



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us this week at our **Open Morning, Stay and Play** (Reception and KS1) or **Birthday of Guru Nanak** assembly. We appreciate your support and are pleased that so many of you enjoy the chance to come into school to find out more about how the children are learning.

**Well done to all our Year 6s** who led tours during the Open Morning and Open Evening. Every child in Year 6 took on this task and took their role seriously giving informative tours of school to prospective parents, who spoke positively about their guides.

Two of our Year 6s deserve a special mention this week: Francesca and Kaisha represented our school at a **special award ceremony** at the Civic Hall. Margaret Ellis, our former head cook who retired this summer, received a long service award that we nominated her for. All the other speeches were by adults, but in the words of Angela Kilbride from Catering Leeds who got in touch with me, *"Your children were inspirational and a credit to your school, they spoke to over 150 people and on a stage with a microphone, how brave and confident!"* Thank you Francesca and Kaisha for deputising for me so brilliantly, and to Mrs Koyuncu for taking them into Leeds.



At Shire Oak we are always trying to develop as a Learning Community. We think it is important for the children to see adults continuing to learn throughout their lives. We are, therefore, pleased to welcome Miss Katie Porter (Year 2) and Ms Beth Richards (Year 6) who are completing their **teacher training** with Schools Direct and Leeds Beckett University. They are working closely with the class staff to plan and teach lessons and work as part of the teaching team.

Not only did Year 6 visit the air quality monitoring station on Otley Road this week, but then went with Year 5 on a trip to **Bradford Media Museum** on Wednesday. A full and interesting day was had as children researched inventions for their Bright Sparks topic.

Please remember that the **ginnel down to Alma Road** passes very close to the windows of our neighbours in Lupton Flats. Contrary to the stereotypes, many of the students who live there are diligently studying at this time of year and the noise and (more specifically) the language used by people passing by have caused disturbance. Please encourage children to remember that they represent Shire Oak all the time they are in uniform and bear in mind that we adults set the tone for what they think is acceptable. I will be keeping an eye on that path, but please let me know of any issues.

Well done to **Film Club** who were great ambassadors for school yesterday on their trip to The Vue cinema to see **Alice through the Looking Glass**. The quality of their conversation and analysis about the film on the way back to school was impressive. Thank you to Kate Earl and Leah Smith for taking them.

Well done to all the Upper KS2 athletes who represented our school at **Prince Henry's Sports Hall Athletics Competition** on Monday after school. I know the staff who took them were impressed – well done everyone and thank you to Mrs Maver, Mrs Bennett and Mr Riley for giving up their time to take them.

Next week there are a number of exciting events coming up:

Monday – **Maths All Day Day**. A chance for classes to delve deeper into maths topics, set up interesting maths activities and really get to grips with tricky mathematical concepts.

Tuesday – we are invited to the **Headingley Christmas Lights Switch On** event at 5:45pm. The local community would love it if we could join them and be part of the choir singing carols. All are welcome! I will be there and hope to see many of you too (especially the carol singing choir who are meeting for the first time on Monday lunchtime – open to all in Years 2 to 6).

Wednesday – a highlight of the year for many of us, the annual **Winter Festival of Fire** will take place after school with a fire, food, crafts, outdoor activities and a singsong round the fire. Join us straight after school with family and friends to celebrate our love of outdoor learning and say hello to winter.



Thursday – **Training Day**. Not exactly an exciting school event, but important to note. We will be working on helping children to spell key words, the use of reading journals and same day interventions to help give children a boost with their learning on the day they find something tricky.

I look forward to seeing you at the festival next week. Have a great weekend!

*Jane Astrid Devane*

Jane Astrid Devane

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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](mailto: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 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Maths All Day Day
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November *	Headingley Christmas Lights Switch On 5:45pm. Shire Oak invited to be part of the choir.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Festival of Fire after school
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	TRAINING DAY school closed to children. THIS IS CONFIRMED.
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	d:side Internet Safety sessions for KS2
Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Nov to Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Internet Safety week in school
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Dress rehearsal for the Reception and KS1 Christmas nativity productions
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 5 Fire Safety Talk
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas nativities.
Wed 7 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Robinwood Residential for all Year 6 children
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol singing at Grove Court
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol singing at Victoria Court
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol singing at Wheatfields
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	School carol service at St Michael's Church, Headingley. 10:30am.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas lunch
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol singing at Wheatfields
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper day
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec to Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	TRAINING DAY school closed to children

Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January *	Wordsworth in Leeds exhibition launch event, Year 5, 1-2.30pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Switched on Shire Oak Week – growth mindsets and attitudes to learning
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Geography Quiz Day
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Shine a Light on Bullying day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Philosophy sessions with the university start now
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Tim Peake inspired science session in Y5
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Shire Oak Sunday – we join the congregation at St Michaels, 10am. All welcome.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	House Team Hobby Half Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception Class' first class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Pizza Maths Club starts for Year 6 after school. 3:15-4:45pm on Mondays.
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day sale after school
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y4 Residential to Lineham Farm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Holi Festival assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter production performance by Year 3 and Year 4.
(Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter assembly in school – possibly Easter themed competition judging. No parents.)
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> April	EASTER HOLIDAY. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-opens after Easter
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> and Thur 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Parents and Carers Consultation evenings (each family will get an appointment)
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY. School closed.
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS week for Year 6
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Reading Week. This usually includes a book character dress up day.
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Headingley Youth Music Festival and Summer Fair 12-4pm. All children performing at around 2pm.
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Multicultural Arts Week
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Eid assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Musicians end of year concert (pm)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6/5 dress rehearsal and evening performance of their production
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Reception/Y1/Y2 in the morning. Y5 & Y6 in the afternoon. (if fine)
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Y3 & Y4 in the morning. (if fine)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year parties/disco in the afternoon
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, Headingley. All welcome. 10:30am.
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> July to Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> 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