

A warm welcome to our Autumn Term Newsletter!

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Dyslexia Awareness Week Oct 3rd – 9th

Theme: Identification of Dyslexia

This year, the British Dyslexia Association has teamed up with Dyslexia Action, Dyslexia Scotland, Helen Arkell and Xtrodinary People for Dyslexia Awareness Week. The united theme is 'Identification of Dyslexia'. Each day will highlight a significant issue:

- **Monday** – Why is it important to identify dyslexia?
- **Tuesday** – How is dyslexia identified?
- **Wednesday** – How does dyslexia affect people differently?
- **Thursday** – What help is at hand for those with dyslexia? (With a particular focus on adults on this day).
- **Friday** – Why is the correct help important and how can we raise awareness together?

For more information: (including posters and resources) go to

<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/fundraising/dyslexia-awareness-week>

The Twitter hashtag for the week is **#dyslexia2016**

See our events section for our Dnplus event to mark Dyslexia Awareness week.

Dyslexia Network Plus is a local Not-for-Profit organisation,
run by parents to support families with dyslexic type difficulties
Information Line: 0845 22 60 240

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Dyslexia Awareness Week Competitions

Each year the British Dyslexia Association invites entries for their annual Dyslexia Awareness Week competition. This competition is only open to individuals with dyslexia. There are two categories this year:

- **Artists** (including photography and graphic design):
Age Categories: 5-11 years, 12-17 years, and 18+
- **Writers** (including fiction, non-fiction and poetry):
Age Categories: 5-11 years, 12-17 years, and 18+

The competition theme for 2016 is the same as the overall theme for the week: Identification of Dyslexia. They would like entrants to interpret the theme in their own way. This year they are restricting the size of entries (to A5) and all entries must be submitted on the template, which can be found on their website by [clicking here](#) or within the DAW Resource Packs. For further details on the competition and how to enter please click [here](#).

Please send your entries to:

DAW Competition 2016, BDA, Unit 8, Bracknell Beeches, Old Bracknell Lane, Bracknell, RG12 7BW.

Deadline for entries is September 30, 2016 so you will need to hurry.

A panel of judges will select the winner for each category. Please note, the BDA are unable to accept photos of entries therefore all must be submitted as originals, by post. If you wish for your entry to be returned to you afterwards, please make sure to include your name and address on the back of the entry. If you are not sure you will make the deadline, phone first.

Special Educational Needs provision update

Two years after the new Code of Practice for schools was published, provision after the changes continues to be in the news. A BBC article in August has the headline “Special needs pupils lack crucial support, poll suggests”

A poll of 585 Association of Teachers and Lecturers found:

- About 70% felt that needs were not identified early enough (see theme of Dyslexia Awareness week above)

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- Nearly 60% felt that those who were identified were not given sufficient support to achieve their potential
- Nearly 50% of staff said they were not able to get the support and training they needed to meet the needs.

See this link for the full article: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-37047055>

For a comprehensive up to date list of resources about the reforms see this link: <http://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/news-opinion/news/getting-grips-send-reforms>

Dyslexia Network Plus events



Wednesday 5th October, 7 – 8.30 pm, Thirsk New Library

'Catch 'em Young', led by Judith Stansfield

Free to all. Our featured Dyslexia Awareness week event. Booking required. Research points to the importance of early identification and intervention. An author on the subject, Judith will give an overview of the issues with plenty of practical tips!

Wednesday 19th October, 7- 9 pm, Thirsk New Library

'Understanding Dyslexia' led by Jill Swinhoe

Free to all. Booking required.

A repeat of this popular and informative introduction to identifying and supporting those with dyslexic type difficulties. Jill is a dyslexia specialist teacher and assessor.

Wednesday 9th November, 7-9 pm, Thirsk New Library

'Working Memory' led by Jill Swinhoe

£2 to Dnplus members. £10 to non-members. Booking Required.

Research suggests Working Memory is more closely linked to learning success than IQ. This looks at what helps those with weak working memories to learn, both in and out of the classroom. This is suitable for parents, carers and professionals.

Wednesday 30th November, 7pm, venue tbc

Dnplus Annual General Meeting

**TO BOOK: Telephone 0845 22 60 240 or 01325 718139
or email: dnplus@aol.com**

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Exciting developments at the new Thirsk Library

You will notice that Dyslexia Network Plus is currently concentrating events in Thirsk Library which is now situated in the Meadowfields Care complex, just off Chapel Street, adjacent to the Health Centre (post code YO7 1TH). Thirsk Library is scheduled to become a Community Library from April 2017. A number of years ago, Dyslexia Network set up its own lending library of resources in Thirsk called HERD (Helpful Educational Resources for Dyslexia). It is hoped that many of these resources – especially the books – will now become available to borrow from Thirsk Library in the normal way. The vision is to make these resources available and easily accessible to all those who might benefit from them. If you wish to find out more about this please do contact our information line.

Events in and around our region

Saturday 15 OCTOBER 2016
9.30- 4.00

Prince Henry's Grammar School
Otley, West Yorkshire

Keynote Speaker – Hywel Roberts
Keynote Speaker – Rachel Ingham

Workshops

Rachel Ingham Anna Leas
Joanna Jeffery John Hicks Arran Smith

The day will offer strategies for successful writing and motivating reluctant writers. Inspiring innovative ideas to improve the writing of learners with dyslexia.

Cost: Delegates £60.00

LABDA Members £40.00

Lunch included

We offer ideas to parents to help with homework and to SENCO's, teachers and support staff inclusive classroom approaches.

For more details - www.labda.org.uk

Reg charity 702249

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Apps:

Top Apps for literacy and maths support



Top Ten Free apps

- > **Our Story** - storyboard that uses photos and videos to which text and speech can be added
- > **Collins Big Cat** – using story scenes and clipart options to make a story. Child's own voice can be recorded to tell their story.
- > **Tiny Tap** - create simple activities based on photos relevant to the child. There are some free ready-made activities but also in app purchases.
- > **Skitch** - good for annotating photos.
- > **Little Writer** - letter and shape formation that allows the child to take their finger off the screen (as they would a pencil with very early writing). USA accent can be overwritten with own voice.
- > **Splash Maths** – Good activities for Primary age group. American.
- > **Sensory** a series of apps. Elektra and iMeba for fine motor control. Others to encourage vocalization.
- > **Touch and Learn Emotions**
- > **Spacecraft 3D** - augmented reality from NASA. Point the iPad camera at a downloaded paper target and explore the different spacecraft in 3D.
- > **Sentence maker** - matching words to word shapes to make up phrases and sentences.

A forum which supports Special Educational Needs teachers recently highlighted the following best free and paid for apps

Top Ten paid for apps

- > **Clicker Sentences**
- > **Widgit Sym series** – Sentences work, Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives
- > **Touchtronic series** - Initial Letters, 3 letter Words, 123 & Place Value - apps are free but the solid letter and number shapes to use them have to be purchased from Junior Learning.
- > **Puppet Pals** - collaborative story telling with animations, encouraging speech etc. App is free but you have to pay to unlock libraries of art.
- > **Twinkl** - uses the Letter and Sounds levels. Free sample app then pay to unlock all the features.
- > **Nessy Hairy series** – Nessy is a specialist dyslexia programme. Hairy Letters, Hairy Phonics & Hairy Words, etc.
- > **Cambugs series** - 1 Letter Sounds, 2 Phonics and 3 Early Words. Designed by Cambridge University School of Education and educational psychologists to match the current approach to phonics and Ofsted guidance on use adult support.
- > **Memory Quest** - also from Nessy. Child thinks they are playing a game but the app is assessing auditory, sequential, visual etc memory in the background.
- > **Gruffalo Games** - simple early years educational games based on the book
- > **Splingo** - language comprehension in simple series of apps

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