

Sensory Inclusion Service Hearing Impairment Newsletter

Issue
42
Spring 2024

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

Easter Cover

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

Call 01952 385269 for support.

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

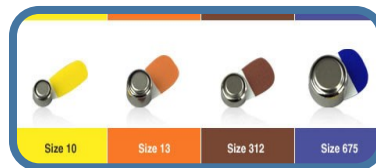
Call 01952 385269.



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/>



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, ENT and Audiology 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

High Sheriff Awards



Jordan was honoured at this year's High Sheriff of Shropshire's Outstanding Young Citizen Awards. The 16-year-old received the Borough of Telford & Wrekin shield, as well as the area's senior winner's trophy, from High Sheriff of Shropshire, Mandy Thorn.

Jordan, who is profoundly deaf, is on the Prince's Trust programme which is designed to maximise young people's chances of moving into employment, education or training.

He said: "Before I came to Telford College I didn't enjoy my secondary education as much as I would like. Being profoundly deaf, my confidence in speaking and listening was very low.

"I was nervous on my first day in college, but when I given support in British Sign Language I could access all the curriculum had to offer.

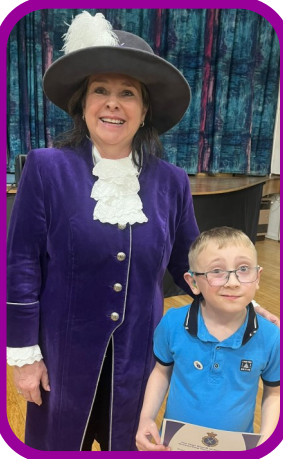
"I am now feeling more confident within myself, talking in groups, contributing to lessons, making friends and on my learning journey.

"It is amazing, and I love it. I am so excited for my first year in art, and for where the rest of my learning journey will take me in my future."

For the last 18 months Jordan has also been volunteering as 'Mawley the Lawley Mole', a community mascot who attends local events in support of local projects. He has attended community safety events, festive celebrations, summer festivals, and the King's Coronation celebration.

He also teaches line dancing with his family at the Lawley Village Line Dance Club, encouraging people from his local area to meet new people, learn a new skills and have lots of fun.

Jonathan Abbott, one of Jordan's Telford College tutors, added: "Jordan is embracing all aspects of college life, both academic and social, with such enthusiasm. He has made huge strides already in his confidence, joining clubs, becoming an independent learner, and is exploring opportunities for further study in art. We are so proud of his approach and attitude to learning in this new environment and can't wait to see where his positive start in further education leads to."



A huge congratulations also goes to James who was nominated by his school for completing a 5k colour run for the Lingen Davies Cancer Fund. He raised a very impressive £209 for the charity.

Well done James, you are a superstar!

Secondary school - A parents' perspective



Effie was born in China in 2012, and she was later diagnosed as profoundly deaf by the NHS in the UK. Although we speak as her parents, she is a shining example of what a deaf or hard of hearing child can achieve with the correct support framework. Effie is an incredibly bright, studious, emotional, cheeky, and fun girl on the edge of becoming a full-blown teenager.

The transition from primary school to secondary school is daunting for any child, but the worries and anxieties of any child with additional needs will always be magnified. The Transition Day was a wonderful way to settle and ease some of the nerves and manage Effie's expectations. As parents, we know that even with the best preparation, things don't always go to plan, and I think we were more apprehensive when her first day came. However, going to the Priory has been the best thing for Effie's development. It isn't a stretch to say that she loves it, and a great part of that is due to the support that she has been given by the teachers of the deaf and the preparation that the school was given by members of that team. I have to give a special mention to Theresa and Nicky as they have been truly wonderful.

Academically, Effie has shone. We have just had her first report, and it is excellent. But probably, as importantly to Effie, she has a great group of friends. She is happy both academically and socially. In terms of clubs and societies, she has never been particularly sporty, which hasn't been a problem as she has performed in both the musical concert and is currently in the production of *Oliver* as the dual role of fruit seller and street urchin!

The only thing we really wanted for Effie is to grow as a happy little girl who happens to wear cochlear implants rather than a girl who is defined by her cochlear implants. We know that there will be bumps in the road as she gets older. There always have been, but how is that different from the growth of any girl entering life as a teenager?



Louis, aged 4 successfully climbed to the top of Rodney's Pillar with his family.

Well done Louis,
What a smile!



Nethan is in Year 1 at Church Aston Infants School. He is profoundly deaf and is a cochlear implant wearer. Nethan moved with his family from India in July 2022. His home language is Malayalam. I am extremely proud of Nethan's achievements as he has worked very hard to understand and learn English since moving to England. He has made accelerated progress which is very pleasing. He is keen to engage, has made many friends and has immersed himself in to the life of the school. He has received regular support from Nicky Clark (Social Inclusion Facilitator) to make a game based on Spiderman to support his turn taking, social cues and skills.

Well done Nethan for all your hard work!



Sophia runs around 4 times a week.

She goes to 2 running clubs and she also goes to park runs and does both the children's 2k and also now the 5K versions. Her personal best for the 5K is 23.56 minutes!

She enjoys running as she gets to go to new places. She also likes being able to earn medals. She has a number of medals including the cross county silver medal, a Top 10 medal and the 'run through' (for 5ks).

Sophia says it is nice to run as it helps you to get fit, she likes to be outside and it is good for you.

Harry's Blog: What makes me me



Hello, my name is Harry and I am 11 years old. I have two Marvel hearing aids and a radio aid and am moderately deaf. I communicate using speech. My hobbies are gaming, playing with friends and Drama. I make my parents laugh every single day especially when I imitate Michael Jackson's moonwalk.

I started being a You Tuber when I was 9 years old and have loved it ever since! I am a gamer You Tuber and I have 1000 followers which is a bit mad for only 10 months on it. I like gaming because it is fun to play with friends and the things you can do and the glitches are really cool although occasionally they can be annoying.

One of my biggest areas of achievement is my Drama because I have done loads of performances and I think I'm quite talented although I don't want to sound big-headed. I really loved the environmental workshops we did with a visitor from an environmental charity in Shrewsbury, it was really wholesome and inspirational!! My most recent performance was a series of sketches by the group - there was one where Elvis Presley and Taylor Swift were getting married and I was the priest weirdly as Michael Jackson. That's where the moonwalk comes in.



Abbie has had a phobia of masks since she was tiny, but she has worked on this so well that she has been able to perform in her College pantomime.

We are so proud of her!



Caleb has moved school and settled really happily into Overton School near Ludlow. He managed the transition well and is working hard on his communication.



The Famous Elliot

My name is Elliot and I am 8 years old and Minecraft mad!

I have been busy creating caves and two joined houses, making one great big mega house! I have also visited the End dimension. I have written my own Minecraft stories, drawn lots of character pictures and have made some Minecraft Lego.

Elliot was very excited to see his picture in the magazine!

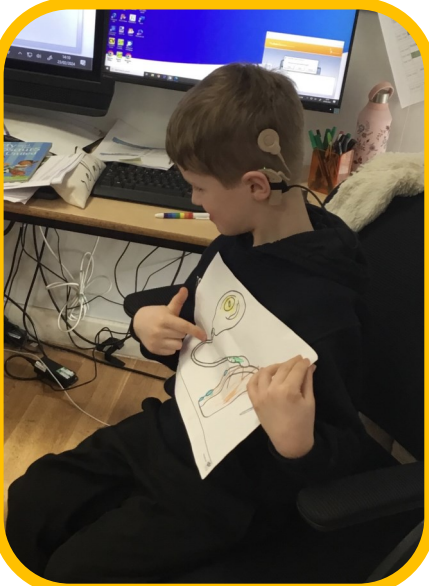
Deaf Awareness Week



A huge thank you to Cleve Hill Primary who held a bake sale and raised an incredible £106.12 for Shropshire Deaf Children's Society. Here is a photo of Sam and Joseph handing over the money to Shropshire Deaf Children's Society Chairman, Ian Barratt.



International Cochlear Implant Day



George and his class found out that 25th February is International Cochlear Implant Day and is celebrated every year, because this was the date of the first ever cochlear implant surgery in 1957. George led a presentation and shared with the class about his implants and how they help hear. He showed the class a picture of his cochlear implant and told them about the different parts. He coloured his picture for the class to copy. He also showed his class how to sign the colours he used.

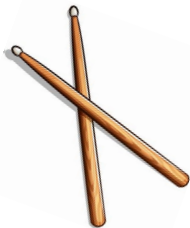
George was a fantastic teacher!

Taiko Drumming Workshop

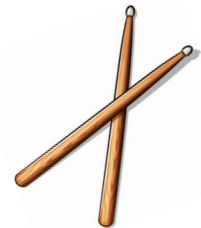
We were incredibly lucky to be invited to attend a workshop at The Hive in Shrewsbury.



Taiko West Japanese Drumming in Wem, Shropshire



- Learn a new skill
- Release stress
 - Socialise
 - Perform
 - Have fun!



James, our instructor runs weekly evening classes at
The Stainer Hall, Thomas Adams School, Wem, SY4 5DS

For more information and to sign up, go to
www.taikowest.com/wem-north-shropshire/

or email
admin@taikowest.com

Upcoming Events



May

31st - Circus Starr

June

5th - Transition Day

July

6th - Attingham Park Visit

13th - Annual Awards



Attingham Easter Trail

We were really lucky to be offered tickets to visit Attingham again. This time we took part in the Easter Trail. After completing an activity at each of the 10 stations, children were given an Easter egg. A great time was had by all!



Our next visit to Attingham will take place on Saturday July 6th.

Family Group

Family Group meets every Thursday in term time to support pre-school hearing aid wearers and their families.

A programme of events and guest speakers is always available which follows a theme related to everyday events, as well as national and international topics.

Here is an overview of some of our activities:

- Family Group visited Father Christmas at Albrighton Garden Centre in December 2023.
- Father Christmas also visited Stepping Stones in December 2023 to distribute presents supported by Shropshire Deaf Children's Society (SDCS).
- Many art and craft activities have been carried out each week at Family Group including : making bird feeders, drums for Chinese New Year and musical shakers with a rainbow theme.
- We have just introduced 'Baby Beats' to our sessions which involves music and movement.
- Families enjoy attending every week to share a cup of tea or coffee and to join in with activities, story time and singing.



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 cuppa, 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 Family Group

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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.

Summer 2024

April

- 11th – Farm animal crafts
- 18th – No group this week
- 25th - St George's day crafts

May

- 2nd – Gardening week/ Deaf Awareness week
- 9th - Talk – Angela Denton
- 16th– Bee crafts
- 23rd – Turtle crafts
- 30th – Half Term

June

- 6th– Butterfly crafts
- 13th – Father's Day crafts
- 20th – Music
- 27th – Talk – Library service

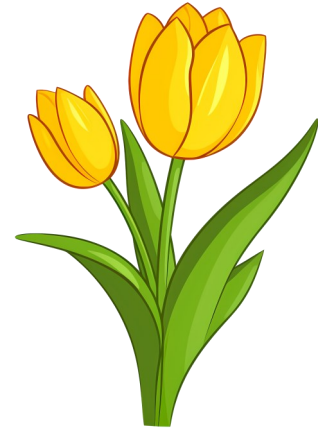
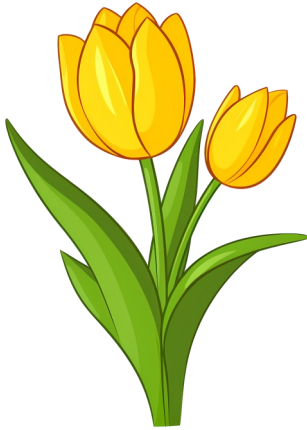
July

- 4th – Painting
- 11th – Trip
- 18th- Party



The Stepping Stones Centre, Brunel Road Malinslee, TF3 2BF Sat Nav TF3 2HZ

Sensory Inclusion Service update



I hope you are all looking forward to a lovely Easter break – hopefully with some sunshine! It's been a short half-term but again the newsletters reflect the amazing achievements of our children and young people who remain inspirations to us all.

I also have some big news to share – since 1982 I have been a Teacher of the Deaf and I have had the joy of working with thousands of young hearing impaired children and young people in many different schools and services in many different parts of the country and overseas too. Since 2001, I have been in a Lead Teacher or Team Leader role at SIS so a lot of history here. There has never been a day when I have not felt a huge sense of privilege in being able to play a role in supporting the children and their families to achieve the best they can!

I never cease to be amazed by their grit and determination in overcoming the barrier that hearing loss presents. These newsletters give a tiny taste of that and I know Nicky Clark is working to pull together a newsletter 'Where are they now?' to tell us about some of the young people who were supported by the service in the past.

We often say that children with hearing loss miss the 'nuances' of situations and it is their lack of these nuances that makes them so wonderful to work with. They are open, honest and brave and every day they make us and you incredibly proud. Someone said to me the other day that they thought I'd have to be 'carried out in a box' so to spare everyone that I will be retiring at the end of April 2024. I will greatly miss the SIS team, it has been a true privilege to work with such skilled and dedicated professionals and I will miss you and your children more than I can say. The Lead Teachers at the helm of SIS will continue to be Nikki Coombes and Ruth Lawton so you are in good hands!

Sensory Inclusion Service update continued...

In February, we also said 'goodbye' to Rachel Atkin, our amazing Business Support Officer, who has guided and supported SIS work for around 34 years. She is an immense loss but two new BSOs will support SIS and will be at the other end of the phone and emails to respond to your queries. Again, a huge thank you to Rachel who will be greatly missed with her encyclopaedic knowledge that has certainly made my role a manageable one.

So back to you, this will be the last newsletter I write in so I want to thank you for all you do to support SIS either at the SDCS, attending events or just simply sending us news of your wonderful children. The challenges these children and young people face every day are enormous but as a team working so closely with all of you, our Education and Health colleagues we will all continue to do our best to show that no matter how high the barrier appears, the taller these children become to cross it! Wishing you all happy futures, I look forward to hearing of you often!

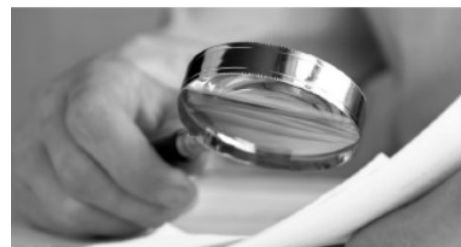
Warmest regards

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.
- 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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