

# Bright Sparks News

Newsletter No. 18

November 2021



Welcome to the season of crunchy leaves, snuggling under blankets and hot chocolate. I hope you are taking time to play in the leaves (with or without children) and enjoying the brightness of the sunshine. This newsletter is aimed to be a collaborative effort so please feel free to contribute.

You can email me recommendations or suggestions.

## Games to play

**Random bit: Did you know?**

Fish can cough!



### 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".



pictures

**Picture drawing:** Practice completing partially drawn

### 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.

Working memory difficulties affect countless children and

adults. The following clip details how working memory affects us and what can be

done.

## Working memory

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

Games and activities can develop working memory. These include:

I packed my suitcase..... – remember a list of items, increasing in number. Ideal for car journeys!

What's Missing – also known as 'Kim's Game' – have a tray of objects in front of you, allow enough time to look at them all, then cover them up and remember as many as you can.

Matching Pairs card game or Simon Says

I like to-Sit the group in a circle (adults and children). Ask everyone to think of something that they like to do. Then pick someone to start by telling the group for example I like to swim. The person to their right will then tell the group what the first person liked and adding what they like to do, for example Fred likes to swim, I like to walk. This continues right around the circle until the last person has to say what everyone likes to do. Other members of the group can prompt by miming the activity.



# Christmas activities

York Inspirational Kids

Christmas Craft Fair. Free entry. Saturday 27 November 10am - 12noon.

Held at Acomb Parish Hall, Front Street, YO24 3BZ

Crafts £5 per adult and £3 per child

## York Minster Christmas Tree Festival

See around 40 trees decorated to individual themes, vote for your favourite tree in our 'best dressed tree' competition and visit our activity marquee to write your own Christmas message on a tag which will be added to a tree at the festival, or inside the cathedral's East End. The Festival runs until 6th January 2022, 10am -7pm daily (excluding Christmas Day) and is a FREE to visit

## Explore Library Tang Hall:



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Hoglets Theatre presents a magical winter show: The Snow Bear

by Explore York Libraries and Archives  
400 followers [Follow](#)

£2



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hoglets-theatre-presents-a-magical-winter-show-the-snow-bear-tickets-208513989957?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

## Autism parent support

Topic Discussions led by the Specialist Teaching Team for Autism via Zoom. During each session the team will share key information linked to the theme. There will also be a short period of time for questions and discussion as a group. To book your place on the session, please email your name and contact email address, stating which session(s) you would like to book to: [parentcarerautismsupport@york.gov.uk](mailto:parentcarerautismsupport@york.gov.uk) Bookings close the Thursday before the session. Sessions this term:

Anxiety Wednesday 24th November 2021 (10-11am)

Coping with Christmas Wednesday 8th December 2021 (10-11am)

Parent/Carer Phone Line The Specialist Teaching Team Autism are offering parents/carers the opportunity to talk individually to a member of the team regarding general issues and concerns about children/young people with autism. 20 minutes is allocated per phone call. Date and times: Wednesday 1st December 9.30-11.30 am

To book your place on the session, please email: [parentcarerautismsupport@york.gov.uk](mailto:parentcarerautismsupport@york.gov.uk)

They require your name and a contact telephone number for us to contact you. They will then send you an approximate time slot for your 20 minute call. If they receive a high volume of requests they may need to allocate spaces on the session on a first come, first served basis.

**Fishergate Primary School**

**Head teacher—Tina Clarke Deputy head teacher- Dani Rees**

**Fishergate**

**Inclusion leader— Lisa Solanki**

**York YO10 4AP**

**Contact details: [Lisa.Solanki@fishergateschool.com](mailto:Lisa.Solanki@fishergateschool.com)**

