



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Apologies that this end of half term newsletter didn't go out on Friday – we had a very busy and productive **training day** that day with training on phonics (and our new scheme, FFT Success for All), some time as a staff to reflect on what is distinctive about Shire Oak and what of that is attributable to our being a church school and then had very useful time to spend on planning and preparing resources for our children, particularly those with SEND. This half term has gone quite quickly but it has been a full one – I am sure there are some tired families who have benefitted from the odd pyjama day this week.

Many of our children have been keenly following the **Rugby League World Cup** which seems to have been the most inclusive ever. After half term children from our rugby club will be going to watch some of the matches held in Headingley, but the girls' team have had a head start on the excitement. Here are some photos of our team

standing with the World Cup trophy, playing tag rugby with Leeds Rhinos and England player Georgia Roche, and listening to Leeds coach Lois Forsell along with Georgia and fellow England stars Fran Goldthorp and Keara Bennett. What an opportunity! Thanks Mr Ian Martin for organising this.



Although it seems like a long time ago now, the last week of half term was started with our annual **Woodland Walk**. It was great to see families and staff getting to know each other and enjoying the autumn sunshine.



Thank you to Mrs Marcelle Maver for getting us organised and to the FOSOPS volunteers who made sure we had warm food and drinks to return to. **FOSOPS** will now turn their attention to the **Winter Festival of Fire** and how they can support that school event. They are holding a planning meeting at 2pm on Friday 4th November in the Community Room (where Acorn Club meet) to plan this and any other autumn term events. Please do join them if you can!

FOSOPS are our PTA who arrange social and fundraising events to support school and build our community. Another important group of people are the **governing body** who provide the strategic leadership for the school and support and challenge us to provide the best possible education for your children. Scroll to the end for a newsletter from the chair of governors, Antonia Nicholls.

Mrs Susan Koyuncu has asked me to let you know that there is a second chance to take up the **flu vaccine** offer. The nursing team have reopened the link to register. This will close on the 4th November in time for the vaccinations on the 22nd November. She has resent it in an email - please check if you missed it.



Look at these great cork clocks that **art club** have made!

Year 2 enjoyed their trip to **York Railway Museum** as part of their transport topic. They were impressed with the sheer size of the locomotives they saw and enjoyed the special workshop.

I hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 31st October.

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS The **Fire Service** have asked me to draw your attention to their safety campaign. As local council displays have been cancelled, they are concerned about making sure families can enjoy fireworks safely.



Class	Well done to these Superstars who have been chosen by staff who work with them. (They were asked to choose children who set a high standard for written presentation in their class and also someone who had shown the most improvement in this to display in school.) Year 6 monitors write down the comments on certificates as they are given out.
YR (Thames)	Piotr tries hard with writing letters in phonics and is making great progress. Josh always tries his best and often adds writing to his pictures.
Y1 (Nile)	Runa always presents her work well with very neat handwriting. Josie has improved her handwriting and tries her best.
Y2 (Arvi Aru)	Were on their trip – we will catch up with them soon
Y3 (Rhine)	Roberta's handwriting is always beautifully presented. Rohan works really hard on improving his handwriting. Beckett has been successfully using numberline methods to subtract from 3 digit numbers. Skylar always has a positive attitude in school and to her learning. We all love having her with us.
Y4 (Ganges)	Ella has reflected on feedback to consider the size of her handwriting and has made a real effort to do so. Poppy always presents her work to a high standard, taking care with her handwriting and presentation.
Y5 (Tigris)	Emma H presents her writing to a very high standard. Priya has been working hard at editing and improving her writing.
Y6 (Amazon)	Amber has excellent handwriting. Dylan's handwriting has improved greatly in Year 6.
Citizen(s) of the Week , nominated by Ms Devane, were Connie and Isla for spotting a helpful job that needed doing and giving up lots of their free time to get it done.	
Well done to these children (and any others) who have achieved their next Maths Passport continent and are travelling on to the next one: Amber and Charlie N-S	



We have been learning about the Jewish festival of **Sukkot** and made these sukkah shelters in each class.

DIARY DATES

DIARY DATES	
HALF TERM HOLIDAY Monday 24 th to Friday 28 th October. www.artcampuk.com/ will be running a playscheme here:	
Tuesday 1 st November	Rugby Club trip to watch a World Cup match at Headingley
Friday 4 th November	Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 4 th November *	FOSOPS meeting to plan autumn events, all welcome at 2pm
Monday 7 th November	Anti Bullying Fortnight begins
Tuesday 8 th November	YR trip to Pizza Express TBC
Wednesday 9 th Nov	Vikings visitor for Y6
Thursday 10 th November	Y1 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Friday 11 th November	Y2 Class Assembly at 9am in the hall, all welcome.
Monday 14 th November *	Tree of trees planting at Wheatfields (small group of children)
Mon/Tues 14 th /15 th Nov	D:Side Internet Safety workshops across school
Wed 16 th November	Winter Festival of Fire straight after school to celebrate outdoor learning and the changing of the seasons. Free entry and activities with food and drink to buy. All welcome!
Friday 18 th November	Stay and Play in YR, Y1 and Y2. Join your child in class at the start of the day.
Friday 18 th November	Anti Bullying Theatre workshops for KS2
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
Tuesday 29 th November	Headingley Christmas Lights Switch On at St Michael's with Shire Oak choir TBC 5:15pm
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
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
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.
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
Friday 12 th May	Y2 Class Assembly 9am in the hall, all welcome.
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
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.	

Shire Oak C of E VC Primary School

Governors' Newsletter Autumn 2022

Governors produce an annual update from the members of the Shire Oak Governing Body to keep you informed about our membership and activities. According to the Governors page on the Shire Oak website the last newsletter was issued a few years back, so we are a little behind ourselves but there's no time like the present to catch up (and it has been a funny couple of years)!

Who we are

The Governing Body is made up of local community representatives, Foundation (Church) Governors appointed by the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales, parent/carers, Local Authority Governors, Staff and the Head Teacher. Please refer to the box below to see the constitution of our 2022-23 Governors.

What we do

The Governing Body's priority is to make things as good as they can be for the children of Shire Oak whilst ensuring that the School meets its strategic priorities. We meet as a full committee 5 times a year and we also meet once a term in a two smaller sub-committees which are focussed on specific aspects of school life: One concerned with academic achievement and progress, the curriculum, behaviour and attendance, the wider school community and partnerships, and the second is concerned with the school budget, the building, health and safety, infrastructure and resources including staffing. Our role is to gather evidence about what is happening in school and to review and monitor schools activities, constructively challenging School management to ensure that they are meeting the school priorities. Further details are on the Governors page on the Shire Oak website: <https://www.shireoak.org/about1-c1fgz>

The School priorities for the 2022-23 school year are:

- To improve our quality first teaching and classroom provision so that we meet the needs of all children, including those with SEND, EAL or who could be working at greater depth. (We will do this through well planned, resourced and taught learning, a graduated approach for children with additional needs and effective deployment of support and specialist staff.)
- To ensure a consistent, whole school approach to the teaching of English including early reading and writing (phonics), reading and writing.
- To ensure a consistent, whole school approach to the teaching of maths in line with mastery principles. (Representation and structure; mathematical thinking; variation; fluency; and coherence.)

Our regular activities

There are lots of things that the Governing Body has to look at regularly. These include health and safety at the school, finances, safeguarding, the children's spiritual, moral, social and cultural development, the school's website, policies, and values, as well as taking part in the performance management of the Head Teacher and sitting on appointments panels. We are also on the Advisory Board for the Headingley, Horsforth and Ireland Wood Children's Centre, and take an active interest in the running of the new Acorn Club and the Headingley Pre-School. As Governors we spend a lot of time examining school and benchmark data as well as revising school documents to make sure they best reflect the current situation at the school and the needs of our children. We also keep up-to-date with developments in Government education policy, both nationally and from Leeds City Council and the Diocese and adapt what school is doing accordingly.

Parent, pupil and staff surveys

We commit to undertaking surveys of the key school stakeholders; parent/carers, pupils and staff, at least once a year and we monitor feedback and compare trends year on year, which is a vital source of information.

Membership news

At the start of the new school year in September we said goodbye to Jan Kramer who stepped down as Foundation Governor and welcomed David Walls who was appointed in her place.

Join us!

If you are a member of the local community or a parent/carer at the school, and would be interested in becoming a Governor, please talk to us. We don't have any vacancies currently but they do arise regularly. Our roles are challenging but very rewarding, and we all take a real pride in serving our school.

Shire Oak Governors 2022-23

- Antonia Nicholls - Co-opted Governor (Chair)
- Dick Killington – Co-opted Governor (Vice Chair)
- Sally Dyster - Co-opted Governor
- Ann Dudzinski - Co-opted Governor
- Reverend Angela Birkin – Foundation Governor
- David Walls - Foundation Governor
- Bianca Woodruff – Staff Governor
- Anna Swinburn – Parent Governor
- Kate Wright – Parent Governor
- Charlie Stobbart – Parent Governor
- Amy Dunmall – Parent Governor
- Cllr Neil Walshaw - Local Authority (LA) governor
- Jane Astrid Devane - Headteacher
- Marcelle Maver – Associate Governor

And finally...

We are incredibly proud to be involved in such a fantastic school, which is made what it is by the amazing people who run it, Jane, Marcelle and the whole team. We know that the staff team are loyal and work very hard and we are struck by the positivity and energy that they display each and every day in their working lives.

The last few years have been unprecedented and incredibly challenging. During this period Shire Oak has provided a much needed point of stability and support for pupils and their families as well as the wider Headingley community. The Governing Body express our huge appreciation and thankyou to the entire staffing team for their loyalty, hard work and commitment during this difficult period which has made such a difference to the school community.

There will always be challenges but as a Board of Governors we are very confident and proud about everything that our fantastic School stands for.

Antonia Nicholls, Chair of Governors, October 2022