



**SHIRE OAK**  
C of E (VC) Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see so many of you this morning at our **Harvest Festival**. Thank you also to everyone who contributed to our wonderful display of food that was so generously donated. The non-perishable food will be taken to PAFRAS and the traditional harvest sheaf that Aurelia's mum baked for us will be shared in Y1 and Y2 as part of the bread tasting they are doing for their Food Glorious Food topic. Well done to all the classes for sharing their work and for the children leading our assembly who spoke so well.



Thank you also to those of you who were able to join us on Wednesday for our **Open Morning**. I was very pleased with the way that the children working in their classrooms were happy to share their work with our visitors but carry on working calmly. I was particularly proud of our Y6 tour guides who on a very wet day cheerfully showed groups of parents and prospective parents around the school. Our children are our greatest asset and I had many, many good reports from the adults. Well done to all of our Y6 guides and I hope that some of them will be able to come back to school on Wednesday next week for the Open Evening for prospective parents who can't join us during the day.



One of the reasons we ask the older children to take on these responsibilities is that it helps them to demonstrate their growing confidence and prepare them for the step to **High School**. If you have a child in Year 6 and haven't yet applied for their High School place, do please speak to Susan or Jackie in the office if you need any help with the online application or the paper version.

There has been a lot of music heard in KS2 recently. Year 6 took part in a **Discovering Lieder** project with a workshop and a concert and both Y5 and Y6 are currently busy learning songs for their part in an exciting concert at Leeds Town Hall: **Mbawula & Leeds College of Music Chorus with Shire Oak Primary School**. Tickets are available to the general public and details are at the bottom of this letter. Year 4 have also been given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument and are all learning to play the djembe. If your child is in Year 4, please talk to them about what a privilege it is to have free instrument lessons and make sure that they know they should listen well and try their best when the peripatetic music teacher visits.



We are constantly working with the Catering Agency to improve the quality of our **school dinners**. They have agreed that extra staffing would help us improve even further, so Margaret Ellis – our cook – has asked me to let you know that there will be a vacancy for a kitchen assistant for between 7 ½ and 10 hours a week. Please leave your contact details at the office if you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity.



I hope to see many of you next week at our special **Diwali assembly**. Although we have just celebrated an autumnal festival, given the much darker mornings and evenings it feels appropriate to be marking the first festival of light of the year.





As people have started using their cars more frequently again, I have been contacted by **local neighbours** who write: *The Council undertook a road safety assessment for access to our properties, and consequently will take action to restrict parking so that access, and particularly emergency access to our properties is not obstructed at any time. The police also consider the junction/access road to be very dangerous because of the blind turning (in both directions) onto Wood Lane. When even one vehicle is parked, this forces residents to go down the wrong side of the road close to the wall placing them near/at the blind junction.*

*Vehicles turning in often come round quite fast. Emergency and service vehicles have at times been unable to get up the road to the properties when cars are parked there. I understand that photos have been taken of vehicles parking on the double yellow lines or in other unsafe ways and it seems like a good time for us all to consider whether we are able to walk some or all of the journey to school and to make sure that, if we drive, we park with utmost care and courtesy for our neighbours who are very supportive of the school and contribute in many ways, including gardening help and keeping an eye on school at quiet times of the year.*

Now is also a good time to check that your child is wearing an appropriate **weatherproof coat** to school each day and **shoes** that can stand up to playing outside in wet and damp conditions. This helps us to continue making good use of the outside areas at school, making sure the children have fresh air and daylight, as well as outdoor playtimes, even on rainy days.

Please remember this Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> October, is Eco Kids Day. Please bring filled bags to the hall before school. Finally, I hope to see many of you tomorrow at the Car **Boot and Table Top Sale**. This will be taking place in the hall as most people wanted indoor pitches. Please join us between 10 and 2 for a wide variety of stalls and many locally sourced refreshments. We will be opening the car park (and potentially the playground) to visitors who drive in order to minimise the traffic issues for local residents. (Please make sure that children are not playing in the car parking area at any time.) FOSOPS would appreciate any offers of help during the day, but particularly at the end to help with clearing up as we appreciate the work they have already done to put this event on and to support the Open Morning this week.

Yours sincerely

Jane Astrid Devane

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Headteacher

[devaneja01@leedslearning.net](mailto:devaneja01@leedslearning.net)



## Mbawula with the Leeds College of Music Chorus

Tuesday 1 November 2011  
Leeds Town Hall, 7.30pm  
Tickets: £8 (£6)  
Free to Leeds College of Music students and staff  
Box Office: 0113 222 3434

Leeds College of Music Chorus  
Leeds College of Music Saturday Music School  
Pupils from Shire Oak C of E Primary School

Joyce Moholoagae - Chorus Leader/Vocalist  
Paul Bartholomew - Artistic Director

Leeds College of Music joins forces with a ground-breaking educational project bringing South African Township music alive!

Involving over 400 performers - including the Leeds College of Music Chorus, comprising students from the college's undergraduate programme and Saturday Music School - the evening presents a musical insight into South African culture and Mbawula's sensational musicians.

The chorus, which has come together specifically for this project, will be accompanied by pupils from Shire Oak C of E Primary School and a 20-piece jazz orchestra featuring LCoM students alongside some of the UK's leading big band and South African musicians.

[www.mbawula.com](http://www.mbawula.com)

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 Hillary Whitehead.



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**DIARY DATES**

Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> October		Car Boot Sale and Table Top Sale. 10 am – 2pm. Stalls can be booked with Liz Craven in school or on 07768 390695
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	*	Y3/4 trip to Hyde Park Cinema (Leeds International Film Festival)
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> October		Eco Kids Collection – bring your clothes, soft toys, bags, curtains, shoes, bedding, bric-a-brac, small electrical items and books for recycling and redistributing.

Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	*	Reception trip to Harewood House and the birds
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> October		Open Evening for prospective Reception parents who can't come to the Open Morning, 6pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October		Divali assembly 9am.
<b>HALF TERM (24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October)</b>		
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November		South African voices concert by Y5 at Leeds Town Hall (practising on Fridays in the first half term.)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November		Eid-UI-Adha assembly 9am.
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> November		Anti Bullying Fortnight
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November		Click Safe 'Play in a Day' drama workshop for Y4 on internet safety. Performance at the end of the school day.
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November		Parents' Evenings
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November		Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly. 9am.
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November		Y5 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November		Remembrance Day – 2 minute silence
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November		Internet safety talk for Y6 by PCSOs.
<del>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November</del>		<del>Provisional date for training day. THIS HAS CHANGED.</del>
Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov		Y6 Residential to Robinwood Dobroyd Castle
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November		Y1 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November		Children in Need day – Show your Spots
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November		Y5/6 Cricket in the Classroom at Headingley Carnegie Stadium
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November		Y6 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> November		Y3 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December		KS1 Christmas production, morning and afternoon
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> December		Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December		Christmas Disco. KS1 4:15-5:15 KS2 5:30-6:30 (to be confirmed)
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December		Carol Service at St Michael's Church 10:45 am.
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> December		Homework and attendance celebration assembly in school

New items are marked with \*