

Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 12

March 2017



Hello and welcome to Winter! I hope this term has been enjoyable so far and you are prepared for the forthcoming cold weather. I also hope you are prepared for the joys and excitement Christmas at Fishergate brings. Please feel free to contribute to the newsletters; you can do this by emailing me. All contributions welcome!

Games to play



Random bit: Did you know?

A polar bear's skin is black. Its fur is not white but actually clear.



Fine motor skills-Pinterest has this

great idea for making a pudding pom-pom which is a great way of developing co-ordination and fine motor skills. Just type 'How to make a Pudding pom-pom into the search bar'

Auditory processing game:

Making deductions

"Listen to these words - play, tree, meat, cow, fire officer which one is a human being?"

Visual Perception activities:

Spot the difference, colour by numbers and jigsaws. All these activities support the development of visual perception.

Happy Days Charity offer funding for Short Breaks.

They award to grant quickly and the amounts offered are great which enables you to have a fab holiday. The website details: <https://www.happydayscharity.org/>

Top Tips from parents

Family Fund provides grants to families who are raising a disabled child aged 17 and under. Their grants can be used for a range of things including help with washing machines, clothing, bedding, computers, sensory items and much more.

Contact information 08449 744 099 info@familyfund.org.uk www.familyfund.org.uk

REMINDER: Gas and Electrical suppliers e.g. Eon. These suppliers can prioritise families with children with additional needs for repairs and call outs. Contact them to register your information.

City of York Council. Each council has written a Local Offer detailing the support available for families who have SEND. Further information can be found here:

<http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Local%20Offer/Local%20Offer%20leaflet.pdf>

Parenting support

Parenting can be really hard! There are times when we all need a bit of a helping hand. There are a range of groups in York who offer parenting support and advice. There are also a number of courses too. However,, sometimes it is tricky to commit to a course so yor-ok.org.uk has links to a number of on-line parenting support groups.

Netmums Parenting Course - this course has been put together with Family Links. It aims to give parents faith in their own abilities.

Parents Together Online - six interactive blocks filled with helpful techniques and ideas.

In January 2018 the **Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities** course is running. This free 13 week programme uses a strength based model to build or re-build relationships in the family, encourage children to work with parents not against them, improve parent knowledge of child development and its impact on behaviour and establish tools for becoming more involved with the community around them.

It's aimed at parents of 5 - 13 year olds as this is the stage where children start questioning and pushing boundaries at home. The programmes are open to mums, dads and carers and run for 13 weeks (one school term) for three hours per week, plus a graduation ceremony with certificates. The three hours includes a meal (which is provided) and will be a combination of learning new strategies, the whole group sharing their ideas and experience and everyone practicing the techniques together. **If you would like more information, let me know.**

Staff Training

Sara Pool- Autism and Awareness training. This was extremely useful in understanding autism and the strategies we can use in school to support learning, social and emotional needs.

Lisa Solanki-Supporting children with Hearing Loss. This was a fantastic course run by the Hearing team. It was incredibly insightful-we had to wear hearing aids to experience the challenges faced by children and were privileged enough to meet a deaf pupil from Archbishops secondary school came to answer our questions.

Did you know that all our teaching assistants take part in staff training half termly? This is so we can be kept up to date with the best ways of supporting your children. This year, so far, we have run training mindfulness.

Fishergate teaching assistants are amazing!

Useful websites

Recommendations from a parent;

<http://out-of-sync-child.com/>

<http://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/about-dyspraxia/>

Offering links and understanding on sensory processing difficulties.

Following a recommendation from my forum I have used this website to develop basic reading skills.

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/>

The Council for Disabled Children (CDC) is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England, with links to other UK nations.

Fancy a coffee and chat?

I would like us all to get together for a cup of coffee or tea on **Monday 11th December from 2-3.15**. This

will be a great opportunity for you to talk to other parents and have a cup of tea/coffee and a piece of cake. As a parent it is always reassuring to chat to others about your child, especially those tricky things. In my case, my lovely child having enormous tantrums! Please let me know if you can come.



Fishergate

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