



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Thank you so much for all your support this week! The turnout on Saturday for our **Groundforce day** was amazing. Our parents, carers, staff, friends and children along with volunteers from Leeds Vineyard Church worked hard together to improve our grounds and in a few hours made a real difference. Beds have been dug, weeded, planted or in some cases started from scratch. Trees have been cut back to let in the sunlight, rubbish has been cleared and the jungle of the Nature Garden has been tamed a little (it is still wild, but no longer has nettles taller than Year 2 children!) Reception Class outside area has had a dramatic clear out in preparation for some exciting developments (currently under press embargo) and there was a great atmosphere. We even had the sun shining until it was time to eat some well deserved burgers. Thank you to everyone who came and joined in with the hard work. We hope we didn't wear you out for the rest of the weekend and that you can be persuaded to do it again in the not too distant future. (Photos overleaf.)

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make **Reading Week** this week such a success. The **costumes** on Tuesday were amazing (thanks also for the tombola prizes – keep them coming!), the **Extreme Reading** photos are great (and will make a brilliant book) and this morning's **Book in a Jar** entries were fantastic! All the classes have enjoyed special reading activities this week. There have been trips to **Headingley Library** (and **Leeds City Library** for Year 6) and actors from the **Rainbow Factory** delighted Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 yesterday. Year 6 have been encouraging us to **DEAR 'Drop Everything and Read'** by ringing a bell at various times throughout the day so that we all grab a book and enjoy a little extra reading time. Classes have been **reading outside**, in the orchard, on the Ridge and I think Year 6 are planning to read at Becketts Park this afternoon. Volunteer Librarian Janie Percy-Smith has been working very hard this week helping her book club to present their special **Book Awards assembly**, taking children to the **Schools Library Service** to choose some extra books for school, taking children to **Oxfam** to buy books from their excellent range and leading sessions for all the children in KS1 and KS2 on the skills they need to use the library well. We are so grateful to her for her hard work and dedication to our school. Thanks are also due to volunteer **drama** teacher Chris Walker who has been engaging children in Y3 and Y5 this week. We really appreciate the contribution that committed volunteers make to our school and the way that they enhance school life. We are enjoying the new **'book cover' classroom doors** and listening to our new **audio books** that they governors suggested and helped us find.



Groundforce Day 2017 – thank you!



I have been so impressed by the sensitive and sensible way our older children have responded to the tragic events at **Manchester** Arena on Monday night. I am particularly proud of Year 4 for carefully supporting their classmate who was there, without making a big drama out of it. One of the Safer Schools Police Officers from Ralph Thoresby called in to make sure we were alright and to offer us any help or advice we might need. We did not mark the silence as a whole school because many of our younger children do not know about it, but we have responded in classes and in our prayers this week. Your child may want to talk to you about this and the advice we have been given is that it is important to reassure them that it is very unlikely that any of us will ever be hurt in this way and that a number of people have been working very hard to help everyone affected in Manchester. There are some websites that may be of assistance to your child if they are feeling upset, which are: Childline - [https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/\[08001111\]](https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/[08001111]) and Advice if you are upset <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/13865002>. The charity Winston's Wish also have advice on their website. Our thoughts as a whole school community are with everyone affected by this tragic incident. Please do not hesitate to contact school if you have any particular concerns about your child.

The governors have written their **annual letter to parents**. It is attached to this newsletter.

Unfortunately, the cost to us of **school dinners** went up a while ago and is due to rise again in September. We delayed passing on the rise, but cannot avoid it any more. Dinners will be £2.40 for KS2 after half term but still represent good value and good quality. They are not then due to go up in September (barring any KS1 changes after the election.)

Thank you very much to all the parents who have replied to our **survey** either online or by filling in the paper copy. As this has been a strange and busy week for many people I will extend the deadline to the first Monday back after half term to make sure we have captured as many of your views as possible. <http://bit.ly/ShireOakParentsSurvey2017>

Thank you to **Year 2 for a lovely class assembly** this week. It was good to see all of the children taking part. We particularly enjoyed their singing, their artwork, their maths games and their recounts. We liked the pictures of the swimming lessons and hope to see the videos at the next Stay and Play!

Have a good weekend and a great half term. I look forward to our last half term of the year, and particularly the Music Festival on the first weekend back.

Jane Astrid Devane

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Headingley Youth Music Festival Saturday 10th June 12- 4pm. is the first week after the holidays. We organise and host it – it is also our summer fair and a great community event. All the children have been learning a song to sing with children from Kirkstall Valley and Weetwood Primary Schools along with Headingley Voices and other choirs from the local area. We know some children are a little shy so please encourage them to take part as they always feel so proud afterwards (and they get a free go on the bouncy castle or assault course if they do it!) They will be singing as the headline act at about 3:45pm. Please consider volunteering and return the slip. We would also appreciate people putting up our poster all over the local area!

Do you have any books with a white sticker saying SLS on them with a picture of an owl? We have borrowed that from Leeds School Library service, and because so many of them are missing in action now we have a cap on what we can borrow and may be fined! We would much rather spend our money on books for the library so please have a look over half term, finish any books that have been lying around for a long time and send them to school. We will, this year, be collecting all library books in over the summer holidays to inventory them. Year 6 – it is particularly important that you start locating your books and return them before the end of July!

