



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

Thank you to **Y2** friends and family who joined us this morning to share their **assembly**. It was lovely to see them sharing their work so confidently and let us see the lovely items from things they have reused, repaired or recycled. What is great about that is that, as well as all the science, geography, art and DT skills they will have been developing, the ability to look at something and imagine new uses for it helps children to develop the skills they need to transfer skills to new situations, particularly in maths. They are continuing with their Going Green topic and have a **request for help**: they are going to be making draught excluders so would like any spare thick tights (child or adult sized) in any colour. Please have a look and send them in to school for Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Hopkins, thank you.



You may well have noticed the big hole in the grass outside school – and if you visited us on Tuesday you may have noticed that school wasn't quite as warm as usual. We were experiencing a problem with low gas pressure due to mains water leaking into the gas supply. Most of it has now been pumped out and repair work is being carried out in preparation for making good our lawn again. They can't guarantee there won't be a little more temporary disruption to our gas supply before it is all finished, so please make sure that your child has warm clothes for school (including a school cardigan or sweatshirt, as well as coat, gloves, etc.) so that they can be warm outside – and if need be, inside! You may also have noticed yesterday that our new entrance doors are being fitted. As the fob/ buzzer system will be moved onto the inner doors, this will create a waiting area for anyone who is going to sign in to visit us in school and for parents waiting for afterschool clubs, children who are being signed out for appointments, etc. We are not being rude when we ask parents to **always enter school via the main office entrance**. For the safety of all our children and staff we need to make sure that we know who is in school at any time. The exception to this is Reception parents and carers settling their children in the morning. In the first half term some Y1 parents also like to do this to ease the transition, but all children in the main building are now well capable of sorting out their belongings and clothing in the morning – they all manage it for PE. Actually, we have noticed that some children are taking advantage of their parents' helpfulness at the start and the end of the day and hand over all responsibility to them – not great for you and not great for preparing them for later life either. One of the things that helps is to make sure that children don't have any unnecessary things with them in school (whether that is make up in Y6 or Bakugans in Y2!) Do talk to us if you think we can support you with this.



On a similar note, some parents have told us that their children keep arguing with them that school starts at 9am and so they don't need to stop dawdling/ leave the house on time/ get out of bed or whatever it is they are trying to avoid! It is best if children are on the playground by about quarter to 9 so that when the bell goes at 10 to 9 they can join their class on the circle and make a prompt start to the day. Even on the days when we have assembly at 9, classes have already had a morning activity by the time they get to the hall. Some read, share a national or international news story, practise phonics or spelling skills or maths facts and generally **tune in to their learning**, as well as having time to fill water bottles, find resources and get organised for the day. Feel free to show them these clocks to end any arguments!



Years 5 and 6 have both been discussing what makes for **good learning habits** and happy classrooms and I am very impressed with the way that many of our oldest children have reviewed their own attitudes and learning behaviours and successfully resolved to apply themselves more consistently. It has lifted the standard of work that some of them are completing already and I wanted to say **thank you** because I know that many of the children have gone home to talk about how they can ignore distractions and take responsibility for their own learning so that they make good progress, whatever their friends are doing. I am also pleased that our keen **footballers** have mostly accepted that the



matches at the **end of the day** were getting a bit too difficult for others to avoid when picking up at the end of the day. We will keep reviewing this and ask for parents help with encouraging our children to show courtesy to others when playing in the playground before and after school.

Finally, I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible for our **Chinese New Year assembly on Tuesday**. Children who have a school lunch will enjoy a Chinese New Year meal on the day itself, Monday. Our assembly is on Tuesday so that we can share our learning from the day. Friday sees Y5's assembly, but also the first of our new monthly class bun sales – this time it is Y1's turn.

Yours sincerely

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane
Headteacher
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We take the safeguarding of children very seriously at our school and we appreciate your help with this. If you have any concerns or observations regarding **health and safety**, please contact Jane Astrid Devane, Rachel Powell or Liz Craven. If you have any concerns or questions regarding **child protection** issues, please speak to Jane Astrid Devane or Hilary Whitehead.

The governors are always interested in hearing the views of parents. If you would like to speak to a governor, then please email the chair, Janie Percy-Smith janieps@aol.com (Janie is also in school most Monday afternoons if you would like to talk to her.)

DIARY DATES

Monday 23 rd January	Special Chinese New Year school lunch
Tuesday 24 th January	Chinese New Year assembly, 9am (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)
Friday 27 th January	Y5 Class assembly, 9am
Friday 27 th January	Y1 Bun Sale – straight after school
Friday 3 rd February	Y1 Class assembly, 9am
Tuesday 7 th February	FOSOPS meeting – all welcome, 9am Kidzone
Tuesday 7 th February	Rhinos World Club Challenge day – for a group of 10 Y6 children
Thursday 9 th February (t.b.c.)	Febru-hairy day in aid of Wheatfields Hospice
Thursday 9 th February	Y5/6 rugby friendly at Alwoodley Primary, 3.45 pm kick off
Friday 10 th February	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
FEBRUARY HALF TERM (13 th to 17 th February)	
Mon 20 th – Friday 24 th February	Lineham Farm Residential for Year 4
Tuesday 21 st February	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day event (FOSOPS)
Friday 24 th February	Reception Class assembly, 9am
Friday 24 th February	Reception Class bun sale after school
Wk. commencing 27 th February	Homework celebration assembly will be this week & new homework will given out
Wed 29 th Feb & Thurs 1 st March	Parents and Carers Consultation Evenings
Thursday 1 st March	World Book Day – dress up as your favourite book or character
Friday 2 nd March	Y4 Class assembly, 9am
Sunday 4 th March	Roundhay Music Concerts Day
Tuesday 6 th March	Y1/2 trip to Meanwood Valley Farm
Friday 9 th March	Y3 Class assembly, 9am
Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th March	Green Week / Climate Week
Friday 16 th March	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
Friday 23 rd March	Y6 Class assembly, 9am
Mon 26 th – Friday 30 th March	Maths Across the Curriculum Week with after school event on Wednesday
Friday 30 th March	Easter assembly, 9am
Friday 30 th March	Year 2 bun sale after school
EASTER HOLIDAY (2 nd to 13 th April)	
Friday 27 th April	Year 3 bun sale after school
14 th – 22 nd May	KS2 SATs
Saturday 19 th May	Car Boot Sale/ Table Top Sale
Friday 25 th May	Y4 bun sale after school
Friday 1 st June	TRAINING DAY
Saturday 16 th June	Headingley Music Festival Youth Day at Shire Oak (t.b.c.)
Friday 29 th June	Y5 bun sale after school
Monday 23 rd July	TRAINING DAY

New items are marked with *