



SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

Letter 3
22nd September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Obviously as soon we got to '**outdoor learning focus**' in our school calendar the heavens opened! I am pleased to say that most activities were able to go ahead though as children had the right clothing and footwear for being outside. I have seen nature trails, a trip to North Hill Well Wood (Year 5) and outdoor maths activities this week. For families new to our school it can be useful to note that we rarely have 'wet play' at break or lunchtime. We always go out if we can, even if it is for a slightly shorter time than usual so children should always have sturdy shoes and a coat with them in school. For those children who protest on sunny mornings you can always put a packaway cagoule in their bag! (If it is really cold, windy and rainy the younger children might have some time inside at lunchtime.) This week classes have been using the **Scrap Shed** that was initially funded by our parents and community just before Covid. It remains a popular feature in our playground and the children are very creative with the loose parts in the shed. As it begins to feel more autumnal it is a good time to point out the school's annual **Woodland Walk** – poster attached. This is a great event for families to meet each other in a casual, social situation. We meet at the school gates, take a walk to Woodhouse Ridge for some very easy activities (e.g. a trail or scavenger hunt) and then head back to school before 2pm for free drinks and snacks (donations welcome, but not expected). For new families this can be a great way to build your network of other parents to help each other navigate school life! For more leaf-kicking fun we have also been sent this offer for free entry to National Trust places this autumn <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/escape-into-autumn>



Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to the **Y3 transition meeting**. It is always good to make sure we are on the same page, so to speak. This week there will be a **transition meeting** for parents and carers of children starting **Y1**. There will also be a meeting for our new **Reception Class** parents to explain how we use **phonics** to support the teaching of reading and writing. Wednesday will be busy as we are also inviting **Year 6 parents** to find out more about the residential trip to **Robinwood** that is coming up before Christmas. (All meetings in classrooms, please enter via the external classroom door.)

Thank you for your cooperation while we are getting used to the new **ParentPay** system for payments. We have moved to this system to avoid bank charges on every online transaction. We hope that it will also make things more straightforward and accurate for both parents and the office staff.

This week saw the first session of **Archery Club** after school on Tuesday. The children listened well and are showing some good skills already. The other after school clubs start next week and we are looking forward to seeing the children enjoy and achieve in a range of activities.



I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS School is supported and challenged to do well by the **governing body**. Please see the attached letter from the Chair!

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 26 th September	Maths Puzzle afternoon for Y5 with Lawnswood maths specialist teacher
Wednesday 27 th September	Meeting for Reception Class parents about reading & writing through phonics. (5pm in the classroom) TBC
Wednesday 27 th September	Meeting for parents in Y1 as part of transition to KS1 (5:00pm in the classroom)
Wednesday 27 th September	Meeting for Y6 parents about Robinwood residential trip (5:30pm in the classroom) This date has changed due to the clash with Lawnswood Open Evening
Friday 29 th September	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2. Family can join children in class at the start of the day until c.9:15am.
Friday 29 th September	Skateboarding sessions in school for Y4/5/6 (make sure PE kit is in school just in case)
Monday 2 nd October	Individual and sibling photo day. (Pre School siblings before school.)
Tuesday 3 rd October	Y3 trip to Harlow Carr
Thursday 5 th October *	Viking Day for Year 6 (in the hall)
Friday 6 th October	Harvest Festival, 9am in the hall. All welcome! (This will be in the hall or outdoors). We welcome donations of non-perishable food that we will distribute to Rainbow Junktion and to PAFRAS.
Saturday 7 th October	FOSOPS Woodland Walk TBC. (This is a great welcome event for new families, particularly our Reception Class.)
Thursday 12 th October	Netball match after school
Thursday 12 th October *	Abbey Grange Open Evening. Letter to Y6 parents.
Friday 13 th October	Year 3 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y3 friends and family welcome!
w/c 16 th October	Year 2 trip to the Railway Museum, TBC
Monday 16 th October	Tennis day in school
Tuesday 17 th October	Cross-Country festival in Otley (a team from Y4) pm
Tuesday 17 th October *	Y5 online Anglo Saxons experience
Wednesday 18 th October *	Parents and Carers Evening (appointments with class teachers)
Thursday 19 th October *	Nasal flu immunisations
Monday 23 rd October	Leeds United working with Y6 from 9:30am TBC
Tuesday 24 th October	Year 6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y6 friends and family welcome!
Wednesday 25 th October *	Parents and Carers Evening (appointments with class teachers)
Thursday 26 th October *	FOSOPS hot chocolate and cake sale after school in the hall, TBC
Friday 27 th October	TRAINING DAY. School is closed to children. Staff will be doing training in school.
HALF TERM Monday 30 th October to Friday 3 rd November. School is closed to children. Art Camp will be running a holiday club https://www.artcampuk.com	
Thursday 9 th November	Homework due in for Years 1 to 6. (See leaflet for confirmation).
Friday 10 th November	Diwali Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
13 th – 24 th November	Anti Bullying Fortnight. Includes drama workshops (KS2) on the 13 th
w/c 13 th November	YR trip to Pizza Express TBC
Friday 17 th November	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y2 friends and family welcome!
Tuesday 21 st November	Open Morning for prospective parents. Current parents also welcome to look round school to see it in action on an ordinary learning day.
Wednesday 22 nd November	Winter Festival of Fire, straight after school in the grounds.
27 th November onwards	Lunchtime choir start carol singing at local care homes, etc. from this week
28 th or 29 th November	Shire Oak singing at Headingley Christmas Lights Switch On. St Michael's Church TBC
Friday 1 st December	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y5 friends and family welcome!
4 th to 6 th December	Year 6 residential trip to Robinwood in Todmorden.
Wednesday 6 th December	Meeting for Year 4 parents about Lineham Farm residential, 5pm in the classroom TBC
Friday 8 th December	Year 4 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y4 friends and family welcome!
12 th and 15 th December	D:Side sessions on Internet safety
Wed 13 th December	Dress rehearsal for YR/Y1/Y2 Nativity Plays
Thursday 14 th December	YR/Y1/Y2 Nativity Plays YR 9:30 and 1:30. KS1 10:15 and 2:15 TBC

Thursday 14 th December	Book Club (mostly Y5) trip to Leeds Playhouse Christmas production, Oliver!
Tuesday 19 th December	Carol Service, St Michael's Church, 10:30am. All welcome!
Tuesday 19 th December	School Christmas dinner (packed lunches can book in advance)
Thursday 21 st December	Christmas party day including entertainer and party lunch (packed lunches can book in advance or bring their own party food lunchbox)
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY Mon 25 th to Fri 5 th January. School is closed to children. Art Camp will be running a holiday club	
7 th - 9 th February 2024	Lineham Farm residential trip for all in Year 4.
3 rd to 7 th June	Bikeability training for Year 6. This will include road cycling if the assessment is passed and it helps if children are confident so get them practising now!
Tuesday 11 th June	Y5/6 Girls' Tag Rugby qualifiers 1-3pm
Thursday 20 th June	Y5/6 Mixed Culley Sevens 1-3pm
Monday 24 th June	Y5/6 Girls' Tag Final stages (at Headingley) 1-3pm
Wednesday 26 th June	Y5/6 Girls' Contact Festival 1-3pm
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.

October Art Camp

With the tough times that people are experiencing we are going to try a brand new price with a daily rate of £35.00. We are also introducing a weekly discount of £150 which is equal to £30 per day (automatically applied when you book the full week)

Late pick up 15.45 – 17.00 an additional £2.50

This October we are going as creative as you can possibly be ...

Junior Art Camp

We have such a great week planned ... with animation from a Disney Animator Mark Hewit who is a 2D/3D Artist with recent experience working on children's TV shows for CBeebies and Disney Kids. We have the famous Circus Pete with his box of magic and hula hoops and storytelling with Ford Collier. Ford will create a story and take the children on a story telling art trail ... it's very cool. For the first time we have a gong sound bath and didgeridoo workshop with our brand new practitioner Christian. We have a Michael Jackson Thriller dance workshop with the amazing Imogen, African Dance with Fatou, we also have messy art and drama workshops, the amazing rap artists Lence coming to do a workshop and so much more fun ...

[* Our October Timetables are now live on the website](#)

Mini Art Camp 4-6

We have two days of the amazing Amanda who will be doing Forest Schools, arts and crafts, dramas, games, outdoor fun, cooking, archery and wand making!

We then have two days of drama and fun and games with Jen Carass; spooktacular stories and creating traditional tales but with a Halloween twist. Day 2 is crafting a crafty character from top to toe, from pen to paper to our wonderful imagination. We also have amazing rap artists Lence coming in to do a learn how to rap workshop... and so much more fun.

On Friday we all get together for a day of magic shows and mini disco with lots of fun and games.

With best wishes

Jon and the Art Camp team



All Shire Oak Children & Families Welcome

WOODLAND WALK

12 noon | Sat 7th Oct



**Meet at the school gates for a walk and
activities on The Ridge**

**Refreshments after provided by
Friends of Shire Oak Primary School (FOSOPS)**