

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you so much for the thoughtful cards, messages and presents that the Shire Oak team received before Christmas. It is absolutely not an expectation but it is lovely to hear when we have made a difference or to see children learning to be thankful and gracious. **Happy New Year!** I hope you have had a good Christmas holiday. It has certainly been lovely to hear the children's news this week as they got back into the routine of school life. To help with understanding the rhythm of the school term, please look out for the class newsletters to help with understanding the topics the children are learning as well as practical information about library and PE days, etc.

Thank you also for your cooperation during the **icy weather** earlier this week. You will know that it is always our intention to keep school open, whatever the weather. To do this we really need your help and understanding so that children have the clothes and footwear they need for the day (with spares, if necessary) and that it is simply not possible for us to clear and/or grit every part of the school grounds. That means we need all our community to be vigilant and careful when walking in to school – watch out for ice and walk like penguins! If any of our families have mobility or access needs that change during such conditions, please contact the office to discuss any arrangements or help we might need to put in place.

You will have seen that I wrote to you this week about changes to the childcare offer on site during school holidays. We are very pleased to be working with **A Camps** to provide a fun and active playscheme, starting this February. (ACES, who run A Camps, are the company we worked with to bring the fabulous swimming pool to school this autumn.) Use the code FEB10 if booking 3 or 4 days for a discount. (The full week rate is already discounted.)

Please find attached information from the **Children's Centre** team. Although, sadly, the council have made the decision to stop running Headingley Children's Centre as a physical site, the team still work in this area with families who need it and their services can be accessed at other sites including Horsforth and Ireland Wood. One outcome of this is that the beautiful giant tipi is going to be school's to run and I am looking at ways to make it useful to the community and also to pay for its upkeep. If you know of yoga lessons or other groups and events who would respectfully use such a lovely space then do ask them to contact me to discuss renting it.

Finally, please find attached the January **Internet Safety newsletter**. On a similar note, [here](#) is a new guide from the Children's Commissioner for England on children's **digital lives**. I hope you have a good weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS It is Year 4's turn to host a **bun sale** after school on Friday 16th next week! Do come and get an end of week treat.

PPS We have contacted the local councillors about the difficulty manoeuvring buggies & passenger bikes past the works storage area on **Wood Lane** and they are following that up to try and get it narrowed a bit for the remaining couple of months it will be there.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 13 th January *	Y3 parent visitor to talk about volcano activity in St Vincent.
Friday 16 th January	Y1 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 16 th January	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y4 this time please)
20 th – 22 nd January	Year 3 working with local poet, James Nash



SHIRE OAK PRIMARY
FEBRUARY
ACTIVE CAMP

CAMP INCLUDES

- ✓ Lots of Games, sports, crafts, activities and FUN!!!
- ✓ Delivered by minimum level 2 sports coaches
- ✓ Theme Days!!!
- ✓ Staff trained in First Aid and Safeguarding

DATES
16th – 20th February 2026

TIME
8:30am – 5pm

Scan the QR Code for pricing & bookings

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Thursday 22 nd January	Special poetry assembly for Y3 parents, 2:30pm
Friday 23 rd January	Reception Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 26 th January *	Y3 parent visitor – volcanologist.
Tuesday 27 th January	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children
Friday 30 th January	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2 families. Lunar New Year theme.
Monday 2 nd February	Health checks YR and Y6
Tuesday 3 rd February	Reception Class pizza-making trip (TBC)
Tuesday 3 rd February	Y5 trip to York Chocolate Story
Wednesday 4 th February	Reception Class maths meeting 2:15pm online (TBC)
Friday 6 th February	Y6 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 9 th February	Canals and Rivers Trust water safety sessions
Tuesday 10 th February	Fire Safety Visit to Year 5
Thursday 12 th February	Year 5 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 13 th February	Pancake Sale after school (Shrove Tuesday in half term)
16 th to 20 th February HALF TERM	School closed to children. A Camps will run a holiday playscheme here at Shire Oak.
Wednesday 25 th February	NSPCC workshops Y2, Y5 and Y6.
Friday 27 th February	Stay and Play for YR, Y1 and Y2 families.
Sunday 1 st March	Shire Oak Sunday at St Michael's Church 10am TBC
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day
7 th to 16 th March	British Science Week (we extend this for the fortnight)
Wednesday 11 th March	French Day in school
Monday 16 th March	Y6 Pizza Club starts (which day TBC)
16 th - 20 th March	Neurodiversity Celebration Week
Wednesday 18 th March	Virtual Reality workshops
Thursday 19 th March	Eid ul Fitr assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome! TBC
Thursday 19 th March	Y3 Sports Festival am
Monday 23 rd March	Y6 Tag Rugby at Kirkstall pm
23 rd March onwards	Class visits to St Michael's to explore Easter story begin
Wednesday 25 th March	Parents and Carers' Evening (appointments this week or next week)
Friday 27 th March	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y5 this time please)
Wednesday 1 st April	Parents and Carers' Evening.
Thursday 2 nd April	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
3 rd to 17 th April EASTER HOLIDAY	School closed to children. A Camps will run holiday playscheme here at Shire Oak.
22 nd and 23 rd April	D:Side workshops about medicines, drugs and alcohol safety
Friday 24 th April	Vaisakhi Assembly 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 1 st May	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 4 th May	BANK HOLIDAY School closed to children
7 th to 8 th May	Year 4 Residential
Friday 8 th May	Y5 trip to waste recycling plant
w/c 11 th May	KS2 SATS week. As these are statutory, please avoid planned appointments, etc.
w/c 18 th May	Bikeability for Year 6
Friday 22 nd May	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from Y6 this time please)
Wednesday 10 th June	TRAINING DAY. School closed to children.
Friday 12 th June	FOSOPS bun sale after school (buns from YR this time please)
Tuesday 16 th June	Y5 trip to Water Treatment Works
Friday 26 th June	Y3 sharing assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 1 st July	Transition day for children moving to Y7 at Lawnswood School and our in-school transition day with sessions for incoming Reception.
Friday 17 th July	FOSOPS ice cream sale after school

DATES: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates>

* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is to be confirmed and may have to change.