

# Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 10

November 2016



Hello and welcome back! I hope you had a lovely half term and have had the chance to enjoy some spectacular fireworks. A special welcome to new parents. Please feel free to contribute to the newsletters; you can do this by emailing me.

All contributions welcome!

## Games to play

### Auditory processing game:

**Opposites.** Say a word and the other person has to recall the opposite e.g. cold-hot, fast-slow. This can be extended by saying a sentence and the other person has to recall the opposite of the sentence e.g. 'The quick hairy spider scuttled under the big rock.' becomes 'The slow smooth spider crawled over the little rock.'

### Visual Spatial activities:

**Imagination Journey.** Tell your child that you want to take them on a journey through a made-up world. Ask them to get comfortable, close their eyes and relax. Describe a beautiful outdoor scene including sensory information (i.e., it smells like roses, you feel the warmth of the sun, you hear a robin singing, etc.). In this world, have your child find the most incredible tree. Start asking questions (i.e., what does the tree look like? Can you climb it? Is there someone or something already at the top?). Who knows what creatures might show up, or what might happen! When the journey is over, paint or draw different aspects of this imaginary world along with your child.

### Fine motor skills

**Autumn bands:** Wrap elastic bands around pine cones you have collected.

### Random bit: Did you know?

On average, you blink 15 000 times a day. That's about 10 times per minute, or more than five million times a year. Women blink more than men.



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



After launching in January 2016, the Elvington

Harriers JETS session, for primary school-age children with a disability, has proved popular under the watchful eye of enthusiastic Jon Kenny. The session is held between 12pm and 1pm on Saturdays and is a mix of fun games, football skills and the occasional match. Contact: [http://www.elvingtonharriers.co.uk/contact\\_us/](http://www.elvingtonharriers.co.uk/contact_us/)



### Fishergate News

We are looking at ways of using our outdoor spaces as teaching areas and developing our use of Forest Schools. Caroline Burt is setting up a gardening club with the support of a group of adults with learning disabilities from the Melbourne Centre. There is a huge amount of research explaining the importance of outdoor play and exploration and its impact on children's development. Our very own Caroline Burt has written an article for Nursery World discussing the importance of outdoor exploration and the impact Forest schools is having on our own children. So, wrap up warm, get your wellies on and go outside!



## Parenting magazine wins award

AuKids magazine, a small but popular quarterly publication for parents of children with autism, is celebrating after scooping Specialist Magazine of the Year at a star-studded media awards ceremony in Manchester. AuKids magazine picked up the newly created Specialist Magazine award. Judges hailed its “innovative, colourful style – and its sense of humour”. The magazine was launched in Stockport in 2008 and has a national network of subscribers. The not for profit social enterprise aims to give practical and inspiring advice presented in an upbeat, colourful way. It is run by Stockport mum and journalist Debby Elley, who has 12 year old twins with autism, and speech and language therapist Tori Houghton, who also runs a support agency for autistic youngsters based in Old Trafford. To find out more about AuKids, look up: [www.aukids.co.uk](http://www.aukids.co.uk)

# Online safety

REMINDER: 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.

# Up and coming events

**WWI Spy Day** Date: 12 November 2016 Time: 09:30 to 10:30

Come and be the ultimate spy and take on this exciting mission. Can you crack the codes from WWI? Can you escape in time?

Address: Acomb Explore Library, Front Street, Acomb YO24 3BZ

Cost information: £2 per child booking essential

Contact: 01904 552 651 Email: [acomb@explore.york.org.uk](mailto:acomb@explore.york.org.uk)

**Thrill of the Build** Date: 20 November 2016 Time: 1:00 to 4:00

Lego Club. Billinton's toys bring their free build bricks and Lego sets for you and your family to build and play together.

Address: Costa Coffee Shop in Haxby Cost information: £4.00 per adult with up to 3 children Contact Email: [office@billingtonstoys.co.uk](mailto:office@billingtonstoys.co.uk)

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

Practising spellings with my child was a nightmare! She became frustrated and I got cross so we decided to make spellings fun! We now make the words using pipe cleaners, paint them using water, write them in rice and sing them. Spellings are no longer a battle and she is more successful in class. Win! Win!

### Staff Training

**All teaching assistants**– Visited Haxby road language centre and the Dyslexia centre at St. Oswald's primary School. They came back with lots of great ideas and strategies.

**Andrea Walton**– Shadowing staff at Kestral gaining some experience and strategies to support behavioural needs.

**Sallie Fisher**– Is doing a qualification to support Speech and language needs within Early years. This fits well with Rachel Hemlin who has gained an ELKLAN qualification to support speech and language needs for keystage 1 children.

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!**



**Fishergate**

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