



Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see so many of you at the **Headingley Lights Switch On**. Our children sang nicely (despite not knowing we would be called on to 'perform!') and there was a nice community feel to the event. Thank you to our local councillors and St Michael's for arranging it.



Year 4 have also been embracing the season of **Advent** as they attended 'Open Up Christmas' run by Churches Together in

Headingley. Along with the other schools in Kirkstall and Headingley we were invited to come and take part in craft activities and learn a little more about what Christmas means to many Christians.



In school the decorations are starting to be unpacked, Nativity rehearsals are underway and our **Christmas Postbox** is now up and running. If children would like to send a card to their teacher, a friend, to all their friends or even the whole class then they can write them and pop them in the postbox, which is outside Miss Craven's office. In a world of communication technology, writing cards is a meaningful way for children to practise writing for a real reason. For families who are trying to reduce, reuse and recycle then cutting off the backs of last year's cards and using them as postcards is one option, as is children making their own cards and simply sealing them shut. Make sure to include the name and class either on the envelope or the back of the card though!

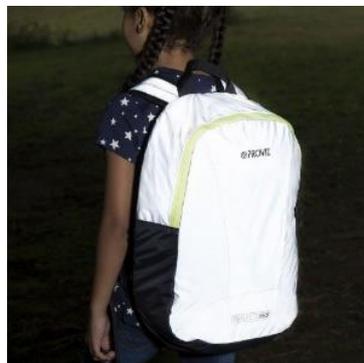
We are glad to have been invited to take part in the local residents' **Advent Windows** again this year – watch out for the windows appearing each day in December and for our window (actually the Alma Road gate!) on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We were happy to invite them to school this weekend for some craft preparations and there are definitely some great ones to look out for.

At this time of year we enjoy the twinkling lights, but the early dark evenings brings their own challenges. Unfortunately, a Shire Oak pupil in Year 4 was **hit by a car** on his way home from after school club recently. The incident took place on the zebra crossing on Grove Lane. He and his family were on the crossing and a car failed to stop. Thankfully, he is now fully recovered from his injuries physically. However, understandably this has a huge impact on the whole family as his sister and dad witnessed this very distressing incident.

This incident proves how easily this could happen to any of our children despite the care and attention parents and carers give them on the way to and from school. The parents involved and Shire Oak school are keen to keep our children safe by lighting everyone up. We have a few ideas for Christmas presents and stocking fillers to suit all budgets that would help to illuminate your child. Proviz sell a range of fully reflective products including jackets and backpacks. They also sell, for a few pounds, small LED lights that can be fastened to items



of clothing, for example attached to the inside of coat pockets and taken out when walking home in the dark. Another fun option is to buy a roll of reflective adhesive tape (widely available online). Your children can have fun cutting out strips and shapes and sticking them to bags and coats. School have contacted the road safety unit at Leeds City Council to inform them of the accident and ask if they can advise or provide any reflective items.



Lighting up our children won't necessarily stop careless drivers, but it may just make drivers think more about other people and help them to see us on dark mornings and evening.

In happier news, Year 6 are currently at **Robinwood Centre** near Todmorden for their school residential. They are enjoying outdoor and adventurous activities away from home and school for three days. Going at this time of year does mean they have to wrap up warmly but does mean it is the cheapest possible time to go away.



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We love welcoming parents into school, but we are especially fortunate when they have skills and expertise that really support our children's learning. Kat Baxter, who works for Leeds Museums, came into school to support Y3 and Y4 in their 'When did Britain Begin?' topic bringing in **prehistoric objects** that were over two thousand years old! What a great experience to bring their history learning to life! Thank you very much Kat!

Apart from rugby, our **after school clubs** are now finished for the term. Watch out for the letter with the new offer for clubs starting in the spring term. In House Team meetings on Friday the children were able to share their ideas and requests, and we always take these into account where we can.



Some of our children participate in a Leeds-wide choir for children with special educational needs. They have been rehearsing for a special concert and the **YAMSEN Choir** performed on Wednesday evening at Leeds Town Hall to a proud audience of friends, families and school staff. Thank you to Jill Dickinson and Jackie Vollans for their support in making this happen.



Reception Class have put out a request for **old children's magazines** and any **rolls of wallpaper** that you might have spare at home. They would love to use them!

So far we have escaped the worst of the **viruses** circulating in Leeds currently. You can help us by reinforcing routines around handwashing for children and making sure that if they have been off with a stomach bug that they do not come back until it has cleared. Thank you.

Please see the attached poster about a **Nearly New Sale** at HEART. One of our pupils will be running a charity stall there.

We are always trying hard to improve our **communication** with you about school events, etc. We try to publish the dates nice and early so that it is possible to schedule time off work, babysitters, etc. Occasionally because things are booked so far in advance we have to move things though, for which we apologise. Class assemblies are often scheduled at the end of the week to enable the class to draw together the work and have a practice run through first. We know this doesn't always suit working patterns, however and as a few parents in Y3 are struggling with end of the week dates, we have moved their last class assembly to a Tuesday. Our **newsletter** is a way of celebrating and sharing what goes on in school and checking diary dates. We are trialling a move to fortnightly editions but want to hear whether that makes it more or less likely for it to be read! In the meantime, dates are updated on the calendar on our website, so you can always check there. Thanks.

Class	Well done to this week's Superstars who have been chosen by staff in their class.
YR (Thames)	<b>Tomos</b> can write words independently. <b>Charlie</b> is beginning to write sentences independently.
Y1 (Nile)	<b>Jake</b> is always hard working and does his best as seen in phonics recently. <b>Annabelle</b> works consistently hard as seen in her division this week.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	<b>Joe's</b> confidence has grown and grown within the classroom. A real pleasure to teach! <b>Seth</b> always has a 'can do' attitude. He loves to learn and is always full of energy and is positive.
Y3 (Rhine)	<b>Isla</b> takes spelling seriously and always works hard to do her best, learn new rules and words and check them carefully. <b>Emily S</b> is enthusiastic about all her learning and is determined to be the best she can be.
Y4 (Ganges)	<b>Dave</b> always brings an enthusiastic approach to his learning. <b>Isabel</b> is an 'always' pupil. She always tries hard, she always behaves well and she is always kind to her friends.
Y5 (Tigris)	<b>Edwin</b> wrote a wonderful narrative story. <b>Joshua</b> wrote a fantastic narrative story which Ms Waller thoroughly enjoyed reading.
Y6 (Amazon)	Were at Robinwood for this assembly.
<b>Citizen of the Week</b> was <b>Edie E</b> who was nominated by Peggy for showing all the school values, "She's a great friend and lets people join in the games." Well done!	

Thank you to **Revd Angela** who came in to help some children prepare an assembly to lead for the whole school. Year 6 have been thinking about worship (worth + ship) and the different ways this can be expressed. They are working in groups to prepare a range of interesting assemblies for the rest of us. Currently themes include racism, climate change, Chinese celebrations, Bible stories, sexism, compassion and self-worth. We look forward to participating in them! Well done to **Year 5** for this morning's class assembly. We particularly enjoyed your persuasive writing linked to your topic work!



Have a good weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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

If you have any concerns or observations regarding **health and safety**, please contact Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Liz Craven.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding **child protection** issues, please speak to Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Jane Hinchliffe.

If you have questions about your **child's progress** or **how to help them** with the learning they find difficult please speak to your child's teacher or make an appointment to see them via the school office.

The governors are always interested in hearing the **views of parents**. If you would like to speak to a governor, then please email the chair, Julia Kelly [shireoakgovernors@gmail.com](mailto:shireoakgovernors@gmail.com). Our parent governors are often on the playground, if you would like to talk to them.)

## Christmas Celebrations

We continue as normal a curriculum as possible in the last few weeks of term, with some changes to allow for **Nativity rehearsals, etc.** We do like to mark the festival in school, however, so we will be having our **Christmas parties** on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. On that day children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 can come to school in party clothes (that they can play outside in!) Years 3 to 6 can bring theirs in a named bag. Children eating school dinners will be given a special party lunch and children eating packed lunches may bring in more treat foods than usual. In the afternoon we will all watch Alive and Kicking's Christmas Production: Santa and the Christmas Dragon, followed by games in the classroom.

FOSOPS have organised a **school disco** for the same evening (as they know that too many party days at this time of year can be too much!) The younger children's (R-Y2) disco is from 3:30 – 4:30 and the KS2 disco is from 4:45 – 5:45. The £3 ticket includes juice all evening. There will be pizza and sweets available to buy (50p a slice). FOSOPS would appreciate parent volunteers to support with running the disco. (Parents of younger children may wish to stay if their child really needs them, but should feel absolutely free to leave if they are fine.) School staff will be at the disco too.

# Headingley Preschool

## SEND Early Years assistant job vacancy

Hours: Monday to Friday 9am-12pm during term time, with potential to become full-time  
Start date: January 2020  
Hourly rate: £7.50 - £8.70 depending on qualifications and experience.

Headingley Preschool is an established and Outstanding Early Years setting, providing quality, affordable, inclusive early years education to our vibrant and diverse community since 1981.

This vacancy is for a temporary SEND assistant (15 hours per week, 39 weeks per year), to support a wonderful child with special educational needs. This post is dependent upon SEND funding which follows the child, but could potentially be until August 2021. There is also the potential for the hours to increase, as the child increases their attendance.

Responsibilities: Key Person, to enable a child to independently access all the fun of our play focused preschool, planning for their individual needs, and recording their achievements using our online Learning Journal to help them reach their full potential. The successful applicant should be able to demonstrate a caring and encouraging approach. Ideally you would have previous experience of supporting children with additional needs in an early years setting. Knowledge of Makaton and Portage would be an advantage.

As the role involves observation, assessment and termly report writing, and liaising with colleagues and parents, excellent communication skills are required. All applicants require a minimum GCSE C Grade in both Maths and English, or equivalent, for this post. Early Years qualifications are also desirable. The offer of the post is dependent on the take up of references, and a DBS check.

Closing date for this position is the 2pm on 18th December 2019.

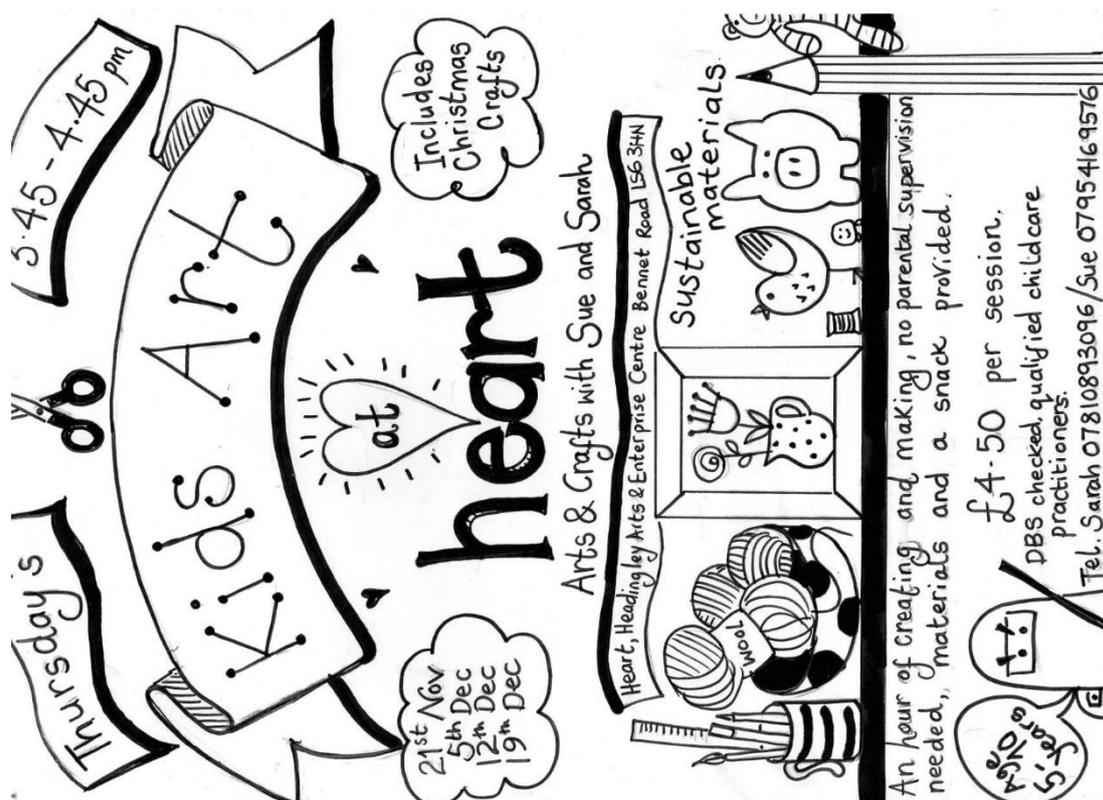
Interviews for this post will take place in the week beginning 6th January 2020

Ellen McCartney

Manager

Headingley Preschool

[ellen.mccartney@headingleypreschool.co.uk](mailto:ellen.mccartney@headingleypreschool.co.uk)



## DIARY DATES

Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	*	Cloth for the Cradle, St Michael's, 10am. All are invited to this child-friendly service.
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December		Bun Sale with donations by Y4 but available for all to buy
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December		Book Club visit to Wizard of Oz at Leeds Playhouse 1:30pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December		Nativity Dress Rehearsal in the morning
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	*	Children from choir carol singing at Wheatfields Hospice, pm.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	*	Nativity Productions morning c.9:15am and afternoon 1:15pm. Refreshments served. We do not use tickets for this event, as we want all parents and carers to be able to attend. Please be aware that due to fire regulations there are limited spaces in the hall so be considerate and try to avoid the same adults watching both performances, for example.
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	*	Children from choir carol singing at Victoria Court in the morning
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December		Carol Service at St Michael's Church, 10:30am. All welcome!
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas dinner in school
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	*	Children from choir carol singing at Headingley Hall, pm.
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December		Santa and the Christmas Dragon (Alive and Kicking) and Christmas parties
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	*	Christmas Disco R/KS1 3:30 – 4:30 and Y3-Y6 4.45 – 5:45
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	*	Christingle Service at St Michael's, 4pm. All welcome to this child-friendly service.
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January		Open Morning, 9:30am. All welcome!
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	*	Food Waste Workshop launch for after school club
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> January		Maths Focus Day and maths meeting for Reception parents (in the afternoon)
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January		Y6 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January		Stay and Play, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in class at the start of the day
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January		Bun Sale with donations by Y3 but available for all to buy
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January		TRAINING DAY – school closed to children
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January		Y3 assembly to present poetry written with local poet, James Nash (afternoon)
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January		Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	*	Parents quiz night by FOSOPS TBC
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> January		Y4 science workshop
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January		Geography Knowledge Day
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February		Y4 science workshop
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> February		Reception Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> February		Shire Oak Sunday - welcome to join the all age service St Michael's Church 10am
10 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> February		Writing Focus Week including House Team Hobby Half Day
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March		Bun Sale with donations by Y2 but available for all to buy
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March		World Book Day – we dress up as characters or 'wear' quotes we love.
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March		Stay and Play, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in class at the start of the day
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> - Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> March		Lineham Farm residential for Year 4
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March		Year 1 Class Assembly
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March		Movie Night TBC
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March		TRAINING DAY – school closed to children TBC
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March		Y4 Piano Fantasia trip (as part of Leeds Piano Competition)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April		Easter production dress rehearsal
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April		Easter production, c.9:15 in the hall, all welcome!
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> & Thur 23 <sup>rd</sup> April		Parents Evenings in the evening. Y5 and Y6 attend appointments with their parents.
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April		Stay and Play, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in class at the start of the day
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April		Bun Sale with donations by Y1 but available for all to buy
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April		Y2 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> May		Y4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> & Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> May		Visits from d:side on medicines, drugs, alcohol and smoking
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> May		Reception Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May		VE Day Bank Holiday (2020 only) SCHOOL CLOSED
11 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> May		KS2 SATs week
18 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> May		Green Week including road safety
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May		Class and team photos

w/c Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Bikeability for Y6. Get practising so you're ready!
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Eid assembly
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Non-uniform day (in return for tombola items for Headingley Youth Music Festival)
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Bun Sale with donations by Reception Class but available for all to buy
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Nurses to see Reception and Y6
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Relationships Education meeting for Y5/6 parents in the evening TBC
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	New Reception parents' meetings (am and evening)
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> June 12-4pm	Headingley Youth Music Festival. All our children perform & includes summer fair
15 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Geography Mapping Week (includes orienteering)
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Stay and Play, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 in class at the start of the day
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY – school closed to children TBC
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June *	Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Music recital for children learning instruments in and out of school
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Transition Day
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Adults v Children netball match and barbecue
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 production performance in front of the school
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 production for parents in the evening, 6pm. All welcome!
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	R/1/2 Sports Day c.9am and Y5/6 Sports Day c.1.10pm (weather dependant)
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Y3/4 Sports Day c.9am
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service 10:30am St Michael's Church
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Parties and Y6 Leavers' Bowling trip or similar
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Likely to be a closure day due to building work on our roof.
<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar</a> term dates	
* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change	

## Nearly New Babies and Children's Sale

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**11am – 3pm**

**@**

**Headingley Enterprise and Arts Centre  
(HEART)**

**Bennett Road, Leeds LS6 3HN**

**Stalls £10, FREE Entry**

**Email [northleeds@mumbler.co.uk](mailto:northleeds@mumbler.co.uk) to  
reserve a stall**

Headingley Enterprise and Arts Centre (HEART)  
Bennett Road, Leeds LS6 3HN  
0113 275 4548 - admin@heartcentre.org.uk

