



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

After the gales at the start of this week which heralded the start of the conker season, it has been good to end the week with at least one sunny day. This week, having caught up with their friends after



the summer break, the children have really started to explore our new **playground markings**. They have been inventing games and challenging themselves along the **activity line**.



Already they are helping children to find positive things to do at playtimes and lunchtimes, which is the start of our work this year on making sure behaviour in the

playground continues to improve – whilst still giving the children the opportunity to run off steam if they need to. For those children who prefer a quieter break, the blue line near KS1 that takes in the Buddy



Bench and the tables between Y2 and Kidzone marks the **'Quiet Zone'** where children can read, relax or talk with their friends.



Children in Year 6 have been acting as **'buddies'** to the new Reception children and helping them at lunchtimes to sort out their dinner trays and lunchboxes and find their way back to the Magic Garden or the playground. This works well and the Reception children already seem very confident at breaktimes. For all children the **Buddy Bench** is there to sit on if they are feeling a bit lonely or want someone to play with.

The fundraising efforts of **FOSOPS** made a large contribution to paying for our new markings and the Friends of Shire Oak Primary School support us in many other ways. At our Open Days last year they provided refreshments for visitors, as well as a very important opportunity for people to talk to parents to find out more about the school. They put on discos and other social activities and their events are well attended. The first meeting for this year will be on **Wednesday 21st at 9am in Kidzone**. (Younger children can stay and play if they get help with tidying up at the end.) You don't have to commit to lots of time or meetings as there are a range of things that always need doing including washing the odd load of second hand uniform, collecting the coffee thermoses from Starbucks, making posters, collecting donations at events or sending out emails and letters. Last year Tamsin (Daniel and Amy's mum) was our co-ordinator and she did a brilliant job. It is time now to let someone else take on the role for a while, so if you think this is the year that it might fit in with work and home commitments, do please consider stepping forward at the meeting.

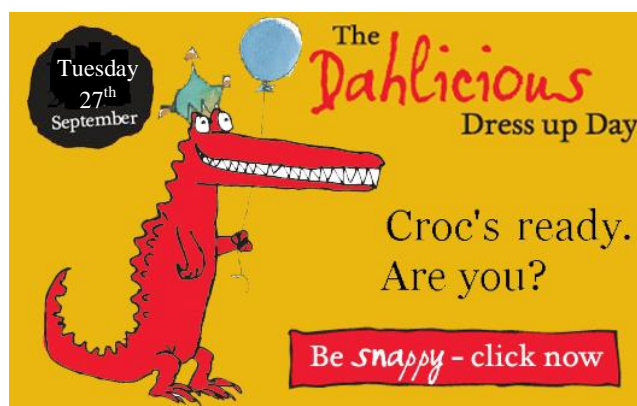


It seems strange whilst we are settling in our youngest children to already be planning where **Year 6** will be going to **High School**, but the booklets have been sent home and the online application system is now open. Mrs Vollans and Mrs Koyuncu in the office are very happy to help parents with **applications**. As the confirmation details are sent to an email address it is helpful if you already have one before you come to see them, if possible.

I am pleased to tell you that **Mrs Sara Mitchell**, who teaches in Year 2 on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday is our new **SENCo**. (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) There are always a good number of children who need some extra help to access the curriculum and make the best possible progress and these children have their own Individual Education Plans (IEPs). Sara co-ordinates these and makes sure that we are accessing the best possible support from a range of services as well as working closely with Rachel Powell (Deputy Head and Inclusion Manager) to find appropriate interventions. If your child has SEN (Special Education Needs) then you can make an appointment to speak to Sara if that would be helpful. All children will from time to time need extra support or challenge and work in small groups or 1:1 with an adult. You can talk to your child's teacher about this at Parents' Evenings or at other times.

Hopefully you have seen the letters about the **after school clubs** that have already started. If not, then ask at the office for another copy. In addition we are finalising arrangements for more clubs, including football for Y4-6, cricket, drama and board games. We are pleased that we are often able to offer clubs that are run by volunteers, as these keep the costs down as well as being a good way to share the talents in our community. Do please see me if you have a skill or hobby you might consider sharing with a group of children – it doesn't have to be a large club! There are some places still available in the clubs that have already started, including art on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Peter Tennet from the Leeds Rugby Foundation came to school to present certificates to children in Year 1 and 2 for their participation in the **'Mini-Maulers'** programme at the end of the last school year. He has also given out flyers for a Saturday morning club for KS1 children interested in rugby.

On Tuesday 27th September, we will be celebrating the **Dahlicious Dress Up Day**, by coming to school dressed as characters from a Roald Dahl story. Year 3 and 4 will be explaining more about this in assemblies, because they are using lots of Roald Dahl stories in their learning this term. We will be collecting donations of up to £1 on the day, although you do not have to pay to get involved. All the money will go to Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity. Your child can dress up as any of Roald Dahl's fantastic characters or simply wear his favourite colour - yummy yellow. There are more ideas at this website <http://tinyurl.com/dahlicious> and we hope everyone can join in the fun and learn more about one of our favourite authors.



Jackie Vollans has asked me to let you know that **individual photo day** is on the 28th. Children will have a photo taken which you can then look at and choose whether or not you want to buy any. Family pictures of siblings can also be taken on this day and this includes younger brothers or sisters who perhaps attend Pre-School. Please let Jackie know in advance if you want to take this opportunity so she can organise the timetable for the day – pictures with younger siblings will be right at the start of the day. Don't forget to remind your child to wear their jumper or cardigan and try to stay clean at least until their photo is taken!

Finally thank you to those parents who were able to stay this morning for **Stay and Play** in Reception, Year 1 and 2. This is a good opportunity to see your child learning in a fun and relaxed way, and to find ideas for things to follow up at home. We hold them every Friday if there isn't a special assembly or other school event and we put the dates in the diary at the end of the newsletter. We enjoy welcoming parents and carers into school and know what a difference it makes to the pride children take in their learning.



Reception Class settling in well to their English and maths learning already.

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.

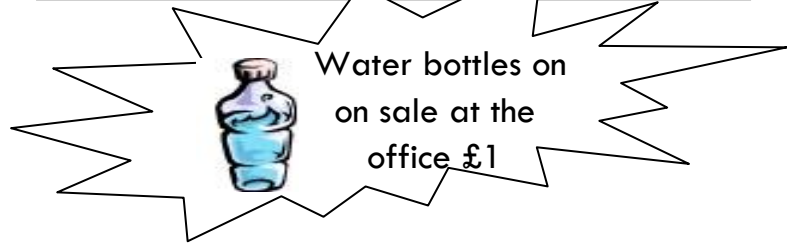
Yours sincerely

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

Headteacher

devaneja01@leedslearning.net



Wednesday 21 st September	*	First FOSOPs meeting of the year, in Kidzone, 9 am.
Friday 23 rd September		Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Monday 26 th September	*	Y6 visit to Lawnswood School art exhibition and art activities, 9:30-12:15
Tuesday 27 th September		Roald Dahl Day – dress up as your favourite Roald Dahl character – human or otherwise. Donations for the Roald Dahl children’s charity welcome.
Wednesday 28 th September		Individual and siblings photo day
Wednesday 28 th September		‘No Pens’ Day – a chance for lots of speaking & listening and other creative learning ideas (THIS DATE MAY CHANGE)
Friday 30 th September		Y2 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Friday 30 th September	*	Reception parents’ meeting to find out more about how we teach reading (including phonics) and writing
Friday 7 th October		Y4 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Wednesday 12 th October		Open Morning for our families and for parents of prospective Reception parents (2012 intake) 9:15 to 11:30 tbc.
Friday 14 th October		Harvest Festival, 9am. We will collect food for PAFRAS http://www.pafRAS.org.uk
Friday 21 st October		Divali assembly 9am.
HALF TERM (24th – 28th October)		
Friday 4 th November		Eid-UI-Adha assembly 9am.
Monday 7 th to 18 th November		Anti Bullying Fortnight
Wednesday 9 th & Thursday 10 th November		Parents’ Evenings
Thursday 10 th November		Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly. 9am.
Friday 11 th November		Y5 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Friday 11 th November		Remembrance Day – 2 minute silence
Wednesday 16 th November		Provisional date for training day. THIS MAY HAVE TO CHANGE.
Wednesday 16 th to Friday 18 th November		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
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.
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
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 *

Stephen Lawrence

