Dear Families,

As we edge towards half term, thank you for your continued support in what has been such a busy, productive time in our school calendar. Over the course of the last few weeks, our children have taken part in many wonderful learning activities, including being centre stage at the Leeds Book Awards, learning about World War Two at Eden Camp and of course many of our Y5 children currently enjoying a wonderful time at Boggle Hole, taking part in a three day residential around Robin Hood’s Bay.

We have been so proud of our Y6 children and the mature way in which they have approached their SAT tests recently. They all did their best and are now happily practising their play and beginning their transition activities in readiness for High School. On Friday 14th June we say goodbye to Miss O’Shea for a little while, as she begins her Maternity Leave and she and Mr. Allen look forward to welcoming their first child into this world. She leaves us with our best wishes and blessings and we look forward to meeting their little bundle of joy. Mrs. Deverill will lead Year 6 for the remainder of the year, very ably supported by Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Boak.

Later on next term, we welcome Miss Plews into Key Stage One. Miss. Plews is a newly trained teacher who has recently completed her final placement with us in Year Five. She will work with our children in Year 2, under Mrs. Wilson’s excellent leadership.

**Message from Mrs. Sharkey:**

**Whole School Reflection Areas**

At Whinmoor St Paul’s we understand that school life can be extremely busy and that it is important for children to have time and space to reflect on their own beliefs and values. Therefore time for reflection and prayer is built into each day through Collective Worship, time in class and through visits to the reflection areas, both in and out of the classrooms. Our shared reflection areas are a space where children can have time to think, be quiet and spiritual.

We are very excited to introduce some new reflection areas for children and adults to use. We now have a reflection area in the hall as well as one in the ‘Quad’ for children to access. These are to be used as quiet, peaceful places for children to reflect, pray and think about our values alongside ‘big’ questions, through interactive activities and ‘contemplation. We are also in the process of creating a beautiful reflection area in our Nature Area.

This half term our Christian Value has been ‘Trust’. Children have taken the opportunity to link trust to the Bible and their own lives. Each time they have felt or witnessed an act of trust they have added a piece of Lego onto our school model in the hall. This has helped us to think about trust in our own lives and create a whole school model of trust. We will continue to engage in interactive activities which will help us to further develop our understanding of our values. Next half term, our Christian Value centres around ‘Thankfulness.’

As part of our outdoors reflection area we have a new bird bath, which is situated in the quad area. As our children reflect on God’s world, they are invited to hold a pebble and offer their thoughts, thanks and praise to God by adding the pebble to the bird bath. We hope this helps children to reflect and think about the world around them, as well as the changing beauty of nature.

**Parish Larder**

We have an exciting new opportunity to work closely with Reverend Benwell and our church community, to support local families in need. As some of you may know, there is a Parish Larder in the Parish of Seacroft, Swarcliffe and Whinmoor. It provides a warm welcome, food parcels and essentials for those who need support.

To play our part in this community project, we would like to request donations of any:

* dried or tinned food
* Juice
* Biscuits
* tea/coffee/sugar
* toiletries
* household items
* feminine products
* baby supplies

Any donations will be gratefully accepted and passed onto the Parish Larder every Friday. Each half term every class will have a designated week for them to make donations.

The Summer 2 dates for each class are as follows:

Week 1 - 3.6.19 - Nursery

Week 2 - 10.6.19 - Reception

Week 3 - 17.6.19 - Year 1

Week 4 - 24.6.19 - Year 2

Week 5 - 1.7.19 - Year 3

Week 6 - 8.7.19 - Year 4

Week 7 15.7.19 - Year 5 & Year 6

Thank you for your support. We are very grateful.

Mrs. Sharkey

RE Lead

**Dates for your diary**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Boggle Hole – Year 5 | Wednesday 22nd May – Friday 24th May |
| Non Uniform Day – Bring a Bottle | Friday 24th May |
| Skipping Competition - Year 2 | Thursday 6th June |
| Open Evening –  Nursery  Reception | Tuesday 11th June  3.30pm – 4.30pm  4.30pm – 5.30pm |
| Big Sheep Little Cow – Nursery & Reception | Thursday 13th June |
| A Night At The Musicals – Year 6 | Friday 14th June 2.00pm & 6.00pm |
| Sports Day | Friday 21st June  KS1 – AM  KS2 – PM |
| Lineham Farm – Year 4 | Monday 24th June – Tuesday 25th June |
| Synagogue & Minster Visit – Year 2 | Tuesday 2nd July |
| School Summer Fair | Friday 5th July 3.30pm – 5.00pm |
| Nature Area Opening to Families | Friday 12th July 2.30pm – 3.15pm |
| Open Afternoon – Meet your new teacher | Tuesday 16th July 3.30pm – 4.30pm |
| Rounders – Year 6 **V** Staff | Thursday 18th July |
| Year 6 Leaving Disco | Thursday 18th July - Details to follow. |
| Year 6 Leavers Assembly | Tuesday 23rd July |

**Non Uniform Day**

Tomorrow is a non-uniform day. If children wish to wear their ‘home’ clothes, we ask that you kindly send a donation of a bottle (this could be anything drinkable / edible or even bath products!) into school, to go towards the Tombola Stall at the summer fair.

All proceeds go towards our Nature Area.

School closes for half term tomorrow and reopens on **Tuesday 4th June**. We look forward to seeing the children on time and in uniform, refreshed after the break and ready to learn.

Enjoy a wonderful half term.

Miss McBride.