

# Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 5

November 2014

Welcome back from half term and welcome to new parents. I hope you had a wonderful time and are not too distressed by the lack of light and chilly weather. Since the beginning of September we are working under the new SEN code of practice and implementing all the changes.



gpp64304273 www.gograph.com

## Games to play

**Random bit: Did you know?** Olive oil and baking powder are rubbed into the Sydney Opera house in order to maintain it.

### Auditory Processing game:

**Silly Steps.** Each day each member of the family gets to give one of the others a set of silly directions to follow. Begin with two-step directions, such as, "Go get a spoon from the kitchen and bring it back to me on your head." Gradually increase the number of directions, elaboration of the directions, and complexity, such as "Bring me the ruler in the back of the third drawer of my desk, come back into the kitchen, and turn around three times."

### Visual perception activities:

**Hidden pictures games** in books such as "Where's Wally".

**Picture drawing:** Practice completing partially drawn pictures

### Fine motor skills and spelling activities:

Write the child's name or word you want the child to spell on a piece of paper, approximately A3 size. They could do this themselves! The child makes the word by covering the letters with the stickers. This can be used for weekly spellings, connectives, or tricky words.



### Fishergate News The new pupil and parent passports are up and

running. We have found them useful as a way of gathering information about children and using this information to devise strategies and provision. Most children now have a personal provision map showing what things are being done in school and activities to do at home.

The school offer is now on the website. This information was written by staff, parents and SEN governor as a way of showing what provision we put in place to support children with SEN. There are also other things of the website so please have a look. The SEN page can be found on:

<http://www.fishergateschool.com/learning-fishergate/sen>

## Working memory

Working memory affects countless children and adults. The following clip details how working memory affects us and what can be done. All SENCo's within York are due to receive training on working memory. I will give you more information on supporting working memory following the training.

[www.ted.com/talks/peter\\_doolittle\\_how\\_your\\_working\\_memory\\_makes\\_sense\\_of\\_the\\_world#t-9544](http://www.ted.com/talks/peter_doolittle_how_your_working_memory_makes_sense_of_the_world#t-9544)



# New Legislation

Information on the new legislation can be found on the City of York website:

[http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200691/sen\\_primary/1218/sen\\_primary](http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200691/sen_primary/1218/sen_primary)

Edward Timpson from the Department for Education has written a letter to parent explaining the SEN reforms:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/348842/Parents\\_letter\\_Aug\\_2014\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/348842/Parents_letter_Aug_2014_final.pdf)

## Useful websites

**YorOK** <http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/> This website is run by the City of York council and provides lots of information for families on support networks, childcare, training opportunities and much more!

<http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/> This website offers a great deal of information and links relating to children's disability.



**YOUNGMINDS**  
The voice for young people's mental health and wellbeing

[http://www.youngminds.org.uk/for\\_parents](http://www.youngminds.org.uk/for_parents)

There is a huge emphasis within education and SEN on mental health and emotional resilience. The young minds website offers advice, support and tips. Take a look!

**Lending Library** A reminder that there is a box of books in the staffroom on a range of Special Educational Needs. We have quite a number on anxiety, anger and emotional development. Please feel free to borrow them. Just let me know which you have taken.

### Staff Training

**SENCO forum-**I recently attended the forum where all SENCO's within the Local authority were given information on the changes to legislation and I presented some information on how Fishergate works with parents. It was terrifying!

**Teaching assistants-** Our TA's have been visiting other schools within the local area to see how they work and pinch ideas. We are due to host the TA's from these schools in the next couple of weeks to show off our skills and expertise.

Each of our TA's is giving a short presentation during our termly training sessions on areas of special needs. Claire Stenson is the first with a slot on ASC.

### Tea and Cake



I would like to invite you all for a cup of tea or coffee and a cake on Tuesday 16th December at 2.00. Please let me know if you are able to come. I would like to reassure you that this will be an informal get together. All welcome!

### Sharing Corner-Top Tips! Thank you to a parent for this tip! **Baking!**

This activity is a brilliant way of your child developing fine motor skills, reading, measuring, understanding about changes in material (science), communication and following instructions. It tastes good too!



Fishergate Primary School

Head teacher- Andy Herbert

Fishergate

SENCO- Lisa Solanki