

# THE FOREST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER-July 2015



## REQUEST FROM RNIB

We have received the following request from the RNIB:

I wondered if you could help us by giving us something that you normally throw into the bin. As a part of our fundraising efforts we collect all kinds of postage stamps to sell to raise vital funds for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB).

We are aiming to raise at least £25,000 this financial year, that means that we need approximately 15,000,000 stamps from the UK and overseas. Even one stamp will help! This is an ongoing appeal!

Money raised by collecting stamps helps support services like RNIB Sunshine House School, Northwood. This is a non-maintained special school for children who are blind or partially sighted with multiple disabilities. RNIB Sunshine House School are firmly committed to our belief that all children have the right to learn. They provide a service of high quality specialist education and care through daily and residential provision, enabling our children to achieve their potential.

We are desperate need of more people to send us their used and new postage stamps from the U.K. and abroad. If you know anybody who could help us anywhere in the world, please pass on our details.

For every £1 we raise, RNIB spends 87p directly helping blind and partially sighted people, 11p on raising more vital funds and 2p on administration.

I have volunteers in your area who are very happy to trim and sort your stamps and will then send them directly to our buyer. The details are :-RNIB, C/O Mrs Joyce Morgan, 6 Mulberry Drive, Crowle, SCUNTHORPE, DN17 4JF. They are happy to receive any amount at anytime!

## RACE FOR LIFE

Well done Katie from year 11 who took part in the Race for Life in Harrogate recently. The weather was miserable, and Katie found the race challenging, but she worked hard to complete it.



## PARENTPAY

As we approach the end of the term please ensure you are up to date with payments for school meals, trips and swimming. Any outstanding debit or credit balances will be carried forward to the new term in September.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

We are pleased to announce that Mrs Dwyer gave birth to a daughter recently. Also Miss Towers has had a baby boy. Congratulations to both Mums.



Sadly some of our staff are leaving us this summer: Mrs McGavin and Mrs Silversides are retiring, and Mrs Pringle's secondment at



school is ending. We wish them all the very best for the future. Liz McGavin writes:

"I have been involved with The Forest School for 22 years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff, past and present, for their friendship and support, the parents for your continued support and of course the pupils. I have taught so many that it would be difficult to count, but I have enjoyed every day and the challenges presented. The children have also taught me so much over the years and I feel very privileged to have been able to help with the development of so many. It has been a particular pleasure to be involved with the many residential visits, school trips and other exciting events that have taken place at the school. I will treasure many happy memories.

The Forest School is a wonderful place to work and it has been a huge part of my life. I know I will miss the children and the staff but look forward to my retirement and to new challenges and activities.

I am sure I will keep in touch and return for school coffee mornings etc!

Best wishes  
Liz McGavin"

## MEDICATION



If your child needs medication during the school day, please ensure you have completed a medical form for school staff to administer the medicine. Please also make sure that medication is brought into the school office by **an adult** - either you as a parent, the transport assistant, or taxi/bus driver. For safety reasons, please **DO NOT** give medicines to your child to hand in.

## P2P

Parent to Parent (P2P) is the NAS' UK-wide confidential telephone support service providing emotional support to parents and carers of a child or adult with autism. The service is provided by trained parent volunteers, who all have at least one son or daughter with autism. The Parent to Parent volunteers are based across the whole of the

UK, this means that there is increased anonymity for parents who may not want to share information with someone in their local area.

The volunteers have a wealth of experience, knowledge and insight and can talk through any issues, problems or feelings parents are experiencing. They all know what life can be like for families affected by autism and want to do something to support others in similar situations. They can also direct callers to other sources of information and support. Parents and carers can contact the service via phone or online. They can either call 0808 800 4106 at any time day and night and leave a message. It is not a manned line, but if they leave a message, a volunteer will call them back as soon as possible, at a time which suits them. Alternatively they can fill in our online enquiry form by visiting the Parent to Parent pages of the NAS website <http://www.autism.org.uk/our-services/advice-and-information-services/parent-to-parent-service/parent-to-parent-enquiry.aspx>

You can find more information about the service on our web page <http://www.autism.org.uk/Our-services/Advice-and-information-services/Parent-to-Parent-Service.aspx> and download a copy of our leaflet.

## SAPLINGS PIRATE PARTY

We held our annual Saplings party on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July and we all had a lovely time. We just managed to have a few games before the rain came down; and then we went inside for our delicious food. There was a treasure chest cake, a pizza treasure map, golden nuggets to eat and our special Caribbean grog to drink.





**YOUNG ENTERPRISE** are proud to announce the name of the winner of the 'Sir John Moore's Award' - it is none other than year 11 student Justine Pinder. Justine won the YEP's Yorkshire and Humberside regional award for the person who has made the most personal progress. Justine has been the managing director of Forest & Co for a year - she also won £100.



## ART NEWS

Year 10 and 11 pupils have been taking part in the 'Ark' project organised by the Leonard Cheshire organisation run by Anna Dawson. They have been working with Catt the artist and have been making ceramic animals for a boat sculpture that will be on exhibition at Henshaw's sensory garden from next year. The project leads to a City and Guilds qualification in 'Art in the Community' for all the pupils involved.



## RE AND ART TRIP TO THE YORKSHIRE SCULPTURE PARK

Mrs Hillyard organised a special trip for everyone in secondary to go see all the sculptures and installations at the YSP. She wanted us all to experience the 'Awe and Wonder' that helps to enrich our lives. Some of the groups went on amazing walks and other did art activities - we all had a picnic.



## SUMMER FAIR 2015

Once again our Summer Fair was a roaring success which was enhanced by the beautiful weather and the pretty gardens (thanks to Mrs Watson). We made lots of money from the many different stalls. Mr Bunting organised a fantastic fairground area, Mrs Smith did brisk trade with her bran tub and Mrs Watson frantically ran round in her role of professional photographer. The whole thing was masterminded by Mrs Stewart-Smith who along with Mrs Walker and Mrs Simpson cooked up some amazing pork sandwiches. The Enterprise stall also did a brisk trade with Mrs Silversides at the helm but she was in stiff competition with Mr James's book stall and the very popular sweet eats. It wouldn't be a fair without Mrs Hall and her candy floss machine. We also have to thank Graham Stewart and Sarah Finch for running the ever busy raffle. We couldn't have managed without the kind help of our volunteers - so special thanks go to -

The Mayor and Mayoress The councillors Willoughby, the Town Cryer Roger Hewitt, Ken



Kret and the scouts from Menwith Hill, Harrogate Shokotan Karate Club featuring Sensei Jane and the England JKS squad, Claire Robinson and team from Henshaws, Christopher Powell MBE from the Cone Exchange, Sue Grant who organised the first aid demonstration and major thanks to Inspector Craig Linton for the use of his police car. We are also really really grateful for the lovely ice cream van. A great crowd puller was Claire Stockil's 'Pet Corner' and Liz and Nicky's tea rooms could knock the spots off Betty's. The music featured was from the AMP Award band winners from Boroughbridge High School.

Finally thanks goes to all the parents and staff and their families who attended the day and also donated generously and made it all really **OUTSTANDING!!!!**



## **AUTISM STRATEGY CONSULATATION EVENTS**

People with autism and their families have expressed their wish for local services that meet their needs. Central government have also identified this need and have produced

statutory guidance for local authorities to adopt. One important requirement is that local areas develop an autism strategy. The strategy is based on what you have told us so far; but we are keen to receive more feedback. Your views are important to us and will help us to develop the strategy further. A summary of the overall feedback and how this influenced the final strategy will be made available following the consultation in September 2015. The strategy will be launched in October 2015. You can have your say at one of the consultation events below:

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday 9 July 2015	6pm - 8pm	Cedar Court Hotel, Park Parade, Harrogate HG1 5AH
Tuesday 14 July 2015	12.30p m - 2.30pm	Herriots Hotel, Broughton Road, Skipton BD23 1RT
Monday 10 August 2015	12 noon - 2pm	Selby Community Centre, Scott Road, Selby YO8 4BL
Friday 14 August 2015	12.30p m - 2.30pm	Woodend Creative Space, The Crescent, Scarborough YO11 2PW
Friday 11 Septembe r 2015	2.30pm - 4.30pm	Golden Lion Hotel, 114 High Street, Northallerton DL 7 8PP

You do not need to book a place on the events but it would help us if you could. You can book on to any event by emailing [autism.adults@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:autism.adults@northyorks.gov.uk) and stating which event you would like to attend. If you do not have access to a computer you can book on to an event by calling 01609 532562. Once you are booked on to an event we will email or telephone to tell you about the format of the event and what to expect.

From Dr Elizabeth Billington, Clinical Psychologist, Child Development Centre, Harrogate District Hospital

## **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

Our after school clubs have now finished for this term. Dates for clubs will be announced in September. For safeguarding reasons, we



request that if you are unable to collect your child from a club and you arrange for a friend or relative to collect your child, you **MUST** telephone school during the day to inform us of your arrangements.

### COBER HILL RESIDENTIAL

A group of excited Year 5 and Year 6 pupils went on their first school residential to Cober Hill near Scarborough in June. Our first stop was at Piglets, The Farmers Cart near York where we had a fun day seeing the animals and of course bouncing on the big pillows (trampolines). We arrived at the Hotel in heavy rain and strong winds but this did not deter our enthusiasm and after our evening meal we set off to visit the sea.

The following day we spent in Scarborough visiting Peasholme Park and having fun on the pedaloes and after a picnic some of the party braved the icy sea for a paddle. The rest of us were happy to play on the beach! We then had an ice cream in the rain and sheltered on an open top bus to see the delights of Scarborough!

Thankfully the next day the weather was in our favour and off we went to Filey for



activities in the park and another splash in the sea. We sat in the sunshine eating our ice creams and thinking how lucky we were to be there.

Our last day consisted of packing the bus, playing hide and seek in the hotel's 'Secret Garden' and then a drive to Holmstead Park in York for a picnic and a play. We returned safely to school tired but happy after a fun packed few days.

Well done to all the pupils and staff; they were all brilliant.



### SUMMER HOLIDAY



Please note school closes to pupils at 2pm on Friday 17 July. Children are expected back in school at 8.55am on Tuesday 8 September. We hope you all have a lovely summer break, and hopefully get to see some sunshine over the coming weeks!

Peter N Hewitt  
Headteacher

Your support for your son/daughter's education is crucial to their progress and wellbeing. Please tell us if there are any adjustments we need to help you support them, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages, wheelchair access, to explain things over the phone or a discussion with a colleague of the same gender.

## Bye Bye Year 11 We Wish You Well!



The Forest School Class of 2015

### **The Forest School says Goodbye to their Class of 2015**

Article by pupils in Years 9  
and 10

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July we had our Leavers Assembly in the Hall at The Forest School. Relatives and carers of the leavers were invited and we were honoured to have the Mayor and Mayoress of

Knarborough there too. The Mayor gave out the certificates as well as the Leavers Files and he shook their hands. We are all very proud of their achievements.

The Year 11 pupils have been at The Forest School for so many years and they have achieved so much that they had a very thick Leavers File each. We saw

some photos of them when they were in Primary as well as Secondary. They were lovely pictures. After the assembly they all went up to the ICT Room for their Leavers buffet that Mrs. Stewart-Smith and her helpers had cooked and prepared for them.

We will miss you, Year 11 but we wish you well and Good Luck for the future.



## Super Students' Success!



Forest School pupils on Castle Howard Expedition.

### **Pupils at The Forest School finish their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Expedition and forge ahead to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.**

Article by  
Peter McIntyre and  
Jamie Bell

Over the past two years we have learned so much about the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We have learned lots of outdoor skills such as first aid, map reading, cooking safely outdoors and putting up a tent. We learned how to be prepared for all kinds of weather conditions and pack a

very big rucksack with all the things we might need. We have also really enjoyed working well as a team, looking out for each other as well as dog handling!

We have finished our Voluntary section. We maintained woodland and made a path at the Northdale Garden Centre in Northallerton.

We still need to finish our Skill and Sport sections. We have to do a sport we like for three months and we will choose our Skill section next year.

We are very grateful to the D of E Team Leaders for all the time they are giving up for all of us so that we can achieve our Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Article by The D of E  
Team Leaders  
[Miss Adams, Mrs Roe  
and Mrs Cutmore]

We are proud to announce that five of our students passed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award expedition in June. Two years of hard work paid off when the five candidates walked for two days and camped at Castle Howard. The students carried their heavy rucksacks, pitched their tents and cooked their own evening meal using a Trangia stove. They also answered the assessor's questions on first aid, camp safety and map reading skills. The emphasis was for the students to work as a team, which they achieved admirably. Congratulations!