



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

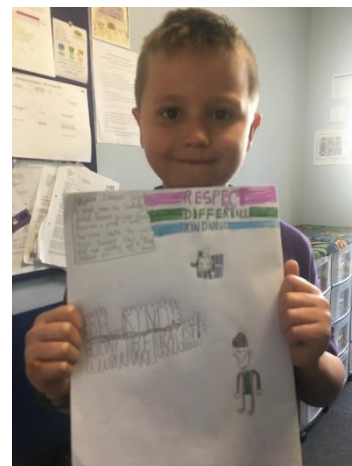
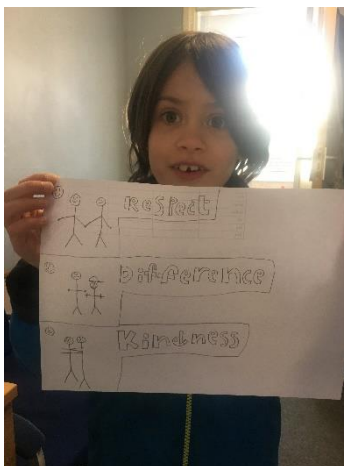
C of E (VC) Primary School

I hope you had a good **Easter break**. It has been great to hear from the children about being able to get out and about a bit more and how much they have enjoyed outdoor socialising with friends and family.

I am also pleased to report that Year 2 and Year 3 have started their **swimming lessons**. Typically, our children go once a week in Year 3. In recent years we have used the Sport Premium funding to also pay for an intensive course of swimming lessons in Year 2 where the children go three times a week in the summer term. This builds water confidence and enjoyment in advance of the Y3 lessons that can then focus on stroke improvement, etc. Unfortunately, current Year 3 have missed out on that strong introduction to school swimming, but I am pleased to say they did very well on Tuesday. (We will be keeping a close eye on their progress to see if any or all need to continue swimming into Y4, if that is possible.) Year 2 have also made a very good start and are excited by their outings. If you have a child or children in these year groups, please continue to liaise with class staff about the most practical clothing choices for swimming days and continue to practise fast changing at home!



Yesterday we marked **Stephen Lawrence Day** by working on friendship, respect and difference. Children in KS2 watched the live assembly with CBeebies presenter Ben Caje, Stephen's mum and his brother and then followed this with discussions and other work in class.



Thank you very much to Kate, Dean, Oli and the other friends of Shire Oak who have built us a brilliant **bird hide** and new fencing for our Nature Garden. Using mostly reclaimed materials they have given us a chance to spy on the wildlife in the garden from outside, so that it can be used more during breaktimes and at the start and end of the school day. (In addition to nature learning in class time.) You may well have also noticed that our old stage in the playground has gone! It had become too difficult to repair and was the source of a fair few splinters. Once we have given away all the leaf mulch compost stored behind it, we are going to pave the area in the hope that we can use it to site the **Scrap Shed** loose parts play equipment we have been fundraising for.

The Department for Education has commissioned the **NSPCC** to launch a new helpline called Report Abuse in Education. The helpline comes after numerous anonymised testimonials of sexual harassment and abuse in schools and colleges were shared to the Everyone's Invited website recently. The newly launched helpline will provide support to:

- children and young people who want to share current and non-recent experiences of sexual abuse and harassment
- children and young people who want to talk about being involved in or witnessing any incidents
- anyone who works or volunteers in a school setting and needs support and guidance
- adults who have experienced non-recent abuse
- parents and carers who are concerned about their own child or other children.

(Please share this with anyone who may find it helpful.)

Young people and adults can contact Report Abuse in Education on [0800 136 663](tel:0800136663) or email help@nspcc.org.uk



I thought Mr Marshall was talking to a new student teacher this week when I heard their PE lesson on the field. I then realised that Miss L**** was actually a member of Year 5 who was being called on to share her great **cricketing** skills and teach the others. I love it when I see our children taking on **responsibilities** and learning to lead others.

I am so pleased that the **extra curricular life** of our school starts edging back to normality next week. **After school clubs** are starting next week (with healthy waiting lists for the second half term) as

are some **peripatetic music lessons** that have been happening online since last year. The Headingley and Kirkstall Combined School Band is also going to resume practising at Kirkstall Valley Primary School soon (let me know if your child might be interested in joining). Year 4 are eagerly preparing for their residential trip to Lineham Farm, which we hope will be going ahead.

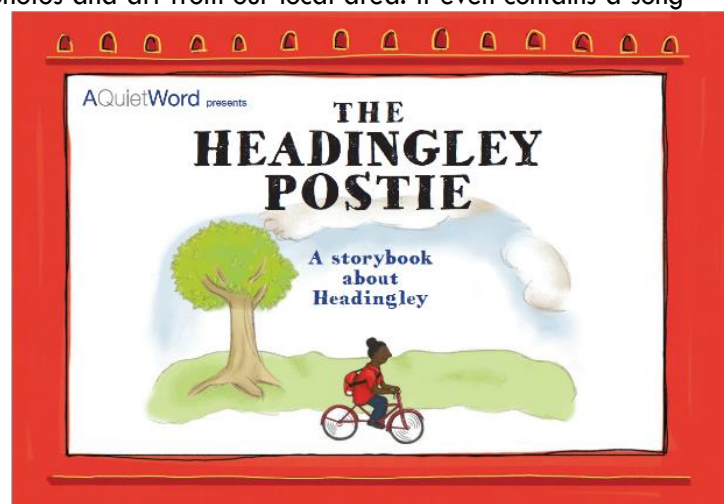
Thank you for your cooperation in making telephone **parents' evening appointments** work. Some parents have actually found it easier to schedule phone calls around work commitments than traditional parents' evenings in school. Many parents with more than one child have also found it easier to manage than getting from slot to slot in school, often with the children in tow. More parents used speakerphone this time to allow conversations with two parents at the same time. We do miss showing you the children's work in books and on the walls though! When schools fully reopened on March 8th it felt very exciting and good to be back. We do have to acknowledge, though, that things are still not as they normally would be. We particularly feel for Reception parents who may not have had the opportunity to look round school and come in to see the classroom. We miss running Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 where there are informal opportunities to talk to class staff and look at children's work. We are proud of the way classes have worked to put their assemblies and productions online, but miss the applause and proud faces that the children experience when they perform live. Our soft starts in the morning have enabled us to avoid complicated queuing systems, but do mean that it can be harder to talk to teachers if they are inside with the children who have already arrived. I know you understand why these things are in place for now, but please do remember that we are still accessible via Tapestry, class emails and via the school office if you do not see teachers in person. (As well as next week's appointments.)

Thank you to **Matthew Bellwood, Alison Andrews** and Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society for the donation of multiple copies The Headingley Postie, a collection of stories, photos and art from our local area. It even contains a song written by a previous Year 5/6 cohort at Shire Oak!

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the **Y3/4 Easter Production** video, coming shortly!

Jane Astrid Devane

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PS Happy St George's Day!



DIARY DATES

w/c/ 3 rd May	Y3 & Y4 countryside trips to Ledston TBC
Thursday 6 th May	Local election day. We are a polling station but hope to host in the Children's Centre as usual.
Wednesday 19 th May	Year 6 Woodland Session (Countryside live) all day trip
Mon 24 th - Fri 28 th May	Bikeability Training for Year 6. The more they practise in advance of this date, the better!
Mon 7 th -Wed 9 th June	Lineham Farm residential for Year 4 if road map progresses as planned
Wednesday 16 th June	TRAINING DAY
Friday 25 th June *	Skipping Celebration Day for KS1 following several weeks of Skip into Summer workshops
Tues 6 th & Wed 7 th July	Lawnswood transition days
Wednesday 7 th July	Shire Oak transition day
Monday 26 th and Tuesday 27 th July	These two days will be taken as Training Days as we have not been able to book our training in person earlier in the year. (One further training day needs to be scheduled before the end of the year.)

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar> term dates

* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change.
 All visits and visitors are subject to being permitted under the COVID regulations and guidelines at the time. At present it looks like we might be able to get out and about locally from the 29th March. It is possible that residentials may be permitted from either the 17th May or 21st June depending on national rates, decisions by government, acquiring COVID Charters, etc. We are keeping a close eye on the updates!

Year 1 busy learning indoors and outdoors.

The computers have even started to make the odd appearance across school again!

