



SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Wood Lane
Headingley
LS6 2DT

0113 275 5890

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Rhine class!

We hope that you and your child had an enjoyable summer holiday and we would like to welcome you all back to the new school year. We've had a great first few days together in class and we are looking forward to a fun year of learning where the children will demonstrate their developing skills in increasingly independent ways as they begin their four year journey through Key Stage 2. The children have certainly approached new routines in class and around school with maturity.

Our general topic this term is the science led 'Shine and Grow' which will build on the children's learning about plants and trees at the end of Year 2 and in particular, find out more about light and its key role in growth. We will also be building on their learning about Leeds, investigating its history in the period to 1485 and considering how its geography affected that development then and still today. You will receive details soon of the half-term's homework. This will consist of a topic task, some maths activities, spelling and reading. We will read 'Fortunately the Milk' by Neil Gaiman together to start our English work this term. Later this year we will also be studying other books by Dick King-Smith, by Roald Dahl, by Garry Kilworth and by other authors.

Alongside our daily writing and maths sessions, we will also prioritise our reading and spelling progress including weekly spelling tests. All children should therefore have **book bags** (if you would like a Shire Oak one, these are available to buy from reception) which should be brought into school and taken home **each day** so that all children can regularly practise these skills. We suggest that Year 3 children **read to an adult four to five times every week for about ten minutes each time**. This might be a book from home, the local library, from the school reading scheme or from our school library. We will have a library session every week when children will choose two books to bring home. For some children in class their library books replace the home reading book from the school reading scheme. It is therefore important that library books are read and changed regularly. We will also put spelling books in the bags.

I will teach the class across all subjects throughout the week and year, with the exception of Wednesday morning when **Ms Virgin** will teach art and **Mrs Mitchell** will teach maths whilst I am preparing lessons, making resources and assessing progress. Throughout the week the children will also benefit from the support of **Mrs Strange**.

Where we can and where it will best help the children to learn, we will take advantage of our school grounds to learn outdoors and there will also be opportunities for trips locally and further afield later in the term. In particular on **Tuesday afternoons**, we will be developing our outdoor skills together in **Forest School** – learning from and about the natural world around us, expressing our ideas using found resources and using that world as inspiration for our work back in class. At this time, children will not be getting changed in school so should come into school that day wearing school uniform as normal. They should however make sure that on that day, they have a **coat** and are wearing **shoes with good grip and that can get muddy**.

Our P.E. day in school this year is Monday for which your child will need a plain white T-shirt, dark shorts and trainers. Please send these into school at the start of term and they can stay in school until the end of term. In colder, wetter weather we will aim to still enjoy P.E. outdoors where possible and so children will be able to wear tracksuits as necessary. Everything should be clearly marked with your child's name and kept in a bag in your child's locker throughout the half-term.

On **Friday afternoons all children will be swimming at Scott Hall Leisure Centre**. After an initial assessment in the pool by centre staff, the children will receive lessons appropriate to their needs. These **lessons start next Friday, 13th September**. Your child will need to come to school already wearing swimming costume under

their school clothes and with a change of underwear and a towel in a large plastic bag. Please ensure for both P.E. and swimming that hair is tied back and earrings are removed before school.

Day	Please bring:
Monday	P.E. kit, Book bag (including spelling and reading books) and water bottle.
Tuesday	Forest School kit, water bottle and book bag
Wednesday	Book bag (to change library book) and water bottle
Thursday	Water bottle and book bag
Friday	Swimming bag with underwear and towel, water bottle and book bag

I will also be hosting a short Key Stage Two introductory meeting to which all Year 3 parents are invited. This will be a chance for you to find out more about Y3 and the subsequent journey through KS2 and to ask any general questions that you may have. This will take place on Wednesday 11th September from 5-5.30pm. You do not need to book for this.

Finally, please get in touch with me either directly or through the school office if you have any worries or concerns. It is very important that we work together to help your child to enjoy school, work hard, learn well and to show their very best behaviour throughout the school year.

Yours faithfully,
Ian Martin



Mr Martin



Mrs Strange