



SHIRE OAK

C of E (VC) Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for supporting our Chinese New Year assembly on Tuesday – I hope some of you who find Fridays difficult to attend welcomed the change of day. It was lovely to see the different ways that classes had approached this topic and the ways that they shared it – from a colourful Dragon Dance in Reception to thoughtful poems in Year 6.



Thanks also to **Y5** friends and family who joined us this morning to share their **assembly**. I know parents of many of our older children are more likely to be working outside the home, but it was good to have a real audience for the children's achievements.

Tonight is the first of the **FOSOPS** monthly bun sales when children can come with their parents or carers after school to buy a weekend treat, if they are allowed. Each class will take a turn (today being Y1's turn). The hope is that as well as raising funds for extras at school that this will be a good chance for families to get involved in FOSOPS in a low key way. Please see Sarah (Antony and Ella's mum) for more information.

Jess Miller and Ian Martin, our **English** subject leaders, have been working recently on some monitoring and evaluation. They have been matching up the children's levels, the teachers' planning and the work that has been produced to see if it all matches up and is of a sufficiently challenging level for each child. I am pleased to say that this **triangulation** has found lots and lots of good practice, in every class and that writing has especially benefitted from the extra clarity of our Shire Oak Writing Framework that we wrote at our training day in April. With a real focus on the nuts and bolts of writing, such as proper sentence punctuation, it is helping children to move on more quickly. We really value the opportunity for children to practise their writing in a range of different ways, so please encourage your child to write thank you letters, 'cheat books' for their favourite games, shopping lists, reports on days out and anything else that catches their imagination!

On Monday Year 3 were visited by the theatre company Alive and Kicking to take part in the first day of a project called **Granny's Underground Garden**. Using drama and problem solving techniques the children are now busy working on the tasks they have been left to complete for the return of Alive and Kicking on Monday. It was a highly engaging day and I look forward to seeing the work that the children are doing on this.

With this letter should be a flyer for a **Parenting Group** that is starting shortly. One of our Parent Support Advisers for the cluster, Amie, writes: Please find attached publicity for a parenting course that Gloria and I are facilitating at St Chad's School Bungalow. The course is for parents of children aged between 5-13 years and it will begin the week after February half term. This group will cover strategies for dealing with children's **behaviour**; we hope that it will give parents the chance to meet other parents experiencing similar issues and a chance for them to seek advice from parent support outreach workers in a friendly and relaxed environment. Each parent attending the course will receive a manual/guide to the course. The course has a series of video clips to prompt discussion and possible role play. Please see me or Hilary Whitehead if you would like us to find out any more about this course.

Hopefully the weather will be improving soon (!) but in the meantime, if there is a particularly **wet and blustery morning** then we are happy for children to wait in the hall before the start of the school day. Children (and any adults that are with them) should enter by the outside hall door on the corner near the car park and then stay in the hall until the teacher comes to collect the class. Children shouldn't be going to cloakrooms to hang up belongings until the official start to the day. Similarly, parents who are in the hall should either leave by the same outside door when the children go, or call at the office if they are due to meet a member of staff or pop to the toilet, etc. If children have got wet on the way to school, then mention it to a member of staff in the hall who can check that they change into dry PE clothes and hang their wet things out to dry, or whatever needs to be done.

We don't want to stop parents coming and talking to us – quite the opposite! – but it really helps us with our safeguarding if the office are aware if anyone is in the building for anything other than assemblies and Stay and Play. Thank you for your help with this.

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.

The governors are always interested in hearing the views of parents. If you would like to speak to a governor, then please email the chair, Janie Percy-Smith janieps@aol.com (Janie is also in school most Monday afternoons if you would like to talk to her.)

DIARY DATES

Monday 30 th January	*	Day 2 of the Year 3 Drama Project, Granny's Underground Garden with Alive and Kicking
Wednesday 1 st February	*	Visit from Jamie Wilkinson, Safer Schools Partnership Police Officer. Do ask if you would like the opportunity to talk to him.
Wednesday 1 st February	*	Y6 visit to LMU gardens
Wed 1 st & Thurs 2 nd February	*	d:side drug and alcohol education team working in school as part of PSHCE
Thursday 2 nd February	*	Y6 Music for Youth rehearsal at City of Leeds School, 1:45-2:45pm.
Friday 3 rd February		Y1 Class assembly, 9am
Tuesday 7 th February		FOSOPS meeting – all welcome, 9am Kidzone
Tuesday 7 th February		Rhinos World Club Challenge day – for a group of 10 Y6 children
Thursday 9 th February (t.b.c.)		Febru-hairy day in aid of Wheatfields Hospice
Thursday 9 th February		Y5/6 rugby friendly at Alwoodley Primary, 3.45 pm kick off
Friday 10 th February		Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
FEBRUARY HALF TERM (13 th to 17 th February)		
Mon 20 th – Friday 24 th February		Lineham Farm Residential for Year 4
Tuesday 21 st February		Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day event (FOSOPS)
Friday 24 th February		Reception Class assembly, 9am
Friday 24 th February		Reception Class bun sale after school
Wk. commencing 27 th February		Homework celebration assembly will be this week & new homework will given out
Wed 29 th Feb & Thurs 1 st March		Parents and Carers Consultation Evenings
Thursday 1 st March		World Book Day – dress up as your favourite book or character
Friday 2 nd March		Y4 Class assembly, 9am
Sunday 4 th March		Roundhay Music Concerts Day
Tuesday 6 th March		Y1/2 trip to Meanwood Valley Farm
Friday 9 th March		Y3 Class assembly, 9am
Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th March		Green Week / Climate Week
Friday 16 th March		Stay and Play in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.
Friday 23 rd March		Y6 Class assembly, 9am
Mon 26 th – Friday 30 th March		Maths Across the Curriculum Week with after school event on Wednesday
Friday 30 th March		Easter assembly, 9am
Friday 30 th March		Year 2 bun sale after school
EASTER HOLIDAY (2 nd to 13 th April)		
Friday 27 th April		Year 3 bun sale after school
14 th – 22 nd May		KS2 SATs
Saturday 19 th May		Car Boot Sale/ Table Top Sale
Friday 25 th May		Y4 bun sale after school
Friday 1 st June		TRAINING DAY
Saturday 16 th June		Headingley Music Festival Youth Day at Shire Oak (t.b.c.)
Friday 29 th June		Y5 bun sale after school
Monday 23 rd July		TRAINING DAY

New items are marked with *