

Sensory Inclusion Service Visual Impairment Newsletter

Issue
31
Summer 2024

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

Summer Cover

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

Contact SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk or 01952 385269 for support.



Sight Loss Shropshire

is 102 years old!

This year marks an extraordinary milestone for Sight Loss Shropshire as we celebrate 102 years of dedicated service and support for those living with sight loss.

From our humble beginnings in 1922, Sight Loss Shropshire has grown and evolved over the years to meet the needs of visually impaired people all over Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin.

Our charity's services have never been more comprehensive or impactful. Today, we offer a wide range of initiatives designed to enhance independence and quality of life for people with sight loss.

We are very excited about what the future holds for Sight Loss Shropshire! Here's to another century of building meaningful support, hope and empowerment.

A huge thank you to Sight Loss Shropshire. With their support, we have been able to offer events such as Circus Starr, Driving experience day and Taiko Drumming.



Shropshire
Council

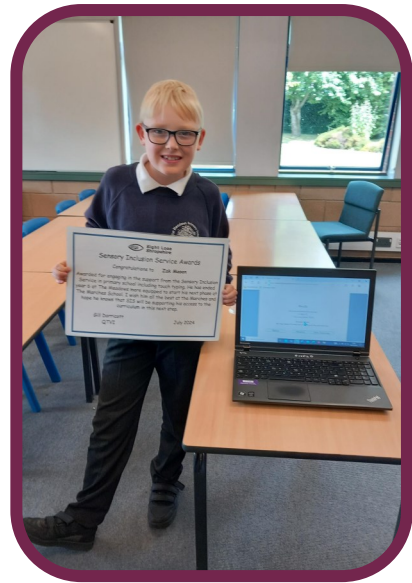


Telford & Wrekin
COUNCIL

Sight Loss Shropshire Awards 2024



Zak was nominated by his QTVI, Gill for engaging in the support from the Sensory Inclusion Service in primary school including touch typing. He has ended year 6 more equipped to start his next phase at Secondary School. We wish him all the best and hope he knows that SIS will be supporting his access to the curriculum in this next step.



Benjamin was nominated by his QTVI, Gill for his 'Can do' attitude despite dramatic health problems causing a life changing vision diagnosis. He'll go a long way with this great attitude. He is an inspiration.



Matthew was nominated by his QTVI, Gill for embracing the next stage of his life after being at the Bridge School, Severndale and Futures for all of his education career. Matthew has been supported by SIS for a long time and we wish him all the best.



Sight Loss Shropshire Awards 2024

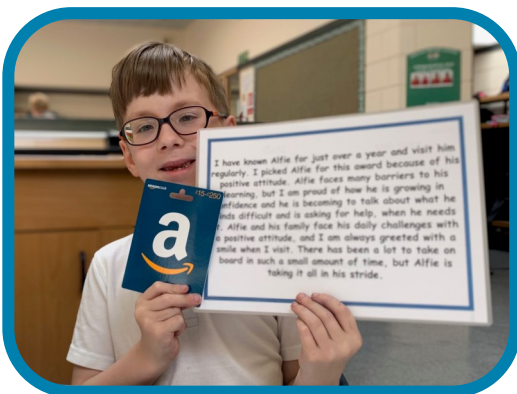


Varshill was nominated by Access Support Assistant, Helen, for having such a positive attitude towards Touch Typing lessons and has achieved over 90% in all his lessons.

Frankie was nominated by Access Support Assistant, Carla, for making excellent progress in Touch Typing and always remaining positive.



Alfie was nominated by QTVI, Emma, because of his positive attitude. Alfie faces many barriers to his learning, but she is proud of how he is growing in confidence and he is beginning to talk about what he finds difficult and is asking for help, when he needs it. Alfie and his family face his daily challenges with a positive attitude, and Emma says she is always greeted with a smile when she visits. There has been a lot to take on board in such a small amount of time, but Alfie is taking it all in his stride.





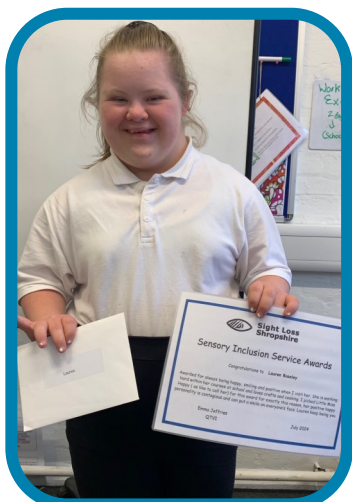
Sight Loss Shropshire Awards 2024



Mikel was nominated by QTVI, Louise, for being a dedicated Year 11 student in preparing for his exams. Advocating when he needs revision cards modifying to help him with revision. He has a bright future ahead of him.



Mayah was nominated by QTVI, Linda, for working really hard during her first year at school, and making a great start with braille.



Lauren was nominated by QTVI, Emma, for always being happy, smiling and positive when she visits her. Lauren is working hard within her courses at school and loves crafts and cooking. Emma said "I picked Little Miss Happy (as I like to call her) for this award for exactly this reason, her positive, happy personality is contagious and can put a smile on everyone's face. Lauren keep being you!"



Kyle tells us about his support in school



Starting school is exciting and scary all at the same time. When I started school as well going through what every child did, I also had additional needs, I have cerebral palsy which affects my mobility and also a visual impairment (dislocated lenses due to Marfan's syndrome and also nystagmus in both eyes), which made adjusting to school more difficult for me. Throughout primary school and high school, the SIS team have supported me, starting with Gina in primary school, who used to visit me every 2 weeks and advised school on my visual needs and equipment. I used to use CCTV equipment which helped a lot.

When I went to high-school, SIS supported me with extra visits so I could get used to the surroundings, they worked closely with my key-worker Stephanie so that she was able to enlarge my work. SIS ensured that the school provided me with a laptop with programmes that worked for me and with my CCTV Magilink.

I was also supported by Claire (SIS) to touch-type and this was also supported my key-worker who did extra lessons with me so I was confident in it and I used touch-typing in class.

In PE with SIS guidance this was adapted to my needs to allow for me to be able to take part, this involved things like my own channel when playing football so I did not get knocked.

Gill (SIS) has supported school with ensuring I had everything in place for GCSEs and that her recommendations were being met which included 50% extra time, scribe and writer and I also had a scribe and writer in class if needed. These things have been what helped me get through high-school.

Moving onto college Gill (SIS) has already been speaking to the staff there about my needs and this helps me feel better about moving on and that I will continue to be supported.

Despite all my needs, I've been told I have coped extremely well with school and I've never let anything stop me. I love singing and acting, both which I do out of school. I can't wait to start performing arts at college in September.

Driving Experience Day

We were incredibly lucky to secure some funding from The Powell Family Foundation which enabled us to take our Students on a Driving Experience Day in Loughborough.



I enjoyed driving the cars and mixing with other people



The experience made me feel very free and alive!



It made me feel great and happy, being able to drive when normally I cannot due to my VI was very exciting.



A huge Thank you to Paul from Ablenet for your support

<https://ablenet.co.uk/junior-blind-supercar-experiences>

Sensory Inclusion Service Family Group

SIS (VI) Family Group takes place every Tuesday during term time for visually impaired pre-school children and their families.

Families can arrive anytime between 9.30 am – 11.30 am.

Autumn 2024

September

3rd – Guide Dogs - Gruffalo

10th - Dot crafts

17th – Guide Dogs – Peace at Last

24th – Pirate crafts

October

1st – Guide Dogs – Three Little Pigs

8th – Space crafts

15th – Guide Dogs - Halloween

22nd - SIS course – no group

29th - Half term – no group

November

5th – Guide Dogs – Guy Fawkes

12th – Nursery rhyme crafts

19th – Guide Dogs – The Tiger Who Came to Tea

26th – Tree crafts

December

3rd – Guide Dogs – We're Going on a Bear Hunt

10th – Christmas crafts

17th - Party



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

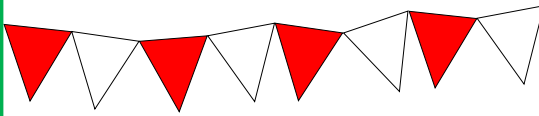
Sat Nav TF3 2HZ

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.

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

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Circus Starr



We were delighted to be offered tickets for the Circus Starr Tour 2024. Everyone had a great time being entertained by acrobats, jugglers, skating duo, dancers, Nula Hula with the sensory hula hoops and not forgetting Lukinha, the hilarious Clown!

Attingham Picnic



We were really lucky to be offered tickets to visit Attingham again.



Our next visit to Attingham will take place on 7th December 2024.

Contact details



Gentle reminder to all parents and carers that if you change anything like your child's name or address, please can we ask that you let SIS know. Additionally you should advise the main hospital—ophthalmology—of this change too. SIS cannot make changes on your hospital files/ notes so you need to do this. The hospital has seen quite a lot of children not turning up for appointments because letters have gone to old addresses.

If you have changed your email or phone number, please let us know at

SENDandInclusion@telford.gov.uk



Sports Day

Alfie had a great time at his sports day. He took part in a blindfolded race and a long distance race. There was also an egg and spoon race and a bean bag throwing game, however Alfie's favourite was the Javelin.

Well done Alfie, you did a great job!

Fabulous Fundraiser



A huge well done to Alfie who received a medal for being a top fundraiser for Guide Dogs. Alfie and his mum ran 26.2 miles together for Guide Dogs Run a Marathon in April challenge. They ran a mile a day around their local streets and woodland and raised an incredible £500. for Guide Dogs Charity.

We are really proud of you Alfie!

We asked Ophthalmologist, Charlotte:

Who do you see at the hospital eye clinic?

Orthoptist: An Orthoptist specialises in visual development and how the eyes work together (binocular vision). They can diagnose and treat a number of conditions including amblyopia (reduced vision in one eye) and assess how the muscles of the eyes are working. Orthoptists see patients of all ages and can test vision in babies/children/adults and those with additional needs. They often work with other parts of the ophthalmology team, doing joint clinics and managing patients together.

Optometrist: An Optometrist is trained to assess vision defects, ocular diseases and abnormalities. They can prescribe glasses/contact lenses to help with vision problems and give advice. They also monitor the health of the eye.

Ophthalmologist: An Ophthalmologist is a doctor who specialises in eyes. They can diagnose and provide treatment for many eye conditions, providing medical prescribing and surgery when needed. They can assess the health of the eye and do further investigations or refer onto other specialists when needed.

ECLO: An ECLO can provide patients and family members with emotional and practical support for living with sight loss, and signpost them to local services that are available to help with sight loss.

Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to Gill and Linda who have been appointed joint Lead Qualified Teachers of the Visually Impaired

I worked in Shropshire and T&W as a teacher in a Primary School and later in Specialist Schools. Whilst in those jobs I taught children with visual impairments and was supported by a QTVI from the Sensory Inclusion Service (SIS). From that experience I developed an interest in the role of QTVI and working to support children with visual impairments and their families



Gill

I have been working for SIS as a QTVI for the past 11 years and am now ready to take on the role as team leader jointly with my colleague Linda.

I initially worked in a school for blind children in Kent before having my own family. I then qualified as a Special Educational Needs Coordinator before completing my QTVI training with Distinction at the University of Birmingham in 2009. I worked in Herefordshire and Worcestershire before joining the Sensory Inclusion Service in November 2020.

Linda





Did you know?

The fire service offer free safe and well checks.

To organise a visit contact

01743 260200 or email safeandwell@shropshirefire.gov.uk

CEA card

Did you know that you may be entitled to apply for a CEA card.

What is it? The card enables a disabled cinema guest to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema.

Where can I use it? It is accepted at 90% of cinemas.

Is there a charge for this? There is a £6 charge.

How long is the card valid? It is valid for 1 year.

To find out more information visit: <https://www.ceacard.co.uk>

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.
- Have your say through our online feedback form.



www.telfordsend.org.uk

Need this in large print or Braille?

If you would like to receive this newsletter in Large Print or Braille, please email

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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