



Dear Parents and Carers

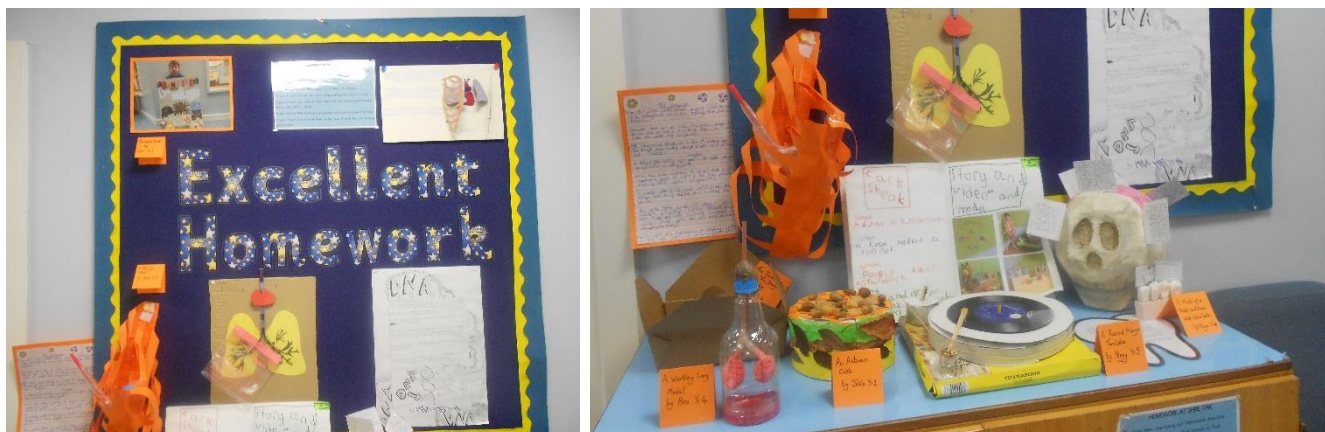
SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Thank you so much for all your help recently. The response to the email about distancing in the **school grounds** has been positive and constructive. We are going to try some markings at the Alma Road entrance to support good distancing. When it is particularly busy it would be helpful if parents could leave school by the two gates on Wood Lane to help with congestion at this point. We understand that there has been an increase in dogs being brought to school at these times. It is clear that parents are respecting the ‘**no dogs except service dogs**’ rule on the playground. We would ask you also to be mindful of where you tie them up. Some children have had bad experiences with dogs in the past and can be quite fearful, so having to pass them can be quite a worry (even if you know your dog is very gentle!) A good place to tie them up is on Wood Lane on the railings between the two gates as children coming into school on their own will be using the gate at either end. The Alma Road ginnel is much less suitable as there is no way of avoiding them. Parents have also kindly been helping to improve our **Nature Garden** and it has been fun to see the bird baths, feeders and hedgehog houses take shape. This is a good spot for your family to visit at the end of the day to pause before going home, if it helps.



Well done to everyone in Years 1 to 6 for sharing such lovely **homework projects** – all that home learning earlier this year has really set up some great habits. It was brilliant to see that as well as making models and pictures, children were sharing the research they had done from books and were writing about their findings. Here is a small selection on display in school.



This fortnight has been **Anti Bullying Fortnight**. Last week we worked with theatre workshop One Day Creative to role play and explore the part we can all play to prevent and stop bullying: ‘Change Starts With Us’ and this year’s theme, ‘United Against Bullying’. Classes have been learning about this topic in lessons and children have been responding in their own ways. Every year we choose a special keepsake reminder about the theme and this year School Council were adamant that they didn’t want any disposable plastic! They chose friendship bracelets to demonstrate that one thread is quite weak but woven (united) together they are very strong. School Council also played a lead role in our (virtual) assembly where we made sure that we can all agree: **We know what bullying is. We know what bullying is not. We know what to do about bullying: TELL.** Everyone who agrees signs our whole school Anti Bullying Charter that is displayed in the hall and this year they are also contributing puzzle pieces to a whole school display. Well done to the children for responding so sensitively. You can find out more about our approach to tackling bullying here.



Thank you to the parents who sent in buns for **Children in Need Day**. School Council enjoyed organising the bun sale and were counting up the money from that and the **poster competition** as we went to press. (After the coins had been quarantined for a few days!) Well done to everyone who entered the poster competition. This was the winning entry but there were many worthy runners up and commended entries.



We are sorry that the children on **school dinners** had grab bags again on Monday. We had relief staff for one day and they were not able to offer the usual menu, but we are back to normal again now, thankfully!

We usually love to gather together all the classes throughout the year and welcome parents into school for our special sharing assemblies; we are missing them – and you! Instead each class has filmed their own contribution to this year's **Divali** festival assembly and Y6 have presented it. The children have watched it in school today and we hope you will be able to watch it too and let them know you have seen it – the 'real life audience' that helps our children become so confident at speaking in public is so important.

Doing things a little differently is definitely a common theme this term, but we are determined to have as much of the normal school year as possible. Ordinarily at this time of year we invite you all to our after-school **Winter Festival of Fire**. We love celebrating outdoor learning and the changes of the seasons with our families. This year we cannot hold the event as normal, but we wanted to make sure each class still got to enjoy a good fire, some toasted marshmallows and some time outdoors to contemplate the awe and wonder of the season. As this letter goes to press Ian Martin, Abi Readman, Lydia Virgin and all the staff are finishing their preparations for our special day. I am sure the children will tell you all about it!

Have a lovely week.

Jane Astrid Devane
Jane Astrid Devane

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[Click here for the latest advice to parents from the DfE.](#)

[Police Christmas Card competition](#)

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 Hincliffe.

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, Antonia Nicholls, antonian@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk Our parent governors are often on the playground, if you would like to talk to them.)

Friday 27 th November *	Y1 trip to learn about baptism at St Michael's Church
Mon 7 th & Fri 11 th Dec	D:Side working with KS1 and KS2 on Internet Safety This will be rescheduled later this year.
Tuesday 8 th December	Nasal Flu immunisations – consent links have been emailed & texted
Wed 9 th December *	KS2 LSMA online Christmas concert & singing for the NHS (class to be confirmed)
Thursday 10 th Dec *	Outdoor and adventurous day trip 'residential' for Year 6 at Skelton Grange N.B. They will be back after the end of the usual school day. TBC.
Thursday 10 th Dec	Height and weight checks for Reception Class
Friday 8 th January 2021	10 th Birthday Party at HEART. Children who are 10 years old around this time are invited!
Thursday 28 th January	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Tuesday 16 th March	TRAINING DAY TBC (school closed to children)
Wednesday 16 th June	TRAINING DAY
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	



Art Camp is putting on a three day event this 21st, 22nd & 23rd of December. We are running @ Shire Oak and we hope that children from both Millfield and Shire Oak will attend. **Art Camp Christmas** is going to be full of really fun surprises and Christmas themed activities. The booking form is now open, for further info contact jon@artcampuk.com * 10% discount for Shire Oak Children *

Monday 21st Dance, Drama, Forest Schools
Tuesday 22nd Circus Skills, Christmas Cookery, Forest School
Wednesday 23rd Music / Christmas Carols, Christmas Arts and Crafts / Forest School and lots more surprises and fun...