



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

It has been fantastic to welcome parents into the school this week. **Stay and Play** was well attended yesterday in Reception Class and Year 1 with the opportunity for children to show where they learn indoors and out. Stay and Play is a great way to help with picturing your child in school so that your conversations can be richer about what they are learning and enjoying at school. It can also be a good way to have a quick, informal chat with the staff (although obviously they do need to also be looking after the children). Parents' Evenings are coming up in the last week before the half term break and we hope that all families will be able to book an appointment to see how their child is getting on and to work together on the best ways for them to make good progress this year. Please make sure you got the letter that went home yesterday about this and return the appointment request slip as soon as possible.

It is good to be planning our Year 6 residential trip to **Robinwood** for later this term. On Monday we were able to show parents some of the activities, the accommodation and to answer questions at a short meeting about the experience. We aim for all children in Year 6 and Year 4 to attend our residential trips to take part in the outdoor and adventurous PE curriculum opportunities and for all the social and emotional development growth that comes with them.

Year 1 parents came into school this week to hear about the **transition from Early Years to KS1**. We are so aware that this cohort had less chance to invite parents into school than any previous new to Shire Oak class and it was good to see you in person! When we hold such meetings in school we are using the hall (our largest, space) and ventilating well. We are leaving the trolley of chairs by the entrance so that parents can sit wherever they feel comfortable in the space; we are very aware that some people are still more strictly distancing than others. We are still using online methods too and this week Reception staff shared our approach to teaching **early reading and writing** (and phonics) in an informative video which was followed by a question and answer session on Zoom. We will hold a similar (but in-person) event about maths in the spring term. Of course if you have questions at any time about how your child is learning, do ask the teacher.



Although we have been welcoming families into school, we haven't yet felt able to reinstate our whole school sharing assemblies with 210 children, the whole school staff and many parents all in the same space! We have, therefore, been looking for outdoor opportunities to share **festivals** and special occasions with you. This week children in school have been learning about the Jewish festival of **Sukkot** and have been making their own shelters (a sukkah) as part of that. The hope had been to invite parents to come and see them, but the rain has made some very temporary shelters and has moved the construction of others indoors!

We are also planning an outdoor **Harvest Festival** at the end of next week. If the weather cooperates we will gather at 9am on the field to sing our harvest hymns and songs and to bring our offerings to the harvest table. Whilst it will be tricky to share

our usual class contributions of poems, etc. we are hoping that we can make a bit of a splash by creating a great display of donated food and class artwork. We are collecting food for the [Rainbow Junktion](#) at All Hallows and [PAFRAS](#) food banks. Any food in tins or packets would be very gratefully received. Children will be collecting food all week in their classrooms ready to bring to our special outdoor assembly on Friday. (If the weather is awful we will reschedule for the following week.)

Well done to the children in Year 5 who nominated themselves to stand for election as Vice-Chair of School Council. They wrote fantastic speeches that they shared at our hustings assembly this week and we are proud of all of them and the contribution they have offered to make. Children are currently voting in classes and we will soon be able to announce who will be assisting Edie, our chair.



Vacancy for a Parent Governor

Shire Oak has a vacancy for a Parent Governor to join our Governing Board. The Governing Board is a fantastic mix of experienced and committed people who volunteer their time and skills regularly to provide strategic direction, guidance and ensure that school receives challenge and rigour in all its practices. As a parent governor you will represent the parent voice and it is also a great way to see all the hard work that goes on behind the scenes in school and to be actively involved in supporting school and the local authority.

Parent Governors typically serve on the Governing Board for 4 years which, per year, involves active attendance at 5 Full Governing Board meetings (evenings) plus attendance on at least one of the smaller sub committees where work activities take place. Typically, Governors should expect to do 10-15 hours of work per term which is a mix of attendance at meetings, reviewing documents, reports and processes and school visits, checks and attending events. We particularly welcome applicants with experience in health and safety and/or buildings and premises as expertise the group is not strong on currently.

If you wish to find out more about the Governing Body please see <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-governor> and the Governors Page on the Shire Oak website sets out some more info about Governors at Shire Oak <https://www.shireoak.org/about1-clfgz>. You are also welcome to speak to any of our Governors - in particular Antonia Nicholls, Anna Swinburn, Charlie Stobbart and Kate Wright are regularly on the playground, ask a staff member to point them out if you're unsure, or ask the office to pass a message on if you'd like to arrange for one of them to phone you for a discussion.

To put yourself forward please prepare a short statement which sets out why you are interested in being a Governor and the experience and skills that you would bring to the Governing Body if you were successful. If we receive more than one application we will publish all the statements we receive and ask school parents/carers to vote for their preferred candidate. Please hand your statement into the School Office by 3pm on Friday 16th October.

FOSOPS met this week for a planning meeting. It was a small meeting, but we know that there are other parents who are interested in helping out and being involved who can't attend meetings that easily. They want to encourage families to come to the **Woodland Walk** next weekend with food and drink back at school afterwards. They



are also starting to think about their presence at the Winter Festival of Fire on the 17th November and finding helpers to run the stall and serve refreshments and running school



discos before Christmas. Knowing that families want to get involved, but can't always attend meetings, they will be putting a suggestion box or folder in the lobby so that ideas and offers of help can be passed on. As some people find it easier to meet online during the working day the next meeting will be on Tuesday 2nd November at 9:30am on Zoom. By the way, if you shop at Morrisons, please nominate Shire Oak for your It's Good to Grow vouchers. (They may be electronic in your My Morrisons app.)



Have a lovely weekend. I hope you enjoy these photos of Y3 on their great trip to Kirklees Light Railway yesterday ☺

Jane Astrid Devane

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DIARY DATES

7 th & 8 th October	D:side sessions on Internet Safety Y1-Y6
Friday 8 th October	Harvest Festival TBC This will be outdoors and rescheduled if there is bad weather
Saturday 9 th October	FOSOPS Woodland Walk – all welcome! TBC
Thursday 14 th October *	Y4 trip to do seed gathering for later planting in Leeds Skylar's Musical note for KS1 House Team Hobby Half Day for Y4-Y6
20 th & 21 st October	Parents Evenings. (These may be a mixture of phone calls and in person meetings) TBC
Friday 22 nd October	TRAINING DAY (school closed to children)
Tuesday 2 nd November *	FOSOPS meeting on Zoom 9:30am all welcome!
Monday 8 th November	(virtual) Roman visitor to Year 4
Thurs 11 th November	Drama Workshop as part of Anti Bullying Fortnight
Wed 17 th November	Winter Festival of Fire straight after school
Friday 19 th November	Nasal Flu vaccinations
Tues 23 rd November	Open Morning for prospective parents
Tues 30 th November	Headingley Christmas lights switch on and carol singing at/outside St Michael's Church
1 st - 3 rd December	Year 6 Residential trip to Robinwood
Thursday 9 th December	Y4 trip to the Media Museum in Bradford
Thursday 9 th December	Reception and KS1 Nativity productions TBC
Tuesday 14 th December	Carol Service at St Michaels' Church
Wed 15 th December *	Christmas discos after school, Y1 Y2 Y3 3:15 – 4:45pm and Y4 Y5 Y6 5-6:30pm
Friday 17 th December	Alive & Kicking Christmas drama
27 th – 29 th April 2022	Lineham Farm residential for Year 4
9 th to 12 th May 2022	KS2 SATs (Year 6)
16 th to 20 th May 2022	Bikeability for Year 6

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/children-families-and-carers/schools-and-learning/school-calendar> term dates

* means added or changed since last newsletter TBC means this is yet to be confirmed and may have to change. The easing of COVID restrictions and the removal of the contact tracing responsibility from schools makes planning events with parents possible again. We will, however, be mindful of local and national data and advice, as well as the confidence of our community, when finalising plans.