



Dear Parents and Carers

SHIRE OAK
C of E (VC) Primary School

Thank you to **Y4** for rounding off our week with a lovely **class assembly**. There are certainly some budding artists in that year group, as well as clever scientists, potion makers and writers. It was also great to see that in maths they have been making such good use of the playground markings that FOSOPS helped to raise the funds for.

Yesterday we enjoyed **No Pens Day** in school. Some of the teachers found it very hard to give up their writing materials and Mr Davies even had to be frisked in the hall to make sure he had handed over his entire stash! The fun start to the day was to explain to children the importance of communication and all the different ways we could do it. Walking around school I saw some lovely creative lessons, with lots of drama, speaking and listening activities, filming and painting. We finished the day with a whole school celebration of examples of the day's work. The serious side to the day is that good speaking and listening skills are the cornerstone of good literacy skills. At 11 years old only a fifth of children with significant speech, language and communication needs reach the expected levels for their age in both English and Maths. For *all* children, being able to express themselves verbally and explain things clearly helps them to develop their logic and reasoning skills, as well as those needed for writing. For any parents or carers who want to find out more about the way their children's speech and language develops and the games and activities that can support this there are resources at <http://www.hello.org.uk/resources/resources/resources-for-parents.aspx>



One of our parents has also been involved in helping to develop a website with resources for parents and Lorena (Coco's mum) thought other **parents** might be interested in it: The **CBeebies** website has revamped the section for adults <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups>

Another of our parents, Kostas in Year 1's mum, came in to support their work on Food Glorious Food. The **Greek salads** that they made looked and smelled lovely! Do be brave about volunteering to come into school if you think that you could support the children's topic or other learning, it really makes their learning so much more meaningful. Also currently supporting in Year 1 and Year 2 are Emma Nutbrown and Seema Tailor. These are **PGCE students** who will be qualified teachers at the end of the year. They are working alongside the class teachers and planning short sessions and group activities as they build up to taking full lessons, supported by the normal class teacher.



Well done to our rugby players who took part in the **Rugby League Rally** at Kirkstall after school yesterday. They played well, demonstrated a good deal of skill and, most importantly, showed that at Shire Oak we are good sports who encourage others. Through the wind and rain that swirled around Abbey Fields the team managed to play 5 short matches against other schools from around the city and remained unbeaten throughout. Mr Martin has told me that special mentions should go to Dyani Smith, Emily Liversidge, Skye Watton and Oscar Havis who all had great games on debut. (Picture of the team at the foot of this page.)

Mrs Koyuncu has asked me to remind you that we need written notice of a change from **school dinners** to packed lunches, and vice versa. Please send the note to the office, rather than to the class teacher. At the start of the year we plan for Reception children and their families changing their minds about which is the best option for them. Now that things are more settled we need 1 week's notice to make sure that lunches are not ordered for your child and charged to you. I hope you understood.

Jill Dickinson has asked me to let you know that the **Eco Kids** bags are going home today. Information about this was in last week's newsletter and is also on posters around school. To raise even more money for our gardening and cooking, she also coordinates our involvement in the **Yellow Moon** catalogue scheme. School gets up to 20% cashback on all purchases, so please remember to quote our Source Code SST3129 when placing any orders. Thank you.

On Wednesday we will be holding our first **Open Morning** of the year. We have also invited parents who are trying to choose Reception places for 2012, but the invitation is open to all friends and family who would like to see us on a normal working school day. I know that last year the children enjoyed being visited – particularly if someone special to them came to their lesson. It is lovely that so many of you are able to join with us for our celebrations and special events, but we think it is also good to be able to share with you how the children work in the classrooms and all around school. The tour guides will be children from Y5/6 who we find are very proud of their school – as well as very honest! Join us between 9:15 and 11:30 for a tour and a cup of tea or coffee with FOSOPS. If you know anyone with a child who will be turning five from September 2012 to August 2013, then do please let them know about the Open Morning and also about the evening meeting for people who can't join us during the day. (Details in the diary section.)

Finally, could I please ask you all to have a good look through your child(ren)'s **school clothes** this weekend? A number of **jumpers** and other items have gone missing and not made it back to the right owners. This often happens when things are not named, but these have all got names clearly marked in them. The recent spell of hot weather (now sadly gone) did mean that children were taking them off outside where it is harder to keep track of them and harder to make sure that everyone goes home with the right items. Please check whether your child has all the right clothes and return the others to school. Putting them in the lost property basket (down the corridor from the office) is a good way to make sure they get back to their rightful owner. Whilst you are checking, please make sure that your child's name is clearly marked in all items. Where clothes are hand-me-downs, just make sure that the newest name is on there clearly. I really appreciate your help with this and know that you will appreciate how frustrating it is to have to replace jumpers so early in the year when they may be virtually brand new! I will send a text out as a reminder so that, hopefully, we can get this sorted out at the start of next week.

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 Hillary Whitehead.



DIARY DATES

Monday 10 th October	*	Y6 working at LMU garden all day
Tuesday 11 th October		Y3/4 visit to Thackray Medical Museum
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
Saturday 15 th October		Car Boot Sale and Table Top Sale. 10 am – 2pm. Stalls can be booked with Liz Craven in school or on 07768 390695
Tuesday 18 th October		Eco Kids Collection – bring your clothes, soft toys, bags, curtains, shoes, bedding, bric-a-brac, small electrical items and books for recycling and redistributing.
Wednesday 19 th October		Open Evening for prospective Reception parents who can't come to the Open Morning, 6pm
Friday 21 st October		Divali assembly 9am.
HALF TERM (24th – 28th October)		
Tuesday 1 st November		South African voices concert by Y5 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.
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.
Wednesday 16 th November		Provisional date for training day. THIS MAY HAVE TO CHANGE.
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
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
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 *