

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all the kind messages and lovely feedback we have had from you all recently. It is great to hear that you know we are trying hard to keep us all connected, all safe and all learning. The ‘thank you’ banner on the school gates was a lovely gesture too – thank you neighbours!

As we approach the end of our fourth week of home learning I want to **reassure** the perfectionists and panickers amongst you! Your child will not fall behind if they don’t complete every assignment or idea the teacher has posted. It doesn’t have to be done online or in a pristine book to be worth doing and you don’t have to photograph and scan everything to send it in. Of course it is lovely when we see the work or a child messages to say “Hello Miss, I did the work on my whiteboard” but we know this is all a juggle and you need to just do what works for you. Routine helps things not to be a battle every day and some of the most effective I have heard of have been along the lines of regular times for:

- Some **exercise*** or dancing to Fischy music
- Do the **daily register** online (Y2-Y6) so that children know they have started their school day and we know they are well
- Silent **reading** (Perhaps while you try to start your day! Reading is the most important thing they can be doing – if they are resisting, try audiobooks and read to them at bedtime, whatever their age, to keep them in the habit)
- **Maths Passport** practice (perhaps asking you to test them or using the oven timer to do it themselves - Maths Passport targets are on the website and we will try to add the quiz cards, etc. there too.)
- Try one of the **online lessons** or watch the **teacher’s video storytelling** and follow that up in their own play (some engagement with the school’s offer helps children to still feel part of their class so that returning to school will not be too worrying when it happens)

*For those of you who are not Joe Wicks fans, the website <https://www.yorkshiresport.org/get-active/thisispe/> and hashtag #thisispe are great for skills ideas that can be done at home whatever equipment and space you have. Even better, once the children have watched the video idea, they can spend a lot of time working on that skill and improving their performance.



Proof that the same task can be approached, successfully, in lots of different ways. Well done to School Club, Libby and Hugo.



Please remember we are still here to help you. The **temporary number is not just for emergencies** and is staffed during school hours. You can ring or text us on it to ask a question or request a specific member of staff to ring you back. Jane Hinchliffe is still working and you can ask for her to ring you too. The free school meal hampers will be delivered to school every Wednesday morning and we have a mini food bank box in the foyer too for people to donate and take food, as needed. In the foyer there are reading books for younger children and novels with comprehension questions for Year 2 upwards. There is spare paper and often some activities that can be taken home too.

Other sources of support

- Healthy Start - during lockdown we know that financial situations may have changed. The Healthy Start scheme may be able to help. If on certain benefits, families that include pregnant women and children under 4 can get free milk, fruit and vegetables and vitamins with Healthy Start vouchers. You can apply online at the following website <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/> . A change in the law means the form no longer needs to be signed by a health professional which should make the application process easier. Once approved you will receive the vouchers through the post which can be exchanged at supermarkets and small retailers.
- Leeds City Council – support is available for food which can be accessed by calling 0113 376 0330 and there is an additional COVID helpline number for non-food related support on 0113 378 1877.
- Counsellor Support – St Gemma's Hospice (0113 218 5544) and Wheatfield's Hospice (0113 203 3369) have joined together to support Leeds residents affected by COVID-19 during this time with trained specialist counsellors available.

Thank you for the lovely comments on last week's **Superstars Assembly**. It was good to hear the different ways parents awarded their children the Citizen of the Week trophy, including paper trophies, Death Star models, egg cups and invisible trophies. It was also good to hear that some of you had awarded your own in-house Superstars certificates! This week we are sharing a singing assembly which you can see here: <https://youtu.be/RiZUbdaiqzQ> Do join in!

Until we can all sing together again, stay safe.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk



School prayer for whilst we are apart

Loving God,

We come to you now, from our different homes, united, as one school, one voice, one peace, one hope, one love.

Thank you for all who care for others at this time. Protect, strengthen, comfort and keep safe, all in our Shire Oak school, family, community and wider world.

We name our range of ever-changing emotions and feelings, including worry, anger, frustration, disappointment, excitement, joy and delight, reassured that we are known, accepted, and loved by you, as we are.

We remember those special to us in the quietness of our hearts. . .

Help us to be positive "Salt and Light", where we are right now, making an inspiring difference, by practically caring for our family, friends and neighbours.

Lead us hopefully into life in all its fullness and bless us all, until we meet again.

Amen

(Thank you to Mrs Hopkins for this.)

↑ This special lunch was for Queen Elizabeth II's birthday recently. It is the **75th VE Day** on Friday. Perhaps your family could plan something special for the bank holiday? Could you...

- Find out what life was like for children during the war?
- Dress up in 1940s style?
- Follow a war time rations recipe?
- Bake and decorate some red, white and blue cakes?
- Make bunting with special messages on for people to see as they walk past your home?
- Make doves of peace carrying your hopes for the future?
- Make a special party hat?
- Have a picnic in your front garden or on your front step so that you can wave to your neighbours and cheer them up?