



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new school year. It has been lovely hearing all about the children's holiday fun, seeing them eager to try hard and looking so smart in their uniforms and shiny school shoes. A particular welcome to new Reception Class parents. We have been impressed with how quickly they are settling in and how brave they (and their parents!) have been. We aim to send this newsletter out on Fridays to keep you up to date with what is happening in school and to celebrate our children's achievements. The diary dates at the end of the newsletter are kept up to date and asterixed (*) if they are added or changed so that you know what school events are coming up. (We do try to stick to the dates that we have set, but inevitably sometimes plans have to change, improve or move!)

Reception Class enjoying a story together on the carpet before bedtime yesterday →



Susan Koyuncu in the office has asked me to tell you that if your KS2 child has **school dinners** the cost for the half term is £78.20. (It is fine to pay weekly, but some of our parents prefer to budget in this way.) Remember you can now pay online or by standing order – please contact the office if you do not have the details. School dinners for Reception and KS1 remain free to parents and nearly 100% of Reception, Y1 and Y2 take them. This week we have welcomed our new head cook Mrs Catherine Taylor who had a good handover from Mrs Ellis and is quickly getting to know our children and the food they like!

Year 4 will be starting their djembe drumming lessons next week and instrument lessons with our peripatetic teachers are starting too. We can often help children who are learning by loaning them an instrument. We do also **have 6 guitars available to buy** for families who would like their child to have their own. These come with a case and cost £20. (This will be first come, first served – please contact the office for details.)



Over the holidays Miss Craven, Miss Turner and Mrs Vollans worked very hard and saved the school a great deal of money by **redecorating classrooms and corridors**. Thank you very much! The other shiny new additions to school are our **CleverTouch interactive whiteboards**. These are like giant tablets that can be used for presentations, games and many different activities. Here Year 4 are demonstrating that they have already found the 'split screen' feature so that different activities can be run at the same time.

Thank you to the parents and carers from Year 1 who came to the **KS1 transition meeting** on Wednesday evening. As children move into Key Stage One and become even more independent it is good to find out more about how they will be learning this year, how things are organised and who the adults are that work with your children. Please remember teachers are still very happy to talk to you about your child, so catch them at the end of the day or let the office know you would like to arrange an appointment if that is easier. Next week there is a drop-in parents evening for parents and carers of children moving into **KS2** as well. At the end of last year teachers and support staff from your child's previous class met with staff from the class they have moved to in order to make sure that there was a good handover of information about your child's learning, any barriers they face and any good strategies that are working already. There will be a parents' evening this term with the opportunity to make sure children are settling in well but in the meantime if you think your child's teacher needs to know something – do let them know!

As we have had a short week with a focus on children getting to know the expectations and learning in their new class we haven't had SuperStars assemblies, trips or any of the other items that usually make this newsletter longer than I plan it to be. We do, however, have a newsletter from our PTA **FOSOPS** that is attached to this newsletter. Please do give them their support as we know that children love their events and they are a wonderful support to the school.



Happy birthday to us! Our school was officially opened 10 years ago and to celebrate this milestone anniversary we are having a picnic party on the afternoon of Friday 23rd September for all our friends and family. We need help **planning a big event** like that, so if you are able to join us from 9am on Monday we would really appreciate it. We will meet in the Community Room (where the Kidzone afterschool club is) so head to their door once your children have gone in to school. Thank you!

Thank you again for your support in making sure the children make such a good start to the year.

Jane Astrid Devane
Jane Astrid Devane
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Working with Parents and Carers at Shire Oak

We know that when school and home work closely together that children are happier and make good progress. Parents' Evenings and other school events are a good chance to talk to us, but there are often other times that you may feel it is helpful to let us know something, ask us a question or have a conversation about your child's learning or wellbeing.

Do you have a question about your child's learning?

Do you want some more ideas on how to support your child's learning?

Please arrange to see the teacher, by making an appointment via the office. You can also make the appointment directly at the start or the end of the day. Quick chats can often be held at the end of that day.

Do you want to let us know something about your child's health?

If your child needs to have medicine during the school day, please bring it to the school office. If your child has an illness or medical condition it is helpful, and sometimes vital, for us to know this. Please speak to Susan Koyuncu, Jackie Vollans or Hilary Whitehead.

Do you want us to keep an eye on your child because of something that has happened or is happening outside school?

Please mention it to Hilary Whitehead, the Learning Mentor. She is in the playground every morning before school or can be phoned during the day. The office can also pass on messages for her to contact you.

Would you like to find out if there is any support your family could have with money, health, housing, benefits, attendance or emotional issues?

Again, Hilary Whitehead is a good first port of call. She can help with applications to the Opportunities Fund, referrals to the Extended Services in our area and with other ways of helping like Early Help Plans. If you are not sure whether you might be entitled to Free School Meals then Susan Koyuncu in the office is a good person to talk to.

Do you have an idea for improving the school? Do you have a query or concern that hasn't been addressed or a problem that isn't resolved? Have you noticed something really good that should be celebrated?

The headteacher, Jane Astrid Devane, is always happy to talk to parents and carers. Feel free to catch her on the playground before or after school or ask at the office to speak to her. If she isn't available right then an appointment can be made or message left to call you.

DIARY DATES

Monday 12 th September	*	Year 3 drop-in parents' evening (KS2 transition)
Monday 19 th September	*	After school clubs start this week – ask for a copy of the letter if it didn't come home
Friday 23 rd September		Shire Oak's 10 th anniversary community picnic in the afternoon
Tuesday 27 th September	*	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 29 th September	*	New Reception parents/carers meeting about phonics and reading, 6pm in the hall.
Wednesday 5 th October		School photo day (individual and siblings)
Friday 7 th October	*	Year 1 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 7 th October		Visit from Panamanian teachers
Thursday 13 th October	*	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Friday 14 th October	*	Harvest Festival, in the hall, 9am. All welcome. (We bring gifts of food to donate.)
Tues 18 th & Wed 19 th Oct	*	Parents and Carers Consultation evenings (each family will get an appointment)
Wednesday 19 th October	*	Flu immunisation Years 1, 2 and 3.
Thursday 20 th October	*	Year 4 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 24 th to Fri 28 th October	*	HALF TERM. School closed to children – Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Monday 31 st October		TRAINING DAY school closed to children. We will be working on maths with the other Headingley primary schools.
Mon 7 th to Fri 11 th November	*	Green Week – a themed week about the environment. All good ideas welcomed!
Wednesday 9 th November	*	House Team Hobby Half Day
Tuesday 15 th November		Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am. (Open Evening for prospective parents who cannot attend during the day, 6pm.)
Thursday 17 th November	*	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Friday 18 th November	*	Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 23 rd November	*	Festival of Fire after school
Thursday 24 th November		TRAINING DAY school closed to children (TBC)
Friday 25 th November	*	d:side Internet Safety sessions for KS2
Mon 28 th Nov to Fri 2 nd Dec	*	Internet Safety week in school
Thursday 1 st December	*	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 6 th December	*	Dress rehearsal for the Reception and KS1 Christmas nativity productions
Wednesday 7 th December	*	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas nativities.
Wed 7 th to Fri 9 th December	*	Robinwood Residential for all Year 6 children
Tuesday 13 th December	*	School carol service at St Michael's Church, Headingley. 10:30am.
Tuesday 13 th December	*	School Christmas lunch
Friday 16 th December	*	Christmas Jumper day
Mon 19 th Dec to Mon 2 nd Jan	*	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Tuesday 3 rd January		TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 11 th January	*	Year 6 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 12 th January		Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am.
Friday 13 th January	*	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Mon 16 th to Fri 20 th January	*	Switched on Shire Oak Week – growth mindsets and attitudes to learning
Friday 20 th January	*	Geography Quiz Day
Wednesday 25 th January	*	Shine a Light on Bullying day
Friday 27 th January	*	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 27 th January	*	Philosophy sessions with the university start now
Thursday 2 nd February	*	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Sunday 5 th February	*	Shire Oak Sunday – we join the congregation at St Michaels, 10am. All welcome.
Wednesday 8 th February	*	House Team Hobby Half Day
Friday 10 th February	*	Reception Class' first class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 13 th to Fri 17 th February	*	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Monday 27 th February	*	Pizza Maths Club starts for Year 6 after school. 3:15-4:45pm on Mondays.
Tuesday 28 th February	*	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day sale after school
Wed 1 st – Fri 3 rd March		Y4 Residential to Lineham Farm
Wednesday 8 th March	*	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.

Friday 9 th March	*	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 17 th March	*	Holi Festival assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 30 th March	*	Easter production performance by Year 3 and Year 4.
(Friday 31 st March	*	Easter assembly in school – possibly Easter themed competition judging. No parents.)
Mon 3 rd to Mon 17 th April	*	EASTER HOLIDAY. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Tuesday 18 th April	*	School re-opens after Easter
Thursday 20 th April	*	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wed 26 th and Thur 27 th April	*	Parents and Carers Consultation evenings (each family will get an appointment)
Fri 28 th April	*	Year 4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 1 st May	*	BANK HOLIDAY. School closed.
Mon 8 th to Fri 12 th May	*	KS2 SATS week for Year 6
Friday 12 th May	*	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 18 th May	*	Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 22 nd to Fri 25 th May	*	Reading Week. This usually includes a book character dress up day.
Wednesday 24 th May	*	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 29 th May to Fri 2 nd June	*	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Saturday 10 th June		Headingley Youth Music Festival and Summer Fair 12-4pm. All children performing at around 2pm.
Mon 12 th to Fri 16 th June	*	Multicultural Arts Week
Friday 16 th June	*	Year 3 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 21 st June		TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 23 rd June	*	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wednesday 28 th June	*	Reception class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 30 th June	*	Eid assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 12 th July	*	Musicians end of year concert (pm)
Thursday 13 th July	*	Y6/5 dress rehearsal and evening performance of their production
Wednesday 19 th July	*	Sports Day Reception/Y1/Y2 in the morning. Y5 & Y6 in the afternoon. (if fine)
Thursday 20 th July	*	Sports Day Y3 & Y4 in the morning. (if fine)
Monday 24 th July	*	End of year parties/disco in the afternoon
Tuesday 25 th July	*	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, Headingley. All welcome. 10:30am.
Wednesday 26 th July	*	Last day of term
Thurs 27 th July to Fri 1 st Sept	*	SUMMER HOLIDAYS. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change		

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.)

FOSOPS News



Dates for your diaries

School Meeting

Monday 12th Sept 9am community room: come along and help us organise the Shire Oak 10th Birthday Party!
All welcome

FOSOPS meeting

Friday 16th Sept 9am community room: Come and get involved with the School PTA, Friends Of Shire Oak Primary School (FOSOPS).
All welcome

Shire Oak 10th Birthday Party!

Friday 23rd Sept, afternoon
All children, parents and friends of Shire Oak are invited to come and help us celebrate our 10th birthday (there will be cake!)



Got something to share?

Many of the parents and friends of Shire Oak have hidden talents and skills that could be put to use during our fund raising and social activities, such as arts, crafts, or community projects. If you have skills or project ideas that could be shared with the school, then get in touch, we are always keen to hear your ideas and make use of your many talents!

Welcome to Shire Oak FOSOPS!

This is the first newsletter from FOSOPS, the parents and teachers association. We aim to produce a newsletter each term to keep you up to date with all of the social and fund raising activities going on in the school.

Who or what is FOSOPS?

FOSOPS is the school parents and teachers association, it stands for Friends of Shire Oak Primary School. The aim of the group is to support the school in extracurricular, social, and fund raising activities, such as: Bun Sales, Movie Night, Pancake Sales, Autumn Walk & BBQ, Headingley Music Festival, Toy Exchange, Spring Clean...

Why?

We want to help make Shire Oak an amazing school for all our children and their families. By fundraising we have helped the school purchase playground equipment, a projector system, as well as funding day trips out. Shire Oak is a real community and we love putting on social activities so that parents and children can socialise outside of the usual school routine.

Come join the fun!

All parents and carers of children at Shire Oak are warmly invited to join FOSOPS or help out at any of the activities that we put on during the year. To get involved come along to any of the meetings during the year (see box on left), email us (see below), or just come and say "Hi" at any of our activities and events.

shireoakfosops@gmail.com