

BFS News



9th Edition

October 2015

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

New term, new pupils

The new term saw two new and lively pupils join BFS. We welcomed Harry, age eleven and Lucy, age five, and both have settled in quickly to their full time timetables and seem to be enjoying life at Bright Futures! We now have eight pupils on roll as Ibrahim left in the summer to follow a post 16 course at Hopwood Hall College. In addition, we also have three new members of staff on our team – Alex Ludlam, Joanna Blyden and Karen Hutchinson. See their accounts below of what it's like to be a new member of staff at BFS!

New Bright Futures staff

Hello, from Alex! I am so pleased to be a member of the Bright Futures team. I started at Bright Futures in September and I have loved getting to know all of the pupils. I qualified as a teacher in 2003 from Ambleside University and I have been teaching ever since in the Rochdale Authority. I have worked in many different year groups within primary schools and have encountered children with varying needs all of which added to my experience.



School closes for the Autumn
Half Term break on
Friday 23rd October 2015
and reopens to pupils on
Tuesday 3rd November 2015.

Hi, I'm Joanna and started at BFS in September as a learning mentor for Lucy. Having worked with children for over ten years and having studied and qualified in Playwork, I always knew this was what I wanted to do. And since working with children with disabilities, I became specifically interested in Autism. I always knew I wanted to work on a 1:1 basis and at BFS 1:1 really does mean 1:1 and I believe Lucy benefits from her own classroom and member of staff. Learning more about the school, I became interested in the Relationship Development Intervention (RDI), a BFS specialism, and this, I believe, gives our pupils a better chance.

Due to Autism, Lucy, like other children on the spectrum, faces her own anxieties and challenges on a daily basis. Our aim is to help Lucy see through an activity and give her a sense of achievement - "I did it". My lessons are set up so Lucy is faced with a challenge but with the RDI and correct communication, I help Lucy succeed and overcome her anxieties. Lucy only started attending BFS school seven weeks ago and has settled really well. With Lucy only being five, she responds positively to play and she's already responding well. Lucy and I are now aiming for her 'first milestones' to connect socially. As Lucy gets older she will overcome more and more challenges which will encourage her to be more independent and develop emotionally and socially.

Fundraising Family

Thank you so much to our super family of fundraisers who have raised a whopping £246.50 by taking part in the Manchester Family Fun Run! Pictured below are (back, L-R) Stacey, Alison (front L-R) Grace, Olivier and Ellis. Massive thanks to our runners!



Ready To Learn



It's been a busy term with new staff and pupils and changes to the timetable, including our new 'ready to learn' sessions where pupils start the day with a relaxing activity away from screen or books! And Half term is here already!





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Focus on Guiding

We have introduced a new way of spotlighting good guiding at staff meetings, by introducing 'Star of the Week'. So far, this has been awarded to Alison for pausing, pacing and non-verbal communication; to Jo for guiding work with one of our newest and youngest pupils, Lucy, and to Karen H for perseverance with clipping and uploading film footage.



We've also introduced a new way of working with one of our pupils where all guides work on the same objective concurrently with one pupil. The current objective is co-regulatory repair and spotlighting to enable an episodic memory, which is a special, autobiographical memory - when key feelings of competence are encoded by the pupil. This helps the pupil to develop resilience, which is key for him at the moment.

Bye Bye Flora



Sadly, one of our rabbits, Flora, died unexpectedly in the summer holidays. We were concerned that her best friend, Custard, would be lonely on his own in the large hutch at school, so he's been adopted by Val, mum to two of our pupils at BFS, and is now living a life of luxury!

Christmas Craft Fair

Work has started on this year's Christmas Craft Fair in Uppermill. On Sunday 6th December, we will be selling lots of lovely gifts, hand crafted by pupils at Bright Futures School. These lovely tote bags...



have been made by pupil, Ben Savage, after the great success we had in selling the felt card designs, this added the best-selling design to bags. They look great and there are lots of lovely Christmas gifts to follow too! So watch this space...

Happy Halloween!

This Halloween, instead of throwing out the flesh of your pumpkin after carving it into a face, why not try making tasty food with it? One of our pupils, Philip, found some great recipes including a super soup and a ravishing risotto! We made these in school and they were a great success. One decent sized pumpkin can make plenty of both these dishes so they are economical too. Squashes are a great Autumn food.



Down on the Farm

This half term, we have seen our willow forest experiment burst into life. We stuck twigs of willow into the ground and they have taken root and are growing rapidly! Now that the colder weather is on its way, we have seen two geese relocate from the pond and make their home in a shed near the chickens. Angela Beaumont and Patrice (as they've been named) seem to be settling into their new home very well indeed!



Shoebboxes Operation Christmas Child

Each year, we fill shoebboxes with gifts to send to Operation Christmas Child - the world's largest children's Christmas project, run by the Samaritan's Purse. The boxes are packed to suit different ages of boys or girls - two to four years, five to nine and ten to fourteen. If you would like to help fill some of the shoebboxes, these are some items we are able to include: dolls, toy trucks, stuffed animals (with CE label), harmonicas, yo-yos, skipping ropes, balls, dominoes and other small games. Also, pens, pencils, sharpeners, crayons, felt tips, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, colouring and picture books. We can also include items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste, bars of wrapped soaps, combs or hairbrushes, flannels. Hats, caps, gloves or scarves, sunglasses, hair accessories, jewellery sets, wind up torches, wrapped sweets (sell by date must be at least March 2016). You can also enclose a note to the child and a photo of you and your family. If you'd like more information about Operation Christmas Child, please go to www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk