**Leeds Philosophy Exchange at Shire Oak**

*What is philosophy?*

Philosophy involves thinking carefully, critically and creatively about mysterious and interesting questions. Questions like “What is art?” “Could a computer think” and “How do I know I’m not dreaming?”

In philosophy we discover problems that experts can’t answer for us, not even our teachers! You won’t find the answers to our questions on the internet or in textbooks. You can’t answer them by doing an experiment.

Philosophical problems make us think *for ourselves*. Together we wonder, share ideas and listen to each other.

The point of philosophy is to work out our own answers to life’s mysterious questions. Not only is this really interesting, it also helps us get better at dealing with puzzles in literacy, numeracy and in everyday life.

*What is Leeds Philosophy Exchange?*

Leeds Philosophy Exchange brings children, teachers and philosophy students together in weekly philosophical enquiry so that they can learn from each other.

Both students and teachers run philosophy sessions with small groups of children from Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6. This gives everyone the extra space they need to speak and to listen and to be listened to.

After all the work we did in 2012-13 we are looking forward to making more progress in philosophy next year. To help us get better at philosophy, we are starting to use *Thinking Dairies* to help us record our work and classroom *Wonder Walls* to keep track of all of our questions.

Grace Robinson Lockley from the University of Leeds will be in school every week to help us. You can say hello to her if you like!

*What we did on our visit to The University of Leeds*

On Wednesday 22nd May 2013 Children from Y3 - Y6 were invited to The University of Leeds to celebrate their achievements this year. As part of the celebration children, students, teachers, academics and parents watched some brave pupils from Y5 and Y6 do a live demonstration of philosophical enquiry with help from one of the students Sophie Collins.

All the children who took part received a certificate, and some students also received a special certificate for their philosophy work.

We had a lovely morning and enjoyed juice, fruit and cakes before we went back to school.