



Dear Parents and Carers

The weeks are racing by now and I can't believe we are nearly entering advent. It was lovely to see so many Shire Oak families at the **Headingley Lights Switch-On** this week. The lights may have been less than dazzling (the lamppost usually used for the power has been temporarily moved during the roadworks!) but our children were as sparkling as ever and it was a lovely event. (Much excitement was caused by discovering Ronnie the Rhino's secret chorister past when he turned up to join in.) There is a further chance for Christmassy community building with St Michael's this weekend as they



host their first ever Christmas Tree Festival with craft activities for families tomorrow 2-4pm. (Other Christmas events are also listed overleaf.)



I was delighted to hear that the FOSOPS **quiz, social and silent auction** on Friday was a great success. It sounds like a lot of fun was had by all and some very, very generous and useful fundraising done at the same time. They raised an incredible £3600 (with the final total that includes Gift Aid likely to be over £4000!) This will make a substantial contribution to funding outdoor

developments at Shire Oak and every penny will go to new play equipment. FOSOPS say they now have a [JustGiving page](#), so if you'd like to continue supporting this fantastic cause they would warmly welcome any further donations. A very big thank you to all who made it such a success by attending, donating, or organising and especially to Claire and Anthony who brought all their Friends of Ham expertise, equipment, food and drink and more to the event.

Well done to the Y4 squad who went to play **dodgeball** at Horsforth on Monday. They arrived to find the sports hall out of use, but valiantly played outside in the cold (and increasingly dark) instead. They won two and drew two but most importantly showed resilience and enthusiasm. We are proud of them.

Thank you to Year 6 for their assembly this morning. They shared learning from across the whole of their broad curriculum. We particularly enjoyed hearing about learning parkour, their Vikings topic and watching their musical performance of Happy by Pharrell Williams. Thanks also to the friends and family who were able to attend (and apologies for the newsletter glitch – my fault entirely!)

All of Year 4 were very engaged this week as they took part in virtual sessions about the **Ancient Romans**. It all sounded

**St Michael's
Community
Christmas Tree
Festival!**

Open Weekend - November
28th Friday 7-10pm
29th Saturday 10am-4pm
30th Sunday 11:30am-5:30pm

interesting, but the information about the gods and goddesses seems to have gone down particularly well. I look forward to seeing the topic work they now produce with this extra input.

The school hall was transformed yesterday into a calm and fragrant haven as we enjoyed special **yoga** sessions with Reception, Year One, Year Two and Year Three. The children (and adults) loved the sessions and hopefully learned some helpful skills. Year Four, Five and Six are looking forward to their sessions this afternoon.



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)	Cole has shown fantastic enthusiasm in phonics every day. Eliza has shown great progress in her handwriting.
Y1 (Nile)	Arta is always enthusiastic and really helpful. Rafe has a great attitude and is listening really well.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	Elijah has done some fantastic independent writing. Olivia is working with increasing independence and showing a great attitude to learning.
Y3 (Rhine)	Adimchinobi is trying very hard to investigate all options, check his work carefully and explain his thinking in maths. Connie is persevering in maths and using all the 5 Bs to solve tricky problems.
Y4 (Ganges)	Enys has such a positive and determined attitude towards all learning – even when it’s tricky. Marnie consistently follows instructions and is very resilient in the face of new learning.
Y5 (Tigris)	Gracie-Mae bring a positive approach to group work in class. Constance is showing confidence in maths by sharing her thoughts. Alfie is thinking about the content and design of his non-chronological report.
Y6 (Amazon)	Willis has been working hard to make his writing the best it can be. Alice H has been doing super work in the fractions unit in maths.
Citizen of the Week was Bea for being nice, following all the school rules and helping people who are sad. She was nominated by a classmate. Well done!	

I have attached November’s internet safety newsletter to this one. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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FAMILY MEDIATION WEEK
VOLLANS MEDIATION &
FRACTURED VOICES THEATRE GROUP
PRESENT

DAISY

THROUGH THE
LOOKING GLASS

MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2026
DOORS 7PM // TICKETS £15
PERFORMANCE 7.30PM
LEFT BANK LEEDS, LS6 1LJ



CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT ST MICHAEL'S

November

Tuesday 25th, **Headingley Christmas Lights Switch On.**

Church open at 5pm, Carol singing 5:15pm, Lights switch on at 6pm.
Refreshments available afterwards.

Community Christmas Tree Festival Weekend

Friday 28th, 7pm - 10pm,

Saturday 29th, 10am - 4pm,

Sunday 30th, 11:30am - 5:30pm

Sunday 30th, **Advent Carol Service** - 6:30pm

December

Monday 1st, **Cre8ive Christmas Concert** - 7:30pm

Saturday 13th, **Sankta Lucia Concert** by Leeds Guild of Singers -
3pm

Sunday 21st, **Nine Lessons and Carols Service** - 6:30pm

Wednesday 24th, **Family Christingle Service** - 4pm, **Midnight Mass** -
11:30pm

Thursday 25th, **Parish Eucharist on Christmas Day** - 10am

DIARY DATES

28 th to 30 th November	Christmas Tree Festival at St Michael's (Shire Oak have a tree this year). Craft activities for children on Saturday 2-4pm.
Mon 1 st - Wed 3 rd Decemb	Y6 residential trip to Robinwood, Todmorden. Travelling by train.
Tuesday 2 nd December *	Road Safety Christmas pantomime for YR and KS1
Monday 1 st December	Group of Y5 at dodgeball tournament after school (leaving just before end of day)
Thursday 4 th December	Y3 Sports Festival am
Thursday 4 th December *	Some of choir carol singing at Victoria Court
Friday 5 th December	Y4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 5 th December	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y3 this time please)
Mon 8 th / Tues 9 th December	d:Side sessions on Internet safety (hopefully with parent session too)
Wed 10 th December	Reception and Y1/2 Nativities dress rehearsal to rest of school, am
Thursday 11 th December	Reception Class Nativity to parents and carers at the start of the day
Thursday 11 th December	Book Club trip to Leeds Playhouse to see a Christmas Carol, pm
Friday 12 th December	KS1 Nativity to parents and carers at the start of the day
Monday 15 th December	Choir singing at Headingley Library (venue may be rearranged due to repair work)
Tuesday 16 th December	Carol Service @ St Michael's Church c. 10:30am All welcome
Tuesday 16 th December	School Christmas dinner. (If usually packed lunches, can be ordered in advance)
Wed 17 th December	Christmas disco Younger children 3:45-4:45pm. Older children 5-6pm.
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas party day, including concerts by Chestra. Lunch will be party food & can be booked. This is the day children can wear Christmas jumpers, etc. but they don't have to!
Friday 19 th December	Last day of term
22 nd December to 2 nd January CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY School closed to children.	
Monday 5 th January	School re-opens.
Thursday 8 th January	Open Morning for prospective parents
Friday 16 th January *	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 16 th January	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y4 this time please)
20 th – 22 nd January	Year 3 working with local poet, James Nash
Thursday 22 nd January	Special poetry assembly for Y3 parents, 2:30pm
Friday 23 rd January *	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 27 th January	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children
Friday 30 th January *	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2 families. Lunar New Year theme.
Monday 2 nd February	Health checks YR and Y6
Tuesday 3 rd February *	Y5 trip to York Chocolate Story
Wednesday 4 th February *	Reception Class maths meeting 2:15pm online (TBC)
Friday 6 th February *	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 9 th February	Canals and Rivers Trust water safety sessions
Tuesday 10 th February *	Fire Safety Visit to Year 5
Thursday 12 th February *	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 13 th February	Pancake Sale after school (Shrove Tuesday in half term)
16 th to 20 th February HALF TERM School closed to children. There will be an activity club running at Shire Oak.	
Wednesday 25 th February *	NSPCC workshops Y2, Y5 and Y6.
Friday 27 th February *	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2 families.
Sunday 1 st March *	Shire Oak Sunday at St Michael's Church 10am TBC
Thursday 5 th March *	World Book Day
7 th to 16 th March *	British Science Week (we extend this for the fortnight)
Wednesday 11 th March	French Day in school
Monday 16 th March *	Y6 Pizza Club starts (which day TBC)
16 th - 20 th March *	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
Wednesday 18 th March *	Virtual Reality workshops
Thursday 19 th March *	Eid ul Fitr assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome! TBC
Thursday 19 th March	Y3 Sports Festival am
Monday 23 rd March	Y6 Tag Rugby at Kirkstall pm

23 rd March onwards	*	Class visits to St Michael's to explore Easter story begin
Wednesday 25 th March	*	Parents and Carers' Evening (appointments this week or next week)
Friday 27 th March		FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y5 this time please)
Wednesday 1 st April	*	Parents and Carers' Evening.
Thursday 2 nd April		TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
3 rd to 17 th April		EASTER HOLIDAY School closed to children. There will be an activity club running at Shire Oak.
22 nd and 23 rd April	*	D:Side workshops about medicines, drugs and alcohol safety
Friday 24 th April	*	Vaisakhi Assembly 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 1 st May	*	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 4 th May	*	BANK HOLIDAY School closed to children
7 th to 8 th May	*	Year 4 Residential
Friday 8 th May	*	Y5 trip to waste recycling plant
w/c/ 11 th May	*	KS2 SATS week. As these are statutory, please avoid planned appointments, etc.
w/c 18 th May		Bikeability for Year 6
Friday 22 nd May		FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y6 this time please)
Wednesday 10 th June		TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
Friday 12 th June		FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from YR this time please)
Tuesday 16 th June		Y5 trip to Water Treatment Works
Friday 26 th June		Y3 sharing assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 1 st July		Transition day for children moving to Y7 at Lawnswood School and our in-school transition day with sessions for incoming Reception.
Friday 17 th July		FOSOPS ice cream sale after school
TERM DATES: https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates		

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



in support of
**Sue Ryder
Wheatfields
Hospice**

**9am - 4pm
Fri 5 and Sat
6 December
2025**

Christmas Trees For Sale

Sue Ryder Wheatfields Hospice, Grove Road,
Headingley, Leeds, LS6 2AE

Buy your Christmas tree from Sue Ryder this year and support the vital care that we provide.

Sizes range from 4ft - 7ft.
Prices from £35.

For more information:
Search: Wheatfields Christmas tree sale

 Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

 **Because no one
should face death
or grief alone**

Sue Ryder is a charity registered in England and Wales (1052076) and in Scotland (SC039578).
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