

Sensory Inclusion Service Hearing Impairment Newsletter

Issue
40
July 2023

Sensory Inclusion Service, Floor 6, Darby House, Lawn Central, Telford, TF3 4JA

Summer Cover

There is a Teacher of the Deaf on duty every week of the summer holidays.

Call 01952 385269 for support.

Mark Rutter (Hearing Aid Technician) is on duty for some of the time.

Call 01952 385269.

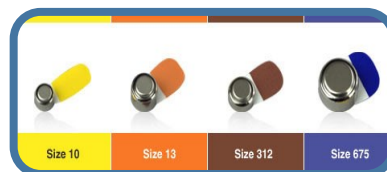
Family Group will run on 10th August and 24th August.



Batteries and Tubing: a reminder about how to access these

You can also order batteries and tubing online, via the link below:

<https://www.sath.nhs.uk/wards-services/az-services/audiology/battery/>



Urban Games programme



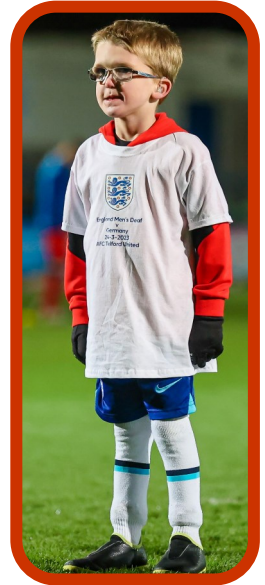
For older children and young people, our urban games programme offers FREE sports coaching programme for children aged 8+. Cricket, hockey, netball, biking and football sessions are held at local MUGAs across the holidays and the summer programme is soon to be announced!

Find out more:

[Newsroom - New addition to free Urban Games programme - Netball!](https://www.telford.gov.uk/newsroom) (telford.gov.uk)

England Deaf Team International Friendly at AFC Telford United

AFC Telford United hosted a Men's Deaf International Friendly match, England v Germany in March. We would like to say a huge thank you to Shropshire FA and AFC Telford United who kindly offered us complimentary tickets to the game. 22 of our children were given the opportunity to be a mascot, leading the teams out onto the pitch at the start of the game. The children and adults had a wonderful evening! We are incredibly grateful to AFC Telford United and Shropshire FA for giving us this amazing opportunity.



Tesco Community Grants



At the end of last year, we were really excited to hear that SDCS had been awarded a grant of £1488 as part of Tesco's Community Grant Scheme. This money was put towards the cost of the pantomime trip last year. The children had a wonderful time at Oakengates Theatre watching Snow White. A representative from Tesco at Battlefield, Shrewsbury presented the cheque to the SDCS committee.

Contact details



Have your contact details changed? You may be missing out on some fantastic opportunities for your family. Throughout the year, Shropshire Deaf Children's society put on events for our families which are sent via email. I like to keep you up to date with activities within the borough as well as updates from professionals. I regularly have teachers saying that families haven't received information that has been sent. We really don't want you to miss out!

If you have changed your email or phone number, please let us know at SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk

Harper has made an excellent start to Reception. She can independently insert her own ear moulds and put her hearing aids behind her ears. She has made progress with her receptive and expressive language and loves to read! Harper talks enthusiastically about her family and events carried out at weekends and in the holidays . Well done Harper!



Earlier this year Daisy - Mae decided that she wanted to donate some of her hair to The Little Princess Trust to help another child who has lost their own hair through cancer treatment or to other conditions such as Alopecia. As you can see, Daisy - Mae had barely had her hair cut as she loved her Rapunzel hair. This was a huge sacrifice for Daisy - Mae. In the end, she donated a whopping 15" of her hair. Not only did she donate the hair, she raised an incredible £537 for the charity to help towards the cost of making the wig.

Daisy - Mae, you are a true superhair and we are incredibly proud of you!



It was lovely to see Daniella return to Family Group after so many years! She came in to talk to parents about her experiences as a profoundly deaf learner with cochlear implants in mainstream school.

Daniella has flourished in her schooling and has now completed her GCSE's at Meole Brace Secondary School, and is hopeful of a good set of results.

She plans to go to sixth form in September and is taking FOUR subjects to A Level.

Good luck Daniella!

Transition Day

Our annual Transition Day was a huge success. The aim of the day is to discuss transition to secondary school in order to prepare the Year 6 pupils and to provide the Year 7 pupils with a forum to share experiences and build upon these. It is really beneficial for the Year 6 pupils to have the opportunity to learn the language of secondary school, to advance their understanding and ability to explain their hearing loss and audiological equipment and to share their experience with a group of similarly aged children who also have a hearing loss and wear hearing devices, use radio aids/FM systems.

We played games, made new friends and had lots of fun! For lunch this year we made pizzas which proved popular with the children. The staff were very surprised to learn that pineapple doesn't belong on a pizza!

Tammy did a fabulous job of explaining her hearing loss and how the ear works to her peers.

A huge thank you to SDCS again for funding the day.



Last week, Alice took part in a lesson for her class all about hearing aids and what it is like to wear them. Her new teacher for September also came to the lesson and found it really useful to know how to support Alice next year.

Alice has had an amazing year in school - she has started using an FM system to help her concentrate in lessons, and her teachers say it has made an enormous difference and that she is developing excellent independent skills.

The school year has ended with Alice winning a poetry competition for her year group, where she had to recite a poem in front of the whole school. She showed so much confidence - Alice's family, her teachers and her Teacher of the Deaf are all very proud of her!



Eden will join Reception in September 2023 and is excited to be starting school. She has made tremendous progress with her spoken language over the past 18 months. She now confidently and enthusiastically chats away about her family and nursery activities. She enjoys sharing books and playing games. She is a regular attendee at SIS Family Group alongside her parents and younger sister. She has made many friends there and is very comfortable in this environment.

Well done Eden!



Shropshire Deaf Children's Society

SDCS was set up over 66 years ago by Edwin Owen following a chance encounter with a 12 year old deaf girl with no speech which occurred while he was serving with the Army in Italy during WW2. Upon his return to England Mr Owen trained as an ear, nose and throat surgeon and later moved to work at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. The charity is still going strong and continues to support hearing impaired children and their families across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. Over the past few years, the SDCS has paid for equipment, funded bowling nights, Christmas parties, pantomime trips, Family Fun days and much more.

We are grateful to all of the volunteers from the SDCS committee who give up their time to ensure that these events can take place.

SDCS are always looking for volunteers to join the committee to bring new ideas. If you would like to join us, please contact Kate secretary@sdcs.org.uk

Upcoming Events

Spooktacular Sponsored Walk - Sunday 22nd October 2023

Pantomime Trip - Sunday 10th December 2023

Our fabulous fundraisers

Bea attends Family Group with her Nan Carol and Grandad Steve. In March, our Family Group held a sponsored walk around Telford Town Park to raise money for Shropshire Deaf Children's Society. Bea and her family raised an incredible £330. Thank you!

To celebrate Deaf Awareness Week (1 to 7 May 2023) , Grange Park Primary in Telford organised a Bake Sale to raise money for Shropshire Deaf Children's Society. Hazel Snape, Teacher of the Deaf held two assemblies to talk to the children about hearing impairment. The cakes went down a storm, raising an amazing total of £327.20. This will help Shropshire Deaf Children's Society to fund future events for families throughout Shropshire. Sensory Inclusion Service and Shropshire Deaf Children's Society would like to say a huge thank you to the staff and families at Grange Park Primary for their support.



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Family Fun Day

Family Fun Day was a huge success. There were Alpacas, a climbing wall, tombola stalls, bouncy castles, face painting and entertainment from PJ the Showman. We had lots of cake, a BBQ (thank you Martyn and Rich) it was a very hot day, you did a great job! The children were really excited to see a helicopter land! Again, a huge thank you to the SDCS committee for all that you did to ensure that our families had a great time!

The day was finished off with an awards ceremony to celebrate the achievements of some remarkable young people.

The Margy Lloyd Achievement Award

Lincoln is profoundly deaf and wears two Nucleus 7 processors. He also uses an FM system. Lincoln is now a consistent hearing device wearer and takes part daily when his equipment is checked by an adult. He also took part in a deaf awareness session with his class and the Teacher of the Deaf. Lincoln is very popular with his family, extended family and with the adults and children at school. He has a warm and friendly smile and an infectious giggle! He has a wonderful sense of humour! He is a pleasure to support. Lincoln has worked hard with his physical challenges and can now get in and out of his wheelchair independently. He loves to ride his trundle bike in the outside area of his classroom! Lincoln has made tremendous progress with his ability to communicate. He is now using 3 word utterances and is asking questions. Well done Lincoln!



Thomas is a year 5 pupil. He is profoundly deaf and has two cochlear implants. He is part of a big family that go on lots of exciting trips and adventures. Thomas is working very well alongside his hearing peers in school and making good all-round progress. Next year, Thomas and his family are moving to Uganda for 6 months.

Thomas will be close to the Equator, will be living near some of the most beautiful places in the world and be surrounded by exotic wild life.

We look forward to his return in March 2024 and hearing all about his adventures.



The Andrew Broughton Award

Ben has been supported by SIS for many years for his one-sided hearing loss. He and his mum became concerned that his hearing had worsened in his good ear, and he made the mature decision to try a hearing aid. He took to it straight away without any fuss and now has an FM system to help him concentrate in noisy lessons at school. He might also try a crosaid if all goes well with this aid. In school, Ben is always charming to work with. His teachers report that he is one of the kindest people they know, is always looking out for other people and being responsible. He works hard at all times and never fails to do his best. He always presents as cheerful, polite and happy and should be congratulated for his mature attitude.



Ben has settled really well in his new school. He is working really hard to use his voice more and is now communicating well in school both with adults and his peers. He loves listening to music and dancing. He is always a happy little boy with a lovely sense of humour. He is kind to his friends and shows a lot of empathy for someone so young. He wears his hearing aids really well and is always happy to let his Teacher of the Deaf check them and re-fit them in school.



The Kimberley Jones Award



When Grace was first referred to SIS in 2016 she presented with a mild hearing loss in both ears. However, since that time, her hearing loss has progressed. This caused a lot of anxiety and strain both on her and the rest of her family, and several emotional appointments were had in clinics as she struggled to make sense of her worsening hearing. She has now decided to explore cochlear implants, and is expecting to have them fitted later this year. With so much going on in her life, Grace would be forgiven if she had a wobble or two! However, this is not the case. She has shown amazing strength of character, determination and fortitude. She has accepted her hearing loss and done her own extensive research around deafness and cochlear implants. She is beginning to teach herself sign language and has made contact with a number of other deaf teenagers via on-line forums to get their insights and advice around implants.

Her consultant at Birmingham Children's Hospital described Grace, after only one meeting, as 'a remarkable young woman.' She certainly is, and deserves every accolade.



Eisa as he is generally known, is a very popular and visible year 8 student at his secondary school. Eisa has a severe hearing loss that is bordering profound levels. He is a positive and cheerful presence in school; he engages with his peers and likes to chat and comment on things going on around him. This year he has really worked hard to try to understand topics and focus in lessons. His teachers are impressed with his efforts to listen and willingness to answer questions, even if he does go off on a tangent! He is a delightful boy and fully deserves this prize!

The SDCS Further Education Achievement Award



Bradley has been involved with a Teacher of the Deaf since he was diagnosed at birth with a profound hearing loss. He was implanted at 17 months old.

Bradley has progressed through all the stages of mainstream education, from Nursery to primary and then secondary to college. He is now nearing the end of his BTEC level 3 Computer Science course and is on track for a strong Pass and or Merit award. This has not been an easy journey for Bradley. He has worked hard to develop his communication and language skills. As a student to work with, he has always been straightforward and easy to get along with. He is a very modest young man and has acquired very good interpersonal skills. His family are rightly very proud of all that he has achieved firstly as a polite and charming young man and also as a hard working student who has shown application to his studies. We wish Bradley every success in his future plans, whatever they may be.



This award has been given to Adam because of the fantastic independence he has shown since attending College. He has a superb 'can do' attitude which has shone in the way he takes sole responsibility for all his hearing aid equipment and it's maintenance, alerting the relevant people when there is an issue. Also for all his out of college ventures, from stewarding at football games to working regularly at his local pub.

Well done Adam!



Sensory Inclusion Service Family Group

SIS (HI) Family Group takes place every Thursday during term time for hearing impaired pre-school children and their families.

Families can arrive anytime between 9.30 am – 11.30 am.

Autumn 2023

September

7th – Teddy bear crafts

14th Talk - TOD Nikki Coombes - Sign Language

21st - Pirate crafts

28th **SIS course – no group**

October

5th – Space crafts

12th – Talk - Health Visitor - Sara Barrett

19th – Apple crafts

26th - Halloween

November

2nd – **Half term – no group**

9th - Diwali crafts

16th – Children in Need

23rd – Talk – Sarah Court

30th – Tree crafts

December

7th – Trip

14th – Christmas crafts

21st Party



The Stepping Stones Centre, Brunel Road, Malinslee, TF3 2BF

Sat Nav TF3 2HZ

If you have not attended Family Group recently, or if you are interested in attending for the first time, then please get in touch. It is a chance to meet other families, have a coffee, for the children to play and to engage in art and craft activities.

Mark Rutter also attends to check hearing devices.

If you are interested in attending, contact Nichola Clark on 07581035047 or Nichola.clark@telford.gov.uk

Sensory Inclusion Service update



Are we really only a few weeks away from the end of yet another term as I write this? I've now been working with the service for 22 years and it's all gone by in a flash – in fact I've been here so long that we are now seeing some of the children of the children we taught back then!

The recent Family Day really struck me as to what a privilege it is to support so many fantastic children, young people and their families. It was a beautiful sunny day with everything to make a Family Day perfect! A helicopter with a very charming pilot who took time to chat with every child who approached him, a brilliant face painter, alpacas, Nicky's amazing cakes, an ice-cream van, a climbing wall to mention but a few of the fantastic activities! A huge thank you to Nicky Clark who pulled it all together and to the fantastic SDCS Committee who gave so generously of their time (and money) to make it all possible. And thank you to the SIS team who turned out in force to spend a Sunday with you all. We have had a lot of new staff join the team over the past few years and so 'Post-Covid' what a great opportunity to meet them and for them to meet you.

Also, congratulations to all our prize-winners who received certificates and awards for their huge efforts to overcome the challenges of hearing loss. Every child we support merits our respect for the effort they apply each day and for their successes – well done all of you. Always so emotional to see those awards being distributed.

I know I say this in every newsletter but we do need some more volunteers on the committee so please come forward if you can spare just a little time – without the funds and energy of the SDCS none of these fantastic days would happen. If you are not in a position to offer time, perhaps you would consider a small fundraising activity to help support the charity. This could be encouraging your child's school to do an event for the SDCS or a pub quiz or any other small event which could contribute! Thank you to Grange Park Primary School who were awarded a certificate at the Family Fun Day for raising £327.20 by holding a bake sale.

Nicky was joined this year by our new Social Inclusion facilitator, Kim Tunbridge, who was previously a Teaching Assistant in St Georges Junior School in Shrewsbury. Kim will be working predominantly with the children and young people with visual impairment but she was a great help to Nicky organising and supporting the Family Day. Welcome Kim – we are very lucky to have you join us.

There have been lots of other events throughout the year including the Year 6/Year 7 transition Day staffed by Pete, Hazel and Nicky – another great day which all the children said was great fun and prepared them a little bit more for entering the big new world of secondary school. They made their own pizzas and most importantly made new friends and built their confidence. Onwards and upwards! We wish them all luck and happiness next year.

We'd love to hear some news from some of our older students who are off at colleges, universities and workplaces! I recently bumped into Natalie McBride who was previously Chair of the SDCS and whose daughter, having graduated from university, is about to travel the world for a year despite profound deafness – I hope we'll get some snippets of her travels! Ian Barrett's son Alex who left the service a couple of years ago is now a keen surfer, climber and recently snowboarder (although he dislocated his shoulder on that one) – he has promised us some news so we'll look out for what he's up to!

Sensory Inclusion Service update continued...

Please send photos and news of your children – it means a lot to other parents, especially those who are new to the world of hearing aids, hospital appointments and hearing loss. The achievements of all of the children/ young people are inspirational and help carry other parents through those days when they don't know what lies ahead.

Many of the new children being supported by the service have temporary hearing loss and some are awaiting grommet surgery, the fitting of hard band aids provides much needed auditory stimulus in the meantime and allows their speech and language to develop. Regular meetings with the hospital allows us to raise any audiological concerns around children and support appointment attendance. Please put appointments in diaries – every time a child does not attend an appointment it is a session that could have been offered to another family. Please remember to cancel if you can't make it!

Both Shropshire Local Authority and Telford and Wrekin have now been reviewed by OFSTED. The inspectors visited our family group in March and unsurprisingly received a very warm welcome (even got some of Nicky's great cakes) and were inspired by the warmth and honesty of the parents they met there. Thank you to those of you who were there and as ever to our wonderful Family Group team of Hazel, Nicky and Mark.

All that remains is to wish you all a wonderful summer with your families – we have been blessed with this period of fantastic weather – let's hope it doesn't change just when we break up for summer. There will be SIS staff in clinics and 'on call' over the break so if you need us contact the SENDandInclusion team as usual and they will let us know. Have fun in the sun!

Very best wishes

Theresa

Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability

Discover everything you need to know about education, health and care services in your local area for children and young people with SEND 0-25yrs at...

www.telfordsend.org.uk



Key features...

- Search for clear and accessible information, advice and sources of support.
- Explore leisure, fun and short breaks activities.
- Find out about specialist services and education health and care plans.
- Learn how schools support special educational needs.
- Use the interactive map showing what is available near to where you live.
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**sendandinclusion
@telford.gov.uk**



[Shropshire's SEND Local Offer](#) is a single place for information and services for children and young people with special education needs and/or disabilities, their families and the practitioners who support them.

Take a look at the [SEND Family directory](#) for local events, groups and things to do. For news and updates please like and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Email: Local.Offer@shropshire.gov.uk Telephone: 0345 678 9063

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