



SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

In many ways I can't quite believe that we are already at the end of the **first half term** of the year and yet, when I look at the new Reception class and how well they have settled in I can't quite believe we have only been back for these few weeks. They are an inquisitive class who have been particularly fascinated by owls recently, so Mrs Jenkins and Mrs Flanagan managed to organise a trip to **Harewood House** to meet the owls there and talk to the owl keeper. There were very proud children returning from their trip wearing their newly made owl hats and a much greater understanding of their topic – as evidenced in their clever writing that they've done back in school.



Many of our children have had the opportunity to **learn outside the classroom**. Year 5 and 6 have been making camouflaged shelters at LMU and Y3/4 recently enjoyed a trip to Thackray Medical Museum where they demonstrated a good deal of maturity taking ordinary service buses with the public. Y3/4 started this week with a trip to the cinema to see Arrietty – and their writing has been more interesting because of this trip. Yesterday year 5 and 6 proved that you don't always need to go on a trip to bring a topic alive.

There were wartime school uniforms, vintage style dresses and brown paper parcels on show as many of the children had chosen to research authentic clothes and dress up for their own celebration of VE Day. The hall hosted an indoor street party, complete with dancing and decorations proving that our oldest children really have learnt a lot about life during World War II and can share what they have found out.



As well as making use of the resources in our local community, we try to teach the children about their place in the larger world community. This year we are taking part in Operation Christmas Child's **Shoe Box Appeal**. We will be collecting boxes to send to children all over the world and spread a little Christmas joy. I know it seems too early to be thinking about Christmas, but we hope you will understand that the boxes need to be organised and shipped in good time. Please see the leaflet that will be coming home shortly.



<http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/>

Thank you to those of you were able to come to the **table top sale** on Saturday, and extra special thanks to all those of you who were able to help out in different ways. Despite stiff competition from other local sales, we raised £239.20. This year FOSOPS are raising money for our new



Opportunities Fund which aims to support children's access to extra-curricular activities. Thank you also to the friends and family who were able to join us this morning for our **Divali assembly** and a happy New Year to anyone celebrating Divali and the New Year next week.

Finally I wish you all a safe and **happy half term break** and I look forward at seeing you at some of the many events planned for the rest of the term. Please take a look at the diary dates overleaf and make a note of the changed **Training Day** date.

Yours sincerely

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane
Headteacher

devaneja01@leedslearning.net

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.

DIARY DATES

HALF TERM (24th – 28th October)	
Tuesday 1 st November *	Stephen Lawrence Award planning meeting for staff and parents interested in being part of the working group. More details from Sue Jenkins or Rachel Powell
Tuesday 1 st November	South African voices concert by Y5 and Y6 at Leeds Town Hall (practising on Fridays in the first half term.)
Friday 4 th November	Eid-UI-Adha assembly 9am.
Monday 7 th to 18 th November	Anti Bullying Fortnight
Monday 7 th November	Click Safe 'Play in a Day' drama workshop for Y4 on internet safety. Performance at the end of the school day.
Wednesday 9 th & Thursday 10 th November	Parents' Evenings
Thursday 10 th November	Birthday of Guru Nanak assembly. 9am.
Thursday 10 th November *	School Issues teams focus day 'Water' and after school exhibition and sale
Friday 11 th November	Y5 Class sharing assembly 9am. Family and friends very welcome.
Friday 11 th November	Remembrance Day – 2 minute silence
Friday 11 th November	Internet safety talk for Y6 by PCSOs.
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)
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	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)
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 *

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

Come along and support our Year 5 and 6 singers in their first professional concert!