



Dear Parents and Carers

## SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

What a busy fortnight! I am not quite sure how we have managed to fit everything in and still have our normal lessons, but we have! The two weeks left until half term look no less busy either.

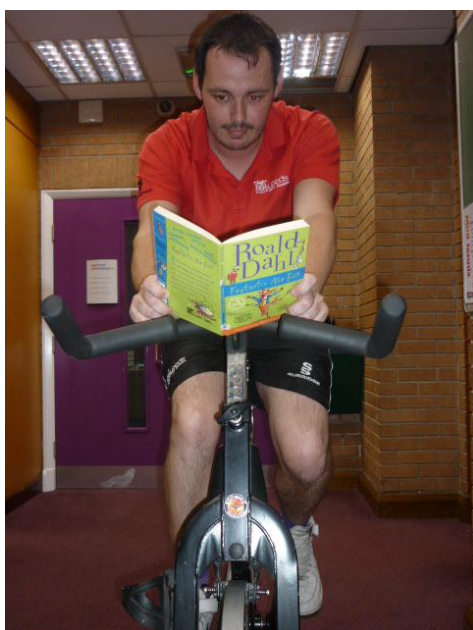
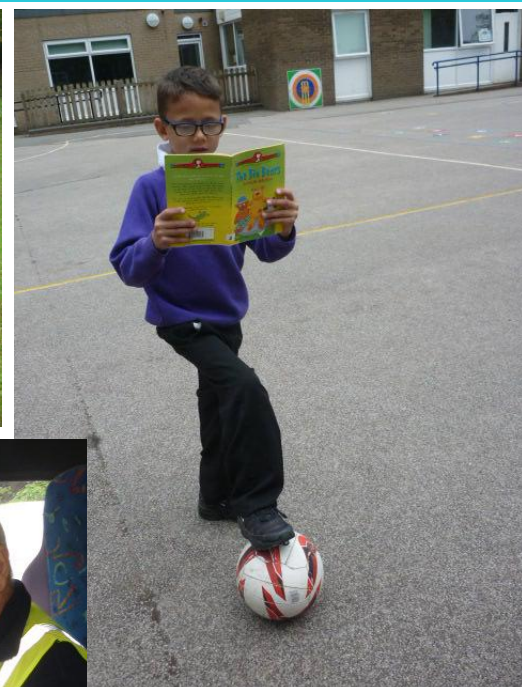
**Year 5** had a great time last week with Ella and Nicki who are getting people to think about travel to Mars. Whilst in Leeds they launched a weather balloon to take photos in near space as well as working with Tigris class to make their own model **rockets**.



This year's Shire Oak **Reading Week** will take place in the week commencing May 18<sup>th</sup>. As always we will be celebrating all the different types of reading in our lives and sharing that enthusiasm for stories, information books, comics, magazines, websites, leaflets, timetables and more.

Some of the highlights of this year's events include special visits from authors and sports stars, trips out to Headingley and Lawnswood libraries and, on the Thursday after school, the launch of a new reading website that children can explore in school, at home, in the library and anywhere where they can access the internet. We will also be enjoying lots of activities in class during the week including reading activities together with children in different year groups and writing book reviews for the school website.

Before and during the week we'd love to see photographs of the children and their friends and family reading in unusual places to put on display - we're calling it 'Extreme Reading'. You can see some examples from Year 3 with their swimming coach and bus driver here.



**EXTREME READING**

**Where will you have  
your photo taken?!**

Well done to Hannah, Amelia, Patty, Kobe, Lasharde and Vishal who represented the school in a **netball tournament** after school last week. They all played really well, showed good team spirit and came 4<sup>th</sup> after some close matches.

## Rugby Report

If you're ever unsure what weather might be heading your way in the middle of this blustery isle, just ask our school rugby league captain David. Or indeed any of the 40 children who have represented our school with pride this season so far. They'll tell you that whatever sunshine and warmth may have gone before, the day of their match will be different. Not that they'll complain. They'll play with the same determination and team spirit as they always do. Through the wind and the rain. Aye, and the storm too.



Following a spectacular debut for the girls' tag team in a friendly at Lowtown where, in particular, Aaliyah impressed all with her speed, agility and tight grip on the ball, the Year 6 mixed boys and girls contact team made the long trip to Templenewsam Halton. In a pulsating contest full of jinking runs, unexpected offloads and impressive communication in defence, the Shire Oak team and Kobe in particular gained themselves a large crowd of admirers in East Leeds. This has set them up nicely for the upcoming 7s tournaments which often play to the strengths of our team's experience on small pitches.

After an early friendly on the wide open spaces of Alwoodley's pitch/moortop, the Y5 mixed boys and girls team headed to West End in Horsforth and immediately put into practice all they had learned from that tough start to the season. Early teamwork in defence stopped West End being able to get over our try line and gave the opportunity for Matthew to take control of the middle of the park and offer possession to Kenyon to enjoy himself driving through the opposition.

Last week the Year 5 mixed boys and girls team returned to action with another entertaining performance at Gledhow. Our attack continued to be particularly impressive with the intelligent direct running of Jack, Freddie and our most improved player so far, Braydon. More than half of the squad were actually from Year 4 and it gave them a great run out before the upcoming Year 4 tournament at Woodlesford. The girls tag team will also be returning to action soon with a tournament organised by Leeds Rhinos. **You might want to get your umbrella and long johns ready for those days.**

Starting today and every term time Friday 3.30pm-4.30pm is the new Woodcraft group, **Headingley Woodchips**. Woodchips is for 0-5 year olds and runs weekly sessions which include fun educational activities, including drama, arts, crafts and outdoor activities. It is £15 for the term (subsidies are available).



Just one week until our joint effort to **spruce up the school grounds**. Please come along and help with painting, decorating, cleaning, clearing and gardening. There will be jobs for children to do (as well as a chance for them to play together). Workers will be rewarded with a barbecue. Apologies for putting the wrong time last week – it will be 10-2. Letting us know via the slip or in person will help us plan the day. Thanks.

Thank you to all the parents in **Year 2** who have taken the time to talk to us about their child's **swimming** progress. The LCC coaches assess children for both skill and confidence and have allocated them to initial groups based on this. We know that, particularly in this age group, some children can be fairly strong swimmers when with their family or familiar swimming teacher, but aren't yet able to be that confident on their own. These sessions are all about building water confidence and a love of swimming in advance of the Year 3 weekly skills progression sessions. You are used to us being ambitious for your children and pushing them always onto their next step. We know in swimming, however, that we have to tread very carefully as one bad experience can scare and put children off for life. Our aim for all our children is that they leave Shire Oak with a healthy respect for water, a confidence in their own abilities to get themselves to safety should they fall into water, and improving skills to have access to this healthy activity for life. Thank you for all your help, support (and lack of tights!) whilst the Year 2 children have started this programme.

Well done to Year 1 for your excellent scarecrow of Grace Darling that won our age category in the **FHVS scarecrow trail**. Well done also to Lucas (Y3)'s family for their winning scarecrow too.



Thank you to Reception Class for your lovely assembly this morning and to friends and family who came to watch you! I will include more next week.

I hope to see you at the Spruce Up Shire Oak day next week! Have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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[janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk)

#### DIARY DATES

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 KS2 SATs Test Week.
Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Work Party and BBQ in the school grounds, 1pm. All welcome!
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> May – Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Reading Week including:
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Y3 special assembly to show work with author James Nash, 2:30pm
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	House Team hobbies half day
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Leeds Book Awards
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Dress up as a character from a favourite book.
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> –Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	HALF TERM (Kidzone may operate a playscheme)
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	FOSOPS bun sale after school in the hall. Buns from Y6 please.
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Non uniform day to collect items for Music Festival tombola.
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Y6 Ancient Egyptians workshops.
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Shire Oak Sunday. Our contribution to the All Age Service at St Michael's.
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 Athletics Competition, organised by Lawnswood at Becketts Park. 9:30-1:30
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	'When Trolls try to eat your Goldfish' music & poetry production by Dominic Berry brought to us by Headingley Music Festival.
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Headingley Youth Music Festival at Shire Oak
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3/4 trio to Magna for Extreme Earth topic
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Class photos
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Nurses visiting Year 6
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Reception class trip to Tropical World
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Y4 rugby tournament at Woodlesford Primary School after school
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Y6 to Leeds City museum (Egyptians)
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Movie Night
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Y1/2 trip to Filey
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Y6 trip to the Discovery Centre (Egyptians topic)
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Community Week
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	KS2 Sports Days times tbc
Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Leeds Listening Yurt comes to our school.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	KS1 Sports Day 9am approx (tbc)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition day for students at Lawnswood and parents evening
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Transition day for students at Lawnswood
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Elephants Tea Party and activity day (loss & bereavement)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Eid assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 production dress rehearsal
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Afternoon and evening production of Y5/6 show
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day reserve day (in case of inclement weather)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	School disco? tbc
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup> & Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Bikeability for Year 6
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of the school year – Year 6 will probably go bowling.

\* means added or changed since last newsletter

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 [janieps@aol.com](mailto:janieps@aol.com) (Janie is also in school most Tuesdays if you would like to talk to her.)