

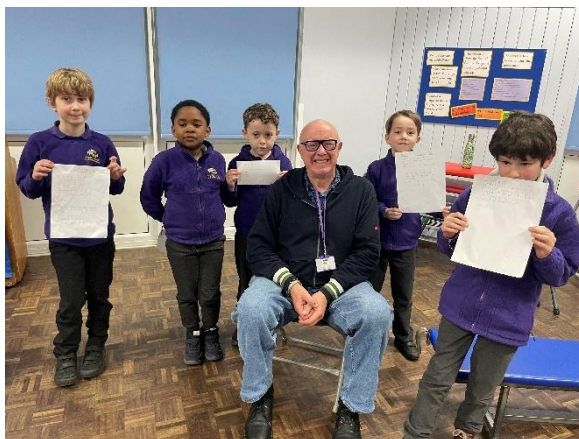


SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

Letter 18
23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

What a great week in school with many of our children really trying hard with their learning and making good progress. It has been particularly lovely to see some of our children sharing their successes this week. Yesterday we enjoyed Year 3's very atmospheric poetry on the subject of volcanoes. They had been working with local poet **James Nash** who said that their style of writing (including personification, similes and metaphors) was of a standard he would associate with much older, secondary school children. Thank you to the families who came to support them.



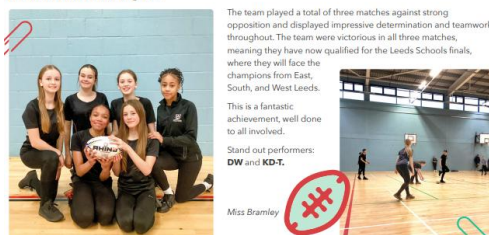
Thank you also to everyone who came to the **Reception Class assembly** this morning. I was very sorry indeed to miss this, but have heard lovely reports of their Little Red Hen talk for writing and artist-inspired artwork and about just how beautifully confident and loud they were. Well done Reception!

The children might have told you that we are encouraging our classes and our Eco Team to take part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026 and, despite the fog and gloom this week, have already logged quite a few species. We know that many of our children are also keen to take part in the national [RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch 2026](#) which runs from today until Sunday. You choose one hour to observe the birds that come to rest in your garden (or the park, The Ridge or anywhere that you can stay for the hour) and then log them online. It's simple and fun and really helps to build a picture of the wildlife in our country and what help might be needed to sustain them.



INDOOR TOUCH RUGBY TOURNAMENT

On Wednesday last week we hosted the Year 8 Girls Indoor Touch Rugby Tournament for the North Leeds region.



The team played a total of three matches against strong opposition and displayed impressive determination and teamwork throughout. The team were victorious in all three matches, meaning they have now qualified for the Leeds Schools finals, where they will face the champions from East, South, and West Leeds. This is a fantastic achievement, well done to all involved. Stand out performers: DW and KD-T. Miss Bramley

We always love hearing about the things our pupils go on to do after leaving Shire Oak. I was very pleased to see in the Carr Manor newsletter that half of the successful Y8 girls' tag rugby team started playing here with us. We know that girls especially can disengage from physical activity as they enter adolescence so having a good grounding (and friends who enjoy the same sports and physical pass times) is a good way to help prevent this happening.

We are pleased to hear that a good number of families have already booked onto the holiday playscheme here in the February half term. You can still book on the [ACamps booking site](#). However, if you need to pay with tax-free childcare vouchers then please fill in this [Google Form](#) instead to book a space, and then contact our office to arrange payment. Thank you.



I hope you have a good weekend. Next week there is a **training day on Tuesday** and the teachers will be receiving training on using **philosophy** in their teaching toolkit and other members of staff will be doing **paediatric first aid** training.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

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DIARY DATES

Monday 26 th January	Y3 parent visitor – volcanologist.
Tuesday 27 th January	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children
Friday 30 th January	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2 families. Lunar New Year theme.

Monday 2 nd February	Health checks YR and Y6
Monday 2 nd February	Bright Bites dental visitor to Year 4
Tuesday 3 rd February	Reception Class pizza-making trip (TBC)
Tuesday 3 rd February *	Audiology team to conduct hearing checks with Y1 children
Tuesday 3 rd February	Y5 trip to York Chocolate Story
Wednesday 4 th February	Reception Class maths meeting 1pm online (please note the change from the original time)
Friday 6 th February	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 9 th February	Canals and Rivers Trust water safety sessions
Tuesday 10 th February	Fire Safety Visit to Year 5
Tuesday 10 th February *	Football match playing 'at home' at Lawnswood v Adel after school.
Thursday 12 th February	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 13 th February	Pancake Sale after school (Shrove Tuesday in half term)
16 th to 20 th February HALF TERM School closed to children. A Camps will run a holiday playscheme here at Shire Oak.	
Wednesday 25 th February	NSPCC workshops Y2, Y5 and Y6.
Thursday 26 th February	Football team playing Ireland Wood at 'home' (Lawnswood pitch) after school
Friday 27 th February	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2 families.
Sunday 1 st March	Shire Oak Sunday at St Michael's Church 10am TBC
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
7 th to 16 th March	British Science Week (we extend this for the fortnight)
Wednesday 11 th March	French Day in school
Monday 16 th March	Y6 Pizza Club starts (which day TBC)
16 th - 20 th March	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
Wednesday 18 th March	Virtual Reality workshops
Thursday 19 th March	Eid ul Fitr assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome! TBC
Thursday 19 th March	Y3 Sports Festival am
Monday 23 rd March	Y6 Tag Rugby at Kirkstall pm
23 rd March onwards	Class visits to St Michael's to explore Easter story begin
Wednesday 25 th March	Parents and Carers' Evening (appointments this week or next week)
Friday 27 th March	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y5 this time please)
Wednesday 1 st April	Parents and Carers' Evening.
Thursday 2 nd April	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
3 rd to 17 th April EASTER HOLIDAY School closed to children. A Camps will run holiday playscheme here at Shire Oak.	
22 nd and 23 rd April	D:Side workshops about medicines, drugs and alcohol safety
Friday 24 th April	Vaisakhi Assembly 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 1 st May	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 4 th May	BANK HOLIDAY School closed to children
7 th to 8 th May	Year 4 Residential
Friday 8 th May	Y5 trip to waste recycling plant
w/c/ 11 th May	KS2 SATS week. As these are statutory, please avoid planned appointments, etc.
w/c 18 th May	Bikeability for Year 6
Wednesday 20 th May	Multicultural picnic after school TBC
Friday 22 nd May	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y6 this time please)
Wednesday 10 th June	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
Friday 12 th June	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from YR this time please)
Tuesday 16 th June	Y5 trip to Water Treatment Works
Friday 26 th June	Y3 sharing assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 1 st July	Transition day for children moving to Y7 at Lawnswood School and our in-school transition day with sessions for incoming Reception.
Friday 17 th July	FOSOPS ice cream sale after school
DATES: https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates	

* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is to be confirmed and may have to change.