



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Thank you for the great support we got on Saturday for our **Work Party day**. Children and adults worked hard together and achieved absolutely loads. The Nature Garden is looking more and more welcoming, beds were weeded and plants rescued, chalkboards were cleaned and painted, playground markings were scrubbed, litter was picked, wood was painted and barbecue food was eaten. It made a real difference to the way our grounds look and we are very grateful!



This week has been our **Reading Week** and we have all enjoyed it. Highlights have included **DEAR** (Drop Everything and Read). Pupil librarians have been appearing at classes at unexpected moments ringing a bell to get everyone to stop what they are doing and grab a book. Our Pupil Librarians work hard in the library and with younger children. This week it has been good to see lots of shared reading with partners from different classes.

We have had **special assemblies** each day on different reading themes led by different teachers, as well as a special assembly this morning where children could show off their amazing **dress up day** costumes. We have seen 4 houses full of Hogwarts pupils, pirates, young James Bonds, fairytale characters, Julia Donaldson characters, many Roald Dahl characters, Narnia characters, more than one Wally to find, adventurers, unusual characters we want to find out more



Reading Week 2015



about now and even a dictionary. Thank you for all your help in letting the children get together such interesting and fun costumes.

Thank you also for the great **Extreme Reading** photos that have been coming in to school – many of which are hilarious. There have been children reading whilst bouncing, bathing, playing sport, swinging upside down and flying on broomsticks. We have shown the photos in school and are using them for a great Reading Week display. A selection are in this newsletter. The prizewinners are Archie, Theo, Isabella, James, Ramona and Mrs Bennett who have won book tokens for even more reading.



EXTREME READING 2015



On Monday the author **Trish Cooke** came to school and spoke to all the classes in turn. She was fascinating and seemed to enjoy our children's questions and contributions as much as we enjoyed welcoming her to our school. She has hopefully inspired our children to see that their ideas and imagination are enough to get them writing.

The focus of the week is to encourage children to love reading and to enjoy books. We know that some children can be more convinced to read if a computer or tablet are involved so we have subscribed to the **Reading Eggs** website where our children can practise reading enough to be confident, fluent readers. Thank you to Ian Martin and Y3 for hosting a drop-in after school on Thursday where parents could find out how to log on and how to use the site. Do not worry if you missed the session – the children can still log on at home and explore. Ask your child's class teacher if you are struggling to login or use the site.



On Wednesday we enjoyed a (slightly reading themed) **House Team Hobby Half Day**. Activities included making book marks, using books to plan gardening tasks, crafts and a song and dance session based on Annie. Thank you to all the staff who ran sessions.

Year 3 have been working hard with **local author and poet James Nash** and produced some great work that they shared in a special assembly this week for us. Thank you to James for giving his time so generously.

As part of our Reading Week Year 4 had a visit from Karen Hirst from **Leeds Action for Blind People**. Along with giving the children the opportunity to try on spectacles which simulated various eye conditions, Karen demonstrated how people who are visually impaired use braille books to read. The children found the session both interesting and thought-provoking.

Classes have been visiting **Headingley Library** this week. Although it is not the most adventurous of trips, it is always one our children love. We hope it helps get them into good library habits for life. Book Club also had a special trip this week when they went to the **Leeds Book Awards ceremony**. They were great ambassadors for the school and were excited to see if their favourite books were the overall winners. Thank you to Janie for organising this experience for the children – you can read their book reviews on the book awards website.

Ronnie the Rhino and players from the club came to school to speak to our children about trying hard and persevering. Ronnie and the players then read with children from across school. **Thank you** so much to all the people who have put so much effort into a successful Reading Week. Thank you to Ian Martin and all the English team, all the Learning Support Assistants, and thank you also to the parents and governors who came in to **visit classes** to inspire the children to read for pleasure and for information.

For those children hungry for more stories there is an event at HEART in Headingley this half term that may be of interest:

Theatrix Children's Theatre: A Dragon's Tale

Thursday 28th May



Performances at 11am and 2pm. Workshops at 12pm and 3pm

Foolishly John Lambton throws the strange googly eyed fish back into the river. What has he done?! The fish grew and grew and grew until... Well why not find out by coming to watch Paul Batten of Theatrix Arts perform this magical story based on the legend of the Lambton Worm through puppets, changing scenery, music and sound effects. Then meet the puppets and create your very own Dragon Puppet. The performance and workshop is suitable for families and children aged 4 +

I hope you all have a great bank holiday weekend and half term holiday. We are **back on the Monday** and I look forward to seeing the children all refreshed and ready for a busy last half term.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS Thank you for returning the **parent surveys**. They will be collated and analysed over the next few weeks. We may be able to accept some last minute returns on the first Monday back if you have not managed to return it so far.

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, Janie Percy-Smith percysmithjanie@gmail.com (Janie is also in school most Tuesdays if you would like to talk to her.)

DIARY DATES

Monday 25 th –Friday 29 th May	HALF TERM
Wednesday 3 rd June	Lawnswood staff visiting our Y6 for transition.
Friday 5 th June	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 5 th June	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y6 please.
Friday 5 th June	Non uniform day to collect items for Music Festival tombola.
Monday 8 th June	Y6 Ancient Egyptians workshops.
Sunday 7 th June	Shire Oak Sunday. Our contribution to the All Age Service at St Michael's.
Thursday 11 th June	Y5 Athletics Competition, organised by Lawnswood at Becketts Park. 9:30-1:30
Friday 12 th June	'When Trolls try to eat your Goldfish' music & poetry production by Dominic Berry brought to us by Headingley Music Festival.
Saturday 13 th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival at Shire Oak
Monday 15 th June	* Y5 special visitor – Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell
Tuesday 16 th June	Y3/4 trio to Magna for Extreme Earth topic
Tuesday 16 th June	* Reception Class to Beckett's University Discovery Garden
Wednesday 17 th June	Class photos
Thursday 18 th June	Nurses visiting Year 6
Monday 22 nd June	Reception class trip to Tropical World
Monday 22 nd June	Y4 rugby tournament at Woodlesford Primary School after school
Tuesday 23 rd June	Y6 to Leeds City museum (Egyptians)
Tuesday 23 rd June	Movie Night
Wednesday 24 th June	TRAINING DAY
Friday 26 th June	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Sunday 28 th June	Headingley Open Gardens – we are on the trail! 2pm-5pm.
Tuesday 30 th June	Y1/2 trip to Filey
Friday 3 rd July	Y6 trip to the Discovery Centre (Egyptians topic)
Monday 6 th to Friday 10 th July	Community Week including the Listening Yurt and painting the shed at HEART
Monday 6 th July	KS2 Sports Days times tbc
Tues 7 th & Wed 8 th July	Leeds Listening Yurt comes to our school.
Wednesday 8 th July	KS1 Sports Day 9am approx (tbc)
Wednesday 8 th July	Transition day for students at Lawnswood and parents evening
Thursday 9 th July	Transition day for students at Lawnswood
Thursday 9 th July	Elephants Tea Party and activity day (loss & bereavement)
Friday 10 th July	Eid assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Monday 13 th July	Y5/6 production dress rehearsal
Tuesday 14 th July	Afternoon and evening production of Y5/6 show
Wednesday 15 th July	Sports Day reserve day (in case of inclement weather)
Thursday 16 th July	School disco? tbc
Thurs 16 th & Fri 17 th July	Bikeability for Year 6
Monday 20 th July	* Leavers' Service 11am St Michael's Church. All welcome.
Tuesday 21 st July	Last day of the school year – Year 6 will probably go bowling.

* means added or changed since last newsletter

