



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School



Firstly, **apologies** for the lateness of last week's newsletter and any other delayed communication. We were unfortunate enough to have both our admin and curriculum servers fail and it has taken technical support a good deal of time to get things up and running and we're not quite there yet. It does make you realise just how **ICT** is embedded into so much of our teaching and learning, both to enrich the curriculum and communicate in interesting ways.

Thank you to **Y6** for a lovely **assembly** this morning, where they shared their acting, dancing and photos. It was particularly good to see that each time the children had been involved in an exciting activity that they had written about it and that the **quality of the writing** was so much better because it had a real purpose. Thank you and good luck to Kathryn Welford who has been working with them in recent weeks and is going on to complete the end of her

teaching qualification. Y6 have been showing that they have learned a good deal of organisational and **outdoor skills** and that they can use them to benefit others. Yesterday they helped the children in Year 1 and Year 2 to toast marshmallows and crumpets on the fire. This was part of their special Food Day where they dressed up as chefs and did



lots of cooking and science learning about the reversible and irreversible changes that happen when we cook.



The rest of school will have a chance to enjoy our fire circle on Thursday next week, after school, when it will be our **Winter Festival of Fire**. Taking the theme of 'Discovering Shire Oak' there will be craft activities, refreshments, storytelling, music, singing and a trail to find out more about Shire Oak and its grounds. Do please join us with your children, family and friends for a lovely event in the school year. We use this opportunity to celebrate our

commitment to outdoor learning, so activities are free and any donations we receive go towards extra resources and provision for outdoor learning. Some of the craft activities include transforming reclaimed materials, so if you have any 1 litre tetrapaks (e.g. juice cartons) please rinse them out and send them into school for us to use, thank you.

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 have been playing **rugby** at lunchtimes to improve their skills and took part in a rally at Alwoodley Primary School last Saturday. Both teams improved massively and each won 3 out of 4 games. Mr Martin would like to pass on special thanks to Alex Nunn for his coaching and support for rugby at Shire Oak. Both girls and boys play in our rugby teams and lots of the children look forward to playing rugby in KS2, although many of our Y5 and Y6 children showed how versatile they are at sports when they took part in the **Cricket in the Classroom** day at Headingley Stadium on Wednesday.



Some of our children have been working hard to learn a musical instrument. They have lessons with **Roundhay Music** and some of them took part in a concert recently with children from other schools. It was great to hear how well they are doing and we look forward to our next music assembly in school so we can hear some of the pieces they have been practising. If you are interested in your child learning a musical instrument in school, then please get in touch with the office to explore the options.

As a reminder, Monday is one of our five **Training Days**. The staff will be working on the best ways to teach reading and especially phonics. For many of you I know it will be unfortunate that the **strike** has fallen in the same week and I genuinely apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to parents. You will know that all the staff at this school frequently give up lots of their own free time to support the children both at school events and in the work they do at home so you will understand that it is not a decision that has been taken lightly. If the arrangements you have made mean that children are going to be away from Leeds on Tuesday, please ask for a leave form for the office.



Finally, I have attached a letter from Leeds City Council explaining how to claim for **Free School Meals**. We know that there are many people who are eligible for them that do not apply and we also know that some people who want their child to have a packed lunch don't see the point in applying. You may have heard about the **Pupil Premium** in the news. This is an amount of money that schools receive for each child who is entitled to Free School Meals. At the moment it is £488 although next year it is going up to over £700 per child. The main use for this money is to make sure that school can pay for extra teachers and support staff to work with the children who need it. Please do read the letter and consider whether you might be entitled – you do not need to talk to us about it, unless you would like help with checking your eligibility.

Yours sincerely

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane
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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 28 th November	New date for training day. Teachers will be working on phonics, spelling and reading and we needed to move the date to get a really good trainer.
Wednesday 30 th November	Joint unions industrial action day. School will be closed to children.
Thursday 1 st December *	Winter Festival of Fire, Discovering Shire Oak straight after school
Friday 2 nd December *	Y3 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Wednesday 7 th December	Reception and KS1 Christmas production, morning and afternoon
Friday 9 th December	Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Tuesday 13 th December	Christmas Disco. Pre-School to KS1 4:15-5:15 KS2 5:30-6:30
Tues 13 th & Thurs 15 th December	Carol singing at Wheatfields Hospice
Thursday 15 th December	Carol Service at St Michael's Church 10:45 am.
Friday 16 th December	Homework and attendance celebration assembly in school
Friday 16 th December *	Suitcase Circus performer in school, afternoon

New items are marked with *