



Dear Parents and Carers

**Thank you** so much for the overwhelmingly positive responses we have had to our re-opening plans. It is clear that you value the balance we are trying to strike between making school as safe as possible but also as much like ordinary school as possible. For some families it has not been the right time to return just yet - either due to medical advice or their own appraisal of the national situation – from those families it was good to hear that you trust us though! Thank you to everyone who has been in touch with messages of support and encouragement at this time. I hope you all had a good half term and were able to enjoy the good weather and the chance for some families to start venturing further afield.

I am pleased to say that the first week of wider opening has gone well. Well over half of the children who could return to school did. Some of the children were a little apprehensive when they first returned, but quickly settled back in with their friends and staff. Some children are now tired at the end of the first week – particularly our oldest children. (It seems our younger children have mostly still been waking up and getting up pretty early... this has not been the case for all our pre-teens!) For those families planning a return next week or the week after, I do suggest gently tweaking the routine so that mornings aren't too much of a shock to the system! The systems we have put in place have been working and I would like to thank all the parents who have been so helpful and considerate at drop off and pick up time by unobtrusively practising social distancing and being patient with us and each other.

We are constantly reviewing and tweaking what we do to make sure that things are as secure as possible. We are also making sure that they are as warm and as welcoming as possible. With that in mind here is the plan for the next two weeks (provided no further changes are announced by the government at this time). Our plan is still written in a way that further year groups could be accommodated if the government announces other cohorts are to return to school. Foremost in our minds is trying to ensure that this half term includes meaningful transition activities for *all* the children before the summer holidays.

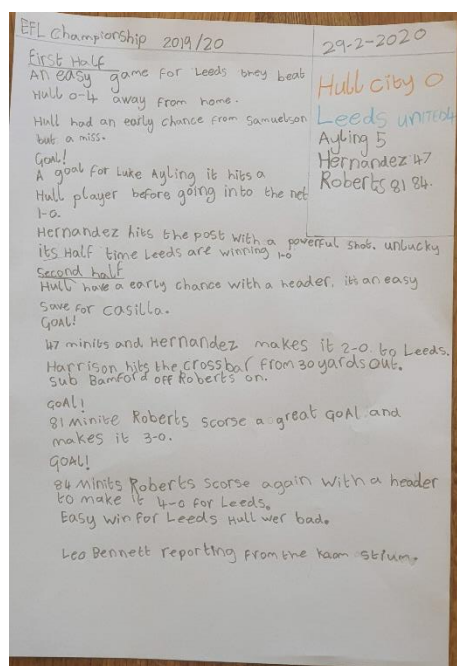
Thank you to families who have let us know about shielding letters for children or adults at home, as well as other plans. From this we have a clearer idea of when we are expecting children to return. The grouping for Year 6 and for Year 1 can therefore stay as it is. In Reception Class one of the groups is significantly smaller than the others and does not have a good mix of boys and girls. We will therefore join that group to another to ensure the children all have good friends in their group. Keeping this group together, rather than splitting it across the two other groups, is better from an infection control point of view, but still keeps us under the advised limit for Early Years 'bubbles'. It also allows us to offer more sessions in the school week in a regular pattern. Children returning after the 22<sup>nd</sup> June will be allocated to a group



depending on numbers, so should contact us to check which group they are in. For any families returning from next week, please make sure you carefully read our last newsletter (which will still be on our website) as it contains information on how to prepare your child for returning to school and the practicalities you need to know.

Week commencing 8 <sup>th</sup> June and week commencing 15 <sup>th</sup> June					
Year 6	Reception Class		Year 1		School Club
All children	Miss Coulter's group	Mrs Atwal's group and Miss Jones' group	Miss Harris' group	Mrs Hopkins' group	All children
Continue to attend every day from 9am until 2pm. For now this seems a long enough day for the children, especially as their lunch break has been shortened.	Attend on Mondays and Tuesdays at 8:50am. Stay until 1:30pm. This includes eating lunch.	Attend on Thursdays and Fridays at 8:50am. Stay until 1:30pm. This includes eating lunch.	Attend on Mondays and Tuesdays at 8:50am. Stay until 1:45pm. This includes eating lunch.	Attend on Thursdays and Fridays at 8:50am. Stay until 1:45pm. This includes eating lunch.	Attend as usual, booking in each week in advance unless there is a regular booking in place already. Children can attend, as needed, between 8:30am and 3:30pm. (See note below about wraparound.)
Come directly to the hall once they have washed their hands at the door.	Wash station by the tyres near the gate to Reception Class. Once there is a member of staff there they can wash their hands and go straight in.	Wash station at the ramp to the double doors. Once there is a member of staff there they can wash their hands and go straight in.	Wash station at the ramp to the double doors. Once there is a member of staff there they can wash their hands and go straight in.	Wash station in the Quiet Zone by the door to the Community Room. Then go straight in.	
N.B. Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June is already scheduled to be a training day					

I have been in touch with Dawn at **Kidzone**, who is unfortunately unable to provide wraparound care at this time and is unsure of the provision she will be able to make in the summer. We will keep this situation under review as having quality before school, after school and holiday provision is very important to us and we will ensure that a good offer remains in place as soon as it is practicable. Since closure we have been providing longer days in the Keyworker School Club to ensure critical workers could get to work. As childminders and family carers have returned, the demand for School Club is now mostly usual school hours and this coincides with more of our staff being used across school. We are therefore now going to be running School Club more in line with the usual school day. However, if this poses a challenge to your family and might prevent you from doing work critical to the COVID response (e.g. NHS) then please contact Marcelle Maver about this. We may be able to arrange extended hours, possibly for a small fee.



For Years 2 to 5 the **Home Learning offer** will remain the same as it has. Children should aim to 'do the register' daily and engage with as many of the tasks as they can. We are very aware that some children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 need to remain at home at this time and we want to continue supporting them. I have to be realistic in my expectations of class staff, however, as they cannot do two jobs simultaneously! For this reason I did not want to set in stone our offer as we broke up for half term. They are all keen to keep the contact with home learners going and are finding ways to make this manageable. For Y6 this may mean setting tasks that are done either at home or at school (Y6 in school have the new set of Chrome Books that we have just purchased). For Year 1 and Reception it may mean that ideas are posted weekly rather than daily and we may share ideas after they have been done in class. As we settle into this new routine there may be a delay in getting things out to you so please continue to use the White Rose Maths home learning and other ideas that have been posted before. Other staff in school with fewer in-school teaching commitments will be trying to support home learning in these year groups too, so please do not be surprised if another teacher or teaching assistant comments on work or telephones. We have chosen staff members that are known to the children, either because they are in planning teams, (Y R/1/2 and Y 5/6) or are previous teachers or staff in the succeeding year groups.

To support parents helping their children progress through their **Maths Passport** targets, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Farnhill have updated the information on our website. When you click on a continent you can now click on individual targets and



a grid for 'testing' will load up. There is also a document which tells children how they can use the Top Marks Daily 10 site to practise each individual target from Europe to South America. <https://www.shireoak.org/learning-at-home>

Mrs Woodley has made some more **maths games packs** and they are available for collection in the entrance lobby. They are in two boxes: one is of addition and subtraction games broadly suitable for Y1 (with a bit of help!) and Year 2. The other is multiplication and division most suited to Y2 and Y3.

The **art activities** that Lydia Virgin has been posting in Google Classroom give lots of scope for sustained thinking and creativity. She has put together a video of some of the pieces that have been shared with her – it is a lovely celebration of our children's creativity and hard work:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18Y7p2bnPvKyE7jDLBsFCzHYSRzf5UAAtL/view?usp=sharing> There are further arts home learning ideas as well as links to music home learning activities on the <https://artformsleeds.co.uk/> website too.

For adults or children wanting to think the **big questions**, this House of Questions art project by Phill Hopkins may be of interest – he is looking for people to share video clips of themselves answering, "If you were free to ask ANY one question and I mean ANY question, about faith/God/religion/theology, what would it be?" [https://www.phill-hopkins.co.uk/articles\\_373900.html](https://www.phill-hopkins.co.uk/articles_373900.html)

**Congratulations** to Rory, Georgia, Lia and Joshua for coming up with the winning idea in the **Food Waste Applied Creativity Lab!** They worked on this idea in the Enviro Club after school. "Overall the Industry Panel comments and scores indicated that the most innovative and applicable idea that was most likely to reduce food waste was STOP THE ROT from Shire Oak Primary School. STOP THE ROT is an app that alerts you when your food is about to go off, so you still have time to make something with it. STOP THE ROT allows you to scan your food's use-by date (via barcode or QR code) as you put it away in cupboards/fridge after purchase. It then alerts you one week before the food item is due to go off, providing you with recipes to make using the combination of imminently out of date food. (It will require the user to swipe already consumed food off the list of food on the screen leaving just the food that is about to go off in the next week – just like you swipe/delete old messages off from Messenger and other apps)." Although they missed out on the celebration event that was due to be held this spring, you can read what the judges had to say at <https://weareive.org/food-waste-acl/> and also see that Ive are seeking to develop this idea into a real app if they can get the necessary backing.

Finally, if you missed our assembly this week please do join in as we celebrate a new half term, Eid-al-fitr and a lot of birthdays. <https://youtu.be/6MEkExRdKPc> Have a good weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

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## Book report

Name of the book- Murder in Midwinter  
Your name- Katelyn  
Author- Fleur Hitchcock  
Illustrator- Fleur Hitchcock  
Fiction or nonfiction?- fiction  
Why did you choose this book?- It looked like a mystery type book and I like mystery's.

Who were the characters in your book?-  
Maya, her sister, the murderer, maya's mum and dad, the police, her aunt and cousins.

What would you rate your book 1-5?- 5  
Did you enjoy your book yes or no?- yes

What did you like about this book?- I liked everything. It's probably one of the best books I have ever read.

What didn't you like about this book?- I liked it all I can't think of anything I didn't like.

**Coastal erosion & sea defences / Recreate a famous painting / Grow something / Write a book review**

**Great home learning from Shire Oak pupils!**