



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

Dear Parents and Carers

I really can't believe the school year is hours away from being finished – it has gone so quickly! I must start by apologising that last week's newsletter only went out by email and not paper copy – my fault entirely – it is attached to this letter.

This week I know that a lot of you saw for yourselves the things I want to mention – the KS2 production and Sports Days. Your support at these events, and for school events throughout the year, is greatly appreciated and makes such a difference to the pride that children take in the work that they share with you.



The thing that impressed me most about the **KS2 production** was the independence that the children have obviously developed. Even in Years 3 and 4 the children had written the lines for the poem and composed beats on the drums themselves and then worked as a team with their teachers to put it all together. In Year 5 this was evident in the way that children had taken an idea that a small group of their class had come up with and managed to develop it into a fantastic song with excellent musical accompaniment and dancing. The highlight was the Year 6 show, however, which was written, performed and directed by the class. They worked with drama students from Leeds University to explore the themes of change and moving to High School – but the direction it took was all their own work. It was a great team effort and fantastic to see them supporting each other and giving each other praise for a job done well.

On our **Sports Days** that good attitude was evident from Reception to Year 6. Children tried hard in their events, took part cheerfully and showed great sporting attitude to all the competitors, whether winners or not. They were proud of their sticker medals, wherever they came, and enjoyed the chance to show off some different skills to the cheering adults.



It was an emotional morning yesterday in church for our annual **Y6 Leavers' Service**. The children who are going on to High School shared some of their memories with us



and talked about what they were looking forward to and what they were going to find challenging. They sang sweetly and it was a lovely way for us to say to them how proud we are of them and how we will be thinking of them as they move on from our school. It was also the first chance our school has had to work with Tom Lusty, one of the new priests for the Headingley team. We look forward to working with him again after the summer.

Today has also been a busy day – with an assembly to celebrate good attendance this morning where several children won book tokens for 100% attendance this year – well done! This was followed by the long awaited **Shire Oak's Got Talent** – and it would appear we really,



really do! With assistance from our rather friendly panel of judges and our own TV compère, we watched dancers, singers, musicians, actors, contortionists and conjurers all show off their skills to an appreciative audience.



Congratulations are due to all the competitors who had already won

heats in their classes, but especially to Jayden and Jacob, Lucy, Gabriel, Jasper, Maisy and Erica.

I have been asked to mention a local fete happening over the summer: Carers Leeds Summer Fete is on Saturday 20th August, 2-5 pm at St Chad's Parish Centre, Otley Road. Join them for an afternoon of fun and help to raise funds for **Carers Leeds**. Stalls, games, refreshments, tombola and much more!

Susan Koyuncu has asked me to let you know that unfortunately the price for **school dinners** has been raised for September. For Reception to Year 4 they will be £1.85 a day and for Years 5 and 6 £1.90. We are sorry about this, but have to pass on the prices as set by LCC catering agency.

Finally, today we have said goodbye to **Catherine Ware**, who has been a great addition to our team here at Shire Oak. In the two years she has been here she has been a greatly valued teacher and well liked by children, parents and staff. Her work on assessment and Special Educational Needs has been particularly important and her enthusiasm and creative approach to her work means that she is leaving behind some very firm foundations for us to continue to build on. We wish her every happiness in Scarborough and look forward to linking with her new school by the sea.

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, Catherine Ware or Liz Craven. If you have any concerns or questions regarding **child protection** issues, please speak to Jane Astrid Devane, Catherine Ware or Hillary Whitehead.

**There is a training day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September to share plans for the year and work on developing school and classroom environments.**

**SCHOOL OPENS TO CHILDREN ON  
TUESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER.**