



Dear Parents and Carers

What a term! One day back at school, several weeks of home learning and then back to school again. Although on the one hand it seems strange to be breaking up for a holiday already, on the other hand I can see that the children are ready for the break. They have dealt with such a lot of change to routine, they have had to rebuild up their stamina for early mornings and busy days and I can see that many of them are very, very tired. I hope that the Easter holidays give you all a chance for some downtime and perhaps the chance to see a few more friends and family members too.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the **Easter Raffle**. In the end we had 84 prizes and raised £200 which we will add to our ScrapShed total. Thank you Liz Craven for organising this.

I am pleased to say that the government have announced that **educational trips and visits** should soon be reinstated, in line with the national roadmap. This means that we will be able to run day trips after the Easter holidays, so long as the next step planned for the 12th April goes ahead. After that, the roadmap step of the 17th May (or the date that step happens) will mean that we will be able to take part in residential visits too. We are, therefore, planning for Y4 to do their annual trip to **Lineham Farm** straight after the May half term holiday. Lineham Farm is run by Leeds City Council and is fully risk assessed and when we are there we are the only school group using it, so will still be in our 'bubble'. Mr Chris Marshall has run this trip for many years, and so he will be working with Miss Helen Barley to plan and run this special trip. (They will be joined by two further members of Shire Oak staff.) Letters will come out after the Easter holidays, but we wanted to give as much warning as we can. Ordinarily we send out letters at the start of the year



and run a payment scheme over several months so families can spread the cost. This year we couldn't plan for the trip with any certainty, so didn't want to get the children's hopes up unnecessarily. We will still make sure that you can spread payments as we do not want cost to be a barrier to anyone taking part! (There is also an Opportunities Fund to help with subsidies, where needed.)



Thank you to you all for supporting our **birthday parties** this fortnight. The children have been excited about them in a way we have not seen in the past even for Christmas parties and class treats, so it is clear that they have been missing them and really enjoyed doing them as a group. Thank you for sorting out outfits, wrapping pass the parcel prizes, providing fabulous cakes and calming down giddy children at the end of the day.



As well as parties, there has been plenty of **learning** going on inside and outside the classroom and teachers have been busy diagnosing the areas of the curriculum that individuals, groups and whole classes need to revisit to be secure in their knowledge and understanding. One of the things that makes the biggest difference to readiness for learning is being in a good reading habit, so please encourage plenty of **reading** over the Easter holidays!

I hope you have a very happy Easter and a lovely holiday.

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DIARY DATES

Fri 2 nd – Sun 18 th April	GOOD FRIDAY and the EASTER HOLIDAY. Art Camps will be running Tuesday 6 th to Friday 16 th April https://www.artcampuk.com/ Discounts for Shire Oakers!
Tuesday 20 th April	Year 3 due to start weekly swimming lessons at Kirkstall Leisure Centre
Wednesday 21 st April	Y2 due to start Wednesday, Thursday & Friday swimming lessons at Armley Leisure Centre
w/c/ 3 rd May	Y3 & Y4 countryside trips to Ledston TBC
Thursday 6 th May	Local election day. We are a polling station but hope to host in the Children's Centre as usual, to avoid disruption to children.
Wednesday 19 th May	Year 6 Woodland Session (Countryside live) all day trip
Mon 24 th - Fri 28 th May	Bikeability Training for Year 6. The more they practise in advance of this date, the better!
Mon 7 th -Wed 9 th June *	Lineham Farm residential for Year 4 if road map progresses as planned
Wednesday 16 th June	TRAINING DAY
Tues 6 th & Wed 7 th July	Lawnswood transition days
Wednesday 7 th July	Shire Oak transition day
Monday 26 th and Tuesday 27 th July	These two days will be taken as Training Days as we have not been able to book our training in person earlier in the year. (One further training day needs to be scheduled before the end of the year.)

<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.
 All visits and visitors are subject to being permitted under the COVID regulations and guidelines at the time. At present it looks like we might be able to get out and about locally from the 29th March. It is possible that residentials may be permitted from either the 17th May or 21st June depending on national rates, decisions by government, acquiring COVID Charters, etc. We are keeping a close eye on the updates!

Thank you to Mrs Susie Hopkins for setting up a special **Easter Journey** in the quadrangle. All classes have visited this reflective space and learned about and from the Easter story. I have been impressed with the themes the children have recognised and understood. As Mrs Hopkins always says: light and life always win!

