

BFS News



21st Edition

October 2017

For more information about Bright Futures School please visit www.brightfutureschool.co.uk

Dixon Obituary

We are saddened to inform you that Dixon Milburn, husband of Zoe and proprietor at Bright Futures School, died on Thursday 31st August, 2017. Dixon was highly instrumental in preparing, planning, implementing and giving on-going input into Bright Futures School, as a co-founder with Zoe. Dixon, although often in the background, was also a silent driving force within the efforts to get RDI recognised as an educational intervention within the UK. He always had words of wisdom and knowledge to impart and gave great support to Zoe in all her endeavours.

Those that knew Dixon state he was a 'very nice man'. Bright Futures School staff capture Dixon's essence 'he will be remembered for his dry sense of humour, his patience, calmness and kindness, a genuinely lovely man that was never flustered, always had a quirky tale to tell and offered brilliant support'.

Those whose lives were touched by Dixon will truly miss him. Dixon's legacy lives on within the work that continues to help children and young people with autism at Bright Futures School, within Zoe's ongoing mission to raise the RDI profile within in the UK and through his sons Philip and Louis.

Introduction to Sahil, our newest pupil at BFS

My name is Sahil Amin, I am 11 years old and I like cricket and football. I have two sisters and I live with my mum and dad. In school I like maths and English. My favourite football team is Manchester United.



And my favourite cricket team is Pakistan. I have a dog called Michael Jackson who lives with my uncle.

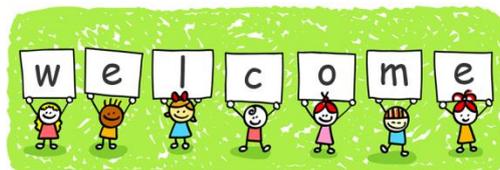
School will close for the Half Term Break at 3pm on **Friday 27th October 2017** and will re-open to pupils on **Tuesday 7th November 2017**.

Happy Holidays Everyone!

For details of our 2017-2018 School holidays, please see the school website:

www.brightfutureschool.co.uk/school-information/school-holidays/

Welcome to our New Staff



We've had three new full-time members of staff start at school as well as two new Apprentices! They've all settled into their new roles really well. Here's a bit more about them.



Sheree Horn - (BA Hons in Theology and Religious Studies combined with Education Studies, QTS in Secondary Education) - qualified as a teacher in 2007 and has taught RE/PSHE and Child development at a local secondary school ever since. She's also the Vice Chair of FACET (families and children with ASD engaging together) - a local youth group for children with autism and associated disorders. Sheree is now using her teaching experience as a Learning Mentor within the Bright Futures team.

Alex Wood (PGCE) spent 14 years teaching painting and decorating at Oldham College at pre-entry level. Prior to that, he worked for Oldham Council. Most recently, Alex has been working as a Personal Assistant for a local gentleman with autism and he's now using all his experience as a Learning Mentor within the Bright Futures team.

Sally Gradwell - (BTEC Extended Diploma in Art and Design, BA Hons in Education) started at BFS as a volunteer through University, but having graduating this year, has now joined the team as Learning Mentor. Sally has volunteered at a wide variety of SEN schools throughout Oldham specialising in autism and she's also worked as a personal assistant to adults with disabilities.

Molly Walker and Samantha Hadfield are both undergoing an Apprenticeship here at BFS, working in a supporting capacity with the Learning Mentors. A very warm welcome to you all!

Pets as Therapy

We have recently been fortunate to have Betsy the therapy dog, accompanied by her owner, Louise, visiting school on a regular voluntary basis to give cuddles to some of our pupils! As you can see from this picture, Lucy is enjoying the attention from Betsy.



Pupils' have thoroughly appreciated Betsy's calm nature which has had a settling influence on them in sessions. She is welcome back at any time!



For more information about Bright Futures School please visit www.brightfutureschool.co.uk

Nature Ed

For the last seven weeks, students have successfully been taking part in Nature Ed at Hollingworth Lake. It has been a great experience with lots of fun-filled activities including pond-dipping, den making and hedgehog homes. The students also took part in an exciting recycling challenge – a helpful exercise for both in and out of school! Pupils have really enjoyed getting muddy, becoming one with nature and learning lots of new outdoor skills with the help of Jude, the Nature Ed group leader. Here's pupils' Lucy and Sahil having fun!



Thank You to Alpkit

A big 'Thank you' goes out to Alpkit for our recent grant of £250. We will be using the money awarded for horse riding sessions next term. Our pupils are thrilled to be able to return to Dickey Steps Riding School and continue to progress with their riding skills.



Thank You very much to Kate next door!

A great big 'Thank you' goes out to our lovely neighbour, Kate, who has very kindly offered two parking spaces on her drive, to help ease the parking congestion on the main road outside school.



Memory Walk in aid of Alzheimer Society



Well done to our Learning Mentor, Ros, who successfully completed a very muddy 8K walk at Heaton Park to raise money for charity. A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored her (and her two dogs Bobby and Herdy)! They raised a whopping £207 for a fantastic cause.

Save the Date!



It might only still be October, but we are already thinking about Christmas! And we are hosting another one of our spectacular Open Days, to showcase our school and all the wonderful work our pupils have been up to. This year, our Christmas Open Day will be on Friday 15th December 2017 from 12.30pm. Visitors will be welcomed by the children, shown around, offered a glass of mulled wine, Christmas cakes, mince pies and much much more. We will also be holding a raffle on the day! The new Mayor of Oldham will be with us and we look forward to seeing you all there too!

Please help!

Unwanted jewellery and accessories are needed for our BFS Christmas Open Day! Ros will be collecting items for selling on the day to raise funds for the cold room conversion. Many thanks! Your support is always very much appreciated.

Halloween Fun

Pupils have really been getting into the Halloween spirit over the last few weeks!

Here's a spooky cake made by Marley:



Here's Sahil, happy with his pumpkin:



And Jayden, very happy with his pumpkin:



Happy Halloween everyone!

The Royal George Bonfire

You are all invited to the Family Bonfire Night at The Royal George in Greenfield from 6pm on Saturday 4th November 2017. Hope to see you there!



Happy Holidays Everyone!