

# Specialist Teaching and Support Services (STaSS)

## Education and Learning

### Children's Services

## Newsletter — December 2023

STaSS *"Our vision is to provide high quality support for all Bradford children and young people using a collaborative approach through transformational learning experiences so that they can flourish, make excellent holistic progress and successfully transition to responsible citizens".*



Social



Communication



Interaction



Learning

The Social, Communication, Interaction and Learning (SCIL) Team's SEND Specialist Support offer has continued (seamlessly) into this academic year. Specialist Teachers, Practitioners and Access and Inclusion Officers are providing support to 192 (97%) schools and 103 Private, Voluntary and Independent Settings.

This involves working alongside key staff to develop skills, knowledge and confidence through support, modelling, and training to improve educational provision for children and young people with SEND. Whilst also triaging any requests for individual specialist advice.

#### Early Years

SEND Specialist Support continues to develop best practice in developing access and inclusion for our youngest children. One nursery SENCO has received specific complimentary feedback on their evidence of the graduated approach linked to strengths, emerging skills and barriers to learning from both CDC and JACC. This same nursery' staff team show a deep understanding of their children's sensory needs through their development of a sensory room with specific resources linked to identified sensory need using funding from EYIF and DAF. A childcare on domestic premises setting with a proportionately high number of SEND children have worked with their link officer on best ways to manage this leading to the appointment of two assistant SENCOs and development of a dedicated alternative provision within the building.

The University of Bradford came first and won the National NASAN Award!!! *A national award celebrating its outstanding work in supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and learning differences to reach their full potential.'* This setting has really valued the support provided by their link Access and Inclusion Officer.

#### Communication and Interaction

As part of the enhanced SEND Specialist Support offer to schools, we have a range of resources we can bring into our link schools to model evidence informed interventions and strategies to support staff to develop SEN provision.

One of our most popular resources is the Individual Workstation box! Recently we have modelled many times how to teach and support pupils to complete learning activities independently following a structured, visual approach.



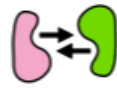
## SCIL Team Updates



Social



Communication



Interaction



Learning

### SEMH

The team recently welcomed two new teachers - Sula and Rachel who have settled in well .

The team have delivered part one of the SEMH Fundamentals to 15 school staff which received positive feedback about knowledge gained!

The team have developed links with parents through joint training with SENDIASS. All of the parents that attend had not heard about our service and said that it was useful to find out about the way in which we work in schools.

Three members of the team have completed a year of an SEMH diploma and have brought knowledge gained to the team. This has had an impact on the work delivered to schools and brought fresh ideas!

### Learning Support

We were so proud to launch our training “Practical Strategies for children with Cognition & Learning needs – For Support Staff” this term. We received some fantastic feedback:

*“Lovely calm and welcoming environment. Very helpful course. Really enjoyed day 1 and can’t wait for day 2. Really helpful and useful course. I got so much out of it and some fantastic ideas. Thank you so much to 2 very friendly tutors!!!”*

Schools have already been sending us photos of resources they have created following the training, well done Debbie and Julie!



Our specialist teachers are working hard to embed a range of intervention approaches and are busy modelling sessions and coaching staff in schools. We are seeing the benefits of this and have observed staff in school delivering some fantastic Alphabet Arc and Precision Teaching session

## Medical Needs Hospital Education Service Newsletter

Primary Y7 Y8 are already preparing for Christmas. Our enthusiastic team members have brought in lots of bright, sparkly and noisy decorations and our less enthusiastic team members have noise cancelling headphones close at hand! Joking aside, it's lovely to be able to share in the excitement of the build up to Christmas with our young people who are missing out on the experience in school. We are all looking forward to the pantomime trip on Wednesday 13 December (oh yes we are!) and social group have been planning all things Christmassy.

It doesn't seem two minutes since Halloween and some of our pupils enjoyed carving pumpkins, having linked the activity to instruction reading and writing. We have also been embedding zones of regulation (feelings thermometers) into our practice and supporting young people to recognise their emotions and develop their own strategies to communicate how they feel and how to deal with them. Social club has been covering a wide range of activities, including having a go at Origami, making samosas and enjoying a bowling trip. A fabulous term for everyone!



There has been lots of activity in Key Stage 3/4 during the Autumn Term 2023. Year 9 students have been continuing their English and math Key Stage 3 curriculum. Year 10 students have been involved in GCSE studies in preparation for examinations in June 2025

In addition to intense work studying English and maths students have been building up their social, emotional and mental health skills and resilience through a variety of activities including discussion sessions, interactive games and exercise sessions. With a focus this half term on positive interactions including turn taking and consideration of others.

Pupils were also involved in number of weeklong activities focussing on safe relationships as part of the PSHCE program. Activities involved staying safe online and also maintaining respect in a relationship



Pupils have also been gearing up for this term's event – Pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk". "Oh yes they have....."

Lesley & Charlotte led a trip to the Deep in Hull—catching the train, finding our way across town and enthralled by Sharks, Penguins and most definitely the JELLYFISH! (MNHES on tour!)

## ***Music Area in the School Room at Bradford Royal Infirmary.***

The Hospital Team at BRI is creating a music area in the school room which will include instruments to engage all learns. The music instruments will be 36 bar chimes, Xylophone, pipe chime bars, kids gathering drum, cabasa, electrical keyboard, guitar, egg shakers, tambourine and cage bells. The inspiration for this project is taken from Jessie's fund music helping children programme.

**Special thanks to Jan Vekaria for securing the funding and ordering the equipment.**



## **Working on the Wards Hosted by Children's Hospital School in Leicester Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

The school staff at the children's hospital at Bradford Royal Infirmary had the opportunity to attend the event to help improve networking and teaching ideas.

They attended workshops including:

Messy Senses – Sensory specialists for children young people and adults. Some ideas of messy play included studying life cycle of a frog and what's in the box? Activity.

Science by the bedside, a circle of experiments.

# Drop Down Day – The World Around Us

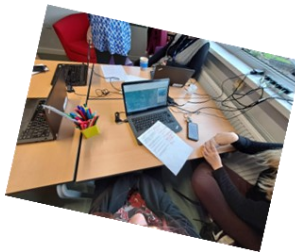
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## What a Wonderful World we live in!

We celebrate the diversity of our World

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October saw MNHES come off timetable to present the first Drop Down Day of the new school year. The title – The World Around Us! This topic encapsulates every aspect of the curriculum and is at the heart of SMSC and British Values. Respecting each other.

It was lovely to see students from different teams getting together in the grouped activities and having fun as they learned. They were making new friends along the way and we hope, gaining more confidence in themselves



## Activities of the day

*The students were taken on a  
journey around the World.*

*World Cuisine with Mal & Asia*

*The Great Google Map Off with Ruth & Sarah*

*Focal on the Local with Lesley & Michelle*

*Earth Art with Emma & Rick*

**Afternoon Sessions:**

*Aboriginal Art with Claire and Sarfraz*

*Awesome Origami with Andy & Stephanie*

*Flagmania with Rebecca & Sandra*

*Global Heroes with Gabby & Rob*

*Global Heroes with Gabby & Rob*

“It’s been very fun, many experiences. Plantain is ‘very’ unique!” – Amy.

“It’s been a good opportunity to meet other people.” – Olivia.

“I taught Ruth that Land of Fires is Tierra del Fuego” - Jonas

## Children's Sensory and Physical Needs Team

### STASS Newsletter Autumn 2023

#### Fire Assembly

The VI Pupils took part in a fire safety assembly. It was very informative and the police officer and fire officer who delivered it were fantastic at getting the message across and answered the pupil's questions brilliantly.

After the assembly, the pupils were treated to a touch tour of the fire engine and some of the equipment that was on board. One pupil stated, *"I learnt a lot and loved exploring the fire engine and its equipment"*.



#### Maths Abacus

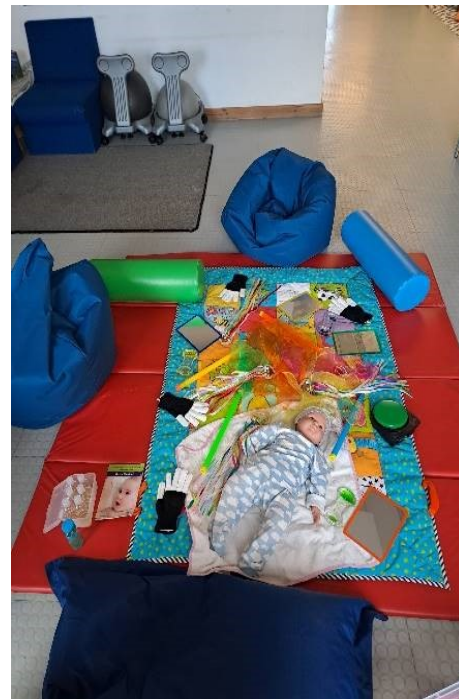
In the past term, the abacus has been reintroduced by Mr Summer to our VI pupils. The abacus is a great hands-on resource that allows our pupils to engage better with mathematical sums. The use of concrete equipment supports our pupil's learning and understanding of maths concepts. When asked about the abacus one pupil said, *"I love using it and it makes hard sums easy to work out, even the ones with big numbers"*.



## Physical Needs Team and Portage Launch new Early Years Group, 'Hand in Hand'

Hand in Hand is a new group that came about from joint working between Portage and the Physical Needs Team who identified a group of early years children who struggle to access the main Portage groups, needing something more bespoke for their physical needs.

The group runs weekly from S.N.O.P. in Eccleshill and offers a combination of movement activities, massage and songs with time also spent in the large sensory room, facilitated by Deborah Craig and Lucy Collins. It gives children a chance to develop their physical skills with their parent within a supportive group environment of children with similar needs and so far, the feedback has been very positive! Attendance at the group is by invitation only either through Portage or the Physical Needs Team.





## SENSE Group

Sense Group at Midland road.

Every Thursday morning at Midland road Nursery, Joanne, from the Vision and Physical Needs Team, and Lisa from Portage join with Sue and Alex from SENSE to run a multi-sensory group. We follow the same routine of songs and activities encouraging the children to use their hearing, vision, touch and helping them to be aware of their bodies with interesting things to feel, smell and even a little massage. They have their own bag of resources to use with the same songs. We then go to the sensory room to enjoy the lights and if they are still awake, we do a parachute song to finish the session. We have 2 regular attenders and some more that pop in if they are well or not busy with appointments.

This is one of our attendees enjoying a red light whilst we sing “who is in the light today”.



### Climbing Hub November 2023

The **VIP Moving On Group** is for children in years 5 and 6 with a vision impairment. The VIP's meet each term to complete activities that focus on developing *Resilience, Communication, Organisation* and *Problem Solving* in readiness for secondary school. As well as these key skills, the sessions also provide an opportunity for pupils to meet amongst a VI Peer group. Our first event of this year was at Bradford's Climbing Hub and involved 11 pupils from 7 primary schools.

The children's first challenge was to organise their personal belongings and then squeeze into some special climbing shoes which felt very odd on their feet! After that, they had to get into harnesses and had a go at the scrambling wall to warm-up their climbing skills.



The morning session finished with the children scaling various climbing walls of differing complexities. They had plenty of time to have a go and challenge themselves to go higher each time, which encouraged some healthy competition amongst the group! Some of the children amazed themselves and their support staff with how far up they could go. Determination and perseverance were key phrases used throughout the morning. Everyone managed to do better than they first expected and it was especially inspiring to see Anaya reach the top of the wall despite her initial fears and trepidation!



After lunch, the children were tasked with a team-building and problem solving exercise. They had to work in small groups to build a structure out of only Marshmallows and Spaghetti!! It was fantastic to watch as the groups created some rather 'interesting' builds. However, most of the Marshmallows were consumed by the time of judging!!



Feedback:

Olivia's Mum: "I just wanted to say that Olivia really enjoyed the climbing event!...loved working with the other two girls... thank you"

### Grove House Primary

Ofsted inspectors visited Grove House Primary, part of Pennine Academies Yorkshire multi-academy trust, in October. It received a 'good' rating for overall effectiveness, the quality of education, behaviours and attitudes, personal development, and leadership and management. In one category - early years provision - inspectors found the school to be 'outstanding'.

At Grove House, special needs provision was also found to be a strength of the school. Grove House has a resourced base provision for children with Severe Vision Impairment. Children come to school by taxi so that they can attend from across Bradford even if siblings are attending another school. Children have the opportunity to build friendships with both sighted and non-sighted peers. Large Print, tactile and braille resources are provided by support staff and the curriculum is bespoke with Independent Living Skills and Social skills taught weekly. The Amber Trust also visits weekly with children having the opportunity to learn to play the piano.

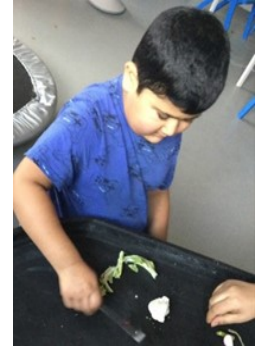


Resourced Provisions Team

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Miriam Lord RP

This half term, the children at Miriam Lord RP have been learning how to buy and prepare groceries. The children walked to the local grocery shop, chose, bought and prepared vegetables, then made vegetable soup. It was delicious!



It's been a very musical half term at Miriam Lord RP! We have really enjoyed 'Music Lisa's' weekly visits from the music service. She has taught us some great percussion skills, musical exploration and how to keep time when playing along to our favourite songs.



The children have shown off their natural talent for rhythm and have all engaged fantastically with the sessions. We definitely have some rising stars in our midst!

## Thornton LARP

The pupils supported BBC Children in Need



The pupils were invited to the annual Christmas tree event at St James Church, Thornton.



## **Bradford Academy**

Pupils at Bradford Academy have been taking part in Forest School sessions and have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to start and maintain a fire, cook over an open fire, make hot drinks and take part in eating s'mores and waffles. These sessions give pupils the opportunity to work as a team to build fires and cook as a group. This intervention is a nice time for pupils to sit together and chat with staff, building a wonderful, safe, and supportive environment for everyone.



We are now going into the mainstream school to take part in cooking lessons. Erik has taken groups of 6 pupils into school and have been making pizzas and meatball subs. The children have worked hard to listen to and follow instructions and made some fabulous and tasty food.



We have 5 pupils who go to BUMPY on a Wednesday afternoon to learn about how to take care of and fix motorbikes and then spend time riding them.



## **Appleton Resourced Provision**

Pupils at Appleton Academy Resourced Provision have been working hard in their horticulture sessions this half term. They have learnt about the jobs a gardener needs to complete during the Autumn to prepare for Spring. They have cleared the ground ready for planting, planted spring bulbs, decorated pots. They have planted garlic and onion sets and are looking forward to harvesting them in Spring. They are working towards AQA unit awards and will receive certificates for completing the courses.

