



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

Thank you for supporting us so well in a week that has seen **Parents' Evenings**, football matches, 1 festival assembly, a class assembly and an after school fundraising and information activity. We really appreciate all the time, effort and coordination that goes into supporting all these school events. I am so glad that teachers have been able to speak to the overwhelming majority of parents this week and I hope you found it as useful as they all have. As well as sending a clear message to the children that teachers and parents are both involved in their child's learning they are useful chances to talk in more depth about what really helps children to learn and how to best meet their needs. If you weren't able to come this week, please, please speak to your child's teacher to make another mutually convenient appointment or leave a message for them at the office.

Those adults and children who were waiting for appointments on Thursday evening were able to pass some of the time learning about how **water** keeps us healthy, how scarce it can be in some global communities and how much we can waste without thinking about it. There was also an assault course, water bottle decorating, Fairtrade refreshments and a bun sale. This all raised over £100 for Water Aid. The children in KS2 came up with the ideas for this event themselves and did lots of the preparation work for it, which we are very pleased about!



This week has seen the start of **Anti Bullying Fortnight**. The children have been doing some work in PSHCE to think about what bullying is and we are going to be doing a lot of work next week as a whole school on how we say no to bullying. To start us off on Monday, Year 4 put on a 'play in a day'. In one day they developed and learnt lines to show the school their performance at the end of the day. They taught us all about Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety and we hope it was a good way to get these messages across to the other children. If you are talking to your child about these issues then the <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/> website is a good starting point.

Y6 have also had a visit to help them think about issues related to bullying and Internet safety, this time from the **police**. They discussed issues around good behaviour in and out of school. They also talked a little bit about **personal safety**. This has been on our minds recently as the days are getting shorter and journeys are more likely to be taken in the dark. We are glad so many of our children are developing independence and are learning to walk to school on their own. Part of that development is learning that different times of year require different approaches: if you haven't already done so, please talk through with your child the importance of being seen (e.g. wearing reflective stripes or similar), avoiding wooded or quiet areas (e.g. not cutting through The Ridge at this time of year) and being alert (e.g. NOT playing with mobile phones as they walk along.) The PCSOs will be in school on the 1st December during the Winter Festival of Fire if you would like to talk to them for any advice or further information.

The **assembly** that **Year 5** presented this morning was a fantastic showcase of all their work and very timely – as part of their topic on Britain since 1930 they have been learning about World War II. The work they showed helped children to understand why we stop for two minutes at 11am on the 11th of the 11th month to



remember all who have been injured or killed in war. The quality of work shared shows that this topic has really caught



their imagination and this is also demonstrated in the high quality of **homework** from the class. On Tuesday we held an assembly in school to congratulate the children who have completed their homework this half term and to celebrate the work that demonstrated particular effort and achievement. So many children in Year 5 did great work that they have their own display of it outside their class. For the rest of school there is a **display** of a few pieces that show the range of ways children have approached the task: Some children have worked completely independently, others have involved their families, some have made videos, animations or presentations using a computer and others have been creative and



made models, pictures or posters or thoughtfully written about the topic they were researching.

Thank you to everyone who voted for Freya in the **Leeds Children's Mayor Elections**. The overall winner was Joe, from Strawberry Fields Primary School, but Freya had a great time at the awards ceremony and dinner last night. She was presented with a certificate, owl necklace and a special brooch and felt very proud of what she had achieved.



If our children can be brave enough to stand in an election, then I'm sure our parents and carers can do the same. There is now one vacancy for the position of **parent governor** which anyone with a child/children at our school can stand for. Nomination forms are available from Susan Koyuncu in the office, but you could come to see me first or contact the chair, Janie, if you would like an informal chat about what it entails. The date for nominations is in the diary below, and the election dates will be there in future letters. The governors are responsible for leading our school and it is important that the views of parents are well represented in this group, so do please consider standing – whatever year your child/ren are in!

Finally, next Friday is **Children in Need Day**. It is a normal school uniform day, but the children may choose to 'Show their Spots' by wearing something spotty, e.g. spotty socks, a spotty headband, a spotty tie, a spotty badge or similar.

Yours sincerely

Jane Astrid Devane

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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 7 th to 18 th November	Anti Bullying Fortnight
Saturday 12 th November *	Y4/5/6 Rugby rally
Wed 16 th to Friday 18 th Nov	Y6 Residential to Robinwood Dobroyd Castle
Friday 18 th November	Y1 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Friday 18 th November	Children in Need day – Show your Spots
Sunday 20 th November	Roundhay Music concerts at St Theresa's School (details from tutors)
Monday 21 st November *	Nominations close for Parent Governor
Wednesday 23 rd November	Y5/6 Cricket in the Classroom at Headingley Carnegie Stadium
Friday 25 th November	Y6 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
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 *	<i>Proposed joint unions industrial action day. It is possible that school may be closed or partially closed.</i>
Wednesday 30 th November	Y3 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Wednesday 7 th December	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. KS1 4:15-5:15 KS2 5:30-6:30 (to be confirmed)
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

New items are marked with *