



SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

Letter 2
15th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of our **first full week** I continue to be impressed by the children and their approach to the new school year. There is a lot of enthusiasm and determination to do well evident as I move around school.

This week Year 4 had their **first djembe lesson** with Mr Avtar Manku. Unfortunately, I didn't manage to get a photo, but I could hear them getting to grips with the instrument and how their weekly lessons will work. Well done Year 4!

I enjoyed working in **Year 2** this week. As well as their lessons, it is good to see them still making good use of time in the **areas of provision** to deepen their learning. They were making good choices about the interests they wanted to pursue and working well together. Some children were even trying to practise the pieces of music they had just been given in their first instrument lessons. Learning through Play looks different as children get older, but is still a vital part of their academic and social development. One thing that is a little different about Shire Oak is that children still have 'area time' in Year 2 and still have an outside area in Year 1 as many schools only have that in Reception Class.

Year 3 are enjoying their weekly **Forest School** lessons (another thing that is special about Shire Oak.) In the first weeks of the school year the children learn to risk assess and follow the safety instructions within the school grounds but it won't be long before they are going to Woodhouse Ridge for these sessions. This week they worked with partners to make scenes from their class book, 'Fortunately the Milk' using found materials. Thank you to Y3 parents who came to a meeting about what happens in Y3 and how to help children make the transition to Key Stage Two.



As children get used to the new school year, or starting primary school, so are the parents and carers! As children start a new setting or work with new people, there will be the inevitable sharing of coughs, colds, etc. It can be hard as a parent to know when to keep children off school and when to send them in. Rest assured that we will look after your child and contact you if they do not seem well enough to be in school. (You can always let us know discretely if you are in two minds and we can keep an extra eye on them without putting the idea in their head that they could go home early.) I have been asked to share this NHS information with you: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> We have our own [document](#) with information about other diseases and the school's approach, but please note that the section on Covid-19 is out of date and needs to be revised in line with current guidelines.

Children in Reception and KS1 are provided with a daily **fruit or vegetable snack**. Unfortunately, the scheme is not extended to our older children but we are very happy for them to bring fruit or vegetables from home to eat at morning break. It has been good to see children tucking in and enjoying school dinners this week. We have so many apples from our corner of **Headingley Community Orchard** that Mrs Woldmichael has been making extra apple crumble – delicious! During the school holidays we were notified that the catering agency will be passing on price rises to us for the **school**

dinners that we charge for (i.e. the KS2 dinners, as Reception and KS1 are eligible for universal infant free school meals). The new charge is £2.55. We felt it was unfair to pass this on to you without warning as there had just been a recent increase. The difference comes out of the school budget, however, so we will have to start charging from the half term break. We hope that parents of children in Y3 to Y6 will continue to prioritise school dinners, but if you need to change your dinner requirements from November, please let Mrs Susan Koyuncu know before we break up for half term. Thank you.

It was lovely to see some of you at the first **FOSOPS** meeting of the school year! Our PTA is an informal and friendly bunch with ways to get involved whether you can get to the meetings or not. They have a WhatsApp group so do ask reps in your class if you would like to join that group.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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DIARY DATES

Thursday 14 th September	Meeting for parents in Y3 as part of transition to KS2 (5:30pm in the classroom)
Wednesday 20 th September *	Open Evening at Lawnswood School 5-7pm. Particularly for Y6 families.
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
Friday 6 th October	Harvest Festival, 9am in the hall. All welcome! (This will be in the hall or outdoors)
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
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
Monday 23 rd October	Leeds United working with Y6 from 9:30am.
Tuesday 24 th October	Year 6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All Y6 friends and family welcome!
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 December. 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.

Brownies for girls aged 7-10 - Join us for nonstop fun, learning and adventures!

Local Brownie groups in Hyde Park, Headingley and Burley currently have spaces for new girls to join. They meet one evening a week during term time for about an hour and take part in a huge variety of activities, often chosen by the girls themselves. Brownies learn new life skills, they go on new adventures, they try new things, they grow in confidence, they make new friends and they have lots of fun! If you have a daughter who might be interested in joining a local group then register your interest using the girlguiding.org.uk link below. Alternatively, you can contact me (leader with Hyde Park Brownies) on 07787500338, vsjohnson86@hotmail.com. We look forward to hopefully meeting you soon 😊. Vicki

<https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/what-we-do/brownies/>



Brownies (7-10)

What our 7-10-year-olds do, wear and the badges they earn

www.girlguiding.org.uk