

BFS News



4th Edition

October 2014

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

Focus on Guiding

Last time, we told you how staff had been looking out for when colleagues used imperative language with one another. Imperative language places demands on people to respond in a certain way.



If a member of staff spotted a colleague using imperative language, the other colleague was given 'Bob' – a token on a lanyard around the neck. The only way to get rid of 'Bob' was to spot another colleague who was using imperatives and then change the imperative to a declarative.

People with autism tend to respond more readily to declarative language, which is more invitational and does not place pressure on the person to respond. An example of imperative language is: "What's that book you're reading?" An alternative declarative way to say it would be: "That book looks interesting..." We have adapted our game so that now we are looking out for those colleagues using imperative language with our students.

School closes for October half term on **Friday 24th October** and reopens on **Tuesday 4th November.**

Staff News

Back in September, we welcomed our newest member of staff, Gemma Walkden to the Bright Futures team. Gemma was previously part of the Autism Out-reach group in Warrington, and her experience in computing will be of enormous benefit to pupils and staff at school, not to mention her previous involvement, enthusiasm and passion for working with and helping pupils with autism. Gemma recently got married to Dave and we wish her well in her future married life!

Join Friends of Bright Futures!

We are looking for enthusiastic people to engage in activities and help raise funds to provide facilities or equipment to support the school and advance the education of our pupils at Bright Futures School.

Please contact us if you are interested. And please follow us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Bright-Futures-School/352066844973672>

School Spa Day

At the end of the summer holidays, staff were treated by school to a day at a spa. We had a lovely lunch and were steamed and pampered - a great way to spend some non-school time together and to give us a good start to the new academic year!

Ernst and Young (EY)

Regular followers will remember that EY had already helped us out by sending a task force to help with the school garden earlier this year, as well as collecting old mobile phones for us to exchange for iPads. Now, our EY friends have raised £190 from their 'Dress Down Day' at work! We will be using this money on the refit of our sensory room at school. Thank you very much indeed!

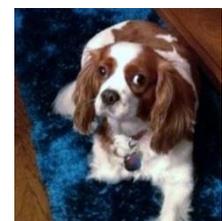


Pictured here is Neil Rogers of EY Manchester handing over a cheque to Alison Hughes, Head of Learning.

Below is the first item written by one of our pupils. Well done, Ben!

Holly the dog

Hollie is a King Charles Spaniel that now comes into Bright Futures School on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Hollie will most likely back off if she does not know you. But after some weeks of her getting used to you before you know it she will let you approach her and stroke her! Remember, everyone is responsible for Hollie.





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MP Visit

On Friday 17th October, we welcomed Debbie Abrahams (MP) to our school and we were able to show her just how and why Bright Futures takes a different approach to autism education.



More Garden News!

We are very lucky to have two dedicated parents, John and Helen Savage, helping out with the garden at school. They're cutting back trees at the side of the house and clearing the ground so we can eventually turn this into a growing space. John works for Sainsbury's and the hours he works in the garden are matched under Sainsbury's charity match scheme up to the value of £200. Great stuff!



Scafell Climb

Two of our intrepid members of staff, Gemma and Sarah decided to raise funds to equip our sensory room by climbing the second-highest mountain in England! Thank goodness the weather was still good that weekend!



They raised a brilliant total of £341.37!

Garden News

Visitors to the school will see that a great deal of work is being done in our garden to make it more accessible for our pupils to play and work in. Parents, friends and pupils have been thinning out shrubs, cutting back trees, weeding and making borders to improve the space so we can grow and plant more bulbs and plants. Our tubs and hanging baskets (below) were a great success this year!



Old Phones for iPads



We are still collecting mobile phones for our next iPad so don't hesitate to donate if you have any lying around! Special thanks for First Buses and all those who are continuing to donate. Remember, we need 165 old phones to get one iPad, so every single phone donated really is important!



We are also having some building work done as a surprise for the pupils! More on this next time...

Please let school have any Morrisons 'Let it grow' vouchers as these will be used to purchase items for the garden in due course!

Christmas Fayre!

Our pupils are very busy making lots of Christmas goodies to sell at the Craft Fayre which takes place at the Civic Hall in Uppermill on Sunday 7th December from 10am to 4pm. They are making gifts including tree decorations, jams, chutneys and of course Christmas cards. After the success of the cards previously sold in the Woollyknit Café in Diggle, we are hoping for some great sales! All proceeds will go to school.



Attendance

Our new school term got off to a flying start with all seven pupils gaining 100% attendance for the first week back in September! All pupils take great pride in their attendance with many winning 100% attendance certificates. We are all very proud of their achievements! Keep up the good work.