

# THE FOREST SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER-March 2016



### SCHOOLSHOP UNIFORM

Just a reminder that you can now order uniform online at any time of the day from our supplier SchoolShop. You can select from a range of items, all very competitively priced and delivered to your home address.

SchoolShop aim to deliver items within 2-5 days of receiving your order. For more information see [www.school-shop.co.uk](http://www.school-shop.co.uk)

Parents can also order by telephone, the number is 01904 607331

### PERSONAL BUDGETS FOR CARE

Please see the attached newsletters from North Yorkshire County Council dated December 2015 and February 2016 regarding care budgets. Apologies for the delay in forwarding these to you, however they arrived in school just last week. I understand how important financial matters are to parents therefore as soon as we receive future newsletters we will forward them to you.

### SWIMMING LESSONS

Further to the letter from Mr Hewitt in December, some swimming lesson fees are still outstanding. We charge £2.50 for each session. This amount is a small contribution towards pool hire, professional instruction from pool staff, and transport to and from the pool. Taking this into account, I'm sure you'll agree that £2.50 represents very good value for money.

For convenience we charge for 5, 6 or 7 weeks at a time, depending on how many weeks are in the half term. Payments can be made online at [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com), or cash/cheque to the school office. Please make a contribution if you can.

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD: VOLUNTEERING

We currently have two groups working towards the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Tuesday group are volunteering by taking part in a litter collecting project at Brimham Rocks. They are working really hard and collecting lots of discarded litter. It is a shame that there is so much to collect but they are very proud of their achievements. We will be making a sculpture out of the litter to be displayed at Brimham Rocks to show just how much we have found and try to help get the message across to take litter home.

The Thursday group volunteer at Northdale Horticulture in Northallerton and have recently made a bug hotel and collected stones from around the site. We will be creating a Celtic Labyrinth with the stones.

Both groups continue to work hard developing their walking and navigation skills in preparation for the expedition in the summer term.



Jordan at Brimham Rocks





Adam, Peter, Luke and Joshua at Northdale.

## HARROGATE MUSIC COMPETITION



On Monday 29 February, Mrs Hillyard and Mrs Burns took a group of enthusiastic and talented singers to perform in the 'Music for Fun' class at the Harrogate Competitive Festival for Music, Speech and Drama. This event was hosted by the staff at Christ Church Parish centre. Pupils demonstrated their singing and signing skills to an invited audience and to the other groups, who were

adult choirs; 'Singing for the Brain Group' and 'Dementia Forward.' Pupils performed three favourite songs and received wonderful comments from the invited expert Adrian Selway. Mr Selway said that the children had lovely voices, were enthusiastic and sang with lots of smiles. The audience were also very complimentary about both the pupils' singing skills and their lovely manners. Well done Reece, Joe, Sophie, Molly, Valentina, Adam, Jessica, John and Kieran.

## FAIRFAX YOUTH CLUB

We are aiming to run the Teen Holiday session for two dates over the Easter Holidays. These will be Thursday 31 March and Thursday 7 April. These sessions are open to young people who have Special Educational Needs/disabilities who are aged 10 - 18 years. The sessions take place at Fairfax Community Centre, Harrogate from 4.30 - 7.30pm and costs £7.00 which includes a cooked tea (young people who bring a packed tea will only pay £5 - please let me know when booking). Harrogate Spa Tennis club will be joining us again and we'll also have the usual arts and crafts, computers and probably some baking to do.

Booking is essential as places are limited Please call or email me to book your child/children into the session.

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 Harrogate Borough Council  
 Department of Economy and Culture  
 Fairfax Community Centre  
 Fairfax Avenue  
 Harrogate  
 HG2 7RU  
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## CRICKET COMPETITION



Congratulations to all pupils who recently represented the school by participating in the special schools sports partnership cricket competition. The team beat Applefield's school to progress to the regional disability cricket finals which were held at Headingley cricket centre on 8 March. The team played fantastically well winning 2 of their 3 games at Headingley and finishing third overall out of the 6 teams who respectively won their own partnership competitions. Pupils were lucky enough to meet Lauren Winfield and Kathryn Cross on the day who are both members of the England Women's cricket team.



## YOUNG ENTERPRISE NEWS

This term in Young Enterprise the group have focused on the Amp Awards which is a music and business competition involving schools from the Harrogate area. The event was held in February at the Royal Hall and our team was tasked with providing Hospitality for the VIP's and the given theme was James Bond: Glamour & Glitz. OOForest, our school

business team took over the bar and served canapés and cocktails throughout the evening. Entertainment in the form of a roulette wheel and a blackjack was also in situ. In the build up to the evening the team had to work on marketing, sponsorship, planning and preparation. Lots of local business were approached and they gladly supported with donations and event/business advice.

OOForest produced a promotional video which was part of a presentation delivered to a panel of judges about all of the work involved in the build-up. The team received great plaudits from both the judges and also the VIPs who were present on the night. The Evaluation from the judges is below along with some photos of the team on the night.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oLLfpMUui>  
do to see our AMP Video

### Strong Points -

Fantastic teamwork

All the team involved

All looked incredible

Amazing Video

### Room for Improvement -

Cards rather than papers for presenting

### General Overview -

Great inclusive video, fun and creative.

Fantastic teamwork.







OOForest enjoy the Amp Awards



### SOWING THE FIRST SEEDS OF SPACE EXPLORATION

It was National Science Week recently and to mark the event one half of the science room was converted into a space capsule, complete with airlock, whilst the other half was made to look a little like the surface of the Moon. Pupils learned about the first landing on the Moon: although many remembered that Neil Armstrong was the first man on the Moon, more thought that his co-pilot was called Buzz Lightyear!



All pupils, including those in the primary department, had the opportunity to dress up as astronauts and explore a lunar crater. In order to give the sense of 1/6th Earth's gravity, and what it would be like to walk on the moon, pupils were suspended from a roof joist. There was also a model remote control Mars rover to drive around.

The space capsule was complete with a full sized model of the toilet used on the International Space Station.

Related to this, we will soon be receiving "seeds from space". A packet of seeds that has been orbiting the Earth for the last 6 months returned home recently. Some of them will be sent to the Forest School so that we can join in with a national study to see what difference being in 'weightless' conditions has made to them. We will be sowing them after Easter and reporting back our findings in May. We are not anticipating a Little Shop of Horrors, however.

### SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2016/17

A list of holiday dates are on the school website, and is also included in this newsletter.

### EASTER HOLIDAY



The Easter holiday is fast approaching. School closes at 3.30pm on Thursday 24 March, and reopens to students on Tuesday 12 April.

Peter N Hewitt  
Headteacher



## **North Yorkshire County Council**

Children and Young People's Service

Disabled Children's Services

### **Newsletter for Families - Personal Budgets for Care**

**December 2015**

This newsletter is the first of three to be sent to families who use Disabled Children's Services. There will be two more sent in February and in March 2016.

**We want to tell you some important news. Personal Budgets will start in April 2016 for families using Disabled Children's Services.**

#### **What is a Personal Budget?**

A Personal Budget is the sum of money allocated to your child / young person to meet their assessed care and support needs. The services the Personal Budget will be spent on are set out in a "Support Plan". The Support Plan must meet the assessed needs and outcomes agreed for the child / young person

The Personal Budget can **EITHER** be paid to you as a Direct Payment so that you can arrange your own care and support **OR** we can arrange services for you. Families do not have to manage money unless they want to. The final Budget has to be agreed by the Council.

#### **What are the advantages?**

- Families will have more choice and control over what goes into the "Support Plan".
- Families decide for themselves what would be most help to them.
- Families can choose more creative solutions which suit them and their circumstances.
- Personal Budget amounts are allocated fairly according to the needs of the child and their family. A "Resource Allocation" system will support Assessments. The system will be made public

#### **Getting it right for Families – Personal Budget Pilot**

Between now and April 2016 some families are helping us to "Pilot" this approach. A group of families have volunteered to work out a new "Support Plan" with their DCS worker, using their Personal Budget.

These families will be helping us to get the process right. They will also give us feedback on proposed leaflets and website content to help families make the most of Personal Budgets.

**The next newsletter will be sent in February 2016, when we will tell you what suggestions our "Pilot" families have made.**

**The February newsletter will also tell you what will happen next.**

Your local Disabled Children's Team can be contacted on 01609 536714

## North Yorkshire County Council

Children and Young People's Service Disabled Children's Services



### Newsletter 2 for Families Personal Budgets for Care

February 2016

This is the second newsletter for families who use Disabled Children's Services. The first was sent in December 2015. There will be further newsletters sent in April, May, June, July and August 2016.

**In December 2015 we told you some important news. Personal Budgets are starting for families using Disabled Children's Services. Right now some families are taking part in a "Personal Budget Pilot" which is helping us to get it right for everyone.**



#### What is a Personal Budget?

A "Personal Budget" is the actual cost of your child or young person's Support Plan. This does not mean that you have to manage money or employ staff - unless you want a Direct Payment. Families can have their services arranged by the Council as many do now. The difference is that your family will know what sum of money is available and you will have more choice and control over what goes into your child or young person's Support Plan.



#### How much Personal Budget will my family get?

Before your family starts work on the Support Plan you will be given an "Indicative Budget". This is based on the needs of your child or young person and your family. This will be a guide as you work out your Support Plan with your DCS worker. In most cases, the cost of the Support Plan will be similar to the "Indicative Budget", but the final budget will be agreed in negotiation with your family depending on your individual needs. The Support Plan will then be put forward to the Locality Team Leader for approval before the final Personal Budget is agreed.



#### Will Personal Budgets save money?

In areas of the Country where Personal Budgets are already available, families really like them and find they work well. Families get more flexibility, choice



and control over their services. In these areas it has been found that Support Plans cost less when families have more choice and control. The good news is it is also a much better system for families!

### **Disabled Children's Strategy - North Yorkshire.**



In January 2015 the Council consulted families and parent groups like NYPACT on a new strategy for DCS services, which include proposed savings. Families who talked to us then told us that families could save money, if they had more choice and control over their "Support Plans".

The Council approved the DCS Strategy in May 2015.



### **What will happen next?**

**March 2016** – pilot families will give their feedback to the Council. We will make changes to the process and to the booklet "*Family Guide to Personal Budgets*" based on what families tell us.

**April to June 2016** – more families will try out Personal Budgets and get a new Support Plan. This will apply to new families and existing families when their care package comes up for review. This means that families will know what budget is allocated to them, and will decide on a new "Support Plan."

**July 2016** – there will be events for parents to attend, with DCS staff, hosted by "In Control". This is a national charity which helps families and local authorities to get the best from Personal Budgets. More information about this will be sent in the next newsletter.

**August 2016** – The finished version of the Family Guide to Personal Budgets will be ready for all families in printed form. Information will be published on the NYCC website about how Personal Budgets are worked out and about the services and activities families may want to include in their Support Plan,



**September 2016 – Personal Budgets for Care will be launched for all families.**

If you would like to know more about the information in this newsletter please contact your usual worker in DCS.





# Raise **FREE** donations

for us just by **shopping online**

Yes, it's that easy!



A percentage of every pound you spend online will be donated to us when you shop via:

[www.give.as/charity/forestschoolfund](http://www.give.as/charity/forestschoolfund)

Shop at 4,000+ stores

Best thing is...  
it won't cost you a penny extra!



Give as you Live®

Stay in touch Join our 100,000+ Give as you Live community

WINNER 2014 WINNER 2014 WINNER 2015



# HARNESSING PARENT POWER: 5 KEY STRATEGIES

parent  
councilsUK

Half-day workshop for senior leaders, governors, teachers,  
parent support workers and local authority advisers *with Fiona Carnie*

**MONDAY 7 MARCH**  
LIVERPOOL  
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL

**TUESDAY 8 MARCH**  
MANCHESTER  
MACDONALD HOTEL

**WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL**  
DURHAM  
LEADERSHIP CENTRE

**THURSDAY 21 APRIL**  
LEEDS  
QUEENS HOTEL



*When parents are involved in their children's education children do better on a range of measures. Parental involvement is thus a key lever for school improvement - and yet many schools struggle to engage parents.*

This workshop will explore a range of strategies that schools can use to develop an effective and valuable partnership with parents in order to raise attainment. The barriers that prevent parental participation will also be discussed with suggestions as to how these can be addressed.

The session will cover:

- Improving home/school communication
- Gaining parental support for learning
- Working with parents to improve behaviour
- Reaching out to disengaged families
- Listening and responding to parents' views



This is an interactive session with opportunities for participants to share ideas and learn from each other. New ideas for engaging parents will be discussed and participants will leave with an action plan for building parent participation at their school.

Find out how your school can harness the energy and commitment which parents can bring to support their children's education and contribute to the progress of the school.

Fiona Carnie has extensive experience of working with primary and secondary schools to develop strategies to involve parents. She has written widely on this theme, most recently in the Parent Participation Handbook (2011) and Harnessing Parent Power (2013), both published by Optimus.

**Cost £120 to include refreshments.**

**Places are limited and so you are advised to book early.**

**To book your place and pay by credit card go to:**

**For Liverpool event - [Click here](#)**

**For Durham event - [Click here](#)**

**For Manchester event - [Click here](#)**

**For Leeds event - [Click here](#)**

**Alternatively to request an invoice email: [info@parentcouncils.co.uk](mailto:info@parentcouncils.co.uk)**

Cancellations within 14 days of the event cannot be refunded

***“Parental involvement is the most powerful school improvement lever that we have”***

DCSF Research Report RW004

***“There has been a transformation at the school”***

Primary School Parent

***“Relationships with parents have definitely improved”***

Secondary Teacher

***“At last, a useful course!”***

Primary Head



# ASpect

## Harrogate



ASpect is a group for individuals on the Autism spectrum (18+) to meet and socialise with like-minded people. It is run by Time Together on behalf of the National Autistic Society Harrogate Branch.

ASpect members meet on alternate Wednesdays at 7.30pm – locations vary in and around Harrogate depending on the chosen activities.

If you would like more information please get in touch with Time Together or NAS Harrogate Branch.



### Contact Information

email: [timetogether@btconnect.com](mailto:timetogether@btconnect.com)

tel: 01423 883992

web: [www.timetogether.info](http://www.timetogether.info)

[www.facebook.com/TimeTogetherHarrogate](https://www.facebook.com/TimeTogetherHarrogate)



### Contact Information

email: [NASHarrogateBranch@nas.org.uk](mailto:NASHarrogateBranch@nas.org.uk)

tel: 07824 473871

web: [www.harrogate-autism.org.uk](http://www.harrogate-autism.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/NationalAutisticSocietyHarrogate](https://www.facebook.com/NationalAutisticSocietyHarrogate)



## **HOLIDAY DATES 2016/2017**

	<b><u>SCHOOL CLOSURES</u></b>	<b><u>SCHOOL REOPENS</u></b>
<b>Summer</b>	Tues 26 July 2016	Weds 7 September 2016
<b>Half-term</b>	Fri 21 October 2016	Mon 31 October 2016
<b>Christmas</b>	Fri 16 December 2016	Weds 4 January 2017
<b>Half-term</b>	Fri 17 February 2017	Mon 27 February 2017
<b>Easter</b>	Fri 7 April 2017	Tues 25 April 2017
<b>May Day</b>	Fri 28 April 2017	Tues 2 May 2017
<b>Half-term</b>	Fri 26 May 2017	Tues 6 June 2017
<b>Summer</b>	Tues 25 July 2017	TBC

### **Training Days (Staff Only)**

**Monday 5 September 2016**

**Tuesday 6 September 2016**

**Tuesday 3 January 2017**

**Monday 24 April 2017**

**Monday 5 June 2017**