



Dear Parents and Carers

What a fantastic week! We have thoroughly enjoyed our special **Reading Week** here at Shire Oak. A big thank you to Mr Alun Davies for organising it, to parents for supporting the film projects, recipe writing and costume assembling and to all the children and staff in school who have worked hard to make the week a success.

Here are some of the highlights:

The poet **Andy Craven-Griffiths** impressed and inspired us on Monday with his spoken word performances. In the workshops with Years 1-4, some amazing poetry was written and performed.



Janie, our volunteer librarian, taught sessions on **good library skills** and also took a group of children on a spending spree to **Oxfam** where we added to our collection of new books. (It really is staggering the quality of the books donated to our local charity shop!) They then scanned them and added them to our system.



**Dress up day** was a great success with some very imaginative costumes and a clever use of items found at home. This year we added the option of wearing a quote or extract from a book written or pinned to a top. This worked well for children who are not keen on dressing up and for those who were reading books where it would be hard to portray a character or there are no characters.



We have been so impressed with the **recipes** that children have been writing at home and sending in so that we can make our own **Shire Oak cookbook**. We have also been bowled over with the quality of the **books into film projects** we have received. We have had trailers, stop frame animation, live action films, storyboards (both drawn and digital) as well as stills, scripts and even an original music score. We have laughed and awwwed in equal measure at the very lovely efforts that have been made. We shared some in assembly and watched the others in classes. Well done everybody and thank you to the parents for technical support and incredible patience!

Y6 have been enjoying ringing the bell at random times throughout the day to command everyone to **D.E.A.R!** (Drop everything and read.) We already read a lot at school, so even more time to get stuck into the chapter books we enjoy has been welcomed. I am impressed with the concentration and also the quality of books being read throughout KS2. On **House Team Hobby Half Day** this Wednesday the support staff in school showed off their wide range of skills with



an afternoon of book themed activities and storytelling sessions. The children enjoyed working in mixed age groups, as usual.



Another popular aspect of Reading Week at Shire Oak are the **paired reading sessions** where older children read with younger children. This helps inspire and encourage the younger children whilst helping the older children read with expression and explain their thinking.

**John Malam** was our visitor yesterday and it was interesting for the children to think about non-fiction books having authors too – even when sometimes the name isn't on the cover. John led useful sessions in Reception Class and Upper KS2 and then signed books at the end of the day. We made sure we got some copies for the library!

Thank you to Reception Class for their first **class assembly** this morning. It is always lovely to see how confidently the children enjoy sharing their learning with a very large audience. Thank you to all the friends and family who were able to join us this morning to celebrate the children's achievements. Visitors to assembly this morning also got a sneak preview of photos of the **Book Nooks** that each class has developed this week. Thinking carefully about where they like to read and what they like to read, each class has made and decorated a cosy reading area to be proud of.

All in all, a fantastic week with no space to mention the Harry Potter potions drama workshops, teacher reading swaps, extreme reading during Forest School, surprise wrapped books in the library and many, many other activities to celebrate and promote our love of reading.



On **Shire Oak Sunday** it was lovely to see a good number of Shire Oak families joining the congregation at St Michael's as children joined in with the choir, lit candles, helped staff the Fairtrade stall and took part in the service. Special thanks and congratulations go to the children who told the story of the presentation of Jesus at the temple to Anna and Simeon through acting and reading the Gospel. Thanks also to St Michael's Church who donated us a special candle for assembly as part of their Candlemas celebrations and to school staff who came along too.



I have just heard that Miss Liz Craven, our caretaker and lunchtime assistant, is planning a rather **dramatic makeover**. In solidarity with a friend who is embarking on cancer treatment she is planning to shave off her (currently very long) hair! She is being sponsored in aid of Wheatfields Hospice, our neighbours, where friends and family of Shire Oak school have been cared for in their last weeks. Please see Liz if you would like to sponsor her or go to her site: [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/elizabeth-craven](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/elizabeth-craven)

I hope you have a great half term. Please remind your children to keep reading and practising their times tables or other maths facts over the week's break so they feel confident when we come back!

Jane Astrid Devane

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

See you for pancakes, books, uniforms, etc. in the hall after school!

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 Jane Hinchliffe. 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

Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	The Mummy's Tomb experience (in school) Y6, am.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Movie Night
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	The Mummy's Tomb experience (in school) Y5, am.
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February *	Get into STEM' (science, technology, engineering & maths) visitor for Y1/2 (date change)
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb & Thur 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents Evenings (&Y5/6 children)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Bun Sale run by Year 3 (Y3 please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Holi assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Cricket assembly and sessions for Y1, Y2 and Y3
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at the start of the day.
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	Lineham Farm residential for children in Year 4
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 and 2 trip to Abbey House Museum for Houses & Homes topic
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Bun Sale run by Year 2 (Y2 please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3/4 Easter production dress rehearsal in front of the other children
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter production. All welcome!
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> April. School closed for Easter holiday.	
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	D:side working in classes
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Y1-Y6 reports to parents given out this week.
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at the start of the day.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	D:side drugs and alcohol safety sessions in classes
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	New to you/secondhand uniform sale after school
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Bun Sale run by Year 1 (Y1 please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Y3 trip to Temple Newsam
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> May school closed for the bank holiday.	
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	Y4 trip to Temple Newsam
Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> –Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs week for Year 6.
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Spruce Up Shire Oak Groundforce work day
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Bun Sale run by Reception. (YR please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Non – uniform day for items for summer fair at Headingley Youth Music Festival
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June school closed for May half term holiday	
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	Headingley Youth Music Festival (including our summer fair) 12-4pm
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Geography Mapping Week
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	New Reception Parents meeting
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Movie Night
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5/6 carrying the flags at Leeds Rhinos v St Helens match in the evening
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at the start of the day.
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition day
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Give out reports to parents this week.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Music recital by children learning instruments. TBC.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Dress rehearsal (am)& evening performance for Y5/6 End of Year Production
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Learning through Sport Week (including swimming gala, TBC)
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Y3/4 Sports Day
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 Sports Day
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Reception/Y1/Y2 Sports Day
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	New to you/secondhand uniform sale after school
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service, St Michael's Church
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term before the summer holiday.
* means added or changed since last newsletter                      TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change	