

# Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 9

March 2016

I think Spring may be on its way! The bulbs are growing in my garden, the weather is less frosty and I've even worn flip flops (in the house). I have been asked to discuss the involvement of parents in supporting their children at a couple of schools. So thank you for your continued support! Thank you also, for all your help and please continue to contribute your ideas and tips.



## Random bit: Did you know?

David Bowie turned down a request to collaborate with Coldplay on a track they had written, telling them: "It's not a very good song, is it?"



## Games to play

### Auditory processing game:

#### Listening walk

The purpose of the walk is to listen to sounds, particularly those they may not have been aware of previously. Before the walk you can suggest sounds to listen for or you can call the child's attention to sounds as you walk along. After the walk, see how many sounds your child can remember and encourage him/her to describe them.

**Visual Spatial activities:** The ability to determine that one form or part of a form is turned in a different direction than the others.

**Obstacle course:** In the garden, park, outside space or even in the living room make a simple obstacle course and take it turns to navigate through the course. This can then be extended by taking turns to direct the other person around the course.

### Fine motor skills

**Playdough Easter eggs:** Use play dough, cookie cutters and little accessories to decorate like eggs! Lovely for fine motor development and writing skills and creativity!



ELVINGTON JETS  
PAN DISABILITY  
FOOTBALL  
STARTS SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY AT 12PM



WHO TO CONTACT:  
FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT  
ELVINGTON HARRIERS ON ELVINGTONHARRIERS@YAHOO.CO.UK



WHERE: THE LOWER DERWENT SPORTS AND  
SOCIAL CLUB, ELVINGTON

WHEN: EVERY SATURDAY FROM 12PM - 1PM

COST: £2

WHO: BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 12 YEARS AND  
UNDER WITH A DISABILITY

### Fishergate News



To evaluate ways in which we are working well and also how we can improve our current practice you should have received a parent questionnaire (if not let me know). I have also produced a child friendly version so I can ask children about what works well in school and what we need to improve. Once these are completed and I will send you a summary and let you know what our next steps will be.

**Transition:** This is the time of year where we start thinking about transition and how that will work best to ensure your children will move to the next year group smoothly. This is not only for those moving to a new teacher or school. You may find your child is a little anxious as they begin to realise things are moving on. If so let us know!

# SCHOOLS' AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK

14-18 MARCH 2016

At least 1 in 100 people in the UK have autism... so chances are there are autistic people at your school, who you see every day.

During this week we will: learn about autism and in fun, imaginative lessons, activities and assemblies and help spread the word about why it's

so important to understand and accept autism.



The National Autistic Society website also has lots of useful resources for parents.

## Online safety

The NSPCC has partnered with O2 to develop skills and strategies on online safety for children and young people. The NSPCC offer a range of resources on supporting online safety and offering advice for parents. They are also available to run in school training for parents so if you would be interested please let me know.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

### York Literature Festival Kids and Families Day

20 Mar | 11am-4pm

To celebrate the wealth and breadth of talent York has to offer we have author events with four fantastic contributors. Throughout the day there will be a bookstall run by the Little Apple bookshop, activities all over the library including Minecraft, Lego and crafts. The library cafe will be open for drinks and snacks. £2 per author event, book at any library, or drop in on the day for the activities.

11am - 11.45am: Ros Beardshaw  
12.15pm - 1pm: Sam Zuppardi  
1.30pm - 2.30pm: Craig Bradley  
3pm - 4pm: Kjartan Poskitt



### Staff Training

**All staff**- Speech, language and communication needs in school.

**Peter Kelly and Erika Deverall**- Supporting pupils in PE.

**Claire Stenson. Ann Cole, Shelli Atkinson and Lisa Solanki**- Supporting pupils with Attachment and developmental trauma needs.

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. So far we have run training on Working memory, safeguarding, speech and language needs, writing and maths interventions, National curriculum updates, Growth mind-set and they have visited and hosted other schools within our cluster.

**Fishergate teaching assistants are amazing!**

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

My child found pronouncing certain words tricky so when we worked on developing the sounds and making sure she was clear about what her mouth should look like I used the iPad camera in selfie mode so she was able to see herself making the sounds. You could also use a mirror! It really worked and helped her produce the sounds more clearly.



**Fishergate**

**York YO10 4AP**

**SENCO- Lisa Solanki**

**Contact details:** [Lisa.Solanki@york.gov.uk](mailto:Lisa.Solanki@york.gov.uk)

