



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

I think that may have been one of the longest – and latest finishing – terms ever! The positive angle is that when schools break up early, it is a very long time to wait with children who are excited for Christmas. This year it won't be many sleeps!

Amongst all the festivities this week – of which there have been many – there has still been some **lovely academic learning** going on. I have read some amazing written work and seen children completing end of term assessments with confidence and good recall. Here are the Superstar certificates awarded at the end of last week:

Class	Well done to these Superstars who have been chosen by staff who work with them. Year 6 monitors write down the comments on certificates as they are given out.
YR (Thames)	All of Reception Class as they all worked so hard and performed so well in their Nativity.
Y1 (Nile)	Jacob-Dale was an excellent singer in the Boogie Woogie Nativity. Gabriel Mau for his beautiful, loud singing in all the performances.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	Josie has been trying very hard with her maths and working independently. Juliet gives 100% all the time and is always so positive.
Y3 (Rhine)	Annabel is doing her best at all times across the curriculum focusing on her learning and impressing everyone.
Y4 (Ganges)	All of Year 4 had a fantastic and enthusiastic first term!
Y5 (Tigris)	Tilly-Grace has worked hard to complete her Anglo-Saxon non-chronological report. Sam is beginning to use joined up writing in English lessons.
Y6 (Amazon)	Rhian takes on feedback well in order to improve her work. Cora has top, top attitude in everything she does, even when work gets tricky.
Citizen of the Week was Alfie who was nominated by Gene for being kind to everyone, being a good friend and always being helpful. Well done!	



This last week of term always includes a lot of singing. The whole school were in good voice at our annual **Carol Service** on Tuesday. The carols were interspersed with readings by Year 5 and Year 6; Reception and Year 6 helped Rev Josh with his address and making the manger scene; choir led one of our carols and we were played in and out by musicians from Y6. Choir have been busy **singing** at Headingley Library and Wheatfields Hospice this week. At Wheatfields they also stayed and joined in with

some Christmas activities with the day visitors.

On returning to school, children enjoyed their **school Christmas dinner**. A traditional roast for all who booked a school dinner, with (plastic-free) crackers, hats and music for everyone. Thanks to Marta Woldemichael and her team for preparing a lovely meal.



Wednesday was a fairly normal school day (apart from all the Santa hats) but after school were the **FOSOPS Christmas discos**. Reception Class had a low-key disco in their classroom and the rest of school had theirs in the hall, according to age group. Thank you to FOSOPS for booking the DJ and organising all the food and tickets. They really have been busy with their fundraising and social organising recently and I look forward to giving you a total after Christmas. Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas **raffle** prizes – we ended up with 52 which very much increased the odds of participants winning! The tickets have all now been drawn and prizes given out.



The celebrations continued yesterday on our party day. Children were decked out in a range of festive outfits and we enjoyed watching **Suitcase Circus Pete** together in the hall. He amazed with his hula hoop and plate spinning acrobatics. Children then took part in party activities in class (and

also the hall, from Year 2 upwards) which are great for learning how to compete in good humour and how to take part in traditional games.

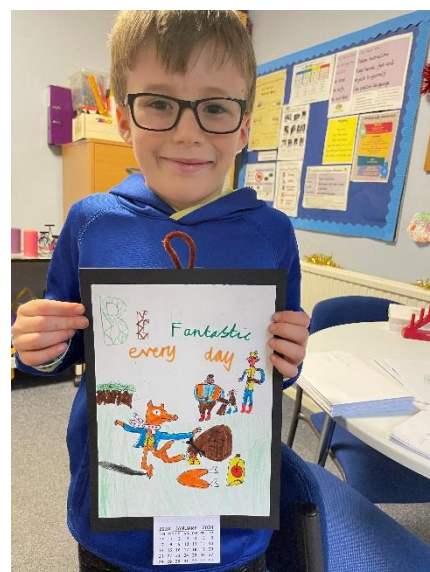


As I write this, we are going to have our final assembly of the year and light our final Advent candles. It is worth checking book bags to make sure that any cards, calendars, gifts or candles that have been made in school are ready to be hidden or given. Thank you very much to everyone who has written us cards, given gifts or passed on a cheery Christmas message. We never expect anything but are always grateful for the ways you teach your children to say thank you. Thank you most of all for your support and cooperation in 2023. **I hope that you all have a lovely Christmas and a peaceful New Year** and plenty of times to snuggle up with a good book this holiday.

Jane Astrid Devane

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Back to school on Monday 8th January!

DIARY DATES

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Mon 25th to Fri 5th January.

There is a Christingle Service at 4pm on Christmas Eve at St Michael's Church that many of our children enjoy.

School is closed to children. [Art Camp](#) are running a holiday club.

Thursday 11 th January	Open Morning for prospective parents. Current parents also welcome to look round school to see it in action on an ordinary learning day.
Thursday 11 th January	Y3 poetry assembly at 2:30pm following work this week with local poet, James Nash. All welcome!
Friday 12 th January	Stay and Play in YR/Y1/Y2 at the start of the day. Families welcome!
Tuesday 16 th January	Reception Class trip to Pizza Express (TBC)
Thursday 18 th January	Year 6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y6 friends and family welcome!
Friday 19 th January	Reception Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All YR friends and family welcome!
Monday 22 nd January	Leeds Rhinos assembly about healthy lifestyles
Tuesday 23 rd January	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children. Staff will be training in school.
Friday 26 th January	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y1 friends and family welcome!
Tuesday 30 th January	Y5 chocolate trip to York TBC
Wednesday 31 st January	Y1 trip to Abbey House Museum TBC
Friday 2 nd February	Lunar New Year Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
7 th - 9 th February	Lineham Farm residential trip for all in Year 4.
Wednesday 7 th February	Reception Parents and Carers maths meeting 2:15pm
Friday 23 rd February	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2 at the start of the day. Families welcome!
Thursday 29 th February	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y5 friends and family welcome!
Friday 1 st March	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y4 friends and family welcome!
Tuesday 5 th March	Y3 Stone Age trip to the Discovery Centre
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day. We usually dress up as book characters today.
8 th to 17 th March	British Science Week
Mon 11 th & Tues 12 th March	Workshops in school.
Tuesday 12 th March	Y5 piano and science workshop as part of Leeds International Piano Festival
Thursday 14 th March	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 & Y2 at the start of the day. Families welcome!
Friday 15 th March	Hot Cross Bun sale straight after school TBC
18 th to 20 th March	Class visits to St Michael's to learn about the Easter story
Wednesday 20 th March	Parents and Carers Evening (appointments with class teachers)
Tuesday 26 th March	Y3/4 Easter Production dress rehearsal am
Wednesday 27 th March	Y3/4 Easter Production PM, families welcome
Wednesday 27 th March	Parents and Carers Evening (appointments with class teachers)
Thursday 28 th March	TRAINING DAY. School will be closed to children. Staff will be training in school.
Monday 15 th April	Year 2 intensive swimming lessons start (letter to follow nearer the time)
Friday 19 th April	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 & Y2 at the start of the day. Families welcome!
22 nd & 23 rd April	D:Side PSHCE sessions (Safety around medicines, alcohol, etc.)
Friday 26 th April	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y2 families and friends welcome!
Sunday 28 th April	Shire Oak Sunday at St Michael's Church 10am, all welcome to the all-age service
Friday 3 rd May	Reception Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All YR friends and family welcome!
13 th to 17 th May	KS2 SATs week (Year 6)
Friday 17 th May	Year 1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y1 friends and family welcome!
3 rd to 7 th June	Green Week, including pedestrian and scooter training
3 rd to 7 th June	Bikeability training for Year 6. This will include road cycling if the assessment is passed and it helps if children are confident so get them practising now!
Tuesday 4 th June	Y3 trip to Otley Chevin TBC
Wednesday 5 th June	R&S Education meeting for Y5 and Y6 parents/carers
Friday 7 th June	Y5 trip to recycling plant TBC
Tuesday 11 th June	Y5 trip to the water treatment plant
Tuesday 11 th June	Y5/6 Girls' Tag Rugby qualifiers 1-3pm
Wednesday 12 th June	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children. Staff working offsite.

Thursday 13 th June	Eid assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 14 th June	Non uniform day (in return for a tombola present for HYMF, thank you)
Thursday 20 th June	New Reception parents/carers meeting (am and evening)
Thursday 20 th June	Y5/6 Mixed Culley Sevens 1-3pm
Saturday 22 nd June	Headingley Youth Music Festival 12-4pm. This is our gift to the community and also our summer fair. All children in school are in our choir that performs, as do Y4 djembe players and other musicians. (Please avoid booking parties today!)
Monday 24 th June	Y5/6 Girls' Tag Final stages (at Headingley) 1-3pm
Wednesday 26 th June	Y5/6 Girls' Contact Festival 1-3pm
Friday 28 th June	Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All friends and family of Y3 welcome!
Wednesday 3 rd July	Transition day TBC
Thursday 4 th July	Music Recital am. All welcome!
Mon 15 th & Tues 16 th July	Sports Days TBC
Wednesday 17 th July	Y5/6 production to rest of school
Thursday 18 th July	Y5/6 production to friends and family, all welcome! (evening)
Monday 22 nd July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am. All welcome!
Tuesday 23 rd July	Y6 Leavers' trip
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.

Happy Christmas

and a peaceful new year!

