



Dear Parents and Carers

**Welcome** to the new school year to returning families and to the parents and carers of our new children in Reception Class and throughout school. I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer. It has been great to hear the children's news, see their excitement to be in their new classes and watch them trying very hard to make a good first impression. Please make sure contact details and other important information such as medical information, etc. is up to date at the office. Do let us know if there is something the new class staff ought to know. For example, if your child wears glasses and you suspect they might conceal that fact please mention it to a member of class staff who can do some gentle nagging to get them into good habits at the start of the year.

Our new **Reception Class** have settled in so well! As this goes to the printer they are getting ready to have their first school dinners with us, ready for full days from Monday. They have come in very confidently, have been happy for their parents to leave and have enjoyed exploring the classroom and outside area as well as listening to stories and learning with Miss Coulter on the carpet. I look forward to sharing a photo of them soon.

Parents of children in Years 1 to 6 should have received a letter this week about the **extra-curricular clubs and activities** on offer this term. Please ask if you did not get a copy and return the slip as soon as you can! Marcelle Maver and Abi Readman work hard to give as many places to children as they can, and make sure that anyone who misses out is offered something else they would like and is placed on a high priority list for the next term.

As those of you who were here to say goodbye to Mrs Whitehead on her retirement this summer will know, we have not yet made a permanent appointment to the position of Learning Mentor. We are happy, however, in the interim, to introduce **Jane Hinchliffe** to you. Jane was the Senior Family Outreach Worker in the INW Hub Cluster that we were part of and we have asked her to cover some of the family support, mentoring and safeguarding responsibilities that Hilary carried out. She is out on the playground in the morning, along with **Lawrence Nash** (our behaviour support worker) to chat to parents and to be a point of contact to let us know if your child is worried, upset or finding things difficult for any reason. You can, of course, always speak to your child's teacher, myself or Marcelle Maver as well.

Thank you to the parents who were able to join us for the **Year 1 transition meeting** on Wednesday to find out a little more about learning in Key Stage 2, meet the Year 1 teachers and see the classroom. If you were unable to make it, please do chat to Sue Bennett or Susie Hopkins to pick up the resources they shared and to arrange to come and see the classroom after school one day. Hopefully **Year 3** parents are all aware of the opportunity they have after school on Monday for a transition meeting. See Mr Martin on Monday if not!

A note from our volunteer librarian, Janie Percy-Smith:

#### SCHOOL LIBRARY BOOKS

Shire Oak has an excellent library with a good stock of books that we try to renew regularly. We are very keen that all children should have access to the book collection to encourage regular reading for pleasure and to support their learning and wider interests. However children also need to understand that library books are shared resources that need to be looked after and returned. Unfortunately over the past year we have lost a significant number of books that have not been returned. Some of these books belong to the School Library Service who lend us books to supplement our own collection. Our failure to return more than 70 School Library Service books at the end of the last school year has meant that we have had to pay £200 for replacement books. That means £200 that school does not have to spend on new books for our school library.

This situation cannot continue. In future if children do not return their library books parents may be asked to pay for a replacement for the book that has been lost, particularly if we have not been told about the loss and efforts have not been made to locate it.

There are currently more than 100 library books loaned to children during the last school year that were not returned at the end of the summer term. If your child has a library book from last year they will receive a note of the title. Please make every effort to look for the relevant book and return it as soon as possible.

We will place a **Book Amnesty Box** in the lobby at the front of school where school books and library books can be returned anonymously if your child is worried about handing in something from ages ago.

Thank you for your help.

I look forward to next week when we will elect our House Team Captains. I hope you all have a good weekend.

*Jane Astrid Devane*

Jane Astrid Devane  
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We take the safeguarding of children very seriously at our school and we appreciate your help with this. 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 Hilary Whitehead.

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) Julia is often on the playground, particularly at the start and end of the week, if you would like to talk to her.)

#### DIARY DATES

Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Drop-in transition appointments for parents of children started in Y3 3pm-6pm.
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	Judo workshops
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> September	Stay and Play for parents/carers of Reception, Y1 and Y2 at the start of the day.
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Phonics and reading meeting for new Reception Class parents/carers TBC
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Alive and Kicking theatre group working with Y4 (linked to Stone Age)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Alive and Kicking theatre group working with Y3 (linked to Stone Age)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Y1 class assembly – all welcome! 9am in the hall.
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival, 9am (hall). All welcome. Please bring a non-perishable food gift.
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October *	Stay and Play for parents/carers of Reception, Y1 and Y2 at the start of the day.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Individual school photos
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Y4 class assembly – all welcome! 9am in the hall.
Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents and Carers Consultation evenings after school. All children have an appointment. Children in Y5 and Y6 are expected to attend with their adult.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	TRAINING DAY school closed to children TBC
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti bullying theatre show
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February *	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
* means added or changed since last newsletter      TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change	