

# Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 6

February 2015

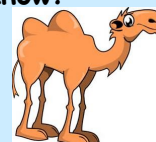
Welcome back! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year holiday.

It seems the beginning of the year is the start of the ferocious weather. Hopefully that will mean summer will be glorious! Thank you all for your contributions to the newsletter; please continue to do so!

## Games to play

Random bit: Did you know?

You can buy a Lycra outfit for a camel!



### Auditory memory game:

**Digit repetition:** Say a series of unrelated digits to your child (start with 2 digits e.g. 3 8) Your child has to repeat them in the correct order. The length of the list can be gradually increased e.g. 4 6 1 5 7). Remember to say them slowly, 1 digit per second is probably best.

### Visual perception activities:



**Who lives here?** Make a set of pictures of people (these may be cut from magazines) and a set of houses in different colours, or different appearance in some way.

The people are matched with the houses and then jumbled up. The child has to rearrange them in the correct relationship. If you progress to giving the people names, the task develops visual and verbal skills.



### Fine motor skills and spelling activities:

Use dot to dot puzzles

Construction activities such as Lego and Knex

**Fishergate News** The school website is added to regularly with updated documentation, news and useful bits. Have a look! [//www.fishergateschool.com/learning-fishergate/sen](http://www.fishergateschool.com/learning-fishergate/sen)

Personal provision maps will be reviewed at your child's next meeting with myself and the class teacher. This will be an opportunity to celebrate achievements and share concerns as well as look at next steps in their learning both academically, socially and emotionally.

## Blue Peter Spy Search

Blue Peter is launching a competition to find three CBBC Intelligence Officers. These lucky winners will be taken on a tour of the British security services HQ in London and this visit will be filmed by the programme. Anthony Horowitz, author of the Alex Rider spy novel series, will take part in the selection process.

"Children are fascinated by the world of spies and secret intelligence and so, for that matter, am I," he said. "I'm really thrilled to have been invited to join this top-secret panel."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-30827158>

# Autism trust extended funding

The Autism Education Trust (AET) recently announced that the Department for Education (DfE) will extend its current contract to fund the AET for another year. This allows the trust to develop their programme for Early years and post 16. New materials and resources to support schools and will be produced as well as training opportunities.

National Autism awareness week- 27th March-2nd April. This 'Stand Out for Autism' week includes numerous events including 'Onesie Wednesday' and Pink and purple

Bake offs. See National Autistic society for more details: <http://www.autism.org.uk/>



## Useful websites

A reminder of great sites....

**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!

**YOUNGMINDS** <http://www.youngminds.org.uk/> The voice for young people's mental health and wellbeing  
**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!

**ict games** <http://www.ictgames.com/>

Great website for literacy and maths games for all levels!

**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.

**WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT** Rachel Hemlin has set the challenge of raising £6000 this year to mark her 40th birthday! She is completing a range of crazy tasks including the Winter warrior challenge. If you are able to sponsor her or want more information on her crazy adventure please go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/macmillanangelsteam/>

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

**Guess Who?** Playing the game Guess who with your child will not only be great fun but also develop communication and working memory skills.



Fishergate Primary School

Head teacher- Andy Herbert

Fishergate

SENCO- Lisa Solanki