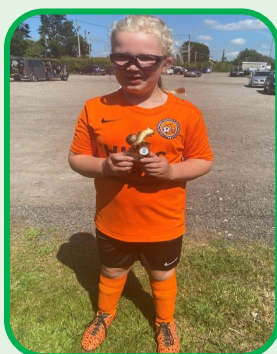


# Sensory Inclusion Service Visual Impairment Newsletter

Issue  
**23**  
April 2022

Sensory Inclusion Service, Floor 7, Darby House, Lawn Central, Telford, TF3 4JA

## Fencing Nationals



My name is Grace Downes, I am 10 years old and I am blind in my right eye & partially sighted in my left. Despite having this disability, I try to not let it hold me back. I love sport and I do football (which is my favourite), fencing and swimming. I also like music and I play the violin and the piano. I have had a few sporting achievements and I recently qualified for the fencing Nationals which is in Sheffield. I think it is important that if you have a disability you should never be ashamed of it; we are all different. Never be afraid to stand out. Well done Grace!



## Gymnastics trophy



Amy got a trophy on Saturday for her Gymnastics class, she's recently started going to gymnastics and is really enjoying it and doing well, currently working on how to do a handstand!

Well done Amy!

## Theatre trip



Here is a photo of Archie enjoying the play Gangsta Granny at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury.

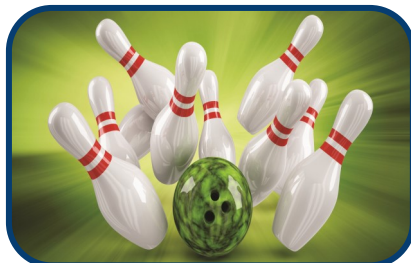
Glad you enjoyed the show Archie!

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## Watch this space!

Activities and events will be returning in the near future with this year's pantomime trip to see Snow White already booked!

Details will be sent out via email so watch this space!



## BBS Have a Go Days

BBS Have a Go Days are multi-sport taster events that have been held successfully across the country since 2016, supporting blind and partially sighted people of all ages and abilities to get active. Sports such as football, tennis, rugby, futsal, goalball, swimming, guide running and other free activities are available at the events.

For more information on our Have a Go Days or to register your interest in these opportunities, please email [participation@britishblindsport.org.uk](mailto:participation@britishblindsport.org.uk) or call 01926 424247.

**Birmingham Have a Go Day - Sunday 12th June 2022**

**Time: 10am - 3pm**

**Venue: Wolverhampton University: Walsall Campus, Gorway Rd, Walsall, WS1 3BD**

Partners: Wolverhampton University

Register at: <https://britishblindsport.wufoo.com/forms/have-a-go-dayfamily-day-registration->

## We would welcome your views

The Sensory Inclusion Service is constantly looking at ways to improve the service we provide and would welcome your views on both the activities and the newsletter we currently offer.

Attached is a link to a short survey and we would be grateful if you could take the time to complete, thank you.

[Link to SIS VI Activities and Updates Survey](#)

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## What is Little Stars?



Little Stars is a family group for preschool children with visual impairments where preschool siblings are also welcome to attend. Parents can chat with other parents and seek advice from qualified staff.

A qualified teacher of children with visual impairments (QTVI) is available to support the children achieve developmental targets around social and emotional development, communication and language, play and learning, movement and mobility, independence and self-care.

A sensory/light room is available for the children to work with a qualified teacher on visual targets.

Activities including craft, cookery/sensory activities, music/singing and the session always ends with a calm parachute session.

Parents who have attended Little Stars sessions with their children, have made the following comments;

*"Little Stars have been there to support us through times of worry and the unknown."*

*"The people who run Little Stars have given advice and an ear to bend and a shoulder to cry on."*

*"The families I have met have become friends outside of the group and I think they will be friends for life. "*

*"Luke and myself spent a couple of happy years going to Little Stars. We found the staff very friendly and welcoming. The environment was very safe and clean. Luke enjoyed mixing with his peers and the staff worked hard to set stimulating exercises to engage the children. Although as a dad carer I was outnumbered by ladies, this shouldn't put men off attending, everyone is welcome!"*

*"Finley enjoys going to Little Stars; he plays with all the toys, he paints and is involved in craft activities, he plays instruments, he sings, reads books, does jigsaws and when he was younger he enjoyed the light room (now all he wants to do is jump off the ledge and play swing with the light curtain!). He is so confident around all the people there and has told staff he loves them. We will truly miss going to group and we'd like to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for all their love and support...so thank you xx"*

Little Stars is based at The Stepping Stones Centre, Brunel Road, Malinslee, Telford, TF3 2BF on Tuesdays in term-time from 9.30 to 11.30am



Sessions will be starting again from Tuesday 7th June.

If you are interested and feel that these sessions may benefit you and your child please speak to your child's QTVI or contact the Sensory inclusion Service on 01952 385259

## Welcome to Kerry



Hello, my name is Kerry and I am the newest member of the Visual Impairment Team. I live just over the border in Mid Wales and am mum to two gorgeous boys who keep me very busy. I have spent the last 15 years teaching children with additional learning needs both in mainstream and specialist settings covering early years right up to sixth form. I have a postgraduate certificate in SEN and Inclusion and am also a qualified SENCO. Outside of my day job I love to bake and to create beautifully decorated cakes, I enjoy getting out and about and exploring new places

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## Sensory Inclusion Service update

It's lovely to see Spring on the horizon, with lambs and daffodils everywhere it's again a time of new beginnings. It's certainly a time of many new beginnings for SIS generally. Since September 2021, Shingai Brazendale has taken up a position closer to home and we have been joined by Kerry Trow who has joined the VI team as a new teacher.

Graham Groves has resigned his post after 34 years with the service and is currently off on a month's trip to Africa where he will swap his laptop for a pair of binoculars and much wildlife watching! Bon Voyage Graham.

I am now the Team Leader for the service and working with the team to staff Lead Teacher positions across hearing and vision. Watch this space for new arrivals to the team. We hope to have a new Lead Teacher for VI in place by September. In the meantime, thank you to the current team which continues to work flat out to maintain excellent support for children and young people and their families.

We are also currently interviewing for a second Social Inclusion Facilitator (SIF) who will join us asap and extend the support on offer from Jo Adcock. The new SIF will work alongside Jo across hearing and vision and we look forward to many exciting activities and social events in the future. Tracy Hollyhead is currently on secondment for part of her week, undertaking work around EHCPs etc. with the SEND team – she spends 2 days a week with SIS as an ASA and 3 days with the SEND team. We knew her work was meticulous and the SEND team is really appreciating her attention to detail. Helen McDonald is kindly picking up some of her ASA hours in the interim.

And finally, Claire Wilson is back from maternity leave and in her ever efficient way in balancing motherhood, moving home, ASA and ICT support. Welcome back Claire!

It's a very busy time and a time of great change so please bear with us whilst we settle in to all these new roles. As always, your children remain our inspiration so please keep sending good news stories which we can share in our newsletters!

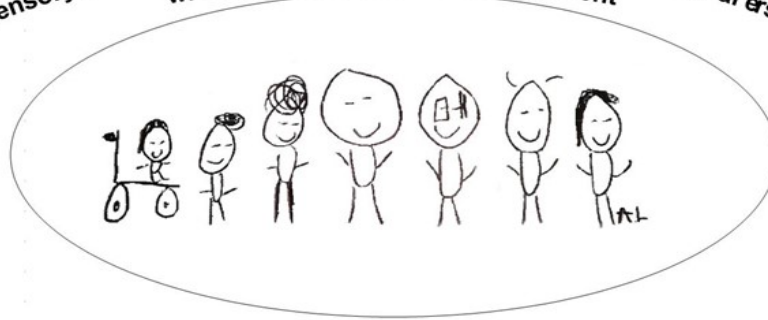
And wishing you all a very Happy Easter – enjoy those chocolate eggs!

Very best wishes

Theresa



## Sensory Inclusion Service resources library for parents and carers with children with visual impairment



### Our Sensory Inclusion library is back up and running!

The Sensory Inclusion Service (VI) resources library has been set up for the use of parents/carers of children and young people with visual impairment.

Toys and equipment are available to loan for a period of 3 weeks and will need to be collected from and returned to the Sensory Inclusion Service at Darby House, Lawn Central, Telford TF3 4JA. If you would like a copy of the catalogue to see what is available or for more information, please contact Jo Adcock by emailing [jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk](mailto:jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk) or calling 07773 534390.

### 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:Local.Offer@shropshire.gov.uk) Telephone: 0345 678 9063

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