Rooted in the community – growing for the future

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC)Primary School

Letter 11
20th November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers



This week we have been very busy in and out of school. It was great to see so many families (about half the school by some counts!) at the **Headingley Lights Switch On** as they sang and counted down. Thank you for supporting this community event.

This week we welcomed visitors to our **Open Morning** as families decide where to apply for primary school for 2027. As the birth rate in Headingley and Hyde Park is falling, it is anticipated that we will have a wider catchment area in the next few years. If you have friends who missed this week, do ask them to get in touch as we have a back up date as well as the Open Morning in January. Thanks to the parents who supported with refreshments and a friendly face to talk to about what it's really like in our school.





Book Club members from Year 5 went to **Saltaire** yesterday to find out about the historical background to life for children working in the mills, as they have been reading about this topic. It was a cold but interesting day. Thank you to everyone involved in making it happen!

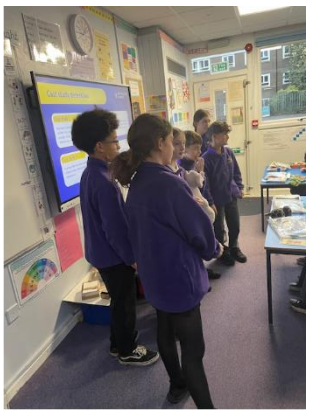


Thank you to anyone who was able to join us for our **Hanukkah Assembly** yesterday. We know it's a bit early and our Jewish families are not celebrating quite yet, but we enjoyed learning about this festival of lights and sharing that with each other and our visitors. (Y3 dancing the hora →)

BREAK THE SILENCE

Anti Bullying Fortnight is drawing to a close, but that doesn't mean that the work on helping children to break the silence and use their voices is ending. This morning the Year 6 House Team leaders very capably hosted discussions about different scenarios and the other children were great at explaining not only how to speak up if they felt bullied, but to call it out if they saw it and to do things that help prevent it (like including others in their play and challenging unkind comments, etc.) Children and adults in school will now be signing this year's Anti Bullying Charter to explain that we know what bullying is, we know what bullying is *not*, and we know what to do about bullying (TELL!) This week children have also brought home rattle drums. These were a present from School Council to help children remember this year's theme of Break the Silence. The Eco Leads on School Council were keen not to have disposable plastic items which is why the wooden drums were chosen.







I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS See overleaf for this week's **superstars**!

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)	**Sarin** is a kind and thoughtful friend. **Remi** is always kind and includes others.
Y1 (Nile)	**Sienna** is always kind and caring towards others. **Ire** is always kind and caring towards others.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	**Rosa** is so kind and will always help others when they need it. **Nicolai** shows kindness when others are upset by making sure they are okay and checking on them.
Y3 (Rhine)	**Ellis** is always kind, friendly and tries to include others in learning and play. **Hope** is always kind, friendly and thoughtful about other people.
Y4 (Ganges)	**Imogen** is flying through guided reading questions, answering with thought and care. **Medi** is working with increased independence and enthusiasm in maths.
Y5 (Tigris)	**Lily** always gives a thoughtful comment in her reading record. **Leo** varies his reading between fiction and non-fiction. **Daisy** is working hard on developing her knowledge of improper fractions. **Stanley** regularly shows his good mental maths skills in class.
Y6 (Amazon)	**Noah** is respectful to everyone he comes across. **Paige** is always kind to others and has a positive attitude at all times.
Citizen of the Week is **Caleb** in Y6. He was nominated by Acorn Club staff because he is always so kind and considerate to the younger children in breakfast club. Ms Holden said, "I love it when he reads them stories, because he makes it so fun and always make sure everyone feels included." Well done!	



DIARY DATES

~~Friday 27th November~~	~~FOSOPS bun sale after school run and supplied by Year 3 for all families to buy from~~
Monday 30th November *	FOSOPS disco/movie night tickets go on sale along with raffle tickets from this morning
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
Friday 4th December	Young Climate Warriors ambassador working with Eco Team at lunchtime
Monday 7th December	Some of choir singing at Headingley Library Christmas event
Wednesday 9th December	Nativity play dress rehearsals for KS2 to watch
Thursday 10th December	Reception Class Nativity Play c. 9am (Starts once the children are registered, dressed and ready. There are nice coffee & refreshments while you wait for it to start!)
Friday 11th December	Year 1/2 Nativity Play c.9am (nice coffee & refreshments while you wait for it to start)
Friday 11th December	Year 4 unveiling our Advent Window for the local Advent trail
Friday 11th December *	Y3 Christmas bun sale in the tipi after school with a special visit from Rasta Claus!
Monday 14th December	Some of choir singing at Headingley Hall care home
Tuesday 15th December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church 10:30am
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. (Tickets in advance)
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)
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.
Monday 1st February	Cross Country final TBC
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 22nd 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)
Thursday 18th March	Y6 rugby at Roundhegians 1-3pm
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.
Tuesday 23rd March *	Y3/4 production dress rehearsal to the rest of school am TBC
Wednesday 24th March *	Y3/4 production to families am TBC
Wednesday 24th March	Parents and carers consultation evening (you will book slots nearer the time)
Thursday 25th March	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
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