Rooted in the community – growing for the future

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC)Primary School

Letter 7
16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It certainly has been a busy week for children, staff – and parents – at Shire Oak! On Saturday it was great to see families braving the rain for a **Woodland Walk** together on The Ridge. Older children helped by putting out autumnal pumpkins to find and it was good to see children playing and adults chatting together on the walk and back at the hall for refreshments. Thank you to FOSOPS for catering this event.

Members of FOSOPS were also busy on Sunday's **Groundforce Day** and achieved a lot together. We now have two new leaf composters for the bags and bags of leaves that were collected (even after a lot was used as mulch). The old planter in Reception outside areas was replaced with a new, safe construction, borders were added or repaired to classroom flowerbeds and the kitchen garden got a much needed prune/dig/thin/plant/tidy! Thanks very much for all your work.

It has also been great to see so many of you at our **Parents and Carers Evening** this week and it looks like virtually the whole school has either been in or is booked in for next week. These conversations are so important for making sure school and home are on the same page and are working together to help your children make the very best progress.

Parents and other friends of the school have also been working with us to develop the community use of **St Michael's Garden**. Year 3 have now been to plant the daffodils that Y2 planned for and Year 4 will also be helping soon. We are working with the Friends of St Michael's Garden to ensure this becomes a place of quiet recreation and a real asset to the community.

With such great support for the school it is not surprising that there were some great nominations for the vacancy on the governing board for a **parent governor**. You should have received an email yesterday about the **election** process but if not, please call at the office for candidate statements and a ballot form.



The children have been as busy as the parents this week. Year 2 very much enjoyed their trip to **Whistlestop Valley** riding on two different trains, enjoying their great play area and learning lots for their transport topic.

We have enjoyed hearing more about the rugby festival last week. Mr Martin writes: Our **Y6 rugby squad** had a great afternoon on Thursday, walking to Weetwood with Mrs Strange and Mr Martin and playing in a tag rugby festival with the hosts and with Spring Bank. The squad made up two teams, each led by new captains Gracie-Mae and Jonah. Together they put their training to effective use with lots of good organisation, teamwork and encouragement on the pitch. Shire Oak teams won most of their games with an impressive combination of creative passing, agile running and tenacious defence. It was particularly pleasing to see how each team evolved from match to match, thinking about and implementing what they would need to do to get better as a team. They can all feel very proud of how they represented the school on the pitch and around the local community.







It has been great watching children training in both rugby and football recently. ←

Another pupil training hard is India who is attempting her 26 mile walk in aid of **Young Lives vs Cancer** this weekend. Find out more about the challenge and how to support it here.

With all this news I still haven't included the session Year 5 did with **Durham University** learning about the **Anglo Saxons** or any of the great lessons I have seen around school! There is just too much to fit into one letter. Here are some children who have been celebrated this week though:

Class	Well done to these Superstars who have been chosen by staff who work with them. Year 6 monitors write down the comments from certificates as they are given out.
YR (Thames)	**Frank** always tries his best and is enthusiastic about maths. **Elodie** always listens well and joins in.
Y1 (Nile)	**Ozzy** is always trying his best and has made a great start to Y1. **Chikamjiemeri** is always trying her best and has made a great start to Y1.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	**Ivy** consistently follows instructions and is always working hard and helping others. **Edward** always works really hard and tries his very best in every subject.
Y3 (Rhine)	**Elizabeth** is showing great enthusiasm for PE and demonstrating ball skills, speed and agility in rugby. **Ashley** Is putting his hand up often and showing his good ideas, especially in maths.
Y4 (Ganges)	**Edie** wrote an amazing Romans poem. **Adimchinobi** has been helping others in his class on the playground when they feel sad.
Y5 (Tigris)	**Josie** is working hard on developing her understanding of multi-step work problems in maths. **Mara** is always keen to share her ideas in class.
Y6 (Amazon)	**Jojo** is putting a lot of thought into all areas of her learning, showing deep understanding. **Caleb** is applying his learning in all his writing.
Citizen of the Week is **Stella** in Y6. She was nominated for her work on School Council, for helpfully bringing things to others, being a switched on learner and more! Well done!	

I hope you have a lovely weekend, possibly fuelled by buns from the Y2 sale after school today. (Thank you!)

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS We are advertising! After School Club Worker - Shire Oak CE Primary School
PPS Leeds City Council is running a public consultation on the 2028/29 admission policy for Leeds community & voluntary controlled schools. You can share your views until 2 December. Find out more here.

DIARY DATES

Friday 16th October	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 2 for all families to buy from
Sunday 18th October	Families invited to St Michael's Church for an all-age service (Creation/ The Environment)
Monday 19th October	Y6 Viking Day in school
Tuesday 20th October	Y4 Forest School session at St Michael's Churchyard Garden (will need suitable clothes)
Wednesday 21st October	Y4 Class Assembly in the hall, 9am. All welcome
Wednesday 21st October	Parents and carers consultation evening (you will book slots nearer the time)
Friday 23rd October	TRAINING DAY school closed to children (Last day of term – have a good half term break)
Mon 26th - Fri 30th October*	HALF TERM. A Camps will be running all week at school. Book here.
Monday 2nd November	First day of the half term
Thursday 5th November	Flu immunisations in school
Friday 6th November	Diwali Assembly in the hall, 9am. All welcome.
Wed 11th November	An Act of Remembrance will be held
Wednesday 11th November	FOSOPS AGM in the school hall, 6:30 to 7:30pm
Thursday 12th November	Individual photos day (prints will be back before Christmas)
Friday 13th November	Y3 Class Assembly in the hall, 9am. All welcome.
Monday 16th November	Anti Bullying Workshops as part of Anti Bullying Fortnight
Wed 18th November	Winter Festival of Fire straight after school. All welcome!
Friday 20th November	Year 6 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Tuesday 24th November	Headingley Lights Switch On at St Michaels TBC
Wed 25th November	Open Morning for prospective parents (although current parents may attend too)
Thursday 26th November	Hanukkah assembly, 9am. All welcome.
Friday 27th November	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 3 for all families to buy from
Mon 30th Nov to 2nd Dec	Robinwood residential school trip for Year 6 children
Wed 2nd to 3rd December	D:Side sessions on Internet Safety across school

Wednesday 9th December	Nativity play dress rehearsals for KS2 to watch
Thursday 10th December	Reception Class Nativity Play am
Friday 11th December	Year 1/2 Nativity Play am
Tuesday 15th December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church 10:30am TBC
Tuesday 15th December	School Christmas lunch (can be booked in advance)
Wed 16th December	School Christmas disco night YR 3:45 – 4:45 movie night in classroom; Y1/2/3 3:45 – 4:45 disco in the hall; Y4/5/6 5-6pm disco in the hall.
Thursday 17th December	Christmas party day with party lunch and Christmas music performances by Chestra
Friday 18th December	Last day of term – have a good Christmas holiday. Acorn Club closes early today.
Monday 4th January	First day of term
Thursday 7th January	Open Morning for prospective parents (although current parents may attend too) s
Friday 15th January	YR Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Wednesday 20th January	Parents and carers meeting about Y4 residential, 5pm. TBC.
Friday 22nd January	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 22nd January	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 4 for all families to buy from
Monday 25th January	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 27th January	YR and Y6 national measurement and vision checks
Friday 29th January	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 & Y2 at the start of the day. Lunar New Year theme. All welcome.
Tuesday 2nd February	Y5 trip to York Chocolate Story
Tuesday 2nd February	Year 6 World War II day in school
Wednesday 3rd February	Meeting about maths for YR parents and carers 1pm online TBC
Friday 5th February	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 8th February	Water Safety Assemblies by Canals and Rivers Trust
Tuesday 9th February	Shrove Tuesday pancake sale in the hall after school by FOSOPS
Thursday 11th February	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 12th February	Last day of half term – have a good half term break
Mon 15th - Fri 19th February	HALF TERM. A Camps will be running all week in school.
Monday 22nd February	First day of half term – pupils back in school
Sunday 28th February	Shire Oak Sunday, 10am at St Michael's Church. All welcome. TBC.
Tuesday 2nd March	Y5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Thursday 4th March	World Book Day including dressing up
5th to 14th March	British Science Week
Mon 8th & Tues 9th March	Hands On Science Workshops as part of British Science Week
Thursday 11th March	After school local netball tournament hosted at Shire Oak TBC
Friday 12th March	Science Fair in the hall during the day
Friday 12th March	FOSOPS bun sale after school run & supplied by Year 1 for all families to buy from TBC
15th to 19th March	Easter visits to St Michaels Church TBC
Monday 15th March	Weekly pizza club for Y6 starts this week
Tuesday 16th March	Eid ul Fitr assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Wednesday 17th March	Parents and carers consultation evening (you will book slots nearer the time)
Friday 19th March	Comic Relief Day TBC
Monday 22nd March	Cycling Day for Year 5 (and a group of children in Year 6 who are not able to ride confidently yet). They will need a bike and helmet for this day. The trainer can provide a limited number for children, but we would need to know in advance. Our hope is to make sure everyone is confident enough to be able to take part in Bikeability sessions in and out of school in the summer term of Year 6.
Wednesday 24th March	Parents and carers consultation evening (you will book slots nearer the time)
Thursday 25th March	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 31st March	Y3/4 production dress rehearsal to the rest of school TBC (may move to week before)
Thursday 1st April	Y3/4 production to families TBC (may move to week before)
Thursday 1st April	Y5 trip to music day at Lawnswood School
Friday 2nd April	Last day of term. Have a lovely Easter holiday. Acorn Club closes early today.
Mon 5th to Fri 16th April	EASTER HOLIDAY. A Camps will be running in school and the swimming pool will be back
Monday 19th April	First day of term
Monday 19th April	Pop up pool swimming due to start TBC

Friday 23rd April	Vaisakhi assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 23rd April	FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 5 for all families to buy from
6th to 7th May	Y4 residential to Bramhope Scout Campsite TBC
Friday 7th May	Y5 trip to Recycling and Energy Recovery Facility
w/c Monday 10th May	KS2 SATs week (statutory tests – please avoid appointments, etc. this week)
Friday 14th May	Y2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Mon 17th – Fri 21st May	Bikeability for Year 6. They have the strongest chance of achieving the proficiency standard if they have practised cycling in preparation. Cycle North often run sessions in school holidays for beginners
20th/21st May	D:Side sessions in school on substances
Tuesday 25th May	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 28th May	FOSOPS bun sale after school run & supplied by Reception for all families to buy from
Friday 28th May	Last day of half term
Mon 30th May to Fri 1st June	HALF TERM A Camps will be running in school
Monday 7th June	First day of half term
7th to 11th June	Green Week with road safety activities, etc.
Wednesday 9th June	RSE information meeting for Y5 & Y6 parents/carers
Thursday 10th June	Class photo day
Friday 11th June	YR Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Wednesday 16th June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Thursday 17th June	Y4 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 18th June	Non uniform day in return for prizes for the tombola at HYMF
Wednesday 23rd June	Parents/ carers meetings for incoming Reception class morning and evening TBC
Saturday 26th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival 12-4pm. This is a festival and summer fair we host for the whole community. Everybody in school is performing so we ask families not to schedule birthday parties, etc. to clash with it. Thank you!
Thursday 1st July	Y3 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome.
Friday 2nd July	Orienteering Day Y5/6 Becketts Park; Y3/4 The Ridge YR/1/2 school grounds TBC
Wednesday 7th July	Transition Day with Stay and Play sessions for new Reception Class. TBC
Thursday 8th July	Music recitals 9:15am and 2pm
Monday 12th July	Y5/6 Sports Day 1:15pm TBC
Tuesday 13th July	YR/1/2 Sports Day 9:15am TBC
Tuesday 13th July	Y3/4 Sports Day 1:15pm TBC
Wednesday 14th July	Y5/6 production dress rehearsal to school
Thursday 15th July	Y5/6 productions afternoon and evening 5:30pm (ticketed) TBC
Tuesday 20th July	Leavers' Service St Michael's Church 10:30 am
Wednesday 21st July	Teachers available after school to discuss end of year reports
Thursday 22nd July	Leavers' Bowling trip and last day of the school year.
DATES: https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates	

* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is to be confirmed and may have to change.

