

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this we are coming to the end of another jam-packed week in school. This week is **British Science Week** and we have been making sure there are plenty of STEM activities going on in school to enhance our children's learning. We were pleased to welcome Dr Becky from Hands On Science to school. She led an assembly to kick the week off and then workshops in every class. **Reception: Finger Prints Year One: Kitten Rescue Year Three: Massive Magnets Year Four: Firework Science Year Five: Elastic Racers and Year Six: Circulation and the Heart** Year 5 also had an additional STEM workshop from Leeds City College 'Knowledge College' that included rocket building!



As well as external visitors working with our children, we are so fortunate that our **parent community** really steps up to help our pupils too. We were delighted with the number of parents and carers who were willing and able to come and speak to our classes about how they use science and related subjects in their work. There was a fantastic range and the children were very interested in the diverse topics being shared. Thank you to everyone who volunteered (or had their arm twisted!) to come in.



Children were also able to show off their skills and expertise in science at the **Shire Oak Science Fair** this morning. It was great to see just how well they could share their knowledge and excitement for science with the other children who came to visit the fair. Do ask your child what their favourite activity was. (They may mention bottle music, balloons, static slime, colour changing Skittles, magnetic coins or something else!) I have also seen children roaming the school with Micro:bits to measure and monitor the environment around school. Such a great week!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the **book drive** and to anyone who has volunteered to help transport our donated books. Year 6 have been boxing them up and couldn't believe just how many books in great condition that were collected.

This week Mrs Sara Mitchell took pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 to Woodhouse Grove for a **Girls' Football Festival**. Our team joined in well, practised their skills and represented the school admirably. We have recently enjoyed a significant sporting success as **Levi** has qualified for the national cross country finals! We are very proud of him as he has tried hard in all weathers to do his best.

This weekend is the annual **Shire Oak Sunday** service at St Michael's Church. They are our Foundation Church and every year they like to celebrate, support and give thanks for our school in an all-age family service at church. All are welcome and children can join in with as much as they feel comfortable. I have heard a rumour that there will be a hunt for 'lost sheep' with prizes for those who take part as part of the service, as well as the first public outing for our new school song! The service starts at 10am and children are welcome to sit with families or join school staff. Children do not need to wear uniform.



Happily, I know many of you are trying to delay your children getting a phone, particularly a smartphone. For those families that have given their children phones in advance of secondary school, it is useful to remember that you don't have to permit children to use all the features available. Most social media apps have a minimum age of 13, or even 16. As many families use **WhatsApp** as a cheaper alternative to text messaging, it can be missed when deciding what to permit a child to access.

Where we can sometimes notice issues occurring is in the use of Group Chats. These can be friendly in intention, but the sheer number of texts, perhaps at times your child is not allowed to access their phone can be overwhelming for children and the potential for misunderstandings in large groups texts is considerable. Here are a couple of resources to help parents navigate this area of phone use: <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/whatsapp> and <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

FOSOPS are collecting prizes for their **Easter raffle**, if you are able to donate any. This naturally includes Easter Eggs, so do think of us if there's a special offer we could benefit from (e.g. 3 for 2) when you buy any for your friends and family. Thank you. FOSOPS will be selling tickets from the 24th March.

The Department for Education has asked us to share information with you about the rise in cases of **measles**: <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/03/what-to-do-if-you-think-your-child-has-measles-and-when-to-keep-them-off-school/>

Thank you for the positive feedback we have received about ditching the Schools Comms/School Gateway communication system. Originally, we had been assured that it would be possible to send messages to parents who didn't have the app, but that proved to be difficult. **Teachers2Parents** have thankfully now solved the problem we had of messages only going to the first contact we hold on our system which doesn't help parents who are trying to share childcare responsibilities. So, please delete the app you may have downloaded (unless used by siblings in other schools) and watch out for texts (currently from 07786201172, although this does change) and emails (from Shire Oak Primary School message@teachers2parents.co.uk) We do still occasionally need to send things out by pupil post on paper, so please also check book bags frequently to make sure you don't miss anything.

Class	Well done to these Superstars who have been chosen by staff who work with them. Year 6 monitors write down the comments from certificates as they are given out.
YR (Thames)	Oliver impressed with his good listening skills and contributing well during carpet time. Edward impressed with his positive attitude towards his learning – it has been lovely to see his confidence grow!
Y1 (Nile)	Poppy for her enthusiasm for learning. Sonny is a good role model for the class and school.
Y2 (Aruvi Aru)	Hope made a fantastic 3D picture of a desert habitat. Piotr is working hard on his spellings and making great progress with them.
Y3 (Rhine)	Josie for her excellent participation in all her lessons this week! Leo has worked hard and responded well to feedback to improve the quality, length, detail and presentation of his writing.
Y4 (Ganges)	Noah is contributing more and more in maths and is showing resilience when faced with tricky work. Jasper has demonstrated fantastic focus and determination in English when writing his non-chronological report.
Y5 (Tigris)	Robyn is improving her understanding of the different mathematical concepts. Tomos regularly makes thoughtful contributions to class.
Y6 (Amazon)	Atticus is putting top effort into his maths work at the moment. Sophie is making notable progress in maths through her hard work and clever thinking.
Citizen of the Week was Mara for always trying to stop arguments and tries her best. She tries to forgive people and shows good compassion. Well done! (Citizens of the Week are usually nominated by other children in school.)	

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk



DIARY DATES

Sunday 16 th March	Shire Oak Sunday 10am – all welcome to join this All Age Service at St Michael's
Monday 17 th March	Y5 Fire Safety session pm
Friday 21 st March	Year 6 Young Climate Warriors session
Friday 21 st March	Holi assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 21 st March	Comic Relief bun sale and activities run by School Council
Monday 24 th March	Y6 trip to Lawnswood to see school show, All Shook Up
Wednesday 26 th March	Parents and carers consultation evening after school until 6:30pm
Friday 28 th March	FOSOPS planning meeting for Headingley Youth Music Festival, etc.
31 st March to 2 nd April	Easter visits to St Michael's Church TBC this week or next week
Tuesday 2 nd April *	Easter raffle draw
Wednesday 2 nd April	Parents and carers consultation evening after school until 6:30pm
Thursday 3 rd April	Y3 and Y4 Easter production to the rest of school
Friday 4 th April *	Y3 and Y4 Easter production to parents, carers, etc. c.9.15 - 10.15am
EASTER HOLIDAY no school for children 7 th April to 21 st April. Art Camp will run a playscheme.	
Tuesday 22 nd April	TRAINING DAY School closed to children
23 rd , 24 th & 25 th April	Y2 Intensive Swimming course, followed by weekly lessons
28 th and 29 th April	D:Side sessions on medicines, alcohol and drug safety
Tuesday 29 th April	Y4 netball at St Mary's Menston after school
Wednesday 30 th April	Leeds Rhinos assembly
Friday 2 nd May	YR Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 9 th May	Y1 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 9 th May	Y2 Great Fire of London workshop
12 th to 16 th May	KS2 SATs week for Year 6
Friday 16 th May	Y2 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
19 th – 23 rd May	Bikeability training & assessment for Y6. Start building cycling confidence to be ready!
Friday 23 rd May	Y3 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 21 st May	NSPCC workshops Y2, Y5 and Y6 TBC
HALF TERM no school for children 26 th to 30 th May. Art Camp will run a playscheme.	
2 nd to 6 th June	Green Week, including pedestrian, scooter and bike safety. TBC
Wednesday 4 th June	House Team Hobby Half Day TBC
Wednesday 4 th June	RSE information meeting for parents in Y5 and Y6 5pm TBC
Thursday 5 th June	Class photo day
Friday 6 th June	Year 5 trip to the recycling plant
Wednesday 11 th June	TRAINING DAY School closed to children
Thursday 12 th June	Eid Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 13 th June	Non uniform day in return for an item (or two) for the HYMF tombola please
Tuesday 17 th June	Meeting for new parents/carers of Reception intake 2025 followed by home visits
Tuesday 17 th June	Y5 trip to water treatment plant pm.
Saturday 21 st June 12-4pm	Headingley Youth Music Festival, run by our school in our grounds. All our children are in the choir and often other performances, so please avoid planning parties for this day!
30 th June – 11 th July	Learning through Sport Fortnight
Tuesday 1 st July	Transition visits to new classes (1 st and 2 nd Lawnswood transition days)
Friday 4 th July	Music recital for children learning an instrument in or out of school 9:30am
Monday 7 th July	Sports Day Y5/6 @1:15pm TBC
Tuesday 8 th July	Sports Day YR/1/2 @9:15am TBC
Wednesday 9 th July	Sports Day Y3/4 @1:15pm TBC
14 th – 18 th July	Y2 Intensive Swimming course, followed by weekly lessons all year in Y3
Wednesday 16 th July	Y5/6 production to rest of school & grandparents/carers of alternate roles
Thursday 17 th July	Y5/6 production to parents and carers evening
Monday 21 st July	Leavers' Service 10:30am at St Michael's Church
Tuesday 22 nd July	Leavers' ten pin bowling trip
Tuesday 22 nd July	Last day of term. Acorn Club finishes early today.
SUMMER HOLIDAY no school for children 23 rd July to 29 th August. Art Camp will run a playscheme.	
TERM 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.

**SPRING BANK PRIMARY PTA
PRESENTS:**

£2

Suggested
Donation

HEADINGLEY BUNNY HUNT

**SUNDAY
23RD MARCH**

COLLECT A MAP

10AM TO 2PM

**SPRING BANK PRIMARY SCHOOL,
SPRING ROAD LS6 1AD**

Find all the bunnies and be entered
into a prize draw to win some
fantastic prizes.



Drinks, homemade cakes, bunny accessories
and plants for sale on the day too!