

Sensory Inclusion Service Hearing Impaired *newsletter*

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Who's Who?

My name is Dawn Ball. I started my career as a Nanny in London in 1990, which was a great experience after growing up in sleepy Shropshire. I moved back to Telford in 2000 with my two children and worked as a Support Worker for Help to Quit and a HLTA at Ercall Wood Technology College.



I joined the SIS team in 2009 as a Social Inclusion Facilitator, working with children, young people and their families across the county. I am also responsible for organising many activities including events for pre-school, primary, secondary, FE and family events along with our weekly Family Group at the Stepping Stones Centre.

I put together the first SIS newsletter in 2010 and have finally had my arm twisted to do the Who's Who after 22 editions! I always look forward to receiving the amazing achievements of the children and young people and keeping you informed of what's going on.

I feel very privileged to have such a rewarding and varied job and working with such a dedicated team.

Merry Christmas to you all!

A Christmas Acrostic Poem

by **Evan Davies**

Candy canes on the Christmas tree
Happy about presents
Roast turkey.....yummy
Ice melting the next day
Snow landing on my tongue
Trees being put up with baubles on
Mum eating mince pies
A present ready to be opened
Snowballs fight with my dog Stanley



Dates for your diary

Study Day

Wednesday 14 March 2018

The Lantern Centre Invites will be included for the relevant CYP



Audiology Update

4 Year Updates

In most circumstances children have their hearing aids upgraded every 4 years. If thought to be appropriate by the audiology team, the children will be fitted with Phonak hearing aids. Your Teacher of the Deaf will contact you to choose colours prior to the session so that the swap can occur at the appointment.

Radio Aid Updates

Alongside the hospital audiology team, SIS is currently updating FM Systems.

This will be occurring alongside any child's general 4 year upgrade of hearing aids. In most circumstances, children will receive a Phonak Roger system which provides children with a digital signal which should improve the child's listening experience within schools and homes.



SIS Appointments with ENT Consultants

SIS has access to a number of appointment slots with ENT Consultants for any emergencies or ongoing ENT issues. These are arranged through your Teacher of the Deaf. You will not get a hospital letter for these appointments. Please ensure that you check in at the reception when you arrive to ensure that your notes are brought to the clinic.

Hearing Aid Review Appointments

For children who are over 5 years of age, carers are sent a letter indicating that they are due a hearing aid review. Please ensure that you contact the Audiology department at that point to fix your appointment.

High Flying Fun Day!



2017 has been a fantastic year for the Shropshire Deaf Children's Society (SDCS). Having reached the grand old age of 65 the charity has made the most of celebrating this significant milestone in style.

On 20 May, we held a highly successful charity ball at the Lord Hill Hotel in Shrewsbury. Great food, good company, live music from an excellent band and dancing late into the night. This event was a wonderful way to kick start our anniversary year - not only was it great fun, but it also helped to raise far more money than we had expected. This money will greatly help the work of the SDCS in supporting deaf children and their families throughout Shropshire and Telford.

However, the most important event of this celebratory year was our annual Family Fun Day, held on 17 September at Broseley CE Primary School, which provided an opportunity for the children to join in the festivities. Despite a sharp downpour of rain to herald the arrival of the RAF helicopter, the day was a huge success. As well as being able to sit in and learn about the helicopter, the children were able to take part in a range of other activities. These included a climbing wall, gaming bus, exotic zoo, junior golf lessons, backwoods cooking with 1st Broseley Scouts, face painting, bouncy castle and a soft play area for the very youngest.

Throughout the event all the activities were busy with excited children taking full advantage of the opportunities provided, helped along by an improvement in the weather. It was wonderful to see so many families and children mixing, socialising and having fun. This was all fuelled by plenty of tea, squash and cake provided by members of the SDCS Committee overseen by Natalie McBride.

At the end of the day Ian Barrett (SDCS Chair) and Dawn Ball (SDCS Secretary) had the great pleasure of presenting the annual awards, given by the Teachers of the Deaf to children who have made significant progress over the year. A big thank you to Sue Lewis OBE who attended the event and was able to present the Andrew Broughton award in memory of her late husband and inspirational Head of the local Sensory Inclusion Service.

Finally, many thanks to Major Dan McBride for organising and flying the helicopter that arrived to mark the opening of the Fun Day and whose departure marked the close. Thanks also to Liz Simpson, Acting Head of Broseley CE School, who allowed the SDCS to use the school and grounds for the Fun Day.

Teen bowling

At the beginning of September the SDCS funded a bowling night for older teenagers.

This was a great opportunity for students to get together and for those students about to go to university to have a chance to talk about it. Everyone was delighted that two former students Adam Faulkner and Eve Lister were able to come along to this event.



GCSE/A Level Exam success



It's my privilege yet again to send huge congratulations to the many young people who undertook national examinations last summer. Yet again, the Service was astounded and proud, in equal measure, at what they managed to achieve. Their outstanding results reflect high commitment to their studies, high parental expectations and the hard-earned confidence of the young people themselves that they can undertake and achieve highly in all areas of their studies.

We have gathered the results of 12 pupils who undertook GCSE and 5 who sat 3 A Levels. 4 of the 5 A Level students achieved A, A* or B in all subjects. 4 have progressed on to university whilst Poppy Carver is taking a gap year before applying to university next year I believe! All of the A Level students faced challenges that, at times, seemed insurmountable yet all achieved their full potential. We wish Lauren, Emily, Weronika and Katie every success at university and look forward to hearing about all the fun you have there! Huge congratulations to Toby, Poppy's brother, who graduated with a 2:1 in Engineering this year! The Carver family, and many others of you, must have had big celebrations this summer!

All of the GCSE students have now progressed to college or are studying A Levels in schools! They all shone! All of them achieved, at least, 7 A*-G (2/3 including Maths and English) and two achieved 11 A/A*, an achievement which would be breath-taking for pupils

without the challenge of hearing loss! No subjects were beyond their reach – several sat GCSEs in Modern Foreign Languages and achieved the top grades! For some the achievement was achieving a C in English after struggling with

levels of hearing loss which made the learning of their own language something which often seemed nigh on impossible. Whatever grades you achieved, you all gave of your best – SIS and your families are proud of you all!

We are always sad to say goodbye to young people who leave school and progress to colleges beyond the Shropshire borders as we no longer see you but we would love to hear how your courses are going and about all the new experiences you are having!

Remember, this is your Newsletter! – Please keep us posted with the many and wonderful things you do. For many of you, your achievements are not measurable by standard exams but they are huge achievements nonetheless.

We would really welcome contributions from parents/ carers about the achievements of your children and young people. Perhaps some pupils (current or past) could write to Dawn Ball and tell us what you are up to! I recently heard that one young man undertook a train journey across Birmingham, encountered great challenge from rail changes but got home safely – a massive achievement for him! For another, it might be undertaking a part time job, joining a Youth Club, taking part in Duke of Edinburgh or National Citizenship Award. Toni Riley, a profoundly deaf adult who was supported by SIS throughout school, is soon to speak to a local group of deaf and deafened adults

about her life's experiences – her generosity in sharing this will benefit everyone who hears her speak I am sure!

So please tell us what you do and let us all celebrate these achievements together. Very best wishes to you all,
Theresa Robinson

Family Group trip Park Hall Farm

The Sensory Inclusion Service's pre-school Family Group visited Park Hall Farm in July 2017. It was a fun-filled day with many families joining us to stroke the rabbits, groom the ponies and to feed the baby lambs with bottles of milk.



The weather was very pleasant as we took a tractor ride around the park. We had a leisurely, social lunch and we even enjoyed watching the pigs have a race! A great day for all. Huge thanks to SDCS for providing the funding for families to attend.

Summer Art & Craft

In August, 6 families joined us at Stepping Stones for a fun-filled (and slightly messy!) pottery workshop, run by Shrewsbury based artist Stephanie Kelly. The children were taught all about how to handle clay and then created some beautiful 3D tiles based on a seaside theme. These were glazed and fired by Stephanie and returned to the children a few weeks later – the results were stunning and a great time was had by all.



Jon passes on the Treasurer's baton

After more than 10 years' service as an SDCS committee member, much of that time managing the finances of the charity, Jon Edwards



has decided to step down as Treasurer. Both the SDCS and SIS would like to thank Jon for his hard work and commitment during his time on the committee. As well as doing a sterling job as Treasurer, Jon has also been a very active fund raiser, taking part in sponsored bike rides, walks and many other activities. Like most members of the committee, Jon became involved as he is the parent of a hearing impaired child; as his children grow up it is now time for others to take on the role that he has fulfilled so successfully over the past decade. As Jon leaves the committee, the SDCS is grateful to Martyn Bingham for stepping forward to take over Jon's role as Treasurer.

Ian Barrett Chair SDCS

Achievements

Jimmy Richards

Jimmy was appointed Head Boy at Oak Meadow Primary School in September this year. As Head Boy, his responsibilities include: setting up the hall for



Achievements

Well done to all of you



assemblies, lighting the candles in church along with break time duties such as checking that all the doors are closed, making sure everyone has a healthy snack and helping others to play co-operatively on the playground. Well done Jimmy!

Keon Gaughan

Keon was recently presented with the year 9 Pastoral Award. His head of year said that Keon is a very helpful member of our year group, he is always willing to support staff and students. He is actively involved in the life of the school, taking part in Sports ability club and additional intervention sessions. Keon has matured into a friendly and helpful young man, has dealt well with additional challenges and continues to be an inspiration to others.



Isobel Edwards

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Isobel recently received a celebration assembly certificate and Headteacher's award for hard work, trying new challenges and making great progress in all aspects of school life. Well done Isobel!



Antonia Hassall

Antonia has achieved her ASDAN Activities award for volunteering at the Donnington community hub during the school summer holiday. An excellent achievement.



Chloe Caswell

Chloe Caswell has recently taken up crochet following a masterclass from her keyworker. Chloe is showing quite a lot of skill and has already made some beautiful blankets – she is hoping to link up with her local hospital to see if she can give some of her wonderful creations to the League of Friends for use with babies on the neonatal ward. Well done, Chloe!



Daniella Wilding

Daniella has recently been placed on the gifted and talent register at school for her outstanding art work. She also received two Superstar awards for her sensible attitude when learning and her thoughtfulness and reflective ideas in RE.

