



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

It was lovely to see a number of our families on Sunday at **Headingley Open Gardens**. The event was so popular that HEART ran out of maps of all the participating gardens! Some of our families stayed to work on the Nature Garden, others popped in to see us as part of the route. The idea of starting an informal parents and friends **afterschool gardening group** was suggested. It would be loosely organised by text or WhatsApp and would meet if the weather was fine and at least a couple of families were free. If you're interested please let us know and we'll get a list together. We asked for ideas from our visiting gardeners (who were also interested in how our part of Headingley Community Orchard was doing) and got lots of tips for shade loving/insect attracting plants. We also discussed composting in our everlasting battle with the leaves in our grounds. (If anyone would like to set up a mutually beneficial partnership where we give you all our leaves and you take them away to make leaf mould then do get in touch!)



Another way for parents to get involved is by joining **FOSOPS (Friends of Shire Oak Primary School)**. Open to all family and friends of our school our PTA organises social events that bring our community together and supports school through things like groundforce clear up days and fundraising. (We ensure that there are always free things on offer at our events so that all can take part and instead ask for contributions for things like food, drink or bouncy castles!) The first event of the year is our (usually) annual **Woodland Walk**. This low key event allows families to get to know each other whilst taking part in some activities on The Ridge and returning to school for some refreshments. New Reception Class families have often found this a good way to get to know each other although families across school do join us. FOSOPS are having their first meeting on Monday afternoon in the Community Room (where Kidzone operates their wraparound care). All are welcome to come and start discussions about the year's plans. (We run very informally and appreciate that people attend as their other commitments allow. There are usually a few toddlers exploring the room whilst we chat!)

Since lockdown the number of families with **dogs** seems to have increased and there are more of them on the school run. This can cause an issue when bringing children to their circles, however. Although they are not being brought onto the playground, they are being brought into the school grounds. This can cause a problem for other families using the ginnel from Alma Road who are scared of the dogs and don't know that the yapping is quite possibly friendly. I am talking to the Dogs Trust to arrange some sessions for children on feeling confident near dogs, but I need to remind you that they are not supposed to be brought into the school grounds at all, unless they are guide dogs. A good place to tie them up can be on

Wood Lane (away from the gates) along the railings as families using the two pedestrian gates do not need to walk past the middle section to enter school. If this will cause specific difficulties then we *may* be able to utilise the railings running along our driveway, but please speak to us first.



It is lovely to see the children settling down to their learning and currently school is less disrupted due to COVID than it was last year. Two children (who were only very briefly in school at the start of term) have tested positive after a family member tested positive for C19. I will keep you updated on our rates via the newsletter unless there is a sudden or significant rise in the numbers. Please remember that lateral flow tests are not

recommended by the government for testing when there are symptoms. If your child has any symptoms of Covid, please arrange for them to have a PCR test straight away and let us know the results. <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>



Children in Reception Class have occasional ‘wow’ moments recorded and shared on **Tapestry**. Year 1 still have active accounts but these will only be used should the children need to self-isolate or should we be instructed to resume remote learning again. Year 2’s accounts are currently hidden, but if there was a sudden need for remote learning then they would be reactivated. Y2 will be learning how to use **Google Classroom**, however, which would be their way of accessing remote learning. Hopefully none of these will be needed for this!

Year 3 have started their weekly **Forest School** sessions. They spend the first sessions in our school grounds, learning to risk assess for themselves and then move on to visiting The Ridge. All classes continue to use our grounds as much as possible and this week I have spotted a writing lesson, a science lesson. Scrap Shed sessions, area time for younger

children and PE lessons outdoors. Children now come to school in uniform every day and keep their **PE kit** in school for the half term so that they can change for PE lessons instead of wearing kit all day.

After School **Clubs** letters have gone out and individual/group **music lessons** have begun; it is so good to see children getting back to in-person activities that they enjoy. The **band** that started at Shire Oak with Joelle, the brass teacher, is soon meeting again at Kirkstall Valley Primary School at 3:30pm on Fridays. All KS2 wind and brass players (any level) are welcome to go along. (Or ask me for more information.) Djembe lessons started in Y4 and we are starting to learn songs for our Harvest Festival. Life is good!

Have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk



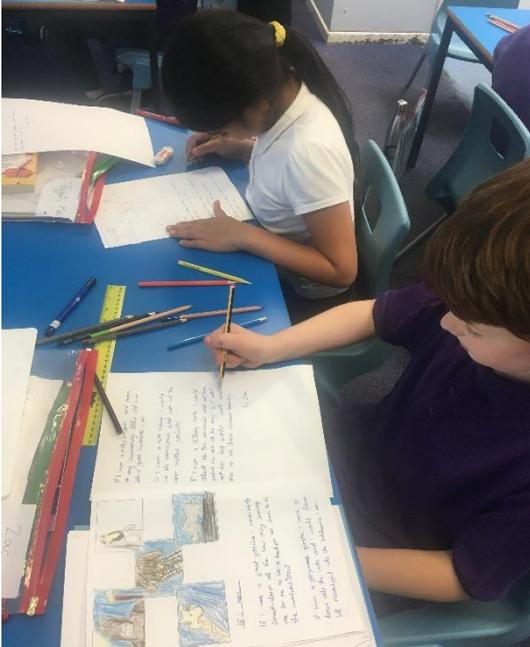
DIARY DATES

Monday 20 th Sept	*	FOSOPS meeting. All welcome! 2:15pm in Community Room
Wed 22 nd September		Y3 trip to Harlow Carr
Wed 22 nd September	*	Y6 parents’ meeting about Robinwood Residential at 5:30pm in the hall
Wed 29 th September	*	Y1 meeting about KS1 transition at 5pm in the hall (parents/carers should be able to distance)
Wed 29 th September	*	Reception Class meeting about phonics, reading and writing, 5:30pm on Zoom
Thurs 30 th September		Outdoor Stay and Play for Reception and Year 1 TBC at morning drop off
Thurs 30 th September		Y2 trip to Kirklees Light Railway
Friday 8 th October		Harvest Festival TBC This will be outdoors and rescheduled if there is bad weather
Saturday 9 th October		FOSOPS Woodland Walk – all welcome! TBC
20 th & 21 st October		Parents Evenings. (These may be a mixture of phone calls and in person meetings) TBC
Friday 22 nd October		TRAINING DAY (school closed to children)
Thurs 11 th November		Drama Workshop as part of Anti Bullying Fortnight
Wed 17 th November		Winter Festival of Fire straight after school
Friday 19 th November		Nasal Flu vaccinations
Tues 23 rd November		Open Morning for prospective parents
Tues 30 th November		Headingley Christmas lights switch on and carol singing at/outside St Michael’s Church
1 st - 3 rd December		Year 6 Residential trip to Robinwood
Thursday 9 th December		Reception and KS1 Nativity productions TBC

Tuesday 14 th December	Carol Service at St Michaels' Church
Friday 17 th December	Alive & Kicking Christmas drama
27 th – 29 th April 2022	Lineham Farm residential for Year 4
9 th to 12 th May 2022 *	KS2 SATs (Year 6)
16 th to 20 th May 2022 *	Bikeability for Year 6

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar> term dates

* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change.
 The easing of COVID restrictions and the removal of the contact tracing responsibility from schools makes planning events with parents possible again. We will, however, be mindful of local and national data and advice, as well as the confidence of our community, when finalising plans.



Do you have any spare **vehicles** that Year 2 could have to support their topic? Trains with tracks would be especially appreciated!



ONE GREAT DAY
FILM MAKING FOR CHILDREN

ENJOY ONE GREAT DAY
WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

11 AM - 4 PM, SATURDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

Gather the family for a day of 'fun raising' at Headingley Central. With face painting, letter hunts, and a make-your-own mini garden workshop, PLUS much, much more, it's sure to be One Great Day!

IN AID OF

SUNSHINE & SMILES
Leeds Children's Hospice Network

w.c.

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