



Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to Headingley LitFest for supporting our work with James Nash, local poet, again this year. On Thursday afternoon school and family members were treated to a special assembly to listen to extracts from the amazing animal poems that Y3 had been writing during James' visits to school recently. Thanks also to Ian Martin for arranging this project each year and to our families for supporting the children's efforts.



I am sad to tell you that **Heather Flanagan**, who teaches in Year 5 in the second part of the week, will be leaving at the end of December. She has taught at Shire Oak the whole time it has been open, and before the merger with St Michael's she taught at Headingley Primary School too. We are, however, pleased that she will have the chance to enjoy a different pace of life and follow other opportunities that are so well deserved after such good service to the children of Headingley. (We even hope that, after a break, she might consider doing some supply work with us!) I am pleased to say that we have successfully recruited a good teacher to work with Sara Mitchell to continue teaching the Y5 children for the rest of the year. Her name is **Katy Harris** and she has taught in a school in our Family of Schools, Bradford Schools and Afghanistan. Recently she has been combining teaching with photography and I am pleased that she was keen to join us. She has already been working and planning with the Y5/6 teachers on our writing training day and has other opportunities planned in to come in to school and get to know the children and her colleagues. I am sure you will join me in wishing Heather the very best for the next chapter and welcoming Katy to Shire Oak.

Well done to our **football team** who played on Monday in possibly the darkest fixture ever... if I tried to include the photos they would just print as black rectangles! They will now have a winter break and resume their matches in the new year, having played the most autumn matches for a number of years.

School has been busy marking the time of **Advent** in school, learning songs and lines for the nativity plays, lighting our advent candles, decorating, learning carols and making other surprises. The children are still busy learning and teachers are busily assessing the progress children have made this term, ready to report to you early in the new year so please don't think it is all fun and games at this time of year; serious learning takes place all the way to the end of the year – albeit wrapped sometimes in tinsel. Year 6 would certainly agree that good attendance is important at this time of year – they are currently on the Y6 residential at Robinwood in Todmorden. Although the weather has been damp, they have persevered and reports are that they have been trying very hard and exceeding their own expectations for what they can achieve. I look forward to their assembly and written work about the trip on their return.



Class	Well done to this week's Superstars who have been chosen by the staff in their class for setting a high standard in maths or being the most improved mathematician in their year group.
YR (Thames)	Eloise does great maths in the areas and is beginning to write down sums. Arthur shows great independent learning maths in class.
Y1 (Nile)	Noah worked hard to solve missing number problems, using the equipment well. Heath shows excellent understanding of, and a real enthusiasm for, subtraction! He also loves to challenge himself.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	Nina is not only completing the tasks set, but also moving on to complete the challenges too! (Her presentation is also superb.) Dylan is working well with Mrs Woodley and transferring his learning to his maths lessons and making good progress.

Y3 (Rhine)	Edie B used her knowledge of place value and addition facts to 20 to solve addition problems with 2 and 3 digit numbers using column addition (and presented it neatly). Hope has listened well, looked at models and images and had a go independently at bridging multiples of 10 when subtracting on a number line.
Y4 (Ganges)	Rafi presents his maths work very well, which helps his calculations. Sophie is applying her maths knowledge well in assessment tasks.
Y5 (Tigris)	Felicity always works very carefully in maths, producing work of a high standard and accuracy. Hannah always works hard in maths lessons and is making good progress with her Maths Passport.
Y6 (Amazon)	Were away at Robinwood.
Citizen of the Week was Edie B . She was nominated by other children for always trying hard to do her best and always following the school rules. She is a great role model for other children. Well done!	

I hope you have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Nativity performances next week.

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS Please remember that the **Lawnswood drawing competition** sheets need to be returned to me by Wednesday.

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 Jane Hinchliffe.

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, if you would like to talk to her.)

DIARY DATES

w/c 10 th December	Book Club trip to the theatre
Monday 10 th December	Bun Sale with donations by Year 5 but available for all to buy
Tuesday 11 th December *	Carol Singing Arndale Centre TBC (Date may change)
Tuesday 11 th December	Book Club trip in the afternoon
Friday 14 th December	Nativity Plays by Reception and KS1 morning (c. 9:30) and afternoon (c. 1:30) (FOSOPS will be serving refreshments)
Monday 17 th December	Carol singing at Wheatfield's Hospice
Tuesday 18 th December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church. 10:30, all welcome.
Tuesday 18 th December	School Christmas lunch
Wednesday 19 th December *	Carol Singing at Grove Court, 10:30am
Thursday 20 th December *	Carol singing at Victoria Court, 1:30pm
Friday 21 st December	Christmas parties and a special Christmas visitor. Children may wear a Christmas jumper, Christmas colours or anything they consider festive. We will take a collection for Save the Children.
Mon 24 th Dec to Fri 4 th Jan 19	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. Children do not attend school.
Thursday 10 th January	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15-11:15am.
Friday 11 th January	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 17 th January	Maths Focus Day including Puzzles afternoon for Y6 by Lawnswood staff
Friday 18 th January	Stay and Play for Reception, Y1 & Y2 families. All welcome at the start of the day
Monday 21 st January	Year 4's turn to make/bring buns for the bun sale
Friday 25 th January	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Sunday 3 rd February	Shire Oak Sunday at St Michael's Church 10am. (We will join their all age service)
Wednesday 6 th February	Reception Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 6 th February	Movie Night 5-7pm TBC
Thursday 7 th February	Training Day – school closed to children TBC
Monday 11 th to 15 th February	Reading Week – including our Book Day dressing up day and House Team Hobby Half Day

Mon 18 th to Fri 22 nd February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY. Children do not attend school. Kidzone plan a playscheme.
Tuesday 26 th February	Bun Sale with donations by Year 3 but available for all to buy
w/c Monday 25 th February	STEM Week including Geography Focus Day 27 th & Escape Rooms on the 28 th
Wed 6 th to Friday 8 th March	Lineham Farm residential for Y4
Thursday 7 th March	Geography Focus Day
Thursday 14 th March	Stay and Play for Reception, Y1 & Y2 families. All welcome at the start of the day
Friday 15 th March	Y5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 25 th March	Bun Sale with donations by Year 2 but available for all to buy
Thursday 28 th March	Y4 visit to Piano Concert at town hall
Sat 30 th March -Sun 14 th April	EASTER HOLIDAY. Children do not attend school. Kidzone may offer a week.
Thursday 18 th April	Easter Production by Y3/4. All welcome!
Fri 19 th /Mon 22 nd April	School closed for Good Friday and Easter Monday
Friday 26 th April	Stay and Play for Reception, Y1 & Y2 families. All welcome at the start of the day
Monday 29 th April	Bun Sale with donations by Year 1 but available for all to buy
Thursday 2 nd May	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 6 th May	BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY. Children do not attend school.
Friday 10 th May	Y4 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 13 th to Fri 17 th May	KS2 SATS Week for Year 6
Tuesday 21 st May	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 23 rd May	* Countryside Live trip to Ledston, Year 6s
Friday 24 th May	Non uniform day (bring in items for Headingley Youth Music Festival tombola stall)
Mon 27 th to Fri 31 st May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY. Children do not attend school. Kidzone run a playscheme.
Thursday 6 th June	Reception Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Saturday 8 th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival (includes our summer fair) All welcome! TBC
Tuesday 11 th June	New Reception Parents meetings (am and evening)
Tuesday 11 th June	Reception Class visit to Leeds Beckett Discovery Garden (TBC)
Wednesday 12 th June	SRE (Relationships Education) parents' evening for Y5/6
Friday 14 th June	Eid Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 18 th June	Stay and Play for Reception, Y1 & Y2 families. All welcome at the start of the day
Tuesday 18 th June	Movie Night 5-7pm TBC
Wednesday 19 th June	Training Day – school closed to children
Monday 24 th June	Bun Sale with donations by Reception Class but available for all to buy
w/c 24 th June	Multicultural Arts and Faith Week TBC
Wednesday 3 rd July	Transition Day (visiting new classes)
Thursday 4 th July	Y3 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 10 th July	Music Recital (TBC) for children who learn an instrument or singing
Thursday 11 th July	Y5/6 production (dress rehearsal in the morning) performance in the evening
Monday 15 th July	Y3/4 Sports Day (subject to weather) in the morning
Tuesday 16 th July	Y5/6 Sports Day (subject to weather) in the morning
Wednesday 17 th July	R/1/2 Sports Day (subject to weather) in the morning
Wed 17 th to Fri 19 th July	Y6 Bikeability (be practising ready for this!) TBC
Monday 22 nd July	End of year celebrations (
Tuesday 23 rd July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church 10:30am
Wednesday 24 th July	Last day of term before the summer holiday.
https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar term dates	
* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change	