



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School



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Thank you to all those of you who were able to join us for the **Headingley Youth Music Festival** on Saturday. Despite the terrible weather that was forecast the afternoon was increasingly sunny and



there was a lovely atmosphere in and around school. Jo Richardson, from Artforms, who was the lead organiser wrote, "Please pass on my congratulations and thanks to all your school staff and parents

who helped to make the day such an enjoyable event for all the performers and punters. The Youth Day was without doubt a total success and a major highlight of the whole festival. In particular please pass my thanks on to Liz Craven...without her goodwill and effort it just wouldn't have happened." We are already thinking about next year's event and ways to make the day even better. Well done to the performers from Years 4 and 5 – I hope to see many more of our children performing next year! Well done also to FOSOPs who raised over £700 and are well on their way to funding the playground markings we have been saving for.

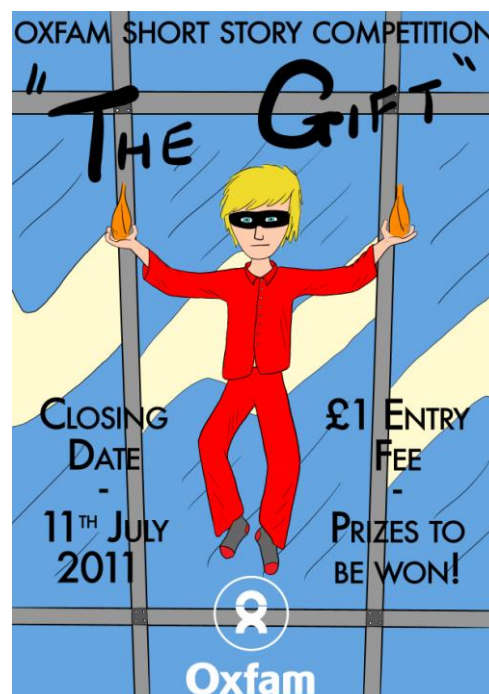
Even though they have just done all that work for the music festival, **FOSOPS** are busy working on their next project. The **school disco** will be on Wednesday 13th July – more details in the attached letter. They will be celebrating the end of a very successful year with an end of year lunch on Thursday 21st July. They are planning to go for lunch, probably to the HEART café so that children can run around whilst the parents chat. Details to follow.

On Monday Catherine Ware talked to the children about a **short story competition** that is being run by Oxfam. The theme that the children will be writing about, in school, is 'The Gift' and the children should be able to tell you about it. More details are available from Miss Ware.

Wednesday will be **Wendy Brown's** last day with us. Mrs Brown has been teaching booster groups and 1:1 sessions since Christmas and this has really enabled some of our children to catch up and get on well with their learning. We all wish her well.

At this time of year many secondary schools organise **work experience** for their students. This is a really valuable way for them to start thinking about the sort of careers they would like – as well as a good chance for them to find out what working hard is like! We only take work experience students who have been recommended to us and they are a useful extra pair of hands to help with setting up activities and other classroom tasks. Do say hello and encourage them to interact with you – but save important messages for a member of staff!

Susan Koyuncu has asked me to let you know that **school dinner** costs for this half term are £63 for Reception to Year 4 and £64.75 for years 5 and 6. Do please talk to Susan if you are having difficulty paying for dinners. She can help you find out if you are eligible for Free School Meals and also work out a plan with you if you have ended up in arrears. She is very discreet and your conversations will be confidential.



Pam from **Kidzone** has asked me to let you know that they will be running their playscheme during the summer holidays. They are open from Monday 1st to Friday 26th August, 8:30am – 5:30pm. To reserve a place please contact Pam before or after school. (The cost is £17 per day, with an annual registration fee of £10 for non-members.)



Chris Marshall emailed me this exciting news about a football trophy for Shire Oak: The Shire Oak **Year 5/6 football team** competed in the **Headingley Cup** last week and came away with a trophy for their efforts. Due to the great spirit in which the boys and girls played the four knock-out games we won a 'Fair Play' trophy. Oscar Havis, in Year 5, was singled out as having demonstrated outstanding fair play throughout the competition. As luck would have it he collected his trophy on his birthday! All members of the team picked up



a medal and the Year 5 members of the team are already planning their tactics for next year.

Thank you to the children, staff and parents who spoke to the **SIAS inspector** on Wednesday. SIAS are the organisation who inspect church schools and these inspections always follow an Ofsted inspection. Like the Ofsted report, their report will soon be published and all parents will receive a copy.

Please note the new or changed events in the diary dates section below. We have **invited local high schools** to send representatives to the **Y5 sharing assembly** so that they can be available afterwards to talk to you informally and answer questions. Current Year 6 parents had said this would be very useful because they would have liked a chance to get a feel for the different schools before going off to the open evenings in the autumn. Do please come to this assembly and stay for a coffee afterwards if you are going to be thinking about transition to high school for your child.



Year 5 and year 6 enjoyed a very successful trip to **Liverpool Museum** yesterday. Their Egyptology department is far better than anything similar this side of the Pennines and the children were really able to extend their historical skills and widen their knowledge of Ancient Egypt.



On returning from their trip, Ian Martin and Alun Davies hosted a meeting for parents of Year 5 and 6 children about the **sex and relationships** topic that their classes are about to start studying. They showed the DVDs that will be used, gave out copies of some of the worksheet resources and talked through the lesson plans. A letter has been sent to all Year 5 and 6 parents to ask for permission for children to take part in this sequence of lessons. The science part of the course (reproduction) is statutory. Parents do have the right to withdraw their children from the PSHCE (personal, social, health and citizenship education) part of the course. I would stress, however, that this is the part of the course that helps children to make sense of the scientific knowledge they acquire and place it in the context of loving and positive relationships. If you missed the meeting and want to find out more, please see Mr Martin, Mr Davies or me.

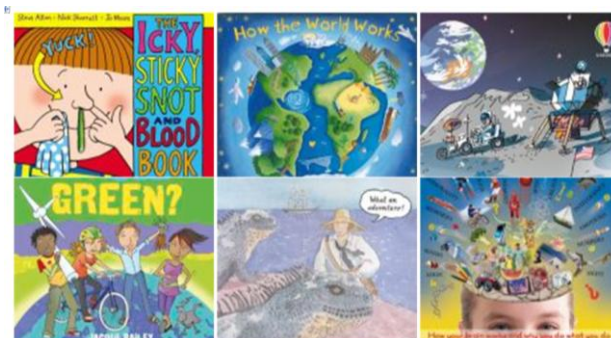
You will already have heard about the **industrial action** on Thursday next week. Two teacher unions, the NUT and ATL, have balloted for strike action because of the dispute about proposed changes to the pension system. The teachers who are striking have not made the decision lightly and are very aware of the difficulties this may cause for families, as well as the day's lessons being missed. Teaching unions support staff in a number of ways, including providing legal advice, helplines, insurance cover and all sorts of (free or cheap) training. The striking teachers feel that it is wrong to take a union's benefits and not respond to their calls for action when the membership has voted for it. They will be attending the rallies that are being called on Thursday. During strike action it is not permissible to direct other staff to cover a striking employee's duties so it is not simply the class of a striking teacher that is affected, but any children they might supervise at other points in the day, for example breaktimes. This is why, following a health and safety risk assessment, we have had to decide to close the school for the day. Staff in the other unions will be working on Thursday, preparing resources and planning for next year.





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Finally, I received a very exciting parcel of books this week from the Royal Society. We have been selected to host one of the panels of young people who will be judging the **best science books, fiction and non-fiction, of 2011**. Our panel will start meeting soon and we are hoping to include as many children as possible in this exciting invitation. <http://royalsociety.org/awards/young-people/shortlist/> explains more about the award and the books that have been shortlisted.



Yours sincerely

Jane Astrid Devane

Jane Astrid Devane

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.

DIARY DATES

Thursday 30 th June	*	Due to industrial action, school will be closed to pupils. Pre-school, Kidzone and the Children's Centre are not affected by the strike.
Friday 1 st July	*	Y6 sharing assembly
Tuesday 5 th July		Assembly by library staff
Wednesday 6 th July		Transition day for many local high schools and in our schools
Friday 8 th July	*	Y5 sharing assembly – we have invited local high schools to send representatives to this assembly who will be available afterwards to talk to you informally about their school whilst you have a cup of tea or coffee.
Saturday 9 th July		FOSOPS Sponsored Walk 1:30pm – They will be holding a Fun Walk in the autumn instead, to welcome new parents of Reception.
Sunday 10 th July		All age service at St Michael's – Shire Oak Sunday
Wednesday 13 th July		Y2 trip to Henshaw's in Knaresborough.
Tuesday 12 th and Thursday 14 th July	*	Teachers will be offering an opportunity to discuss children's reports after school on Tuesday or Thursday. Please sign up from Friday 8 th if you would like to see the teacher.
Wednesday 13 th July		Summer disco
Friday 15 th July		Y2 sharing assembly
Tuesday 19 th July		KS2 production
Wednesday 20 th July		In school assembly for good attendance
Thursday 21 st July		Leavers' service at St Michael's to be confirmed.
Thursday 21 st July	*	FOSOPS end of year lunch, details to be confirmed.

New items are marked with *



FOSOPS PTA group are proud to present.....



SHIRE OAK 'END OF YEAR' DISCO

On Wednesday 13th July Boos Disco will be arriving at Shire Oak School with games, dances and plenty of fun! Don't miss out! There are 2 sessions so Boos Disco can present a disco tailored to your particular age group.

Times:

SESSION 1 : Nursery - Year 2 3.30-4-30pm

SESSION 2: Year 3- Year 6 4.45-5.45pm

The price is £3 per child and this includes drinks.

Pizza, hot dogs and glow sticks will also be for sale so bring your pocket money (no more than £2).

If parents and carers want to stay they can watch the fun or relax and buy tea, coffee and buns in 'the chill out room'.

Book your ticket now by filling in the form below, putting it in an envelope, and returning it to school.

Please could _____ (name of child) class _____
have a ticket for the 'End of Year Disco'. I enclose £3.

He/She will be collected from school after their disco.

Signed _____