

Dear Parents and Carers

We are now at the end of our **Anti Bullying Fortnight** which coincides with the national Anti-Bullying Week and children in KS2 have had a special workshop with a visiting actor to explore the issue whilst Reception and KS1 took part in online drama workshops. Each year we make sure children know:

What bullying is	What bullying is not	What to do about bullying... TELL!
------------------	----------------------	------------------------------------

All the children (and adults) who agree with this sign our Anti Bullying Charter and receive a special present chosen by School Council to help remember the message. The theme this year is **choose respect** and so they had a good time investigating various options, but in the end settled on designing and have printed paper chatterboxes with the message on (and folding them all for the younger children!) Whenever we learn about bullying in school we receive a lot more notes in the worry boxes and it may well be the case that you hear more worries at home too. Like you, we investigate each one, but we find that as children learn the vocabulary and dynamics of bullying they can over-apply the term to begin with. At school we say bullying is deliberately hurting someone (not just physically), again and again, on purpose to make someone feel bad. There are other behaviours that are not ok, but are not bullying. As well as getting used to the language we find that children want to check out that the systems in place do work, which can be a reason for increased notes in the Worry Box and more such conversations at home too. Do let us know if there's anything we need to know about or follow up.



Online (or cyber) bullying is more and more of a risk as the children get older and so being kind, being safe and being your best when using the Internet is an important part of our protective work in school. We are always happy to invite the charity **d:side** into school to hold special **Internet Safety lessons** with each class which will be revisited around Internet Safety Day in February too.

Well done to **Year 6** for a great class assembly last week. It's great to see our oldest learners show off their confidence and ability to collaborate with each other. They have been great ambassadors this week as they conducted all the tours on our **Open Morning** for prospective parents. I always hear such great feedback about the job they do – they really are our best advertisement!

Some of our Year 6s have been ambassadors even further afield. Rory, Austin, Atticus and Arthur had their own stall at the **Thought Bubble** Comic Art Festival where Skull Dude comics, merchandise and other graphic items were in hot demand.



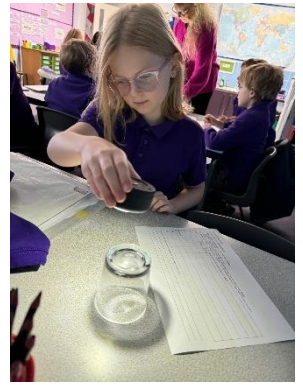
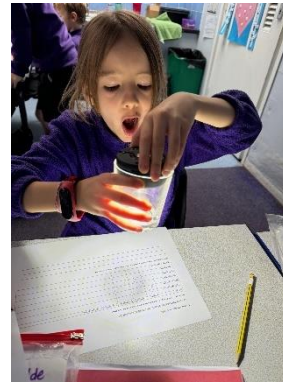
(The badges even sold out!) We are very proud of their efforts. Skull Dude can be read in our library and we are planning a Shire Oak stall in conjunction with World Book Day next term.

Well done to **Year 5** for their great **class sharing assembly**

this morning. We particularly enjoyed their musical stylings – some rock stars in the making! Thank you to everyone who was able to come along and support them.



I love these photos from **Year 3's** recent **light experiments** in science investigating shadows, reflections and whether materials are opaque, translucent or transparent.



This week has seen one of the highlights of the school year: Our **Winter Festival of Fire** is our celebration of outdoor learning and a marking of the turning of the seasons. This year was a crisp, cold and perfect evening. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this great event in any way.



Although it is not quite **Advent** yet, school is starting to prepare for our Christmas celebrations. The carol singing choir starts rehearsing today and we are all invited to sing next week at the **Headingley Christmas Lights Switch On**. This is always a lovely community event. We meet at St Michael's and sing in the church then go outside to sing a little more and then



count down to the lights being switched on. Refreshments (usually on a pay as you feel basis) are then served in the church. It's a lovely way to step into Advent, and we always have a good turnout from Shire Oak.



This has been a very full newsletter which didn't even fit in everything that has been going on (online authors visits, great music lessons, etc.) Thank you very much to everyone who sent in **plastic bags** to support a local food bank – they are very much appreciated. Thanks also for the **raffle prizes** that have been coming in – tickets will be on sale soon!

Have a lovely weekend. I look forward to seeing you at the Headingley Lights Switch On this Tuesday.

*Jane Astrid Devane*

Jane Astrid Devane

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

#### DIARY DATES

Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	PAFRAS assembly to launch Christmas appeal TBC
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November *	Author June McLeave visiting Y1, Y2 and Y3
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Headingley Lights Switch On (gather at St Michael's from 5pm)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Y3 sports festival at Leeds University
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Stay and Play – join YR, Y1 & Y2 in class at the start of the day
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December *	Health and Hygiene sessions Y3, Y4 and Y5
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Y6 at Robinwood Residential school trip
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol singing at Victoria Court 11am
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	Y4 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol singing at Headingley Library, am.
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	School nurses (flu spray)

Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> December	School nurses to visit YR and Y6 vision and growth checks
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Book Club trip to Leeds Playhouse to see The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe, pm.
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	R, Y1 and Y2 performing nativities to rest of school
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	YR, Y1 and Y2 Nativities to parents and carers am and pm
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Discos & Reception Class movie night R/KS1 3:45- 4:45 & KS2 5-6pm <small>NEW DATE!</small>
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church am, all welcome.
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas school lunch (children who are on packed lunches can book this in advance)
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> December *	Christmas road safety pantomime pm
<del>Wed 18<sup>th</sup> December</del>	<del>Christmas Discos and Reception Class movie night R/KS1 3:45- 4:45 &amp; KS2 5-6pm</del>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas party day, with entertainer and party food at lunch (can be prebooked)
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December *	Children's Centre Christmas party with donkeys
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Last day of term. Acorn Club will close at 4pm today.
(Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December)	Nine Lessons and Carols service at St Michael's Church, 6:30pm. All welcome.
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY no school for children 23 <sup>rd</sup> December to 3 <sup>rd</sup> January. Art Camp my offer activities	
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Open Morning for prospective parents. Current parents also welcome to tour school.
13-15 <sup>th</sup> January	Y4 at Herd Farm Residential school trip
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 1 class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> January	WW2 day (online) Y6
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Reception Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	TRAINING DAY School closed to children
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January *	Headingley and Kirkstall Combined Schools Band playing in assembly, 9am.
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January *	Y1 smoothie workshop with LUFC
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January *	Y1 trip to Abbey House Museum
28 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> January *	Y3 working with poet James Nash – parent assembly on Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm.
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Stay and Play – join YR, Y1 & Y2 in class at the start of the day
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Canals & Rivers Trust water safety assemblies
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Y5 trip to York
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	Reception Class parents meeting about maths 2:15 TBC
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Y6 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Y4 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
HALF TERM no school for children 17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> February. Art Camp will run a playscheme.	
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Stay and Play – join YR, Y1 & Y2 in class at the start of the day
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Shrove Tuesday pancake day sale after school
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day (dressing up as a favourite character, charity book drive, etc. TBC)
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Y5 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Science workshops as part of British Science Week
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Shire Oak science fair as part of British Science Week
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Shire Oak Sunday 10am – all welcome to join this All Age Service at St Michael's
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March *	Year 6 Young Climate Warriors session
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> March *	Y3 Sports Festival Leeds University
27 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter visits to St Michael's Church TBC this week or next week
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Y3 and Y4 Easter production to the rest of school
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Y3 and Y4 Easter production to parents, carers, etc.
EASTER HOLIDAY no school for children 7 <sup>th</sup> April to 21 <sup>st</sup> April. Art Camp will run a playscheme.	
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	TRAINING DAY School closed to children
23 <sup>rd</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Y2 Intensive Swimming course, followed by weekly lessons
28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> April	D:Side sessions on medicines, alcohol and drug safety
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	YR Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Y1 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Y2 Great Fire of London workshop
12 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> May	KS2 SATs week for Year 6
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Y2 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
19 <sup>th</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bikeability training & assessment for Y6. Start building cycling confidence to be ready!
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Y3 Class assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	NSPCC workshops Y2, Y5 and Y6 TBC

HALF TERM no school for children 26 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> May. Art Camp will run a playscheme.	
2 <sup>nd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Green Week, including pedestrian, scooter and bike safety. TBC
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	House Team Hobby Half Day TBC
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	RSE information meeting for parents in Y5 and Y6 5pm TBC
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Class photo day
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 trip to the recycling plant
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	TRAINING DAY School closed to children
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Eid Assembly, 9am in the hall. All welcome!
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Non uniform day in return for an item (or two) for the HYMF tombola please
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Meeting for new parents/carers of Reception intake 2025 followed by home visits
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 trip to water treatment plant pm.
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> June – 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Learning through Sport Fortnight
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Transition visits to new classes (1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Lawnswood transition days)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Music recital for children learning an instrument in or out of school 9:30am
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Y5/6 @1:15pm TBC
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day YR/1/2 @9:15am TBC
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day Y3/4 @1:15pm TBC
14 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> July	Y2 Intensive Swimming course, followed by weekly lessons all year in Y3
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 production to rest of school & grandparents/carers of alternate roles
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Y5/6 production to parents and carers evening
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Leavers' Service 10:30am at St Michael's Church
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Leavers' ten pin bowling trip
SUMMER HOLIDAY no school for children 23 <sup>rd</sup> July to 29 <sup>th</sup> August. Art Camp will run a playscheme.	
TERM DATES: <a href="https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates">https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-holidays-and-term-dates</a>	

\* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is set to be confirmed and may have to change.