

Sensory Inclusion Service Visual Impairment Newsletter

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



Children transitioning from year 6 to year 7 were invited to an amazing party at Pizza Hut where Wellington Rotary Club funded an evening of all you can eat pizza. Some incredible year 7's came along to give advice and reassurance that secondary school is fantastic and that lots of people can help you with worries or problems. After some games we tucked into ice creams and went back for refills until home time.



This is Ella who at the young age is 6 is an accomplished swimmer who has mastered diving and is already being scouted for national teams. We can't wait to follow your progress and we hope you will be collecting a medal at the Brisbane Paralympic Games in 2032!

We are delighted to invite you to Attingham Park on 9th September

Attingham Park have kindly made entrance free for the day to our children and young people and their families. It normally costs £37.50 for a visit if you aren't members.

Starting at 10am we will be organising space for us to meet, eat and play some games. Please bring your family along to meet new people and have a chance to explore Attingham and its amazing walks and park.

Attingham have also given us a 'community access pass' that entitles our young people and children to free entry to Attingham Park for them and their family. It acts like a membership card but the bookings would need to be made by Sensory Inclusion Service on behalf of families or groups visiting. Come along to hear more about it.

Whether you are a regular visitor or have never been before you can take this opportunity to come and have a great day out.

If you would like to reserve a spot for your family please reply to this email stating how many people will be in your party.





Is it too early to talk about Christmas? One Vision— a local charity— have made an incredible offer to fund a **Christmas party** for all the children with Visual Impairment connected to Sensory Inclusion Service. So the question is—what do you think we should do? If you have any ideas, venues or activities that you think will make our party a success let us know by replying to this email.

Thanks to One Vision's generosity we are hoping to put on an event that will include as many fun activities as we can fit in and the chance for families to catch up and enjoy the festivities. Do you want a traditional party with games or would you prefer bowling or trampolining? Do you have access to a venue that we could get at a discounted rate? Any ideas are welcome.

Support for Young Carers

Our teachers have mentioned that a few families have asked them about support for young carers, so we thought we would add it here to get the information out to as many families as possible.

Telford and Wrekin Young Carers service offer a comprehensive service to support young carers.



www.telfordandwrekin cvs.org.uk/telford-wrekin-young-carers-service

01952 458044/240209

The Young Carers Service (Shropshire) supports young people aged between five and 18 years old who are carers for a family member.

www.crossroadstogether.org.uk/young-carers-shropshire/

Carers support line: 01743 341995

General enquires: 0333 323 1990



Sight Loss Shropshire Prizes

The charity Sight Loss Shropshire donated vouchers so that our teachers could choose a student who has been exceptional in this school year. Here are some of the winners.

Lexi with our QTVI, Louise Kitson, who presented her with an award due to her independent, caring and hard working personality.



Addison and her award given to her by QTVI, Linda Webb because of her incredibly hard working attitude in everything she does, Addison always does her best and is tenacious in her positivity.

Emilia was delighted to receive her award from her QTVI, Louise Kitson. Louise says that Emilia has a bright and positive attitude and works very hard at school. Emilia was so excited she could barely stand still for a photo!



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William (looking fab on a non uniform day) was surprised and delighted to receive his award from QTVI Gill Dorricott. William is a talented student and recently made this incredible vehicle for a school project.



Toby was presented with his voucher by QTVI Emma Jeffries for his positive attitude and excellent self-advocacy skills. Emma says “Toby is a polite, well-mannered pupil who always has a positive attitude and is keen to engage whenever I met with him. He sets an excellent example of self-advocacy skills and can effectively communicate and convey, his own interests and needs within school, in a mature manner. Toby you really are a pleasure to come into school to visit.”



Sight Loss Shropshire have been incredibly generous with this and other donations made to us. We recently attended their AGM and heard about the fantastic work they are doing to support visually impaired people in Shropshire.



**Sight Loss
Shropshire**

Teachers' Celebrations



Meet Hope and Amber who both attend Wrekin View Primary School. Amber has recently learnt to read and write all of the letters of the alphabet in braille with support from QTVI Linda Webb. As a reward both girls worked together to decorate 'braille biscuits' for all of the class.



Meet Lauren who took part on a "KS3 take over day" at her school involving pupils applying to take on roles within the school for the day such as Headteacher, Receptionist, Teachers and Catering Staff. Lauren applied to work with the catering staff of her school and assisted with making the lunches. She also featured on BBC news as part of a feature highlighting the school Take over Day. Congratulations Lauren on being part of such a great event.

Here are some ideas and offers to help you fill the summer holidays

AIREA51, the trampoline arena in Telford, holds SEN evenings on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and this will continue through the summer holidays. One carer (must be 18 years+) can go free along with the SEN child/adult. They also allow siblings to attend for the standard open jump ticket of £11.

Telford Ice Rink have skating sessions on a Friday evening 5-6pm. These are purely for people with disabilities, and are quieter sessions. Visually impaired people are welcome at these (and all other public sessions) and are able to bring in a guide.

The cost for the skater is £10.35 per adults or £9.25 per child with a carer free. If you have TLC cards then you can skate at a concession price which is £5.45 for an adult and £5.00 for child.



The **CEA Card** will enable the user to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema. The Card is also one way for cinemas to make sure they look after their guests with disabilities. The card costs £6 to cover admin costs and lasts a year.



Lower Drayton Farm have given you a massive 40% off tickets to visit them—it's already a favourite with a lot of our families. Use this code to access the discount when booking 'TWC-VI'. This code is valid until the end of the year on PLAY tickets.

Telford and Wrekin Council have just launched their kids for a quid campaign—you have to live in Telford and Wrekin to qualify.

www.telfordandwrekinleisure.co.uk/kidsforaquid

Tenpin bowling in Telford have offered discount rates for us. Rather than the usual rate of £8.55 per person, your family can bowl for £4.35 per person. You can just pop in and receive this rate if you show reception a copy of this newsletter on your phone. This offer is only for weekdays but if you want to bowl on a weekend, Tenpin are offering us a 'everyone pays child prices' discount - just show reception a copy of this newsletter on your phone.



Tenpin are offering one lucky family a chance to **win** a free bowling game for up to six people. Just reply to this email completing this sentence:

“We love bowling because...” for a chance to win.

Charlotte’s Tandems is a charity that lends tandems and tag-along bikes free of charge to children and adults who have disabilities or additional needs. They also have volunteers who store cycles and teach people how to ride and enjoy them safely, as well as give them the confidence to get going.

To apply for a cycle, simply go to the website and complete a contact form. Hire is normally for two months but it could be longer.

Another way of trying a tandem is to attend a monthly Cycling4All, Shropshire – ‘Pedal in the Park’ event in Shrewsbury. See www.cycling4allshropshire.co.uk/events for more details and on the C4AS Facebook page.



Telford and Wrekin Summer Events

Short Breaks Market Place have an event taking place on Wednesday 5th July. This event is an opportunity for people to find out more, in one place, about different services and support available to them. There will be yoga taster sessions, a sensory tent and other taster activities; information from local partners; drinks and snacks as well as a chill out zone to make the most of the day! Find out more: www.telfordsend.org.uk/shortbreaks

For older children and young people, the **urban games programme** offers **free** sports coaching for children aged 8+. Cricket, hockey, netball, biking and football sessions are held at local MUGAs across the holidays.



Shropshire Summer Events

The **All In Programme** is for children aged up to the age of 18 who live in Shropshire and have a disability that prevents them accessing universal services without additional support. 'All In' provides a range of opportunities such as youth clubs, holiday schemes, horse riding, cycling, forest school, drama, arts, football and also a log cabin for overnight stays.

To take part in the 'All In' activities you need to register as a member.

[Follow this link for more information](#)

For the organised ones amongst you who have the summer holidays tied up, a look forward to the new term

Our fantastic toddler group **Little Stars** closed down due to COVID but is planned to start again in September on Tuesday morning at Stepping Stones (Brunel Rd, Telford TF3 2BF) starting on 12th September. The group is an informal meet up with other families with pre-school children. Sibling and family members are welcome to come along. It starts at 9.30am and ends at midday each Tuesday, **please reply to this email to let us know you might be interested in coming.**



An **Outdoor Activity Fun Day** on 7th October is being organised in Little Wenlock for children from Scouts, young carers and children from SIS. We have ten places open for children with visual impairment. The activities include fire lighting, outdoor cooking and shelter building. The day is free but you will need your own transport to get there and back. **To apply for a place reply to this email with your name and confirming you would like to attend.**



Spotlight on a VI charity

There are many sources of support available regarding visual impairment for families and individuals but not all of them have the high profile of the better-known ones like Guide Dogs UK or RNIB. In this newsletter I want to highlight the Royal Society for Blind Children (RSBC) and Visually Impaired Children Taking Action (VICTA).

Rob Tipton Lead QTVI SIS



Contact Details:

Web: www.rsbc.org.uk

Email: connections@rsbc.org.uk

Tel: 020 3198 0225

The Royal Society for Blind Children offers a range of services including emotional support and practical advice for families, opportunities for children and young people to build confidence and skills through activities, and a specialist further education college.



Contact Details:

Web: www.victa.org.uk

Email: admin@victa.org.uk

Tel: 01908 240 831

Visually Impaired Children Taking Action offer a range of help, advice and support for families of and children and young people who have a visual impairment. These include activities and events around the country, a parent's network, grants and more.

The Sensory Inclusion Service (SIS) is not affiliated to any of these organisations in any way so please use discretion when giving personal details to any organisations

A Message from Rob Tipton

Hello again, here we are at the end of another busy academic year.

First let me say thank you to Peter Seaward and Ken Whitcombe of the Rotary Club for funding our recent year 6 transition event which was held at Pizza Hut. Year 6 students got together with some “seasoned” year 7s so that they could get the low down on what to expect when they go to “big school”! Pizza and ice-cream were consumed, and nerves calmed whilst new friends were made.

It can be tricky to keep your little, and not so little ones, busy over the summer break. I hope that there are some ideas in this issue that will be useful for you.

We welcome Kim Tunbridge to the team as our new Social Inclusion Facilitator. She has already helped to organise the recent year 6 transition event and is on the case for another event in October again funded by the Rotary Club in conjunction with the local Scout group, she will be in touch about that soon. She shares a little about herself in the profile article further on in the newsletter.

There are also goodbyes. I have decided to take early retirement to pursue different interests and part time work opportunities and I will be leaving at the end of term. I am quite embarrassed as my time here has been very brief, but I hope that I have been able to help the team, our children and young people, families and those who support you, despite the short-term nature of my stay. I hope that the team finds a replacement soon.

Vernon Webb has also worked with us as an Access Support Assistant on a fixed term contract whilst we have been trying to recruit to a longer-term post. He has been helping to modify work so it is more accessible for some of our students and sharing his experience as a former teacher of the VI. Thank you Vernon, you may be asked back so keep your diary clear!

Have a happy and safe summer.

Rob Tipton Lead QTVI SIS

SIS Staff supporting Ugandan School for Visually Impaired Children



Linda and Vernon Webb of the SIS VI team first contacted the school on a visit to Uganda in 2018 to visit Vernon's son. They got in touch with a school that had been started by Teddy & Kizito Bbosa for their own blind son.

Linda and Vernon have supported the school over the years, including fundraising via JustGiving and busking in Ludlow on a very cold day in March which was fun, but didn't raise much money!

Initially they were given a very warm and generous welcome and have stayed in touch and continued to provide support in various ways ever since that visit. The school has grown from about 20 pupils in 2018 to over 40 pupils today.

Recently, Vernon celebrated a big birthday by cycling to fundraise towards the cost of the roof on a new school building for CEVIC. The fundraising was very successful and the roof is now in place, but there's a slight deficit of 1500 miles still to be cycled! The school's next project is to source musical instruments to develop the children's musicality.



Hello, I am Kim Tunbridge and I joined Sensory Inclusion Service in May. My previous roles have been within sport and education. I am working alongside our Teachers supporting children who need an extra hand with social inclusion—this can include help to complete hobbies and interests, or help with confidence and friendships. I have met some absolutely wonderful children and young people since I started and can't wait to get back in September to run our toddler group every Tuesday, help out at the Scout Event in October and see you all at Attingham on 9th September. Don't forget to enter our competition to win a free family bowling game and most importantly have an amazing summer holiday.



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



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

If you would like to receive this newsletter in large print or Braille, please respond to this email and let us know your requirements.

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