

Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see so very many Shire Oak friends and family at our **bonfire** last weekend. The children played well in the dark and we sold out of hot dogs, pizza, jacket potatoes with chilli and even sparklers. Thank you to staff and parent FOSOPS who made sure everything was safe and went well and to the children who had made us a guy. I am pleased to report that we also raised £239.22 from the event.



We have a few more **requests** to ask of parents and carers:

- Who would like to join the informal **Family Gardening Club** after school on Monday to do some sprucing up of the grounds ready for our Open Morning? Just turn up when you have collected your child – Mrs Dickinson will meet families at the front of school once she has finished in class and changed into her gardening gear!
- Who might be available for some of Tuesday morning (or Tuesday evening) to **talk to prospective parents** and give them the parent perspective on life at Shire Oak? This isn't a speech or anything formal – just serving tea and coffee, answering questions and having a chat at our **Open Morning** and **Open Evening**. Please let a member of staff know you can help, or send a message to me via the office. Thank you.
- Does anyone have any **leftover wool or other yarn** we can have please? Children are using the new outdoor Quiet Area very well, and particularly enjoy craft activities so we were hoping to get some pom-pom making going! Please send the yarn into school with your child, making sure they know to hand it in!

Well done to our **football team** who got all the way to the Semi Final at Ralph Thoresby in Leeds United's 'Road to Wembley' tournament



yesterday before being beaten 2-0 by St Mary's, Horsforth. They then went straight to Lawnswood to play a cup match against Immaculate Heart Primary School. Mr Marshall cheerfully told me various match highlights (including a super goal by Frank) before admitting that they were "hammered" by the other team. Well done to the Shire Oak players who embody the principles of fair play and trying hard in victory and in defeat.

Thank you to **Year 3** for a lovely **class assembly** this morning. It was great to hear more about the story telling you did following The Cave theatre project and particularly lovely to see all the children taking part in speaking, showing or playing. We all liked the impression of Mr Martin, the artwork, the singing and the great hall voices. Thank you to all the friends and families who were able to join us this morning.

Thank you to Angela Birkin, the new **curate** at **St Michael's** for coming to visit Year 1 this morning. The children have been looking forward to asking you lots of questions!

Today Year 5 are taking part in an inter-generational project at a local care home as part of the work they are doing on hospitality and history in Headingley. Year 6 did the same visit last week and I would like to pass on the **wonderful feedback** I received about our children who were patient and gracious to the residents – many of whom had complex needs. Our children were friendly, polite and brightened up the day considerably for a number of the older people they were visiting. We are proud of them and are sure Year 5 will do the same today.



Merci beaucoup to Ms Earl and the other staff who made **French Day** on Wednesday so successful. The afternoon saw a French themed House Team Hobby Half Day where, as well as dressing up, the children sang French songs, learned to play petanque/boules, practised French style handwriting, did crafts related to France and visited a French style café to 'buy' croissants, crepes or madeleines from our Year 6 serveurs. In class children had been doing other activities linked to the theme, including a STEM competition to make a great Eiffel Tower model. Using boxes, art straws, polystyrene, cocktail sticks, bamboo sticks, collage materials, fairy lights and even their own bodies the children worked in class to find the best model they could send to judging in the afternoon assembly. In the end each class had a winner in one of the categories of independence, team work, beauty, accuracy, originality and stability. Thank you to parents for helping with the dressing up.

This week we have kicked off **Anti Bullying Fortnight** with a visit from One Day Creative theatre company, who performed their play all about the characters in Tweet Town. The children enjoyed the play and took the key messages from it about staying safe on social media, how anyone can end up bullying others or letting it happen if they don't think about what they are doing, the different types of bullying and how to sort it out (tell!) We will continue that work this week and make sure that as well as knowing what bullying is – hurting someone, again and again, on purpose to make them feel bad – that they also know what bullying *isn't* - e.g. one off accidents, losses of temper or unkindness. Please remind the children about the **Worry Box** if they are worried about any of these issues and don't feel they have had the help they need. Please speak to Miss Hinchliffe if you would be interested in her running another Anti Bullying workshop for parents.

I am pleased to say that our newest applicants have just been appointed as **Peer Mediators**. Trained and overseen by Miss Hinchliffe, they are older children who help at playtime and lunchtime. They will play with children who sit on the **Buddy Bench**, help make the rules of a game fair if children are falling out, and help children to sort out their disagreements. They are learning how to identify bullying, and also know when they must get an adult to help. Well done to all the Year 6s starting work this week, and to the Year 5s who will be starting later in the year. They will be identifiable by their high-vis jackets!

I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable weekend and perhaps see some of you on Saturday! I do hope that **current parents** will also join us for **Open Morning** – not least to pop in to see the display of homework in the school hall.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane
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PLEASE PUT THESE IN YOUR DIARY!

Winter Festival of Fire – Wednesday 22nd November, straight after school. This is one of the most important events of our school year and we hope to see everyone there for outdoor activities and indoor cosiness.

Headingley Lights Switch On – we are invited to join the community for singing carols and switching on the Christmas lights on Tuesday 21st November, 5:40pm.

DIARY DATES

Mon 13 th – Fri 17 th November	Second week of Anti Bullying fortnight (signing the pledge, assemblies, etc.)
Tuesday 14 th November	Open Morning & display of homework 9:30 am. For current & prospective parents.
Wednesday 15 th November	Meeting about maths for new Reception Class parents, 2pm, TBC.
Friday 17 th November	Stay and Play for parents/carers of Reception, Y1 and Y2 at the start of the day.
Tuesday 21 st November	Switch on of Headingley Christmas lights 5:40pm with Christmas Carols.
Wednesday 22 nd November	Winter Festival of Fire, straight after school.
Thursday 30 th November	Year 5 Class assembly – all welcome! 9am in the hall.
Monday 4 th December	Bun Sale run by Year 5 (Y5 please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Tuesday 5 th December	Dress rehearsal for nativity performances in front of the other classes
Wednesday 6 th December	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Christmas nativities. 9:30am and 1:30pm
Wed 6 th – Fri 8 th December	Robinwood Residential for the Year 6 class
Tuesday 12 th December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church 10:30am, all welcome!
Tuesday 12 th December	School Christmas lunch.
Saturday 16 th December - Tuesday 2 nd January. School closed for Christmas holiday.	
Tuesday 2 nd January	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 5 th January	Reports to parents Y1-Y6 go home this week.
Friday 5 th January *	New to you/secondhand uniform sale after school
Monday 8 th January	Switched On Shire Oak Week (growth mindsets, etc.)
Wednesday 10 th January	Open Morning
Thursday 11 th January	Year 6 class assembly
Friday 12 th January	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at the start of the day.
Friday 12 th January	Fractions Friday (fun maths day)
Friday 19 th January	Geography Fun Facts Day
Friday 26 th January	Year 2 class assembly – all welcome! 9am in the hall.
Monday 29 th January *	Bun Sale run by Year 4 (Y4 please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Thursday 1 st February	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at the start of the day.
Sunday 4 th February	Shire Oak Sunday – joining St Michael's Church at their All Age Service, 10am.
Mon 5 th to Fri 9 th February	Reading Week will include a dress up day.
Friday 9 th February	Reception Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Saturday 10 th February to Sunday 18 th February. School closed for half term holiday.	
Monday 19 th February	'Get into STEM' (science, technology, engineering & maths) visitor for Y1/2
Wednesday 21 st February *	Movie Night
Thursday 22 nd February	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wed 28 th Feb & Thur 1 st March	Parents Evenings (&Y5/6 children)
Thursday 1 st March *	Bun Sale run by Year 3 (Y3 please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Friday 2 nd March	Holi assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 7 th March	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at the start of the day.
Wed 7 th – Friday 9 th March	Lineham Farm residential for children in Year 4
Friday 16 th March	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 26 th March *	Bun Sale run by Year 2 (Y2 please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Wednesday 28 th March	Y3/4 Easter production dress rehearsal in front of the other children
Thursday 29 th March	Easter production. All welcome!
Friday 30 th March – Sunday 16 th April. School closed for Easter holiday.	
Wednesday 18 th April	Y1-Y6 reports to parents given out this week.
Thursday 19 th April	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at the start of the day.
Friday 20 th April *	New to you/secondhand uniform sale after school
Thursday 26 th April *	Bun Sale run by Year 1 (Y1 please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Friday 27 th April	Year 4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 1 st May	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 7 th May school closed for the bank holiday.	
Mon 14 th –Fri 18 th May	KS2 SATs week for Year 6.
Saturday 19 th May *	Spruce Up Shire Oak Groundforce work day

Monday 21 st May	*	Bun Sale run by Reception. (YR please bring in cakes, children can bring up to 50p)
Tuesday 22 nd May		Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 25 th May		Non – uniform day for items for summer fair at Headingley Youth Music Festival
Saturday 26 th – Sunday 3 rd June		school closed for May half term holiday
Saturday 9 th June		Headingley Youth Music Festival (including our summer fair) 12-4pm
Mon 11 th – Fri 15 th June		Geography Mapping Week
Tuesday 12 th June		New Reception Parents meeting
Wednesday 13 th June		Reception class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Tuesday 19 th June	*	Movie Night
Wednesday 20 th June		TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 22 nd June		Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at the start of the day.
Thursday 28 th June		Year 3 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 4 th July		Transition day
Monday 9 th July		Give out reports to parents this week.
Wednesday 11 th July		Music recital by children learning instruments. TBC.
Thursday 12 th July		Dress rehearsal (am)& evening performance for Y5/6 End of Year Production
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th July		Learning through Sport Week (including swimming gala, TBC)
Monday 16 th July		Y3/4 Sports Day
Tuesday 17 th July		Y5/6 Sports Day
Wednesday 18 th July		Reception/Y1/Y2 Sports Day
Friday 20 th July	*	New to you/secondhand uniform sale after school
Tuesday 24 th July		Leavers' Service, St Michael's Church
Wednesday 25 th July		Last day of term before the summer holiday.
* means added or changed since last newsletter		TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change

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 Hincliffe.

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.)

