



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

It was lovely to see so many of you at **Stay and Play** this morning. It was also great to catch up with so many current and

former parents at our **Winter Festival of Fire** on Wednesday after school. Despite the slight drizzle there was a good turn out and it was lovely to see families enjoying the craft activities, lantern-making, marshmallow toasting, sweet treats, sparklers, child-run friendship bracelet RSPB fundraiser, the spiritual space and just hanging out and singing by the fire. The hot food and drinks on offer definitely helped stave off the cold and there was also a chance to stock up on new-to-you uniform, knitted ornaments and raffle tickets thanks to FOSOPS. It has been great to see so many current and former parents getting involved in Friends of Shire Oak Primary School (our PTA) – it really helps us with both fundraising and being able to offer the extra events like discos that the children ask for. Thank you to FOSOPS and to so many of our school staff for putting on this great annual event.



Five of our oldest school councillors represented the school at a very special event on Monday. Wheatfields Hospice had been gifted one of the 'Tree of Trees' from the special jubilee sculpture and had a planting ceremony and fancy brunch to celebrate with many local dignitaries. One of our children said, "It felt very exciting to be invited to such an important event. We felt very important meeting the mayor, the Vice Lord Lieutenant and High Sheriff; everyone was very nice to us! I loved seeing the special tree and would like to know what species it is." (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/63114711> to find out more about the sculpture and the national jubilee project.)



Today is the last day of our **Anti Bullying Fortnight** which coincides with the national Anti-Bullying Week and children in KS2 have a special workshop with a visiting actor to explore the issue. Each year we make sure children know:



What bullying is What bullying is not What to do about bullying... TELL!

All the children (and adults) who agree with this sign our Anti Bullying Charter and receive a special present chosen by School Council to help remember the message. The theme this year is **reach out** and so they had a good time investigating the cost of gloves, rings, hand decorations and in the end settled on designing wristbands with the message on. (They were keen to avoid plastic, but felt this wasn't a throw away item so they could make an exception!) Whenever we learn about bullying in school we receive a lot more notes in the worry boxes and it may well be the case that you hear more worries at home too. Like you, we investigate each one, but we find that as children learn the vocabulary and dynamics of bullying they can over-apply the term to begin with. At school we say bullying is deliberately hurting someone (not just physically), again and again, on purpose to make someone feel bad. There are other behaviours that are not ok, but are not bullying. As well as getting used to the language we find that children want to check out that the systems in place do work, which can be a reason for increased notes in the Worry Box and more such conversations at home too.

Online (or cyber) bullying is more and more of a risk as the children get older and so being kind, being safe and being your best when using the Internet is an important part of our protective work in school. We are always happy to invite the charity d:side into school to hold special **Internet Safety lessons** with each class which will be revisited around Internet Safety Day in February too. Unfortunately, illness prevented the facilitator from seeing every class, but we will catch that up soon.

As Advent approaches we are inviting you this year to take part in a **Reverse Advent Calendar** to support the Baby Basics charity. Baby Basics provides much needed essentials and equipment to mothers and families who are unable to provide these items for themselves; including (but not limited to) teenage mums, people seeking asylum and women fleeing domestic abuse and trafficking. Working with midwives, health visitors and other professional groups to provide support directly where it is most needed, Baby Basics volunteers lovingly collect, sort and package a 'Moses Basket' of clothing, toiletries and essential baby equipment as an attractive gift to new mothers. What an appropriate cause to support at Christmas! Children can help choose a book they have outgrown to bring in or choose a pack of nappies when at the supermarket with you. Attached to this newsletter is a list of new and second-hand requested items. There will be a basket in the foyer for anything you can donate. Thank you.



Class	Well done to these Superstars who have been chosen by staff who work with them. Many were linked this week to the REACH OUT theme. Year 6 monitors write down the comments on certificates as they are given out.
YR (Thames)	Gemma is always kind. Connie will always include others in her play.
Y1 (Nile)	Jacob W is kind and a good friend. Mara is always, positive, cheerful and kind to others.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	Nicolas reaches out to others and is quick to help when they need it. Annabel is kind to others and always speaks up on the playground to make sure people are happy.
Y3 (Rhine)	Stan always shows kindness, patience and understanding 'reaching out' to those who seem sad or need help. Mali is always kind and encouraging to others 'reaching out' to those who seem sad or need help.
Y4 (Ganges)	Evie is a good role model to the class. She is kind, caring and sensitive and always looks out for those around her. Kaiyo has a positive attitude to his learning and always has a lot of good ideas and thoughts to share with the class.
Y5 (Tigris)	Seth has a mature and caring approaching to his friendships. Bethan acts in a caring and responsible way towards her friends.
Y6 (Amazon)	All of Year 6 as they have been good role models and worked well with different adults through a tricky start to the half term.
Citizen of the Week , nominated by Odysseus was Joseph for making friends so quickly despite being new to our school. Well done.	

Have a great weekend!
Jane Astrid Devane
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PS FOSOPS raised over £400 at the Winter Festival of Fire and are continuing to sell raffle tickets to add to this total! Thank you!

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 22 nd November	Flu immunisations in school
Thursday 24 th November	Open Morning for prospective parents. (Current parents also welcome to tour) 9:15am
Friday 25 th November	Y5 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Friday 25 th November	Roman visitor for Year 4
Wednesday 30 th November *	Headingley Christmas Lights Switch On at St Michael's with Shire Oak choir 5:15pm PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE
Friday 2 nd December	Y4 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
5 th – 7 th December	Year 6 Residential at Robinwood Activity Centre, Todmorden
Monday 5 th December *	Group from choir singing at Victoria Court care home
Tuesday 6 th December *	Carol singing at Wheatfields Hospice (a group from choir)
Thursday 8 th December	YR, Y1 and Y2 Nativity Performances am and pm
Thursday 8 th December	Book Club visit to Leeds Playhouse production of Charlie & the Chocolate Factory
Thursday 8 th December *	Our Advent Window day as part of the local Advent Calendar
Friday 9 th December *	Carol singing and crafts at Grove Park Care Home (Year 4 or choir TBC)
Monday 12 th December *	Group from choir singing at Headingley Hub
Tuesday 13 th December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am. All welcome!
Tuesday 13 th December	School Christmas Dinner (children on packed lunches can book this in advance via office)
Thursday 15 th December	Alive and Kicking Theatre in school
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Monday 19 th December to Monday 2 nd January. School closed to pupils.	
TRAINING DAY. Tuesday 3 rd January. School closed to pupils.	
Wednesday 4 th January	Welcome back to the spring term!
Friday 6 th January	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day. TBC
Wed 11 th January	Reception Class 'How we teach maths' meeting 2:15pm TBC
Thursday 12 th January	Open Morning for prospective parents.
Thursday 12 th January *	Group to attend Youth Summit in the Civic Hall and museum
Friday 13 th January	Y6 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Thursday 19 th January	YR Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Thursday 2 nd February	Y1 trip to Abbey House Museum
Friday 20 th January	Local MP Alex Sobel visiting Y2
Tuesday 24 th January	Y5 trip to Chocolate Experience in York
Friday 27 th January	Chinese New Year Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Tuesday 7 th February	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day.
8 th to 10 th February	Y4 residential trip to Lineham Farm
FEBRUARY HALF TERM 13 th to 17 th February. School closed to pupils.	
Tuesday 21 st February	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Sale after school in the hall
Monday 27 th February	Planetarium visit to school (at least Y5 and YR)
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day. This is usually a dress up day.
Friday 3 rd March	Y4 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome
Wednesday 8 th March	Holi Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
TRAINING DAY Thursday 9 th March. School closed to pupils.	
13 th to 17 th March	Science/STEM Week in school (may be preceded by science visits to school)
Wednesday 15 th March	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day.
Thursday 16 th March	First weekly pizza club for Y6 starts after school
Friday 17 th March	Y6 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Friday 17 th March	Comic Relief/Red Nose Day (depends what School Council decide)
Wednesday 22 nd March	First spring parents and carers consultation evening
Friday 24 th March	Y5 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Monday 27 th March	NCMP and vision check YR and Y6
Wednesday 29 th March	Second spring parents and carers consultation evening
27 th to 29 th March	Class Easter visits to St Michael's Church
Friday 31 st March	Y3/4 Easter production to parents and carers
EASTER HOLIDAY 3 rd April to 14 th April. School closed to pupils.	
Wednesday 19 th April	Y6 trip to Eden Camp TBC
Sunday 23 rd April	Shire Oak Sunday. All welcome to take part in the all age service at St Michael's 10am

Wednesday 26 th April	Eid Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Friday 28 th April	YR Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
BANK HOLIDAY Monday 1 st May. School closed to pupils.	
Friday 5 th May	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day.
8 th to 12 th May	KS2 SATS Week
Monday 8 th May *	Bank Holiday for the coronation of King Charles. School will be closed. It is not yet announced what will happen to the SATS timetable this week.
Friday 12 th May *	Y2 Class Assembly 9am in the hall, all welcome. This date is likely to change due to the BH
Wednesday 17 th May	Y1 Class Assembly 9am in the hall, all welcome.
18 th to 19 th May	D:side workshops across school on medicines, alcohol and drugs
22 nd to 26 th May	Green Week including pedestrian and scooter training
MAY HALF TERM 29 th May to Monday 5 th June. School closed to pupils.	
5 th to 9 th June	Y6 Bikeability (cycling proficiency and road skills) https://www.cyclenorth.co.uk/children
Wednesday 7 th June	RSE information evening for Y5/6 parents and carers
Thursday 8 th June *	Class and team photos
TRAINING DAY Wednesday 14 th June. School closed to pupils.	
Friday 16 th June	Non uniform day in return for donating a tombola prize for HYMF
Tuesday 20 th June	Y5 trip to Yorkshire Water Treatment Plant
Tuesday 20 th June	New Reception Parents/Carers meeting (am and evening)
Saturday 24 th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival (HYMF). We put on this event for the whole local community and it is also our summer fair. Please put it in the diary!
26 th to 30 th June	Learning through Sport Week
Wednesday 5 th July	Transition Day TBC
Thursday 6 th July	Music Recital am. All children learning an instrument may play & their parents can watch.
Friday 7 th July	Y2 Assembly
17 th and 18 th July	Sports Days (subject to weather)
Wednesday 19 th July	Teachers available after school to talk about end of year reports
Thursday 20 th July	Y5/6 Performance to parents and carers 6pm.
Monday 24 th July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am.
Tuesday 25 th July	Last day of the school year (Y6 will go bowling or similar)
SUMMER HOLIDAY Wednesday 26 th July to Friday 1 st September. School closed to pupils.	
TERM DATES: https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar	
* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change.	



[Leeds 2023 Year of Culture](#) starts with a grand opening ceremony, here in Headingley! To enter the ballot for free tickets you send in a picture, video or audio file of something creative. (I understand there is a good chance of getting tickets at the moment!)