



Dear Parents and Carers

**Welcome back** to a new school year. I hope you all had lovely summer holidays. The children have come back excited and eager to be in their new classes learning with their new teachers and the staff that help them. A particularly warm welcome to the parents and carers of our brand new Reception class. We are so proud of the way they have settled in and how happy they are learning how we do things at school. The Year 6 buddies are doing a great job looking after them in the dinner hall, managing their dinner trays and then making sure they find their way back to their outside area. Reception have now started to join Year 1 and Year 2 for afternoon playtime and are enjoying it, so we will soon introduce them to morning play with the whole school and then lunchtime in the playground (with their buddies to look after them, of course!) Children in Years 1 to 6 had such a **good first week** of happy, peaceful lunchtimes that Miss Turner and her team said thank you by giving them an extra long playtime to enjoy.



The take up of **school dinners** has gone up since the introduction of universal free school meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and children say they like the choices on offer. At our school our menu always has a cooked meat or fish dish or a cooked vegetarian dish. We know that whilst children are happier trying new foods when they see their friends eating it, there are days when they are a bit picky so we always also have jacket potatoes and sandwiches/rolls on offer. There is a salad bar that the children choose from as well as vegetables to go with the meals. Margaret Ellis, our cook, cannot bear to see children unhappy with their food so will always find something they like. At our school we do not have cooked puddings every day, but generally once a week on roast dinner day, or for other treat meals (e.g. theme days). There is always fruit and yoghurt on offer. Our menus are based on the ones in the link below, although Margaret tweaks them to reflect what our children like (e.g. plainer sandwiches!) and may sometimes have to make swaps to make the best use of the food that has been delivered. The menus are always on display near the school office for parents to look at and Susan Koyuncu in the school office can help with any queries about lunches. <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/c/Release%20Documents/4%20choice%20menu.pdf>

You may have seen in the news that there have been some changes to the boundaries and organisations of the Church of England **dioceses** in our area. This will make very little practical difference to us, but the new Bishop has written to everyone to introduce himself and the letter will be sent home with this one.

By now you should have received the **curriculum newsletters** from each class. Years 1-6 will also have given out the **homework leaflet**. In response to responses in the parents' survey we have tried to make the expectations clearer and this will hopefully help with explaining to children that reading, practising maths passport targets and learning spellings are the most important pieces of homework to do on a regular basis. There is still a longer term project that gives children a chance to pursue their own interests and develop the stamina to stick at something over time. For anyone looking for extra activities to do at home there are suggestions for these too. Mathletics and Spellodrome websites are good ways for children to practise their key skills. If your child (Y1-Y6) doesn't have a login card, please ask the class teacher.



On the subject of ICT, classes have been trying out the new class set of **lightweight laptops** that transform into **tablets**. We are very happy with them so far and are looking forward to using them in our learning.

**FOSOPS** (Friends of Shire Oak Primary School) our PTA, are holding their first meeting of the year on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The meeting will be in Kidzone (the afterschool club room that has a door behind the shed in the Quiet Zone of the playground.) These meetings are informal and little brothers and sisters can play whilst parents chat and plan social and fundraising activities for the year. Please do come if you can. New Reception parents are very, very welcome!

Another issue that arose from the parents' survey was a wish to improve the **bike shelter**. We had hoped to do the work over the summer but the paving and roofing is due to start soon so that the work is complete by the time children come back from the October half term break. We hope this will make the area more weatherproof to encourage children to stay in healthy habits as the seasons change.

As the children settle into the new school year, do **come and see us** if there is anything we ought to be aware of or if you have questions or concerns – we want to help. Have a good weekend!

Jane Astrid Devane

*Jane Astrid Devane*

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

**Did you know?** This **newsletter** comes out weekly, on Fridays. The aim of the newsletter is to keep you up to date with the life of the school – everyday learning, practicalities and special events. Families can opt to have it sent by email, although it is best to do this only if you regularly check and read your emails! If your copy goes astray we do publish them all on the website [www.shireoak.org](http://www.shireoak.org) The newsletter also contains diary dates so that the most up to date version is always to hand. We try not to change dates, but let you know if we have to.

Hannah Black has been working hard to launch our **new website** so we would appreciate visitors. It would also help us if you could tell us what information you would like on the website so that we can try to include it.

PS **Hilary Whitehead, our Learning Mentor**, is out on the playground each day from 8:30am so that you can chat to her about any concerns or messages to teachers. Please note that before that time the playground is not supervised, so children are still under the responsibility of their parents or carers. Thanks.

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 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 Mondays if you would like to talk to her.)

## DIARY DATES

Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Please join your child in class at the start of the day.
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	FOSOPS meeting (Friends of Shire Oak/ PTA) at 9am in Kidzone. All welcome for a very informal planning and ideas meeting. It is fine to bring younger children with you and there are some toys for them to play with.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan Coffee afternoon in the school hall with cakes after school too.
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Geography Skills Day. If parents have contacts or skills regarding Geography, please get in touch!
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Please join your child in class towards the end of the day, 2.40pm
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Training day for staff. School closed to children. Staff will be working with teachers from the 4 Headingley primary schools on engaging learners.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> October	House Team Hobbies half day, pm
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual and sibling photos. Please contact the office if there are siblings at Pre School you wish to have photographed together.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival, 9am. All welcome. We collect non-perishable food for PAFRAS and Food Bank via St Michael's Church
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	FOSOPS (Friends of Shire Oak Primary School – our PTA) Woodland Walk and barbecue. All welcome, particularly new families. (to be confirmed)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Meeting for parents in Reception to find out more about how we teach reading (including phonics). 2:15 for a 2:30pm start in the school hall.
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 class assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> and Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Parents Evenings until 6pm and 7pm respectively
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 2 class assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Deadline for high school place applications
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> -Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	HALF TERM (Kidzone may be running a holiday playscheme)
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November TBC	Provisional training day for staff. School closed to children. This date is possibly changing to a Friday to enable us to book the training that we want for this day.
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Homework projects due in (Years 1-6)
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 4 class assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3 class assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Day
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> Nov	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 6 class assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Winter Festival of Fire straight after school
Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Robinwood Residential for Year 6
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 class assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception and KS1 Christmas production. (Dress rehearsal will be the day before)
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> and Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Christmas parties
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Carol Service, St Michaels Church , 10:30am All welcome
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas dinner
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec- Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	First day back at school
Wednesday 21 January	House Team hobbies afternoon
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Reception Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Year 4 Residential, Beverley Park, North Yorkshire.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year R Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	House Team hobbies afternoon

Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am. All welcome.

New or changed items marked with \* (except the first calendar of the year)

**Classes Sat  
12<sup>th</sup> September 2014**



**FIRST CLASS FREE  
&  
10% SIBLING  
DISCOUNT**

# CAPOEIRA

## ★ FOR KIDS ★

★ An exciting new class introducing the Brazilian dance martial art Capoeira ★  
★ Kids will learn Capoeira moves and Maculelé Dance with **music, song and instruments** taught by a Capoeirista with 12 years experience ★

Flexibility  
Strength  
Relaxation  
Mental Concentration  
and Focus  
Rhythm  
Discipline  
Respect  
**FUN!**



**When?** Every Friday 4pm-5pm  
**Who?** Suitable 4-11 year olds  
**Where?** Headingley Parish Hall  
St Michael's, Road,  
Leeds, LS6 3AW



**Cost?** £5.00 drop in rate  
£4.50 term bookings  
**Contact?** 07752 366 738  
brunodefrancoduque@gmail.com  
DBS checked, insured and first aid certified

**LEEDS**

# glee choir

Come and sing your favourite and latest pop songs!

Brand new young people's choir  
**AT HEART** Headingley

Saturday afternoons 2:00-3:30pm  
Starting September 20<sup>th</sup>

For more details ring