



**SHIRE OAK**  
C of E (VC) Primary School

Letter 19  
30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It may only have been a four day week for the children, but it was still a busy time at Shire Oak! Thank you to the parents and carers who were able to join us at the start of the day today in Reception, Year One and Year Two for Stay and Play. The theme of a few of the activities was the Lunar New Year, celebrated by some of our families. This was also the topic of the assembly in Key Stage Two this morning. **Happy Lunar New Year** to anyone celebrating!



Year 3 were delighted this week to welcome Maisie's dad (a **volcanologist**) to their class to support their topic. They watched in awe and wonder as the experiments demonstrating pressure causing volcanoes to erupt worked very well.

Well done to the children in Key Stages One and Two for the **homework** that they have been bringing in to school and that was celebrated in assembly on Wednesday. We believe that the homework that makes the biggest difference to children's success is regular (ideally daily) reading at home and the practising of maths facts like number bonds and times tables off by heart. Beyond that, it is helpful to practise phonics and spellings so that children can read and write them. (Using LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK for spelling practice often works well.) For children to build up their stamina, pursue their interests and talk to their adults about topics – all things we know help them become good learners – we give children the choice of how they respond to the half termly homework project. This results in all sorts of things being brought in that we enjoy reading, looking at and even tasting. (For anyone who still has time left over, the half termly homework leaflets also signpost other productive things you can be doing at home.)

We were very pleased to receive a letter from the **Secretary of State** this week congratulating us on our Year 6 SATs results for children in receipt of Pupil Premium. Here is how it starts:

Dear Jane Astrid,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Shire Oak VC Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed. ...

**Bridget Phillipson** Secretary of State for Education

PE Partners have let us know about an **Open Evening** that they are holding at their new home, the **BEAT** building in LS5. They will have free come-and-try sessions in dance, yoga, dodgeball, basketball, Hotshots and table tennis with members of the team on hand to help parents find the right activity for themselves and their children.

They will be serving free hot drinks and there will be hot and cold food on offer, provided by their Fiesta Food Truck partners. There are significant savings (up to 75%) off the costs of all sessions with BEAT membership. Click [here](#) for the full programme on offer and details of free tasters, etc.



I hope you have a good weekend.

*Jane Astrid Devane*

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

Well done to Aidan and Year 6 who responded to this [appeal](#) and this afternoon are busy making, writing and sending cards.

## DIARY DATES

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Health checks YR and Y6
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Bright Bites dental visitor to Year 4
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Reception Class pizza-making trip (TBC)
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Audiology team to conduct hearing checks with Y1 children
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Y5 trip to York Chocolate Story
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Yorkshire Cross Country final (well done to our competitor for getting this far)
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception Class maths meeting 1 pm online (please note the change from the original time)
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> February	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Canals and Rivers Trust water safety sessions
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Fire Safety Visit to Year 5
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Football match playing 'at home' at Lawnswood v Adel after school.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Pancake Sale after school (Shrove Tuesday in half term)
16 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> February HALF TERM School closed to children. <a href="#">A Camps</a> will run a holiday playscheme here at Shire Oak.	
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	NSPCC workshops Y2, Y5 and Y6.
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Football team playing Ireland Wood at 'home' (Lawnswood pitch) after school
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2 families.
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Shire Oak Sunday at St Michael's Church 10am
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
6 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> March	British Science Week (we extend this for the fortnight)
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	French Day in school
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Y6 Pizza Club starts (which day TBC)
16 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Virtual Reality workshops
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Eid ul Fitr assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome! TBC
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Y3 Sports Festival am
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y6 Tag Rugby at Kirkstall pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> March onwards	Class visits to St Michael's to explore Easter story begin
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March *	Y1 trip to Temple Newsam
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents and Carers' Evening (appointments this week or next week)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y5 this time please)
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March *	Y3/4 Easter production (dress rehearsal to the school)
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April *	Y3/4 Easter production to parents and carers in the morning
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Parents and Carers' Evening.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
3 <sup>rd</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> April EASTER HOLIDAY School closed to children. <a href="#">A Camps</a> will run a holiday playscheme here at Shire Oak.	
22 <sup>nd</sup> and 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	D:Side workshops about medicines, drugs and alcohol safety
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	Vaisakhi Assembly 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April *	Swimming at Scott Hall starts TBC
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY School closed to children
7 <sup>th</sup> to 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Residential
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Y5 trip to waste recycling plant
w/c/ 11 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS week. As these are statutory, please avoid planned appointments, etc.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May *	Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
w/c 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Bikeability for Year 6
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Multicultural picnic after school TBC
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y6 this time please)
25 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> May HALF TERM School closed to children. There will be a holiday playscheme.	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June *	Green Week including Road Safety
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June *	Pedestrian Training
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June *	RSE parents meeting for Y5/6 (optional) 5pm TBC
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June *	Class photos
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June *	Reception Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!

Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	*	Year 4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June		TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	*	Non uniform day in return for tombola prizes for HYMF
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June		FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from YR this time please)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June		Y5 trip to Water Treatment Works
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	*	New Reception parents meeting am and evening TBC
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	*	Headingley Youth Music Festival (HYMF) 12-4pm. All our children are in the choir and many will be in other performances. We host and run this event for the community, which incorporates our summer fair. Please avoid booking birthday parties, etc. on this day.
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June		Y3 sharing assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July		Transition day for children moving to Y7 at Lawnswood School and our in-school transition day with sessions for incoming Reception.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	*	Music Recitals and 9:15 and 2pm. TBC
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	*	Y5/6 Sports Day 1:15pm
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	*	YR/1/2 Sports Day c. 9:15am
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	*	Y3/4 Sports Day 1:15pm
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	*	Y5/6 production dress rehearsal to rest of school
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	*	Y5/6 production pm and evening (ticketed entrance to one of the shows)
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	*	Teachers available after school to drop in and discuss end of year reports
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July		FOSOPS ice cream sale after school
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	*	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am.
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	*	Y6 leavers' ten pin bowling trip
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	*	Last day of term. Acorn Club finishes early today.
DATES: <a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates</a>		

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