

Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see so many of you this week at this term's **Parent and Carers Consultation** evening. It is always good to hear from home how things are going and how we can work together to make you child feel safe, secure and ready to learn. Sorry that there were some delays – this is always hard to manage as teachers want to make sure they give time to listen and not make people feel rushed (despite being aware of the queue at the door.) If for whatever reason you have not been able to schedule an appointment this week, then please speak to your child's teacher(s) or the office to arrange a mutually convenient time. Please remember that for **Year 5 and Year 6 we asked the children** to attend this time so that they can give their views, understand what they are working on and come up with plans together. These seemed to go very well but it is a new approach for us so I would welcome any feedback!

Thank you to **Year 4** for an informative and interactive assembly yesterday. They certainly seem to be enjoying their science topic and learning a lot across the whole curriculum. Thank you also to the family and friends who were able to join us to share in their achievements.



If you are doing any clearing out this half term and have any **wood** we can have for our **bonfire** we would very much appreciate it! Please bear us in mind if you know of any other good sources of wood or can help us with collecting any offered on Gumtree or Freecycle. Thank you!

It is rather timely that after bonfire night we are going to spend a week in school learning about the **environment**, and in particular **air quality** in our **Green Week**. During the week we have lots of great activities planned, including a day of road safety training. (This will include Scooter Safety for some year groups and the chance for our oldest children to use a speed camera in the local area.) As part of this project we are having a **NO CAR ZONE DAY** on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. We are asking families not to park on Alma Road or Wood Lane at all and if they have to come by car that they park and stride. We are working with the local community to try and identify any reasonable parking spots that can be used in the area just beyond school and will let you know of any offers. As a longer term strategy we are interested in finding out if parents would like us to help facilitate a **walking bus**. Walking buses are run by parent volunteers on a rota (with support from school) and help families commit to walking most of the way to school as we know that builds good habits, helps children to stay fit and active and is a great start to the day for them. Please let me know by email, text, twitter or in person if you are interested in us exploring this further.

I cannot quite believe how quickly this half term has gone and that we are already breaking up for the half term holiday. For parents not familiar with the pattern of the school year in Leeds/UK, we follow the local authority calendar:

- 3 terms (Autumn Term, Spring Term and Summer Term) which have holidays in between them (typically 2 weeks at Christmas, 2 weeks near Easter and 5-6 weeks in the summer.
- Each term is then split in two, with a week's break. (These are called half terms.)
- Finally, the government say that school should shut for a further 5 days (normally called Training Days or INSET Days... sometimes called Baker Days after the Minister for Education who introduced them!) These days can be spread through the year and we use them for training and working together on continuing professional development. We try to spread them evenly across the days of the week, if we can, so that they don't disproportionately hit part-time working parents.

Class	Well done to this week's Superstars who have been chosen by the staff in their class.
YR (Thames)	Will start SuperStar certificates soon
Y1 (Nile)	<b>Lawrence</b> tries hard in maths, answering questions and explaining his thinking. <b>Arlo</b> always listens carefully and puts his hand up to answer questions.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	<b>Lucas</b> embraces challenge! <b>Dilraaj</b> never gives up, even when he finds something tricky.
Y3 (Rhine)	<b>Georgia</b> and <b>Nathaniel</b> challenge themselves to use more ambitious vocabulary in their writing.
Y4 (Ganges)	<b>Samuel</b> brings a 'can do' approach to his work in class. <b>Lily</b> regularly makes positive contributions in class.
Y5 (Tigris)	<b>Phoebe</b> is always considerate and respectful in class. <b>Fred</b> is always cheerful and polite around school.
Y6 (Amazon)	<b>Matthew</b> demonstrates a mature and independent attitude in his learning. <b>Taal</b> always tries his best – and then tries again if not successful first time.
<b>Citizen of the Week</b> was <b>Erin in Y4</b> who was nominated by Ruby for being a sweet, kind friend and for always trying her best and being a great role model Year 2 as well as being a good role model playing with the Reception children kindly and respectfully. Well done!	

- **Our next training day is on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October** when we will be working with the other Headingley primary schools and the White Rose Maths Hub on maths. School will reopen on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November.

Have a great weekend and a restful half term break.

*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.)

## New FOSOPS email group

[fosops@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:fosops@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk) Please email us to

be included in the mailing list and so that we can send you an invitation to the new Facebook group.

## DIARY DATES

Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> October	HALF TERM. School closed to children – Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	TRAINING DAY school closed to children. We will be working on maths with the other Headingley primary schools.
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Bonfire at school. 3-5pm with hot food, glow sticks, etc. A lovely small scale
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Green Week – a themed week about the environment. All good ideas welcomed!
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	House Team Hobby Half Day
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am. (Open Evening for prospective parents who cannot attend during the day, 6pm.)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> November *	Y5/6 trip to the Media Museum in Bradford
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics competition at Prince Henry's school in Otley. 4.45-6pm. Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov 4.45-6.00pm
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Festival of Fire after school
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	TRAINING DAY school closed to children (TBC)
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
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
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
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.
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.
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

