

THE FOREST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER - May 2015



YOUNG ENTERPRISE



Enterprise Education has always been important at the Forest School with our continuing participation in Young Enterprise as well as taking part in the annual event known as the Amp Awards. This is a business and enterprise 'battle of the bands' competition whereby schools organize and play in the concert as well as the merchandising, catering and hospitality as well as entertaining the VIP's.

We decided on the whole event theme 'Pirates' for this year's competition in February. Our responsibility was the VIP hospitality and entertainment - The Very Important Pirate Zone. Our MISSION STATEMENT was to:

- To devise an Enterprising/ Profit Making Entertainment
- To amuse and/ or engage guests, encouraging them to participate and donate funds

Justine Pinder, Managing Director of FS&Co, our Young Enterprise Company said *"Forest School have enjoyed being part of this year's AMP Awards and we would like to tell you what we did. We created a friendly and enjoyable atmosphere whilst raising funds for Pump Aid, a charity that provides clean water for villages in Africa. We created a full pirate experience for VIP's in the Royal Hall bar area. The VIP invites were themed with a Helm wheel and a map. The bar area contained a treasure chest, cannonballs, ropes, chains and portholes which were all decorated to improve the experience. We encouraged VIP participation in the treasure hunt, cannon ball runs, hornpipes and 'Calypso's' (aka John Cocking) fortune telling along with bite sized food and a wishing well. We hoped that we created an atmosphere of*

friendliness and participation that set the scene for the evening.

Participation at the AMP Awards has challenged us to work in a team and sub groups to develop ideas and deliver the results on time. Developing and testing food suitable for the event has been a great pleasure. You can see our efforts and 1 minute video at <http://www.ampawards.co.uk> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-8Yt1WOGdE4>



SIGNS4LIFE

Signs4Life have set up an introductory workshop in Deaf Awareness to help staff to communicate and engage with their deaf & hard of hearing colleagues, service users, students, patients and clients in Harrogate. The Deaf Awareness event will be taking place on Monday 1st June 2015 at Community House, 46-50 East Parade, Harrogate (HG1 5RR) from 9:30am - 11:30am. This local initiative is to help identify barriers that deaf people face and explore their culture and community but also to encourage inclusion of all people with sensory, physical or learning disabilities in Harrogate. Attendance is strictly by booking only (limited places).

For further information please contact Sara on info@signs4life.org

NIDDERDALE WALK

On Sunday 10th May a team of Forest School staff took part in the annual Nidderdale Walk to raise funds for the Spring Forest Youth Club. The team completed a 10 mile walk, and so far we have raised £309.00.

One of our students, Katie from year 11, took part in the walk with Bella the dog and completed the "Assisted Walk" in record time and raising an additional £40 in sponsorship for Spring Forest Youth Club.

Well done to all who took part - but particularly to Katie for her great achievement!



Katie and Bella take a quick rest.



Katie, Bella and Forest School staff who took part in the Nidderdale Walk.

CLOTHING

Please ensure all your child's clothing is clearly marked with his or her name. This is particularly important as the warm weather approaches: children tend to take off their sweatshirts during the school day and it is difficult to tell one child's clothing from

another. Please help us to identify which item belongs to whom. Thank you.

PARENTPAY

Please remember to check your balances regularly and keep up to date with payments for lunches, trips etc. Some parents have paid for swimming lessons, but some money is still outstanding. The cost of lessons to this half term (21 May) is £15.00 please.

AVIVA COMMUNITY FUND

The Forest School has two projects for consideration with the Aviva Community Fund. The first project is for £5000 to put towards our Spring Forest Youth Club and the second project is £10,000 towards the purchase of a new minibus. Please register and vote on-line - you are allocated 10 votes and can share between the projects, or cast all 10 votes for just one project. The URL addresses are:

1.(YOUTH CLUB) <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/Project/View/1122>

2.(MINIBUS) <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/775/>

Voting closes at the end of May so please vote soon. Thank you.

GIVE AS YOU LIVE

You can help our school at no cost! Please remember to do your online shopping via Give as you Live. For anyone who has not registered please consider joining up (it's really easy to do) and nominating The Forest School as your chosen charity. Then each time you shop online with most major retailers a donation is made to our school. Retailers such as Amazon, Next, Boots, Marks and Spencer, B&Q and many more take part in this scheme, so the more you spend the more we receive.

www.giveasyoulive.com

BAG2SCHOOL

Once again we are collecting clean unwanted clothing, paired shoes, handbags, ties, belts, hats, soft toys and jewellery. This year the Bag2School charity ARE NOT accepting

bedding, household linen, curtains, towels - please see the bags for more information. Bags will be sent home before the half term holiday. Please return your bag by Wednesday 10 June at the very latest. This fundraising campaign was a great success last year when we raised over £400 from your unwanted items. We have a few spare bags in school, but any clean bin-bags can be used if you fill your Bag2School bag. Thank you in advance!

PACT MEETING AT THE FOREST SCHOOL



The recent PACT parents evening at Forest School saw over twenty parents get together, a big thank you to all who attended, it's not easy carving out extra time! Parents concerns centred around, 'What is available when the children leave Forest School at 16 years?', 'How to get Direct Payments or support for children outside of school?', and 'How to develop a really good and useful EHC Plan?' Serious concerns were raised re the provision of post 16 leavers, parents were correctly concerned around a few children and their family's difficulties in sorting out appropriate next steps. This current situation was clearly voiced to North Yorkshire County Council at last week's PACT meeting and we will continue to consult with the relevant parties to press the case for improving options.

In order to address the other issues raised PACT will be hosting some information evenings at the Forest School.

The first evening set for Tuesday June 16th will be all about the EHC Plan. This evening will provide two speakers who will help you have a clearer understanding of the following:

How to write a robust EHC Plan that will ensure delivery of the support and help your child needs now and in the future.

How to access help in writing this document and have an independent supporter attend your EHC meetings.

This document becomes especially important as children approach 16 years and transition.

Following on from this we will then arrange an evening to inform/discuss Direct Payments.

We have two further events coming up that may interest you. Firstly our AGM which is entitled 'Caring for Carers' day, this will be held in Scarborough, Wednesday 24th June, with plenty of workshops and a free crèche plus lunch provided. Please see attached flyer. Secondly our family fun day, Sunday 12th July, 11 am until 3pm. This is being held at Mowbray school and Children's Farm, Bedale. There will be a Farm trail and quiz, Bouncy Castle, groom the ponies, collect the egg, Games, Tombola, see the animals, Yorkshire Dales ice-cream, plus a cake stall. It's bring your own food to put on the BBQ or a picnic, soft drinks and snacks are available. We do hope you and your family can join us for these events.

Many thanks,
Jennifer Eves

PARENTVIEW

As parents or carers, you have the opportunity to say how you feel about our school. Parent View is a web-site run by Ofsted just for parents/carers. It is really easy to use and once you are on the site you can answer 12 questions about our school. Your answers are put with those from our other parents/carers and this gives anyone who looks at the site a parental overview of our school.

It really is very easy and is a great way for you to have your say and also influence other parents who are thinking of sending their child to our school.

It only takes 5 minutes so please take the time to complete the questionnaire. There is a link from our website, or you can complete it directly at:

<http://mobile.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/user/login>

LONDON TRIP

Earlier this term seven pupils from year 11 set off in the minibus for a residential trip to London. Following a long journey on the motorway followed by a drive through the City we eventually arrived at Thameside Youth hostel in Rotherhithe. Our group were eager to see the sights of London and to investigate the neighbouring area. Following a brief walk around Surrey Quays we were ready for our evening meal. We were not disappointed as the food lived up to its usual high YHA standards. In the evening we went bowling at Hollywood Bowl. Rebecca Berry showed us her great bowling technique and put her all teachers to shame!

The next morning we were up and ready to leave for a boat trip along the River Thames on the Thames Clipper. The weather was great and we sailed as far as the London Eye before returning to the Maritime Museum. The Museum has a superb 'hands on' exhibition which we all enjoyed. Pupils learnt how to communicate in Morse code, fire a cannon as well as loading cargo onto a ship with a crane to name but a few things. Following a walk to the Greenwich observatory we took in the wonderful panoramic view of the city of London before making our way to the Tower of London. In the Jewel House some of us had a special tour of the Crown Jewels by a guide who used to work in a school a bit like The Forest School.

In the evening we went to Frankie and Benny's to celebrate Therese's Birthday. Despite a very long wait, the food was great, almost as good as the company.

On Wednesday we took a 'flight' on the London Eye. We were so lucky to have such a sunny day with clear skies. Everyone enjoyed the breath-taking views across London and we all returned back to earth safely. After our lunch we started our long walk through London, taking in Whitehall, Horse Guards Parade, St James's Park and Covent Garden. Our destination was The Cambridge theatre to see Matilda the Musical. Our seats were on the first two rows. It felt as if we were on stage with the actors. Matilda was a fantastic ending to our visit to London, a residential trip

that will be remembered for many years to come.



STAYING ALIVE - SCIENCE WEEK 2015

For many of us "Staying Alive" brings back memories of the Bee Gees, John Travolta and "Saturday Night Fever".

If you hear our secondary pupils singing it, however, it is more likely that they are remembering how to perform chest compressions on someone who isn't breathing. Why? As part of science week this year, pupils

were taught about what keeps us alive, and how to deal with a cardiovascular emergency. They were shown how to check for safety, see if someone is responding and breathing, phone for an ambulance and start chest compressions. It just happens that the beat of "staying alive" is the same as the rate of chest compressions that should be carried out. (check Vinny Jones on Youtube if you want to



find out more). We were very lucky to be joined by Chrissy Blakeley from the Yorkshire

Ambulance Service, who checked that everyone was doing it right, and brought the education ambulance for the pupils to have a look around. They even got to set off the siren (apologies to neighbours and colleagues and pupils around school).

The pupils also got to use training dummies, AEDs, oxygen cylinders and masks and choking kits loaned to us by the Knaresborough Community First Responders. This is a voluntary group of members of the public trained to use an AED and oxygen therapy in the local community whilst an ambulance is on its way.

So if you ever need to do chest compressions, just remember "Ah, ah, ah, ah, staying alive, staying alive, ah, ah, ah, ah, staying alive, staying alive....."



SPORTS DAY

Weather permitting, Sports Day will be held on the afternoon of 6 July. More details to follow nearer the time.

BIENVENUE, WILKOMMEN, BENVENUTI AND BIENVENIDOS

Forest pupils and staff were made to feel very welcome at Harrogate Grammar School recently. In an event organised by Christine Howson, a Spanish and French teacher at the school, some of our Key Stage 3 pupils were given exciting taster sessions in French, German, Italian and Spanish. These were largely delivered by the language assistants at the school.

The event was also attended by many of the primary schools in the Harrogate area. Each school had prepared a little entertainment on the subject of healthy living. These were performed, in different languages, at the start of the event. Forest pupils had been filmed signing to one of their favourite songs, and this was our contribution. It was fun to see the other pupils and staff joining in with the Makaton signing, as well as the singing. The pupils then joined a carousel of activities that saw them learning about fruit in German, using computers in Spanish and parts of the body in Italian and French.

So if you find any of your children asking for une pomme for a snack - you may know why!

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, explaining things over the phone or a discussion with a colleague of the same gender.



NYPACT Family Fun Day

**Sunday 12th July 2015
11am-3pm**

Mowbray School, Masham Road, Bedale, DL8 2SD

Bring the family and join in the fun at Mowbray School and Children & Young People's Farm

- **Farm Trail & Quiz**
- **See the pigs, goats, ponies, donkeys, rabbits, chickens and guinea pigs**
- **Groom the ponies & donkeys**
- **Collect the eggs**
- **Tombola, cake stall, raffle**
- **Games & play area**
- **Bouncy castle**
- **Yorkshire Dales Ice Cream**
- **BBQ (bring your own food to pop on the barbie!)**
- **Bring a picnic**
- **Drinks & snacks available**

We look forward to seeing you!

North Yorkshire PACT
BBP House, Barker Business Park
Keld Close, Melmerby, RIPON
Tel: 01765 640552

e: northyorkshirepact@gmail.com λ www.nypact.co.uk



Caring for Carers

North Yorkshire PACT AGM & Annual Conference 2015 BOOK NOW!

Information on services for children & young people with SEN & disabilities

Free conference for parents and carers

**Wednesday 24th June 2015
The Street, Scarborough
10am - 3.10pm**

(Registration from 9am, childcare available and lunch provided)

The conference will be made up of a mixture of speakers, workshops and information stalls covering a wide range of topics.

Further details of all speakers and workshop sessions will be made available over the coming weeks

Crèche Facilities: Kids at Heart mobile crèche will provide childcare facilities at this event. If you require a crèche place please let us know; the name and age of your child and if they have any specific needs.

How to book:

Email: northyorkshirepact@gmail.com with your name, address, contact telephone number, email and whether you have any access or dietary requirements.

Post: the attached booking form to Pauline Wardman at the address below.

Online: Eventbrite XXXXXXXX

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Wednesday 24th June 2015

Caring for Carers

NYPACT Conference Booking Form

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:

Do you have any:

Access requirements?

Dietary requirements?

Childcare requirements?

Please state number of children/ages/specific needs

**North Yorkshire PACT
AGM and Conference
24th June 2015**

DRAFT AGENDA

- 09.00 Registration (Exhibition & refreshments)**
- 10.00 Welcome & Introductions**
- 10.10 Annual General Meeting**
1. Annual Report – Kerry Fox, Helen Seth Co-Chairs
2. Finance Report – Charlie Craddock, Treasurer
3. Election of NYPACT Management Committee
- 10.40 Guest Speaker (to be confirmed)**
- 11.10 BREAK (Exhibition and refreshments)**
- 11.30 Workshop 1**
- 12.30 LUNCH (Exhibition and refreshments)**
- 13.30 Pete Dwyer, Head of Children’s Services, NYCC**
- 14.00 Workshop 2**
- 15.00 Closing remarks**
- 15.10 CLOSE**