



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Thank you to the new Reception parents who were able to join us yesterday afternoon for the **phonics, reading and writing meeting**. If you were unable to attend Hannah Black has a pack of information for you and is very happy to answer your questions. The next meeting will be about maths and will be an evening meeting – we try to vary times to enable as many people as possible to attend.

Thank you to Year 1 for their **great class sharing assembly** this morning. It was particularly lovely to see your plum tree dance, your printing, an example of how they bring their learning into the play and also to find out more about their trip. Both Year 1 and Year 2 have enjoyed their **trips to Waitrose** this week as part of their Food Glorious Food topics. Thank you to Waitrose Meanwood for their cooperation and the free smoothies that the children were able to choose.

In Monday's assembly brave candidates from Year 5 stood in front of the whole school to deliver their hustings speeches. They were asking to be elected to the position of **Vice-Chair of School Council** (and therefore subsequently the chair when they go into Year 6.) We enjoyed passionate and clear speeches from Rean, Marcus, Theo, Coco and Antony (and from what I hear Millie's would have been great too, but she was unfortunately ill.) Years 1 to 6 all voted for their preferred candidates and in a very tight race Theo emerged as the eventual winner. Well done Theo! It was, in fact, so close that we have invited the runner up to be the secretary for School Council. Well done Coco.

This year we are trying to make sure that more children feel that their ideas have made it to **School Council** for discussion, so we are meeting more frequently in **House Teams** to talk about things and then report to School Council for the final decisions. This week School Council met for the first time and the key agenda item was **playground equipment**. Thank you to all the children in school who made such great contributions to this discussion.

The School Councillors for 2015-2016 are:

Reception (to be decided later on)

Year 1 Eva and Lucas

Year 2 TJ and Erin

Year 3 Sammy and Lily

Year 4 Poppy and Jago

Year 5 Rean and Lola

Year 6 Patty and Jack

Secretary Coco (Y5)

Vice Chair Theo W (Y5)

Chair Tom H (Y6)



Well done to the girls and boys in our Year 6 rugby team who played last night in the **Y6 Rugby Rally**. I look forward to hearing more about their start to the new season.

The lunchtime training sessions for **football** have also started with Mr Marshall and it has been good to see new faces join the squad.

At Shire Oak we think it is more important to train together and let everyone have a chance to play in the matches if they are showing the right commitment to their training and their other learning in school than it is to

always field the team with the strongest chance of winning. That way we develop new talent, a love of being sporty... and actually do pretty well in tournaments too!

We know that, despite the extension and new shelter, the **bike shelter** can become a bit congested. We are continuing to look at ways to improve that, but in the meantime could you please check your child knows how to chain their bike up independently? (We have had a few instances recently of locks being threaded through other bikes and scooters, meaning people are late setting off home whilst they wait to liberate their wheels!)

Class	This week in Superstars assembly each year group sent pieces of maths work that showed a great level for the class to aim for and pieces that showed the most improvement. Well done to these children for being chosen:
YR (Thames)	Not yet coming to this assembly
Y1 (Nile)	Rafi – learning well, using the methods in other places
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	On a trip
Y3 (Rhine)	Erin and Thomas picking up new methods well.
Y4 (Ganges)	Jordan is positive and cheerful and Phoebe persevered and kept going. Naomi careful presentation and Frank has given lovely explanations.
Y5 (Tigris)	Matthew has amazing understanding of place value and Helena has improved her presentation.
Y6 (Amazon)	Jesie has picked up short multiplication. Ibrahim is listening and becoming more accurate.

We expect our children to be good citizens inside school, but also out in the community. Unfortunately a local resident has been in touch to say that some older children (in high school uniform) have been messing with the bins where she lives. What is saddening is that at least one of our children was with them. If you send **older siblings** to collect Shire Oak pupils, please make sure they know how to act responsibly. If you see our children being poor ambassadors then please let me know so I can speak to them (and their parents).

Lydia Virgin (our art and nurture leader) asked me to tell Shire Oak parents “a big thank you to everyone for their thoughtful and generous donations to the **refugee crisis collection**. They can be assured that 3 van loads of their donations are being sorted ready for distribution to relevant places. If you still have items to drop off then donations are very welcome at St James' Church, Woodside, Low Lane, Horsforth. Their number is (0113) 258 4558 and they have a website. If you would like to help with sorting items, then you would be very welcome at St James! Other drop off points can be found at Leeds University and Chapeltown and up to date information can be found on the websites of 'No Borders Leeds', 'Yorkshire Aid', 'Leeds City of Sanctuary' and PAFRAS.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS I am sorry that last week's letter was addressed to parents and carer! It was just a missing letter S. We know that our

children live in a variety of family settings and value that they are cared for by a variety of important adults for some or all of the time. Whilst certain things like signing slips has to be done by people with official parental responsibility or guardianship, all our assemblies, Stay and Play sessions, etc. are open to not only the main carers but childminders, nannies, grandparents, family friends and anyone else significant in our children's lives.

Did you know?

On photo day we start with the youngest children so there is the least chance of their uniforms and faces being mucky by the time their picture is taken! Siblings who are not at Shire Oak can also have their photo taken with our pupils – contact the office asap if you haven't already told them you want to do that.

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 Hilary Whitehead.

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 an appointment to see them via the school office.

The governors are always interested in hearing the **views of parents**. If you would like to speak to a governor, then please email the chair, Julia Kelly shireoakgovernors@gmail.com Julia is often on the playground, particularly at the start and end of the week, if you would like to talk to her.)

DIARY DATES

Monday 5 th October	*	Reception Class trip to Pizza Express
Wednesday 7 th October		Individual and sibling school photographs
Friday 9 th October	*	FOSOPS and Y6 bun sale at morning break. All buns 30p, please bring exact money
Wednesday 14 th October		House Team Hobby Half Day
Thursday 15 th October		Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome.
Thursday 15 th October		Cricket in the Classroom trip to Headingley, Y6
Friday 16 th October		Harvest Festival, 9am. All welcome. We will be collecting food donations.
Tues 20 th & Wed 21 st October		Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings
Thursday 22 nd October		Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
Thursday 22 nd October		Movie Night
Friday 23 rd October		TRAINING DAY – school closed to children. Child Protection refresher training.
26 th - 30 th October		HALF TERM BREAK. Kidzone may be running a holiday playscheme.
Saturday 31 st October		Deadline for applying for high school places (current Y6). You can book an appointment with the office staff to help with this if, for example, you can't get online
Friday 6 th November		Divali Assembly, 9am, whole school. Friends and family welcome.
Wednesday 11 th November		Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
Wednesday 11 th November		Meeting about maths for new Reception parents/carers. 6pm.
Thursday 12 th November		Geography Quiz Day
Friday 13 th November		Children in Need day. (School Council will decide what we are going to do.)
Mon 16 th - Fri 20 th November		Anti Bullying Week 2015. <i>Make a Noise About Bullying</i> is the theme this year.
Tuesday 17 th November		Open Morning. 9:15- 11:30. All current and prospective parents/carers welcome.
Tuesday 17 th November		Open Evening. 6pm. Prospective parents/carers of Reception intake 2016 welcome.
Thursday 19 th November		Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
Thursday 19 th November		'Bullied' theatre show and workshops, afternoon
Friday 20 th November		Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome.
Wednesday 25 th November	*	Festival of Fire, straight after school
Friday 27 th November		Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly, 9am, whole school. All welcome.
Wednesday 9 th December		Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas nativity productions.
9 th – 11 th December		Year 6 Residential to Robinwood, Todmorden.
Friday 11 th December		Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome.
Tuesday 15 th December		Christmas Carol Service, 10:30am. St Michael's Church. All welcome.
21 st December – 1 st January		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.
Monday 4 th January		TRAINING DAY – TBC
5 th – 8 th January		Switched On Shire Oak Week
Thursday 7 th January		Open Morning. 9:15- 11:30. All current and prospective parents/carers welcome.
Thursday 14 th January		Year 6 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
Friday 15 th January		Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome.
Wednesday 20 th January		House Team Hobby Half Day
Friday 29 th January		Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
1 st -5 th February		STEM (science, tech, engineering & maths) Club Week. TBC
Thursday 4 th February		Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome. (STEM focus)
Tuesday 9 th February		FOSOPS Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) event straight after school
Friday 12 th February		Reception Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
15 – 19 February		HALF TERM BREAK. Kidzone may run a holiday playscheme.
Friday 4 th March		Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
Friday 11 th March		Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome.
Wednesday 23 rd March		Easter Production by Years 3 and 4. All welcome.
Thursday 24 th March		TRAINING DAY – TBC
Fri 25 th & Mon 28 th March		Good Friday and Easter Monday. School closed.
30 th March – 1 st April		Year 4 Residential to Beverley Park
4 th – 15 th April		EASTER HOLIDAY. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Friday 29 th April		Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.

Monday 2 nd May	BANK HOLIDAY. School closed.
9 th to 13 th May	KS2 SATS week
Friday 13 th May	Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome.
Wednesday 18 th May	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
Wednesday 18 th May	House Team Hobby Half Day
Wednesday 25 th May	Geography Mapping Day
30 th May – 3 rd June	HALF TERM BREAK. Kidzone may run a holiday playscheme.
Friday 10 th June	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
Friday 17 th June	Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome.
Wednesday 22 nd June	TRAINING DAY –TBC Assessment and report writing.
Friday 24 th June	Reception Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
Wednesday 29 th June	Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am. Friends and family welcome.
Thursday 7 th July	Stay and Play, 8:50am in Rec/Y1 & Y2. Parents and Carers welcome.
Friday 8 th July	Eid Assembly, 9am, whole school. All welcome.
Wed 13 th & Thurs 14 th July	Year 6 production, supported by Year 5.
18 th to 22 nd July	Sport for Life Week TBC
Thursday 21 st July	End of year concert, 1:30pm. TBC
Tuesday 26 th July	Leavers' Service, 10:30am, St Michael's Church. All welcome.

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



Thanks for your great assembly Year 1!
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Cut out and keep our handy Reading Comprehension bookmark to help with reading with your child as they get older.



- Remember always: P.E.E.
- Make your point
 - Refer to evidence
 - Explain what you mean
- General
- What do you think and feel about what you have read?
 - Who is this writing intended for?
 - What is the purpose of this writing?
 - Who wrote this and when?
 - What is the form of this writing?
 - Have you read any other texts like this one?
 - Did anything puzzle you?
- Fiction and plays
- Who is the narrator?
 - Who is the most important character?
 - What do we know about the setting?
 - Why does the writer use dialogue? □
- Poetry
- What do you see in your mind when you read this?
 - What is the effect of the rhyme, rhythm and line length?
- Non-fiction
- How can we locate information quickly in this text?
 - Why does the author use diagrams?