

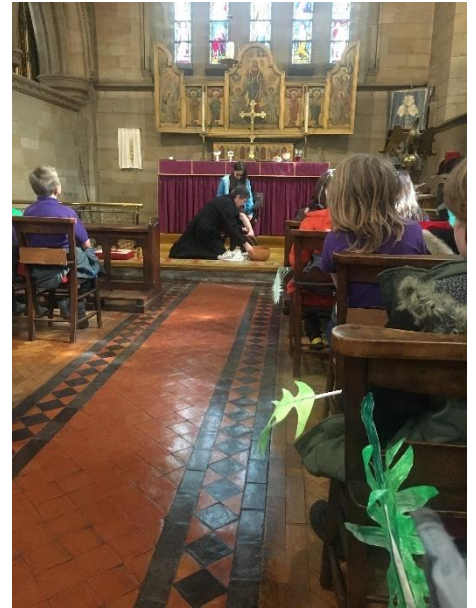


Dear Parents and Carers

# SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

It has been lovely marking the end of the spring term in school. At the start of the week each class in turn visited St Michael's Church to find out about the **Easter story** and the events that Christians remember in Holy Week. In just half an hour the children were taken back to turn of the millennium Jerusalem and enjoyed the music, palm waving and cheering as well as listening sensitively to the more sombre parts of the story. Thank you to Rev Angela, Rev Josh and Rev Tony for putting this together for us.



We held our first ever **Games Night** just before the lockdown in March 2020 and it has taken two years before we could repeat the success of that event. It was good to see families and friends enjoying themselves playing games and eating together. Thank you to the FOSOPS volunteers and staff who made it possible.

An absolute highlight of the week (and term) was the Year 3 and 4 **Easter production** which we enjoyed watching this week. With lovely singing, some great acting and lots of enthusiasm the children told the story of the Three Trees and their lofty dreams very well indeed. Thank you to the staff for rehearsing and preparing the children and thank you to Abi Readman, Sue Strange, Liz Craven and their band of volunteers for the props and scenery.



On Wednesday this week we were able to meet together to celebrate the learning we did in our recent **Science Week** (we had given a little extra time to make sure as many people as possible could take part on their return to school.) We enjoyed hearing about the different hypotheses, counterhypotheses, investigations, experiments and scientific experiences that had been going on recently. We also found that the answer to our whole school investigation to see if the tallest children could jump the furthest was an emphatic no!



This week 1 adult and 3 children in our community (Year 4 & Year 5) have tested positive for **COVID**. A number of other children in school are (or have been) unwell at the same time, however, and the availability of supply teachers has been affected by isolation. The guidance for what happens to isolation in school after today when free testing ends for the general public is only just coming through, but we ask parents to continue to be vigilant to not spreading bugs in school that can make others unwell.

The Chancellor's Spring Statement extended the Household Support Fund which has been used in Leeds to provide support to families who receive **free school meals in the school holidays** too. It was announced too late for something to be put in place for this next fortnight, but Leeds have organised Healthy Holidays activities which include food. The booking form is available here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HHEaster2022/> Further support services can be found here: [Welcome to the Money Information Centre \(leeds.gov.uk\)](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/welcome-to-the-money-information-centre) and here: [Help with food and bills \(leeds.gov.uk\)](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/help-with-food-and-bills)

For parents looking for childcare or fun activities for their children this Easter holiday, <https://www.artcampuk.com/> will be running on our school site this holiday and I do still have access to a couple of funded places where families would like their child(ren) to attend but the cost would prevent this. There will also be a PE/Sports activity camp organised by our cluster in the first week of the holidays. This will be running at Hawksworth Wood Primary School: <https://pepartner.coordinate.cloud/project/28892> This club runs from 9am to 3.30pm and is for children aged 5 to 11 years old. Places cost £16 per day and are available on a first come first served basis.

This Easter, schools from across the city are taking up the **Love Exploring Leeds Inter-School Challenge**.

You can help our school join the challenge by using the free Love Exploring app to play augmented reality games with your children – like the brand-new Mega Mini-Beast game, which has been developed in consultation with bug experts at Leeds Museum. The app uses the magic of augmented reality to bring to life magical sights on a smartphone – such as the giant butterflies and ladybirds created for the Mega Mini-Beast game. There's a Dinosaur Safari to play too. The Love Exploring Mega Mini-Beast game is available at 15 Leeds parks, including Woodhouse Moor. Pick out our school from the list on the app, and by getting active as a family and answering questions on the interactive quiz, you will score points which link to the school. There are points for every question answered and for every 100m you walk. All participating schools will win a prize, with some bonus prizes available too. The family with the most points will win an iPad. The challenge runs from 1 April to 6 June. Look out for special activities in libraries and parks in May. Find out more in this [Child Friendly Leeds blog](#).



The **snow** came as a bit of a surprise to some of our families after the lovely sunshine this weekend although this week of the year has often seen snow in the last decade. Families that are new to our school may wonder what the approach we take is. At Shire Oak we enjoy the snow and it very rarely gets in the way of a school day for us (very icy roads and a grit-salt shortage once caused us to close, which we still despair about!) If travelling is difficult in the morning, we tell families not to rush but to get to us safely – late marks are suspended. We encourage you to dress your children warmly as we do play outside, often on the field. It can be helpful to send additional gloves, socks, shoes/boots and even trousers as it can be hard for us to dry clothes for 210 children and we don't want a fun playtime to mean a cold, soggy lunchtime.

Whatever you do I hope you have a lovely holiday and a very **Happy Easter**. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

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DIARY DATES	
4 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter holidays (Leeds always has the first two weeks of April)
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	Back to school after Easter
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April *	Year 2's first swimming session in the afternoon. They will be going three times a week.
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April *	Year 2 Class Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome! THIS DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED
27 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Lineham Farm residential for Year 4
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	YR Class Assembly. Families welcome to come and watch at 9am in the hall.
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	School closed due to the bank holiday
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Stay and Play YR, Y1 and Y2 at the start of the school day TBC
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs (Year 6) As these are statutory tests appointments should be avoided for Y6.
9 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> May*	Visits from James Nash, local poet, to work with Year 3, 10:30 to 12:00. Sharing assembly for school and parents on Thursday at 2:15pm.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	Eid Assembly 9am in the hall (we hope to be able to invite parents to this) TBC
16 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Bikeability for Year 6
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Groundforce Day: Families are invited to help spruce up our grounds in return for free BBQ
23 <sup>rd</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Green Week Including road/pedestrian safety (YR – Y3 Monday) & scooter safety training (Y4 Y4 Friday)
23 <sup>rd</sup> /24 <sup>th</sup> May	D:side sessions on medicines, alcohol and drugs TBC
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Y4 Class Assembly. Families welcome to come and watch at 9am in the hall.
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	Class photos
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Y6 trip to Ledston for Woodland Sessions
30 <sup>th</sup> May to 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	HALF TERM BREAK
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	RSE meeting for Year 5 and Year 6 parents
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> June *	Y2 trip to Golden Acre park
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Non uniform day (please bring tombola prizes for the summer fair at HYMF)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Music recital pm. All children who learn an instrument may perform.
20 <sup>th</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Multicultural Arts and Faith Week including after school event on Wednesday
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Meetings for Reception Class 2022 parents (am and evening)
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Headingley Youth Music Festival. We run this event for the local community and it includes our summer fair as well as performances, workshops, activities and other music-making 12-4pm
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 and Year 6 production in the evening
18 <sup>th</sup> July	YR Y1 Y2 Sports Day in the morning TBC Y5 Y6 Sports Day in the afternoon TBC
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service at St Michaels' Church, 10:30 am
19 <sup>th</sup> July	Y3 Y4 Sports Day pm TBC
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' trip
25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> July	TRAINING DAY school closed to children (some of this training may be disaggregated)
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	Day given in lieu of the Platinum Jubilee which falls in the half term break in June
<a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar</a> term dates	
TBC means to be confirmed. * marks items that have been added or amended since the last newsletter	