



# SHIRE OAK

## C of E (VC) Primary School

Wood Lane  
Headingley  
LS6 2DT

0113 275 5890

janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk

Thursday 11th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Happy New Year!

We hope that you and your child had an enjoyable break. I have been hearing lots of great things about how the class have started the new term very positively as they move from the new experience of Year 3 into a term of really demonstrating their learning in an increasingly independent way in a range of contexts.

Our general topic this term is the science and history led 'Rock Stars' (focusing in particular in the first half term on geology, including volcanoes and fossils, and in the second half term on the history of the Stone Age) and you will receive details soon of the half-term's homework. This will consist of a topic task, some maths activities, spelling and reading. Later this half term, we will also be investigating what Christians believe about a good life and then we will then concentrate on the Easter story in the second half term as we prepare for the Year 3 and 4 Easter performance.

In Computing, we will be investigating how to use software to create and analyse surveys and to present information and ideas in an entertaining and informative way. In Art, we will be exploring texture and printing and in PSHE, we will be thinking about different types of relationships, about personal identity and about economic wellbeing.

In Maths, we will continue working on using the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division in different situations and contexts. This might involve using money and giving change, deciding on appropriate ways to solve word problems, exploring patterns of number or using more than one operation at a time when solving problems (amongst other things). We will also be looking at fractions and at measurement with length and perimeter and with mass and capacity.

We will also be continuing to work on multiplication and division facts for the 4x, 8x and 3x tables aiming to set secure foundations in arithmetic. It really helps if we can practise them at home for ten minutes every day. For example, children may enjoy playing TT Rockstars which is available at [trockstars.com](http://trockstars.com) using the individual username and password sent home last term. Please continue to support your child by including Maths in everyday conversations and interactions with your child.

Our topics will feature throughout our writing, as will our class book. Our class book for this half term is 'Escape from Pompeii' by Ben Richmond. We will continue to focus on ensuring we have varied and interesting sentences that make sense and are appropriate for the audience and purpose. This will include extending our sentences with connectives, using a variety of sentence openers and appropriate use of detailed language, whether more precise or more descriptive. We will continue to develop strategies for checking, editing and improving our first draft writing independently.

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. Please help your child to remember **Wednesday is our library day** because for many 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. Children will also need to keep their spelling books in the bags for use every day. Additionally each individual child has a password that allows access to the Reading Eggspress website. These passwords were sent home again last term but if you do not have a copy, please let me know.

I will teach the class across all subjects throughout the week and year, with the exception of Thursday morning when **Ms Virgin** will teach art and **Mrs Mitchell** will teach maths as well as Monday afternoon when **Ms Earle** will be teaching French whilst I am preparing lessons, making resources and assessing progress. Throughout the week the children will also benefit from the support of **Mrs Strange** and from our regular volunteer **Mr McCartney**.

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. Given this, we request that children bring a **change of clothes** for those afternoons. We advise that these should be clothes that can get muddy, that will be comfortable and that will be appropriate in all weather conditions. It may be that sunhats even become necessary!

**Our P.E. day in school this year is Wednesday** 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. This term, we will be focusing on gymnastics and dance. On **Friday afternoons all children will continue swimming at Scott Hall Leisure Centre. These lessons restart next Friday, 19th January.** Your child will need to arrive in school with their swimming costume under their uniform and their underwear and 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	Book bag (including spelling and reading books) and water bottle.
Tuesday	Forest School kit, water bottle and book bag
Wednesday	P.E. kit, 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

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