



**SHIRE OAK**  
C of E (VC) Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

Ordinarily we have a **transition** day where all the children spend some time getting ready to move classes for September. This year, we have had to do things a little differently, but all children will be having the opportunity to meet their new teacher this fortnight, find their new circle in the playground and do some transition activities. We usually find that the children feel positive and proud about taking this next step in school and like to go home and talk about it. That is why we like to tell them first, so they have exciting 'news' to share with you. Therefore, if at all possible, please do not tell them who their new teacher will be until they have had a chance to find out in school/online!

The school year 2019-2020 was obviously significantly disrupted by the partial school closure. I am very proud of the way our school community has worked together to make sure the children have continued to feel connected and keep on learning. Nevertheless, maintaining some consistency for the children this autumn was more important than ever in our planning. We have therefore ensured that all children have a member of staff with them that they know well from before or have already started transition activities with this year.

From September, the classes will be:

| <b>Year Groups</b>           | <b>Class Name (Rivers)</b> | <b>Teacher(s) Support Staff (some may be working part of the week)</b>            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Foundation Stage (FS)</b> |                            |   |
| Reception (YR)               | Thames                     | Miss Sarah Coulter<br>Miss Bethan Jones   |
| <b>Key Stage 1 (KS1)</b>     |                            |   |
| Year 1 (Y1)                  | Nile                       | Mrs Sara Mitchell and Mrs Susie Hopkins<br>Ms Susan Strange and Mrs Mandeep Atwal |
| Year 2 (Y2)                  | Aruvi Aru                  | Mrs Sharon Hall<br>Miss Jayne Corner, Mrs Chris Bennett and Mrs Bianca Woodruff   |
| <b>Key Stage 2 (KS2)</b>     |                            |   |
| Year 3 (Y3)                  | Rhine                      | Mr Ian Martin<br>Mrs Brenda Farnhill  |
| Year 4 (Y4)                  | Ganges                     | Ms Helen Barley and Ms Jess Miller<br>Miss Leah Smith                             |
| Year 5 (Y5)                  | Tigris                     | Mr Chris Marshall<br>Mrs Zaiga Pakalna and Mrs Jill Dickinson                     |
| Year 6 (Y6)                  | Amazon                     | Mr Alun Davies<br>Ms Kate Earl and Miss Abi Readman                               |

Typically, children gather on their class circle (painted on the playground) when the bell goes in the morning. After greeting the class, the teacher takes the children in. It may be the case that we have to modify this for the start of the year in order to incorporate handwashing routines and to avoid congestion in doors, corridors and the playground. Unless instructed otherwise, please bring your child to their circle in September, but watch out for staff from their class calling them to come directly into the classroom or cloakroom via wash stations. (The main roofing works that are starting on Friday next week are due to be completed before we return in September, but there will still be some finishing off to do over the Y5/6 area. Please help you child to keep away from any skips, cabins, walkways, etc. that are on site. Please do not walk in via the car park gates at any time.)

When you collect children at the end of the day next year, it will usually be from their classroom door. Year One's classroom is at the front of school. Please wait outside the gate to their outdoor area until the classroom door is opened. Year 4 are collected from the door at the top of the ramp between Year 2 and the Community Room (Kidzone).

**Teachers' Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) will be covered by:**

- Ms Lydia Virgin (Higher Level Teaching Assistant for art)
- Mrs Marcelle Maver (Deputy Head)
- Ms Kate Earl (Higher Level Teaching Assistant for French)
- Mr Avtar Manku (djembe teacher)

We make sure that experienced teachers and learning support assistants also teach 1:1 and small group sessions to help children catch up and press ahead with their learning. We also have pastoral staff that help children to be confident and calm, ready for their learning. This includes:

Dr Janie Percy-Smith – Catch Up reading/ reading at greater depth  
Ms Lydia Virgin – Nurture and Drawing & Talking  
Ms Jane Hinchliffe – mentoring and pastoral support  
Mr Lawrence Nash – Learning Behaviour Support  
Mrs Sara Mitchell - SENCo

All learning support assistants who are in class will also work with individuals, pairs and small groups of children to support their learning as directed by the teacher. This can be in any area of the curriculum at every level. In September we will make sure you know who the other adults are who will be working in your child's class on a regular basis. This may be delayed a little as we implement the government guidance on keeping children in distinct groups as much as possible.

You may have noticed some names missing from this list. Our Numbers Count teacher, Helen Woodley, is moving on this summer. She has been so very instrumental in ensuring our children have secure maths skills and that we all teach maths in a multi-sensory way. Most children in school will have worked with her 1:1, in a small group or in class. We have such a lot to thank her for as a colleague and as a governor. More recently we have been joined by Katy Harris and Fran Waller. Our deficit budget means that these have been temporary contracts, unfortunately, and so they have both secured new jobs for September. We would like to thank them for fitting in so well and wish them the very best too.

For children who are **moving up a key stage** we usually plan an opportunity for parents to ask questions at a short meeting early in the autumn term. We have not scheduled these as yet, as we are not sure whether we will be able to invite parents into the classrooms at that point. We will let you know as soon as we can.



**Year 6** have been taking big transition steps this week as well. When the government said Year 6 could come back to school I was very pleased that they would be able to spend some time on the activities that usually round off seven years of primary school. We felt strongly that it would be unfair, however, to bring them back and start to plan leavers' events and have those taken away a second time if opening schools more widely had not gone well and schools had been closed down again. We therefore planned for a slightly early finish to the term. (Which has also enabled us to bring back all year groups before the summer.) We were very impressed with the **video** Year 6 have put together working at school and at home. It is over an hour and a half long! There are shorter accompanying videos too and thanks are due to Lawrence Nash for his work on editing them all. These were shared in a text to the whole school yesterday. After one last Sports Day, the children were **presented** with their dictionaries, acorn charms and signed shirts at the front of school after singing and playing music for us. We were pleased to be able to give them a decent send-off and wish them all the best as they move onto high school.



I know that parents will have been waiting, as we were, for information about **wraparound** care from September. I am pleased that the government have confirmed that this will be able to go ahead, following the guidelines. These include encouraging us to ask parents not to swap and change 'bubbles' too much and to give thought to how many settings their child is in throughout the week. Dawn from Kidzone should be contacting her existing families this week to book them in for September. Families not currently registered with Kidzone but needing spaces for the autumn should phone Dawn on 07708879920. The governors and I place great importance on the availability of good quality before and after school provision and holiday clubs for working and studying parents. Consequently, if for any reason Kidzone are unable to continue their offer, school will step in to offer childcare in line with government guidelines. It was



of great concern to me that there was no **summer playscheme** on offer this year. I am therefore very pleased to let you know that we have invited Art Camps UK to run their activities on the school site for 3 weeks this summer, using the Children's Centre and Pre School buildings that are unaffected by our re-roofing works. Please see the letter at the end of this letter.

**School lunches** will be resumed from September, as normal. In order to give us flexibility with grouping children as we get used to the new arrangements, this will initially be a 'grab bag' lunch. These are often popular with children and can include cooked items like pizza, fish baps, etc. We will be re-introducing fully cooked meals as soon as we can.

We were pleased to see that we are allowed to resume day trips in the local area from September. We are unlikely to be using public transport, at least initially, but there are lots of great places in walking distance from our school. A **broad and balanced curriculum** is going to be so important to our children after this period of school disruption, and we are looking forward to providing the learning opportunities that really help children to grow and thrive. This week in Forest School, Year 3 have been learning how to use tools safely for a project. They used a saw to cut off the appropriate length of wood, used a potato peeler to whittle the wood into a smooth pale finish and then used charcoal left by a burnt match to write a message in Viking runes. It was sad to us that Year 2 missed their summer **swimming** programme, so we are pleased that their swimming lessons will be able to start in Year 3. In order to maximise the time in the water and not have to rush for buses, we will be moving the lessons to Leeds Beckett University which we can walk to (with perhaps



a snack to power them back to school afterwards!) More information will be provided in September, but please make sure new Year 3 children have a swimming costume and a towel ready.

Congratulations to Anna and Isobel in Year 5! They submitted entries to the **Children's Mayor** project. Manifestos were received from all over the city and the panel were impressed with the quality of the entries. Anna and Isobel should soon be receiving a letter from the Lord Mayor herself to thank them.



Please make sure you know when your child's **Sports Day** is being held next week. From watching Year 6 yesterday I think it is clear that the children will have a lot of fun! On that day they should come to straight to the school field in PE kit and with their water bottle filled and ready. (Collect from there too.) Sorry that we can't include parent spectators this year. There are now very few children not coming into school for their rota-ed sessions, but we do not want them to feel left out, so please make sure that you have seen the email and accompanying video from Ian Martin about how to join in at home and submit entries by Monday next week.



Mr Marshall and Mrs Mitchell teaching Y4 – from home and in person!

It has been lovely seeing so many of the children recently and it has been good to **check in** with them before the summer holidays. Having been told to stay at home to keep people safe, it is understandable that children might be anxious about returning to school. We have found it helpful, therefore, for children to come to school before the summer so that there is one less obstacle to them coming back in September. If your family are currently at home do consider planning a walk up to school at least once before we break up to return books, check lost property or order uniform at the office. These can all be done with full social distancing. Contact us if you are unsure about this.

Have a good week!

Jane Astrid Devane

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

|                     | Wed 8th  | Thur 9th               | Fri 10th               | Mon 13th              | Tues 14th                 | Wed 15th                | Thur 16th               | Fri 17th |
|---------------------|--|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Reception Class     |  | Reception AJ 8:50-1:30 | Reception AJ 8:50-1:30 | Reception C 8:15-1:30 | YR SPORTS DAY 9:30-10:30  |                         | Reception AJ 8:50-1:30  |          |
| Year One            |  | Y1 Hop 8:50-1:45       | Y1 Hop 8:50-1:45       | Y1 Harr 8:50-1:45     | Y1 SPORTS DAY 10:45-12:15 |                         | Y1 Hop 8:50-1:45        |          |
| Year Two            | Y2 B 9:15-2  |                        |                        |                       | Y2 A 9:15-2               | Y2 B 9:15-2             | Y2 SPORTS DAY 10:30-12  |          |
| Year Three          | Y3 A 9:15-2  | Y3 B 9:15-2            |                        |                       | Y3 SPORTS DAY 1:15-3:05   | Y3 A 9:15-2             | Y3 B 9:15-2             |          |
| Year Four           | Y4 B 9:30-2:10   |                        |                        | Y4 A 9:30-2:10        |                           | Y4 B 9:30-2:10          | Y4 SPORTS DAY 1:15-2:30 |          |
| Year Five           |  | Y5 9:15-1 in the hall  | Y5 9:15-2:15           | Y5 9-2                |                           | Y5 SPORTS DAY 1:15-2:30 |                         |          |
| Keyworker childcare | School Club as arranged (will move venue on Friday 17th) |                        |                        |                       |                           |                         |                         |          |

Summer Art Camp 03.08.20 - 21.08.20

Dear Parents



Art Camp are running a fabulous Summer camp at reduced numbers of 30 children per day at Shire Oak primary school. Art Camp is a wrap around care provider registered with OFSTED who specialise in creative day-care.

We have a whole host of really talented professionals who inspire your children in creativity. This summer they will be offering Dance, Arts and Crafts, Walking with Alpacas, Bush Craft, Outdoor Adventure, Forest Schools, Yoga and Meditation, Cookery, Music, Drumming, Circus Skills, Drama, Karaoke and lots more fun.

Our days start at 08.45-16.00, we also offer a wrap around service from 08.00-17.00. We are offering a 15% discount to all the parents at Shire Oak. We are operating with 2 bubbles of 15 children.

To reserve your places please contact [jon@artcampuk.com](mailto:jon@artcampuk.com)  
With best wishes, Jon

