Rooted in the community – growing for the future

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC)Primary School

Letter 11
20th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers



Wow – what a great **Winter Festival of Fire!** Whilst we didn't like the forecasted rain doing its best to thwart our plans, we still had a lovely time and enjoyed toasting marshmallows, arts and crafts activities, mindfulness in the tipi, singing and sparklers. Thank you to everyone who came along, ran an activity or helped with refreshments and clearing up. (We are planning to have a big bonfire in the new year for each class to enjoy one day.)

This week is the first week of **Anti Bullying Fortnight** here at Shire Oak, to fit in with the national week. This week we have been introducing the topic and this year's theme 'Break the Silence' by using workshops from One Day Creative. (They came in to work with KS2 and we used their video-led workshops in the younger classes, with their teachers.) Next week we will be reinforcing the theme in our assemblies and class work and School Council have chosen a special gift for every child to remind them of the theme.



Well done to **Year 6** for their lovely **class assembly**. We particularly enjoyed hearing about their Northern Lights topic with Viking day and also their musical performance.

Our Christmas choir has started rehearsing this week and I am pleased to say that there are many enthusiastic singers from Year 2 upwards who have joined or are planning to join. The choir will be going out carol singing during Advent, but everyone in school is invited to a lovely singsong next week: **Headingley Lights Switch On** is not a big flashy show like the one in town, but rather a sweet community event. We gather at St Michael's Church from 5pm and at 5:15pm we all sing some carols together (children from Shire Oak and other local schools will be invited to the front to help lead the singing on some of the carols that they know). We then go outside for another bit of singing and a countdown to the lights being switched on at 6pm. (I am informed that they will be a bit more impressive than last year when the works on the road prevented them being set up as usual.) St Michael's then stays open to welcome people for drinks, mince pies and cake.



As we approach the festive season, **FOSOPS** are going to be selling raffle tickets for the Christmas disco and also for a children's raffle. They will be selling them on the playground each morning from the 30th November. In the meantime, they are collecting some more **prizes for the raffle** and would appreciate



donations of anything you think children might like, e.g. selection boxes, puzzles, etc. If you send something into school, please label it for the FOSOPS raffle.

Well done to the **Eco Team** who have received their certificates and (wooden) badges for their work last year. This year they have set up an Eco Club for children in Year 5 and are running some great sustainable activities.

I hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you at the Headingley Lights Switch On next week!

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane
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DIARY DATES

Tuesday 24th November	Headingley Lights Switch On at St Michaels gather from 5 to sing from 5:15. Lights: 6pm
Wed 25th November	Open Morning for prospective parents (although current parents may attend too)
Thursday 26th November	Book Club trip to Saltaire
Thursday 26th November	Hanukkah assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 27th November	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 3 for all families to buy from
Mon 30th Nov to 2nd Dec	Robinwood residential school trip for Year 6 children
Wed 2nd to 3rd December	D:Side sessions on Internet Safety across school
Friday 4th December	Young Climate Warriors ambassador working with Eco Team at lunchtime
Monday 7th December *	Some of choir singing at Headingley Library Christmas event
Wednesday 9th December	Nativity play dress rehearsals for KS2 to watch
Thursday 10th December	Reception Class Nativity Play am
Friday 11th December	Year 1/2 Nativity Play am
Friday 11th December	Year 4 unveiling our Advent Window for the local Advent trail
Monday 14th December *	Some of choir singing at Headingley Hall care home
Tuesday 15th December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church 10:30am TBC
Tuesday 15th December	School Christmas lunch (can be booked in advance)
Wed 16th December	School Christmas disco night YR 3:45 – 4:45 movie night in classroom; Y1/2/3 3:45 – 4:45 disco in the hall; Y4/5/6 5-6pm disco in the hall.
Thursday 17th December	Christmas party day with party lunch and Christmas music performances by Chestra
Friday 18th December	Last day of term – have a good Christmas holiday. Acorn Club closes early today.
Monday 4th January	First day of term
Thursday 7th January	Open Morning for prospective parents (although current parents may attend too) s
Friday 15th January	YR Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Wednesday 20th January	Parents and carers meeting about Y4 residential, 5pm. TBC.
Friday 22nd January	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 22nd January	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 4 for all families to buy from
Monday 25th January	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 27th January	YR and Y6 national measurement and vision checks
Friday 29th January	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 & Y2 at the start of the day. Lunar New Year theme. All welcome.
Monday 1st February	Cross Country final TBC
Tuesday 2nd February	Y5 trip to York Chocolate Story
Tuesday 2nd February	Year 6 World War II day in school
Wednesday 3rd February	Meeting about maths for YR parents and carers 1pm online TBC
Friday 5th February	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 8th February	Water Safety Assemblies by Canals and Rivers Trust
Tuesday 9th February	Shrove Tuesday pancake sale in the hall after school by FOSOPS
Thursday 11th February	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 12th February	Last day of half term – have a good half term break

Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	HALF TERM. A Camps will be running all week in school.
Monday 22nd February	First day of half term – pupils back in school
Sunday 28th February	Shire Oak Sunday, 10am at St Michael's Church. All welcome. TBC.
Tuesday 2nd March	Y5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day including dressing up
5th to 14th March	British Science Week
Mon 8th & Tues 9th March	Hands On Science Workshops as part of British Science Week
Thursday 11th March	After school local netball tournament hosted at Shire Oak TBC
Friday 12th March	Science Fair in the hall during the day
Friday 12th March	FOSOPS bun sale after school run & supplied by Year 1 for all families to buy from TBC
15th to 19th March	Easter visits to St Michaels Church TBC
Monday 15th March	Weekly pizza club for Y6 starts this week
Tuesday 16th March	Eid ul Fitr assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Wednesday 17th March	Parents and carers consultation evening (you will book slots nearer the time)
Thursday 18th March	Y6 rugby at Roundhegians 1-3pm
Friday 19th March	Comic Relief Day TBC
Monday 22nd March	Cycling Day for Year 5 (and a group of children in Year 6 who are not able to ride confidently yet). They will need a bike and helmet for this day. The trainer can provide a limited number for children, but we would need to know in advance. Our hope is to make sure everyone is confident enough to be able to take part in Bikeability sessions in and out of school in the summer term of Year 6.
Wednesday 24th March	Parents and carers consultation evening (you will book slots nearer the time)
Thursday 25th March	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 31st March	Y3/4 production dress rehearsal to the rest of school TBC (may move to week before)
Thursday 1st April	Y3/4 production to families TBC (may move to week before)
Thursday 1st April	Y5 trip to music day at Lawnswood School
Friday 2nd April	Last day of term. Have a lovely Easter holiday. Acorn Club closes early today.
Mon 5th to Fri 16th April	EASTER HOLIDAY. A Camps will be running in school and the swimming pool will be back
Monday 19th April	First day of term
Monday 19th April	Pop up pool swimming due to start TBC
Friday 23rd April	Vaisakhi assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 23rd April	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 5 for all families to buy from
6th to 7th May	Y4 residential to Bramhope Scout Campsite TBC
Friday 7th May	Y5 trip to Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility
w/c Monday 10th May	KS2 SATs week (statutory tests – please avoid appointments, etc. this week)
Friday 14th May	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Mon 17th – Fri 21st May	Bikeability for Year 6. They have the strongest chance of achieving the proficiency standard if they have practised cycling in preparation. Cycle North often run sessions in school holidays for beginners
20th/21st May	D:Side sessions in school on substances
Tuesday 25th May	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 28th May	FOSOPS bun sale after school run & supplied by Reception for all families to buy from
Friday 28th May	Last day of half term
Mon 30th May to Fri 1st June	HALF TERM A Camps will be running in school
Monday 7th June	First day of half term
7th to 11th June	Green Week with road safety activities, etc.
Wednesday 9th June	RSE information meeting for Y5 & Y6 parents/carers
Thursday 10th June	Class photo day
Friday 11th June	YR Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Wednesday 16th June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Thursday 17th June	Y4 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 18th June	Non uniform day in return for prizes for the tombola at HYMF
Wednesday 23rd June	Parents/ carers meetings for incoming Reception class morning and evening TBC
Saturday 26th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival 12-4pm. This is a festival and summer fair we host for the whole community. Everybody in school is performing so we ask families not to schedule birthday parties, etc. to clash with it. Thank you!
Thursday 1st July	Y3 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 2nd July	Orienteering Day Y5/6 Becketts Park; Y3/4 The Ridge YR/1/2 school grounds TBC

Wednesday 7th July	Transition Day with Stay and Play sessions for new Reception Class. TBC
Thursday 8th July	Music recitals 9:15am and 2pm
Monday 12th July	Y5/6 Sports Day 1:15pm TBC
Tuesday 13th July	YR/1/2 Sports Day 9:15am TBC
Tuesday 13th July	Y3/4 Sports Day 1:15pm TBC
Wednesday 14th July	Y5/6 production dress rehearsal to school
Thursday 15th July	Y5/6 productions afternoon and evening 5:30pm (ticketed) TBC
Tuesday 20th July	Leavers' Service St Michael's Church 10:30 am
Wednesday 21st July	Teachers available after school to discuss end of year reports
Thursday 22nd July	Leavers' Bowling trip and last day of the school year.
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

