

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New School Year! It has been wonderful to see the children back at school with so many of them proud of how they smart they feel in their uniform and ready to establish great habits for the year ahead. We have loved watching Reception Class settle in, make friends and even try their first school dinner today (supported by Year 6 Buddies) and we have been impressed with the efforts the older new Shire Oakers have made to join in and try their best. Welcome to our new families in Reception Class and throughout school. At our school we typically communicate with you through:

- Text messages
- Emails (including this newsletter, which comes out most Fridays and includes the most recent diary dates)
- Letters in book bags

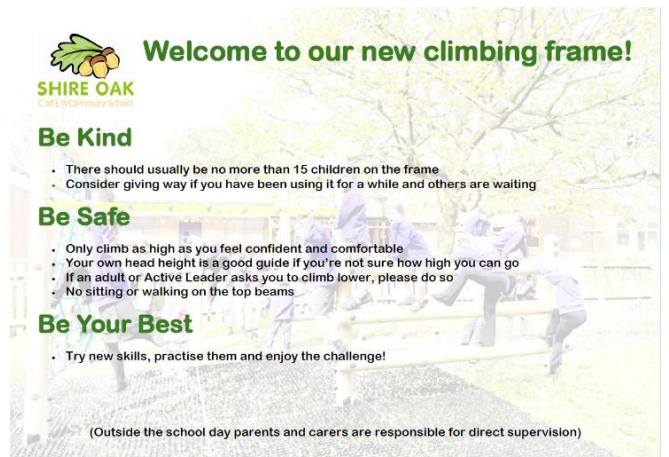
(Our oldest children may start practising being responsible for some information sharing too, so do check in with them if you haven't heard from us directly about something coming up.) If you need to pay for school dinners, contributions to trips, Acorn Club or new uniform sales then this can be done at the office by cash, or using our ParentPay app. Milk is ordered (and paid for, if no longer eligible for free milk) via the Cool Milk website.

Whilst getting into or re-establishing great new habits with things like regular reading, practising spellings, number bonds, times tables and checking book bags it can be a good time to think about routines around **screen time and online safety**. This [video](#) can help with thinking about some of those aspects.

You may have heard in the news about **Benedict's Law** coming into force this autumn. This places requirements on schools around the management of allergies and we are very happy to see clearer national guidance on this. One of the main aspects is making sure staff are trained in spotting the signs of anaphylaxis and I am pleased to say that at Shire Oak we consider it a priority to make sure the vast majority of our staff have first aid training that covers this and all staff are made aware of allergies. Whilst reviewing our procedures, we have given consideration to treats brought in from home for other children. Although we love celebrating children's birthdays we are finding it sometimes hard to manage sharing treats out (and homemade and unpackaged treats are now particularly difficult as allergens are hard to determine). We have always sent treats out at the end of the day in order to allow families to make the choice themselves about the timing and suitability of the food, but we know that even doing this can result in sweets scoffed down before parents are reached in the playground! We are, therefore, going to say that from now on we are not going to distribute birthday sweets/cake from the classroom. This leaves us free to concentrate on making sure children are included for other community treats, such as bun sales, etc. (We will permit children leaving our school to continue to bring treats as this can be an important part of saying goodbye if the rest of the class are not leaving. On those occasions we ask that parents/carers bring clearly labelled treats as early as possible so that we have time to check them and plan for their distribution.)

Well done to Jennifer Thorley who was chosen as our school's **Leeds Children's Mayor Candidate**. She had a great manifesto and we are proud of her. Although she didn't make it onto the final shortlist she has been sent a special badge by the Mayor of Leeds to say thank you for her efforts. There will be chances soon for other children in school to take part in our school democracy. Year 5 can put themselves forward to be the Vice Chairs of School Council (who learn the ropes ready to be the joint chair people in Year 6). All classes from Years 1 upwards elect two children to be their school councillors and represent them in School Council meetings.

We are pleased to see children and families gathering on site from 8:30am (when pastoral and senior staff go out on the playground) The bell goes at 8:50am to remind children to go to their circles. We also like families having the chance to socialise after school, but when Acorn Club come out to play it is helpful if you move games and conversations to the front field so they are able to keep track of the children they are supervising. We are happy for children to play on the climbing frame but they do need to be supervised by a known adult. Please reinforce these rules that the pupil Activity Leaders agreed with the children last year →



 **Welcome to our new climbing frame!**

Be Kind

- There should usually be no more than 15 children on the frame
- Consider giving way if you have been using it for a while and others are waiting

Be Safe

- Only climb as high as you feel confident and comfortable
- Your own head height is a good guide if you're not sure how high you can go
- If an adult or Active Leader asks you to climb lower, please do so
- No sitting or walking on the top beams

Be Your Best

- Try new skills, practise them and enjoy the challenge!

(Outside the school day parents and carers are responsible for direct supervision)

Although this is a short week, I know that getting back into the rhythm of school life can be demanding and know there will be some tired children (and parents!) today. I hope you have a lovely weekend and look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Jane Astrid Devane

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janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk PS We sometimes

include information from our **community** we think

may be of interest to our families with this newsletter. (See attachments and the end of this document.)

There will soon be meetings to explain how children will be learning in our Early Years (Reception Class), as they move into Key Stage One (Y1) and into Key Stage Two (Y3). In the meantime Reception parents can find out about the Reception Baseline [here](#).

DIARY DATES

Monday 7 th September	Reception Class staying full days from today
Tuesday 8 th September *	Y3 first Forest School session (in the school grounds at this point in the year)
Wednesday 9 th September*	Y4 start learning to play the djembe drums
Wednesday 9 th September*	Y3 transition to KS2 meeting 5pm in the classroom (see letter from Mr Ian Martin)
Wednesday 23 rd Sept *	Parent and Carer meetings: Reception Class early reading & writing (phonics) 5pm in the classroom Year One transition to KS1 5pm in the classroom Year Six Robinwood information 5pm in the classroom
Friday 2 nd October *	Harvest Festival, 9am in the hall. All welcome. (As well as this special assembly we ask for donations of food that can be distributed via local foodbanks.)
Tuesday 6 th October *	Y3 trip to Harlow Carr
Thursday 8 th October *	After school local rugby tournament at Weetwood Primary School TBC
Friday 9 th October *	Y5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Saturday 10 th October *	FOSOPS Woodland Walk TBC
Wednesday 14 th October *	Y5 virtual Anglo Saxons history workshop with Durham University a.m.
Thursday 15 th October *	Y2 trip to Whistlestop Valley
Friday 16 th October *	Stay and Play in Reception (YR), Y1 and Y2 at the start of the day. Families welcome.
Wednesday 21 st October *	Y4 Class Assembly in the hall, 9am. All welcome
Friday 23 rd October *	TRAINING DAY school closed to children (Last day of term – have a good half term break)
Monday 2 nd November *	First day of the half term
Thursday 5 th November *	Flu immunisations in school
Friday 6 th November *	Diwali Assembly in the hall, 9am. All welcome.
Wed 11 th November *	An Act of Remembrance will be held
Thursday 12 th November *	Individual photos day TBC (prints will be back before Christmas)
Monday 16 th November *	Anti Bullying Workshops as part of Anti Bullying Fortnight
Wed 18 th November *	Winter Festival of Fire straight after school. All welcome!
Friday 20 th November *	Year 6 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Tuesday 24 th November *	Headingley Lights Switch On at St Michaels TBC
Wed 25 th November *	Open Morning for prospective parents (although current parents may attend too) s
Friday 27 th November *	Hanukkah assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Mon 30 th Nov to 2 nd Dec *	Robinwood residential school trip for Year 6 children
Wed 2 nd to 3 rd December *	D:Side sessions on Internet Safety across school
Wednesday 9 th December *	Nativity play dress rehearsals for KS2 to watch
Thursday 10 th December *	Reception Class Nativity Play am
Friday 11 th December *	Year 1/2 Nativity Play am
Tuesday 15 th December *	Carol Service at St Michael's Church 10:30am TBC
Tuesday 15 th December *	School Christmas lunch (can be booked in advance)
Thursday 17 th December *	Christmas party day with party lunch and Christmas music performances by Chestra
Friday 18 th December *	Last day of term – have a good Christmas holiday
Monday 4 th January *	First day of term
Monday 25 th January *	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 27 th January *	YR and Y6 national measurement and vision checks
Tuesday 2 nd February *	Y5 trip to York Chocolate Story
Mon 8 th & Tues 9 th March *	Hands On Science Workshops as part of British Science Week
Thursday 11 th March *	After school local netball tournament hosted at Shire Oak TBC

Thursday 25 th March	*	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 7 th May	*	Y5 trip to Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility
w/c Monday 10 th May	*	KS2 SATs week (statutory tests – please avoid appointments, etc. this week)
Mon 17 th – Fri 21 st 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
Wednesday 16 th June	*	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
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.



Lifelong Learning Centre

UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Adult Learner AUTUMN SCHOOL

September 2026

- Thinking about your next steps?
- Never had the chance to get a degree?

Come along to this free, 3-day event to explore what it's like to study as a mature student.

Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 September
9:30am – 2:30pm on all 3 days

At the Lifelong Learning Centre, University of Leeds



MEANWOOD COMMUNITY EVENTS

MEANWOOD FESTIVAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION DAY

SATURDAY 19 SEPTEMBER • 12:00 – 17:00
MEANWOOD COMMUNITY CENTRE, STAINBECK AVENUE

MEANWOOD FESTIVAL FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER • 10:00 – 16:00
MEANWOOD VALLEY URBAN FARM, SUGAR WELL ROAD

FESTIVE LIGHT SWITCH ON

FRIDAY 13 NOVEMBER • 15:00 – 20:00
GREEN ROAD

LANTERN PARADE WITH CAROLS IN THE SQUARE

FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER • 17:30 – 20:00
FULL DETAILS WILL BE ANNOUNCED LATER IN THE YEAR

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA FOR ALL EVENT UPDATES
@MEANWOOD_EVENTS



Play Netball are starting a friendly and welcoming women's 18+ netball league at Leeds Trinity University every Wednesday evening from 7:00pm–9:00pm, starting on the 9th of September and is now welcoming new players and teams to join. The league is suitable for a range of abilities, whether you're returning to netball after a break or already playing regularly. Individuals are welcome to sign up and will be placed into a team, making it easy to get involved. Alternatively, if you have a group of 7 or more friends or colleagues, you can enter your own team and enjoy playing together throughout the season. If you have any questions or would like further information, please [email Laura Shorto](#) and you can use the sign up [link here](#).