

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you so much for your **excellent cooperation** in getting the children back to school (if that has been appropriate for your family). It has been made so much easier by the cheerful courtesy everyone is showing each other and the gentle encouragement to children if they are nervous after so much time away from school. They have all done so well! Some are nervous before coming that everything will be very different or that there will be lots of rules to follow (that they are worried about getting wrong.) Once they are back they quickly get into the swing of our handwashing routines and are enjoying seeing their friends and school staff. All our children have different needs and they will need differing types of support over the next few weeks and months – do make sure to let us know if you have spotted something we might not be aware of yet.

When children come back into school they will have some time with their **familiar class staff**. Some may not have their own teacher for the whole time if they are currently shielding due to household/support bubble members with certain health conditions. In those cases we have arranged cover with staff well known to the children and there will be remote sessions led by their teacher from the interactive whiteboard. On at least one of the sessions they are in school they will meet their **new teachers** for September. We will write to you when they've had this transition session – we let them have the news first! When children come back to school please make sure they bring all their books back. They will be able to borrow new ones for the summer. Loaned Chrome Books must also be returned then too. Thank you.

Year 6 have been very busy preparing a spectacular Leavers' film (in school and at home) which will be premiered on their final day. We are pleased that (weather permitting) we will be able to give them a send off ceremony outside school which can be watched by a parent from each family. We have even worked out a "Covid Secure" way of getting their shirts signed. (Let us know if you didn't get the text about ordering Leavers' hoodies.) Sophie, a long time volunteer in school, has been busy painting the leaves on the leavers' tree in the quadrangle, ready for Y6 to write their names on. In the meantime, as well as their lessons, transition Zoom meetings with high school and RSE sessions, they are being taught baseball by one of their peers, William.



they are being taught baseball by one of their peers, William.

The government are asking all primary schools to teach **Relationships and Health Education** and to consult with parents about the policies being written to support this. We have always taught relationships, sex and health education and so don't envisage that there will be many changes for us. You can let us know your thoughts and priorities by filling in this questionnaire. Thank you. <https://forms.gle/6ejADHaz5WzHMsaYA>

Throughout the period of partial school closure, our community have continued to impress me with the way they try to **be kind, be safe and be their best**. Georgie in Year 1 has been inspired to do some **fundraising** for the Candlelighters Trust because her little cousin has been diagnosed with cancer. She is cutting off a lot of her very long hair to help make wigs for children who lose their hair through cancer treatment. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hattie-wild>

I think she is even beating Ian Martin's fundraising efforts – the hair he is cutting off isn't as long and pretty, but it is pretty wild and accompanied by a beard! He says:

Hi everyone,

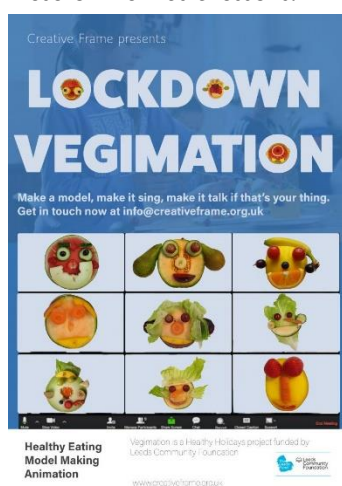
As some of the children in Year 3 might have noticed from our reading videos, my hair and beard have become quite big over the last few months (picture attached). So my kind colleagues have agreed to trim it for me in school. All being well, this will be on July 14th at the end of Year 3 sports day. This will be done with appropriate social distancing and following public health guidelines on hairdressing. Please will you sponsor us to do so?

I want to raise money for a brilliant organisation here that helps people to pay their internet bills and to get enough devices for all children around West Yorkshire to be able to do online learning at home. If you would like to sponsor us, please make a donation at this website and send a comment: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/digital-access-west-yorkshire>



We are busy putting together a SuperStars **assembly** and writing reports at the moment, so we haven't shared our own assembly this week. Don't forget you can have a good sing with the Fischy Music assemblies on YouTube (new ones each Monday at 11am). This week the Duchess of Cambridge has contributed to an Oak National Academy assembly on kindness: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/assemblies/> if families would like to watch that.

Thank you to everyone who has been in touch with Susan Koyuncu about **music lessons** for the autumn term. When school closed, our provider YMES moved to online lessons and it is likely that at least the start of the school year will see those continuing. Camilla, our woodwind teacher wrote: *I am writing to tell you how impressed I was with all my recorder pupils. Music lessons continued during partial school closure and we have had 8 brilliant sessions. All pupils have adapted to the new way of learning so quickly, they were engaged, focused and making great progress... I am incredibly proud of everyone: Hannah, Bea, Anya and Darcy. I would like to thank the school, all parents and carers and also our Director Mr Major for making these lessons possible. I think music has a truly magical power to help us in difficult times and that was proved during these online music lessons.*



For children at home who would like to get creative there are free animation classes available that are funded by the Leeds Community Foundation. Working with artists, the children use fruit and vegetables to make faces and record speech to bring them to life. The sessions are called '**Vegimation**'. Find out more at www.creativeframe.org.uk or book online at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/vegimation-online-tickets-106830264196>

Thank you for the good communication we have enjoyed with you throughout this time. As most children are now returning to school over the next few weeks, please remember to inform us if your child (or anyone in the household) has **Corona**

Virus symptoms so that we can make sure we are responding and sharing information appropriately.



Have a lovely weekend!

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk