



SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy fortnight since the bank holiday weekend and there are plenty more plans afoot for the rest of the school year. Year 5 recently visited the **water treatment** plant in Headingley which might not have been the trip destination the children would have picked, but helped them understand their topic and was surprisingly fun to them “actually, really interesting Miss... it’s cool there!”

It was good to be able to welcome families of our younger children to **Stay and Play** last week so that pupils could show off their classrooms and explain how they learn to parents and carers. Thank you for coming if you were able to.

Year 3 parents were also invited to a special assembly yesterday. The children in Ms Barley’s class have been working with local **poet, James Nash**, this week. They wrote some thought-provoking and imagery-filled poems about skeletons, bones and skulls. Thank you to James and to Headingley Literature Festival who sponsor the project – we are so glad it has returned after a two year break!



Parents had a further opportunity to visit school this morning as we shared our



learning about and from the Muslim festival of **Eid** in a special **assembly**. Thank you for the support you give to our children when they present their learning to an audience. A belated **Eid Mubarak** to our families who were celebrating recently.

Well done to **Year 6** who have navigated a week of SATs tests this week with maturity. The special breakfast club run by Mrs Vollans was a great hit and got them off to a good start each day. Thank you to all the staff who contributed to making sure children had the support they needed and thank you to parents for helping children to keep a good sense of perspective about it all. (Year 2 have also been doing SATs, but happily we are able to make sure they don’t know that!)

The environment will be a focus for us in the next few weeks as we teach the children how to travel sustainably and safely and care for their world. We are also going to be looking after our school grounds and invite parents to help us on our **Groundforce Day** on Saturday 21st May. There are jobs to do at every skill and fitness level and there will be a free barbecue at the end to say thank you! Do pass on a message to the caretaker Miss Liz Craven if you are coming, in order to help her plan the jobs (and the food!)

Please can I remind you that **animals are not permitted in the school grounds** unless they are guide dogs or they have been invited to school to support the children’s learning. We do understand that it is difficult to know where to leave them, but tying dogs up close to entrances can be very scary to children who have to pass them. In order to support families who walk dogs as part of their daily routine we have arranged that you can tie them to the fence that runs between our driveway and Wheatfields Hospice. That way no children have to pass them (as only vehicles should be using the drive) and they should be safe from opportunist thieves. Whilst on the topic of families feeling safe in our school grounds can I please ask that children do not scoot or cycle round the playground at speed. We love that children come to school using their own wheel power, but accidents can happen if weaving around and toddlers are very vulnerable.

We have been informed by the catering agency that the prices for paid **school dinners** will be rising soon. We will, therefore, be charging £2.44 per KS2 dinner from half term onwards. I am sorry to have to pass on this increase. If you are struggling and wonder if you might be eligible for means-tested free school meals please do talk to Mrs Susan Koyuncu (office) in confidence as she can point you in the right direction for finding out. School dinners for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 remain free.

There will be a short FOSOPS (Zoom) meeting on Monday morning at 10am to plan for **Headingley Youth Music Festival** - please do join us! If you can’t attend but are able to help on Saturday 25th June we would be grateful. Each

class has a sheet for families to sign up to help run stalls and activities. All children will be invited to perform as part of our great choir, so it would be good to see you there. Right now we are especially trying to source any gazebos, marquees or parasols you might be able to help us find and borrow! Please let me know!

Attached to this newsletter is information about an **NHS helpline** for parents of children and young people in crisis. Do remember you can also speak to school if you have concerns: Lawrence Nash, our Learning Mentor (and Family Support Worker) and Sara Mitchell, our SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) are good people to contact initially.

Please watch out for the **annual parent survey** that will be sent out soon. The governors use the survey to find out what is working well about school and what we should work on next, so your feedback is very valuable.

I hope you have a good weekend.

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

janead@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk

DIARY DATES

16 th to 20 th May	Bikeability for Year 6
Saturday 21 st May	Groundforce Day: Families are invited to help spruce up our grounds (plus free BBQ)
23 rd to 27 th May	Green Week Including road/pedestrian safety (YR-Y3 Mon) & scooter safety training (Y4 Y5 Fri)
23 rd /24 th May	D:side sessions on medicines, alcohol and drugs
Wednesday 25 th May	Y4 Class Assembly. Families welcome to come and watch at 9am in the hall.
Thursday 26 th May	Class photos
Thursday 26 th May	Audiology nurses in school to see Y1 children
Friday 27 th May	Y6 trip to Ledston for Woodland Sessions
30 th May to 3 rd June	HALF TERM BREAK. Art Camp run holidays activities here (discount for SO children) https://www.artcampuk.com/ 1 st June deadline for World Cup mascot design competition
Tuesday 7 th June *	Y6 Girls' Cricket tournament
Tuesday 7 th June	Royal Jubilee picnic lunch (book by 6 th May if not already on school dinners)
Wednesday 8 th June	RSE meeting for Year 5 and Year 6 parents
Tuesday 14 th June	Y2 trip to Golden Acre park
Tuesday 14 th June	YR trip to Harewood House
Wednesday 15 th June	TRAINING DAY school closed to children
Friday 17 th June	Non uniform day (please bring tombola prizes for the summer fair at HYMF)
Friday 17 th June	Music recital pm. All children who learn an instrument may perform.
20 th to 24 th June	Multicultural Arts and Faith Week including after school event on Wednesday 22 nd Monday 20 th – Y1/2 trip to Makkah Mosque / Tuesday 21 st – Y3/4 trip to Sinai Synagogue Wednesday 22 nd – Y6 trip to Mandir temple in Hyde Park / Thursday 23 rd – Y5 to Sikh Temple in Chapeltown Friday – round the world music performance in school
Tuesday 21 st June	Meetings for Reception Class 2022 parents (am and evening)
Saturday 25 th June	Headingley Youth Music Festival. We run this event for the local community: it includes our summer fair as well as performances, workshops, activities & other music-making 12-4pm
Tuesday 28 th June *	After school sports event to raise money for Rob Burrows' Motor Neuron Disease Centre
Thursday 30 th June *	Year 5/6 trip to Filey
Thursday 14 th July *	Year 1 trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park (this is instead of Filey)
Thursday 14 th July	Year 5 and Year 6 production in the evening
18 th July	YR Y1 Y2 Sports Day in the morning Y5 Y6 Sports Day in the afternoon
19 th July	Leavers' Service at St Michaels' Church, 10:30 am
19 th July	Y3 Y4 Sports Day pm TBC
Friday 22 nd July	Year 6 Leavers' trip
25 th and 26 th July	TRAINING DAY school closed to children (some of this training may be disaggregated)
Wednesday 27 th July	Day given in lieu of the Platinum Jubilee which falls in the half term break in June
SUMMER HOLIDAY. From the 25 th July Art Camp run holidays activities on our site. https://www.artcampuk.com/ We have some free places for families in need – contact us.	
https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar term dates	