



Dear Parents and Carers

This week saw one of the absolute highlights of the year – the **Reception Class and Key Stage One Nativity plays**. We were so impressed with the confidence of the children who all had parts to play singing, showing and telling the Christmas story. They performed well, worked as a team and really showed great understanding of what is, after all, quite a difficult story. Thanks to all the children who performed, to the staff in school who rehearsed them, costumed them and calmed their nerves and to all the parents, carers, grandparents and friends who came to watch them performing and were a very supportive and appreciative audience.



Thanks also to everyone who bought **raffle** tickets. We had some great prizes donated (again, thanks) including the first prize of two tickets to Treetop Nets, near Ripon. They will be on sale until they are drawn in assembly next week on Wednesday.

As you know, we plan learning throughout the year that helps keep the children safe and make good choices. This week the **fire brigade** came to talk to Year 5 about fire safety. Please give your Y5 child the chance to talk through what they have learned and how they could keep themselves safe should there be a fire in the home. Thank you.

Year 3 delighted their parents and the rest of school with their special assembly this week. In conjunction with Headingley LitFest they have been working with James Nash– a poet and good friend to our school. Using their topic as the starting point, the children have all written poems about animals. They then shared them with great speaking voices and confidence that came from having practised and worked hard. Well done!



This week has also seen Year 6 head off to **Robinwood Residential Centre** near Todmorden. They have been trying hard at all the activities and getting on well. I look forward to hearing all about it when they get back.

Children in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 have been **carol singing** for older people at Grove Court and Victoria Court this week. Thank you to the staff in school and adult choir members who accompanied us. Next week we will sing at Wheatfields (and Year 6 will be able to join us.) At this time of year it feels good to share a little of the fun and enjoyment we have preparing for Christmas in school with others in the community.

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer for a **course for parents** that starts after Christmas. As our local cluster is closing down this will be the last chance to attend this course for free. It can help with a range of situations, but many people have found it helpful when they have already done a parenting course or feel that they know what strategies they want to use, but find that stress and life get in the way of being able to carry out those plans as well as they would like. Please feel free to talk to me or Hilary Whitehead if you want to discuss the course, but you can also just book directly by ringing/texting/ emailing Paula Hardy using the contact details given. Places are filling fast!

Have a good weekend. I hope to see many of you at the school **Carol Service (St Michael's Church)** at 10:30 on Tuesday!

*Jane Astrid Devane*

Jane Astrid Devane  
[janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk)

Well done to **Isabel** in Year 5 who took part in the Leeds Schools Music Association Christmas concert on Tuesday. It was a fantastic event with great performances. I've attached a flyer for the KS2 choir – please ask me if you'd like any other information.

We take the safeguarding of children very seriously at our school and we appreciate your help with this. If you have any concerns or observations regarding **health and safety**, please contact Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Liz Craven.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding **child protection** issues, please speak to Jane Astrid Devane, Marcelle Maver or Hilary Whitehead.

If you have questions about your **child's progress** or **how to help them** with the learning they find difficult please speak to your child's teacher or make an appointment to see them via the school office.

The governors are always interested in hearing the **views of parents**. If you would like to speak to a governor, then please email the chair, Julia Kelly [shireoakgovernors@gmail.com](mailto:shireoakgovernors@gmail.com) Julia is often on the playground, particularly at the start and end of the week, if you would like to talk to her.)

#### DIARY DATES

Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	School carol service at St Michael's Church, Headingley. 10:30am.
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas lunch
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	Head Girl of Abbey Grange talking to Year 6 about CISV
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol singing at Wheatfields
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper day
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Aire Ensemble music performances for KS1 and KS2
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec to Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Open Morning for current and prospective parents, 9:15- 11:15am.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> January	Wordsworth in Leeds exhibition launch event, Year 5, 1-2.30pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Switched on Shire Oak Week – growth mindsets and attitudes to learning
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	Geography Quiz Day
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Shine a Light on Bullying day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Philosophy sessions with the university start now
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Tim Peake inspired science session in Y5
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Shire Oak Sunday – we join the congregation at St Michaels, 10am. All welcome.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	House Team Hobby Half Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception Class' first class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!

Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Pizza Maths Club starts for Year 6 after school. 3:15-4:45pm on Mondays.
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day sale after school
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Y4 Residential to Lineham Farm
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Holi Festival assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter production performance by Year 3 and Year 4.
(Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Easter assembly in school – possibly Easter themed competition judging. No parents.)
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> April	EASTER HOLIDAY. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-opens after Easter
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wed 26 <sup>th</sup> and Thur 27 <sup>th</sup> April	Parents and Carers Consultation evenings (each family will get an appointment)
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Year 4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May	BANK HOLIDAY. School closed.
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATS week for Year 6
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Reading Week. This usually includes a book character dress up day.
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 2 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> May to Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	HALF TERM. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Headingley Youth Music Festival and Summer Fair 12-4pm. All children performing at around 2pm.
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> to Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Multicultural Arts Week
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Stay and Play for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents/carers in their classrooms.
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> June	Eid assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Musicians end of year concert (pm)
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6/5 dress rehearsal and evening performance of their production
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Reception/Y1/Y2 in the morning. Y5 & Y6 in the afternoon. (if fine)
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Y3 & Y4 in the morning. (if fine)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> July	End of year parties/disco in the afternoon
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service at St Michael's Church, Headingley. All welcome. 10:30am.
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> July	Last day of term
Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> July to Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	SUMMER HOLIDAYS. School closed to children. Kidzone may run a playscheme.
* means added or changed since last newsletter      TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change	

### Did you know?

That although we take our nativities seriously and help the children to rehearse and prepare for them properly, we don't start learning the words and songs much before Advent and have carried on with the vast majority of our normal lessons whilst we have been rehearsing.



**Save the Children**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**JUMPER DAY**

We are taking part in <https://christmasjumperday.org/> on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December. We will take a collection during the day and we ask that, if you can, you send in a donation with your child to go to Save the Children in return for them wearing their Christmassy tops. (Do not feel you have to buy one specially – a favourite red top or anything that feels special and Christmassy to your child is absolutely fine.)

# Head Space

Beat stress!

Get motivated!

Make a new start!

“I enjoyed the whole course!  
Got a lot of ways of releasing stress, it's helped with anxiety issues a lot. Also about thinking positively and I've been more confident.”

“The experience of this course has been priceless. The information is useful but the experience has been life-changing.”

These comments are from participants of Head Space, a **free** seven-week course that will help you find your strengths, meet new people and get new perspectives. In a small group, we will learn different techniques that will help you manage your mood, including assertiveness, getting good sleep, self-esteem, dealing with stress and relaxation.

Venue: Hawksworth Wood Children's Centre, Broadway, LS5 3PS

Time: 12.45pm – 2.45pm

To book please contact: Paula Hardy 07525 234028 /email:p.hardy@hwood.org.uk

Week 1 - Monday 9th January

Week 2 - Monday 16th January

Week 3 - Monday 23rd January

Week 4 - Monday 30th January

Week 5 - Monday 6th February

**HALF TERM - NO SESSION**

Week 6 - Monday 20th February

Week 7 - Monday 27th February

