be taken as Training Days as we have not been able to book our training in person earlier in the year. (One further training day needs to be scheduled before the end of the year.)

<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. All visits and visitors are subject to being permitted under the COVID regulations and guidelines at the time. At present it looks like we might be able to get out and about locally from the 29<sup>th</sup> March. It is possible that residential may be permitted from either the 17<sup>th</sup> May or 21<sup>st</sup> June depending on national rates, decisions by government, acquiring COVID Charters, etc. We are keeping a close eye on the updates!

**Calling all Meanwood Kids! Here's your chance to turn 2 very dull media boxes in Meanwood into great pieces of art.**

The theme of the art is **"Together we are Meanwood"**. The winning artwork will be printed onto vinyl then applied onto the boxes. Printing and vinyls kindly sponsored by Leeds Printing Company.

The competition is split into 2 age groups: Under 7's and 7-12's.

The 2 winners will see their artwork on a media box in the Meanwood area and will receive a fabulous prize hamper donated by local businesses including Waitrose, Flavour Like Fancy, Humble Coffee and The Post Office.

Email entries to [meanwoodstreetart@outlook.com](mailto:meanwoodstreetart@outlook.com)  
**Last entries to be sent before Monday 12th April 5pm**

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS**  
 Children must live in the Meanwood area. You must submit the child's name, age and postcode with your artwork.  
 The 2 winners will be announced on social media and be contacted by email.

[@meanwoodstreetart](https://www.instagram.com/meanwoodstreetart)