



Dear Parents and Carers

## SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

I am sure you have all heard that the government briefing on Monday said that **wider opening of schools** will go ahead on the **8<sup>th</sup> March**. As we do not need to introduce pupil testing (which is happening in secondary schools) we will not need a staggered start and will be able to welcome all children back at the usual time on that Monday. As before, we will open the doors and let children straight in from the playground as they arrive so that we can start the day at 8:50am. For now, we will be sticking to the system of bubbles, strict cleaning, zoned playground, etc. that we had in place during the autumn term. Dawn has said that Kidzone wraparound care will be back up and running from the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We have been so impressed with Shire Oak pupils during this time, but we know that this lockdown has been hard for them. Unlike last year when schools were partially closed, the weather has not been great. Employers have not all been as accommodating as last time and the expectation of doing daily school work online has been more firmly established. This may well have had an effect on our children's physical and mental health, so when they come back we have agreed the following priorities:

- Extended morning playtime so that children can have fresh air, exercise and time socialising with friends
- No work directly on computers in the first week and limited screen time, where possible
- A minimum of three additional outdoor sessions a week to get the children outside, active, problem-solving and engaged
- Work on developing core strength and control
- Lots of practising of fine motor skills, such as handwriting
- Time to talk

We know that children have also been developing skills, habits and interests that we will be able to build on back in school and we look forward to hearing about what they have been doing.

**World Book Day** is next week. Teachers will be posting reading related activities for home learning on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March and we will start the day at 9am with a whole school assembly. It would be great to see as many **costumes** (or props and accessories as possible) on Google Meet – I am looking forward to seeing what the children come up with. Children attending school are also encouraged to dress up, but their costumes need to last all day and be suitable for playing outside in! (Check the 12/2 newsletter for sites with useful costume ideas.) A local children's bookshop have sent us this [newsletter](#) to share. They are one of the places that you will be able to spend the £1 WBD tokens that we will be sending home after the 8<sup>th</sup>.



If you haven't yet seen the **message from School Council** about making a school film, [here](#) it is. Children can post their photos of the ups and downs of home learning into the assignment on Google Classroom or email them to [mrnash@shireoak.online](mailto:mrnash@shireoak.online)

Mr Alun Davies was certainly impressed with **Eva's** recent project where she is selling **chocolate brownies** to help look after retired service dogs. This is the email I saw:

Hello everyone,

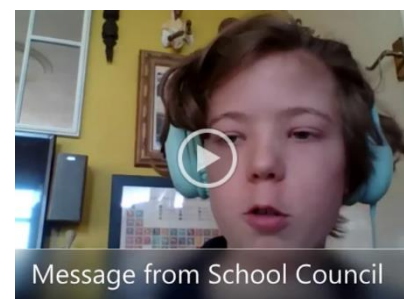
My brownie order has just arrived from Eva's brownie charity, [www.benefitbrownies.co.uk](http://www.benefitbrownies.co.uk).

My first impression was how professionally packaged and branded they were - take a look at the photos!

My second impression was that they are up there as some of the tastiest brownies I have ever eaten (I tried half of one after lunch, not the entire box...yet!). They are delicious! I'm so impressed, not only by the brownies, but by the whole package - the idea behind it, the packaging and execution are all top notch - so I thought I'd share that with you all. Well done, Eva!

If anyone else is undertaking some REALLY COOL home projects that they would like to share and celebrate with me, please let me know.

Mr Davies



#### 4 Attachments



**Online Lego Club** will be next week on Friday at 9am, as there will be no assembly that day. (Our assembly next week will be Thursday's Book Day one.)



**Artforms** and **Leeds Music Education Partnership** continue to help children with their musical education at home. They have been releasing music performances each Friday, online. They say:

We have lots more videos on offer this half term as we continue our Friday afternoon music programme. The Music nugget this week is a traditional South American song, whilst our performance video features some classical music from the Instrumental soloist Eric Clark. In this video he plays music from Puccini's opera 'Tosca' on piano, clarinet, violin and cello altogether using recorded technology. We have also included a Q and A video with Eric, where he describes each instrument in more detail and demonstrates the different sounds you can make on each of them.

To watch the videos at school or at home, click on the link below from Friday (26<sup>th</sup>) at 1.30pm (please note that the videos will not show before this time):

- Classical music from Instrumental soloist Eric Clark - <https://youtu.be/UMvFC2Anaja>
- Q and A session with Eric - <https://youtu.be/kCKxwRHo1BQ>
- Baté baté – Learn the South American song and rhythms - <https://youtu.be/PV9CczfZdGI>

**Music Nuggets:**

- Knock the door – everyday rhythms - <https://youtu.be/Ygs3nREa6e8>
- Knees, Clap, click – rhythm game - <https://youtu.be/5pYF0vqglfg>
- El Pescador- learn the song - <https://youtu.be/wwB5ooPrnAY>
- El Pescador – learn the rhythms to go with the song - <https://youtu.be/G8-f3u2ATLY>
- Chair drumming 1- <https://youtu.be/dKDVwc-iTBg>
- Chair drumming 2- <https://youtu.be/yNJx556SV7w>
- Senwa De Dende – learn the song - <https://youtu.be/1xr5m3oyIMY>
- Senwa De Dende – learn the body percussion - <https://youtu.be/sUtP-eLO1Jc>
- Senwa De Dende – learn the drum part - <https://youtu.be/j0zfifJzSVs>
- Senwa De Dende – Learn the ukulele part (on G chord)- <https://youtu.be/CCLUoca8hrk>
- Senwa De Dende - join in with the final performance- <https://youtu.be/sqFltoN5P7s>

The links to our previous videos are below:

**Performance videos:**

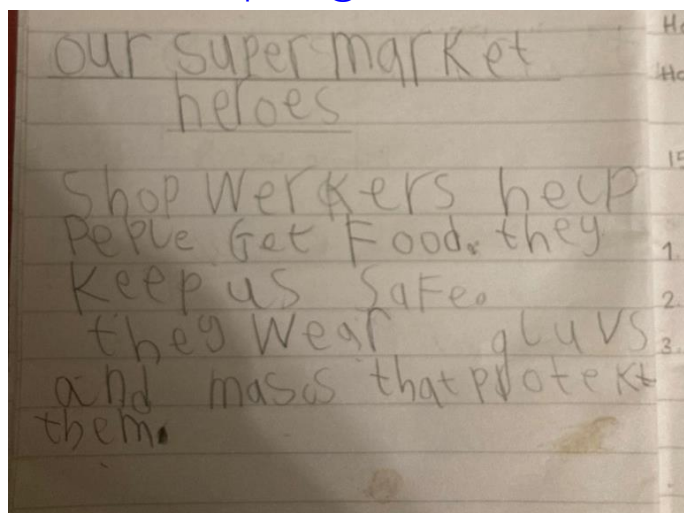
- KS2 Maia – <https://youtu.be/n52S7j3mKuo>
- KS1 Maia – <https://youtu.be/8AjF-csn6jk>
- Jazz in the Garden 1 – <https://youtu.be/1vlbzJZU4eg>
- Jazz in the Garden 2 - <https://youtu.be/WSpAawNJh0k>
- Point of departure Q and A session - <https://youtu.be/olkMjRCSYgw>
- Back Chat Brass - <https://youtu.be/RTE51c6YI9k>
- Point of Departure – 3 [https://youtu.be/XHVts\\_3hvh8](https://youtu.be/XHVts_3hvh8)
- The Little Big Band - <https://youtu.be/RFWvnpZ0hRo>

Thank you for a good first week back after half term. One more week and then hopefully school life will start to feel a little more normal again!

Have a good weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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



Telling people your birthdate	Using the same passwords
Leaked passwords	Telling people where you live
Sharing too much personal stuff	posting personal pictures
School details	Cyber bullying

Keep Your Privacy Settings On  
Strong Passwords  
Being kind  
Think twice  
Have fun

Thanks Leilani for this clear advice on **digital footprints** completed during Internet Safety Week.

Well done Mali for this work on everyday heroes.