

# Sensory Inclusion Service

## Visual Impairment Newsletter

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

Issue

17

April 2020

### SIS Update

Well, this is probably the first time we have issued the newsletter whilst all of you and all of us are self-distancing in our homes due to Coronavirus. Please be reassured that, although we can't see you all personally and miss you greatly, the work of SIS goes on. We are very lucky to have the technology to work from our homes and you can ring us anytime if you need advice or just want to catch up! It would be really helpful if you let Jo know your current address, phone and email address so we can check this against our database to make it easier to keep in touch (jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk). We will try to update you about any changes in service and are keen to hear how you all are and how you are spending your time so do keep in touch! Stay home and stay safe! This is the most important job we can do to help the NHS! And join many other children throughout the country in designing a rainbow to remind us to try and stay positive. Send us your rainbows!

Theresa and Graham

### Celebration



3 year old William Seymour has recently started hippotherapy sessions with his physiotherapist Lynne at the Cavalier Centre, Much Wenlock. William recently won his first rosette for his part in the Riding for the Disabled Association's (RDA) 50 year anniversary in which he spent an hour in the saddle! William is working really hard and both his parents and his physio Lynne are very impressed by the progress he is making. Well done William!

### Activity update — Pantomime 2019

We started this year with a trip to see Jack and the Beanstalk (oh yes we did!) at Oakengates Theatre.

The visit started with the young people and their families meeting the cast such as Jack, Jack's mother (The Dame) and the Evil Fleshcreep prior to sitting back and enjoying a very entertaining performance.

A good time was had by all.



### A Further Celebration for Freya



Freya Sherwood who appeared in our Autumn term newsletter when she achieved her 800 metres swimming award has now gone on to achieve her Bronze award. A big achievement in such a small space of time - well done Freya!

**CORONAVIRUS**  
**PROTECT  
YOURSELF  
& OTHERS**

For local information and advice for vulnerable people, businesses and families, visit:  
[www.telford.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.telford.gov.uk/coronavirus)



## Introducing...



Hello my name is Shingai and I am very excited to join the Sensory Inclusion Service team as a teacher for visually impaired children and young people! I enjoy meeting people from all walks of life which in my past, led me to form a support group for mothers with young families when my own children were young. I have an interest in technology as I was an ICT teacher.

I have worked in various counties in the North and Midlands area within various teaching and support roles. I have been a teacher for 20 years with a wealth of experience from different school settings from mainstream to special schools. I have enjoyed supporting students and parents in my pastoral roles within different subject areas. This further led me to work with vulnerable children who were finding school difficult for various social and academic reasons. This altered my approach to teaching and learning for children and young people with visual impairment .

In my previous role "I have always believed that education is more than reading, writing and arithmetic and that children should be able to access communities where they live " - this is something I hope to bring into my role. I am keen to see children develop a sense of independence that enables them to achieve the best they can and to live a full life. In my spare time I like to travel, read and go to the theatre when I get the chance! I look forward to meeting you all soon in the new and exciting adventure of working for the Sensory Inclusion Service!

## Accessible home learning with RNIB Bookshare



RNIB Bookshare ([www.rnibbookshare.org](http://www.rnibbookshare.org)). If you have a child who has a print disability that affects their reading, RNIB Bookshare can help with access to nearly half a million curriculum and leisure titles in accessible formats at all educational levels.

If your child does not already have access to this service through their school (we don't want any child to miss out on the books and resources they need whilst they are having to learn at home) , please email us proof of their disability along with your name and contact details and we will make sure they get access to the services they need.

Contact us at [Bookshare@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Bookshare@rnib.org.uk) or tel. 0300 3038313.

## Free Webinar from Dolphin



Learning at Home: Free accessible textbooks for students with ASD, dyslexia, ADHD & Visual Impairments

An introduction into the Dolphin EasyReader App & RNIB Bookshare. RNIB's Stacy Rowe and Dolphin's Steve

Bennett will jointly introduce and demonstrate, signing up to RNIB Bookshare and the free EasyReader app.

When: Wednesday 22nd April — Time: 12.30pm (BST. London)

To register visit: [www.yourdolphin.com/en-gb](http://www.yourdolphin.com/en-gb) scroll down to the title "All Webinars"

## Vision England Residential



6 night residential – build your confidence and independence, learn new skills, have fun and make new friends. Vision England is an exciting residential programme for young people with visual impairment in the UK in partnership with Field Studies Council (FSC). Young people are supported to play a leading role in changing their communities and the environment for the better. Activities may include conservation activities like coppicing and tree planting and other activities like wildlife walks, bush craft, hiking and camping as well as spending time with peers!

### For 11-17 years old with visual impairment

**Date: 2 August – 8 August 2020.**

**Venue: Preston Montford Field Centre, Shrewsbury, Shropshire**

**Cost £25**

**How to apply: online at  
[www.sense.org.uk/visionengland](http://www.sense.org.uk/visionengland)**

**For more information: 07816599260 or  
visionengland@sense.org.uk**



### OneVISION committee update

As you will be aware the current members of the OneVISION committee will be stepping down after years of giving their time and commitment to the charity and a meeting recent took place for the purpose of forming a new committee.

I am pleased to tell you that we have enough people to form a new committee however we would still welcome more people to become members either in a role or as a trustee. If you would be interested please contact:

Jo Adcock:

e-mail: [jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk](mailto:jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk)

or

Telephone: 07773 534390



### Tour of Specsavers opticians, Telford Town Centre



Specsavers Optician, Telford Town Centre has kindly offered to give young people with visual impairment and their parents a tour of their centre. This will include the opportunity to visit the shop floor to look at different types of glasses, visit an optician's room and look at the equipment used to test sight, and to visit the spectacles laboratory to see how lenses are made.

If you feel this would be of interest, please contact Jo Adcock on 07773 534390

### Shout Out for Send (SOS) forum for young people

The Shout Out for SEND is looking for new members to join the SOS forum. The forum is not only an opportunity to make friends and have some fun (the last session involved making pasta bake followed by chocolate sponge) but also provides a platform for young people with differing abilities (living within Telford and Wrekin) to share their views about issues which affect them and other young people within the community. If your child would like to attend please contact IASS on:

01952 457176 or email: [info@iass.org.uk](mailto:info@iass.org.uk)

## **DO YOU ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO LOOK AFTER THEIR GLASSES?**

### **Glasses dirty, filmy?**

Wash them regularly and polish with a cloth.

### **Lenses scratched?**

Lay them down properly when you take them off.

### **Glasses broken, loose, twisted, uncomfortable?**

Store them in a case or box.

### **Care of Glasses**

If you wear glasses, make sure they are:

- your own
- clean (wash them regularly and polish with a cloth)
- in good repair
- unscratched
- kept in a case when not in use
- checked regularly to make sure they are right for your eyes (you should have your eyes tested every six months).

Lay glasses down properly:

Like this:



straight off and over,

not like this,



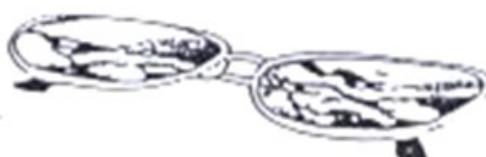
they can easily fall forward onto the lenses,

....or this,



lenses become scratched touching surfaces,

...or this,



folding them may make greasy marks on the lenses.

## Amazon Smile



Please can I make you aware that the OneVISION charity has signed up to Amazon Smile. If you use Amazon to order goods please could I ask you to consider using this Amazon Smile link and selecting OneVISION when placing your order so that a small percentage of the purchase price is donated to the charity. Thank you.

**AmazonSmile** is a website operated by **Amazon** with the same products, prices and shopping features as **Amazon.co.uk**. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, **Amazon** will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

## SAVE THE DATES



Driving experience and activity day at The Edge, Much Wenlock

Currently planned for:

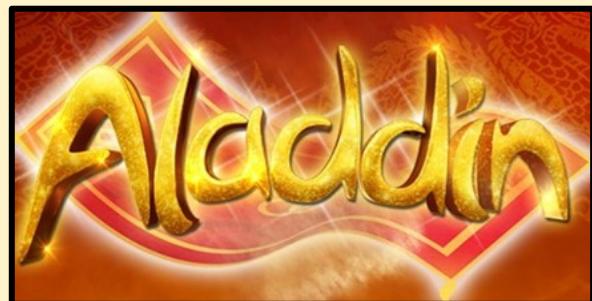
**Saturday 6th June** — given the current situation, it may need to be postponed to a later date. Further details will follow shortly.



**Family trip – Pantomime - Aladdin**

**Saturday 19th December 2020**

(with an opportunity to meet and greet the cast before the show)



Oakengates Theatre, Telford.

Further details will be sent out during the summer term.

## ECLO

The Eye Clinic Liaison Officer, Emma Chaplin, at Shrewsbury & Telford Hospitals NHS Trust will be working remotely until further notice.

However, she is still available to offer practical and emotional support during working hours via:

E-Mail — [e.chaplin2@nhs.net](mailto:e.chaplin2@nhs.net)  
and mobile 07808 736449.

## **Internet shortcuts:**

Zoom in = Ctrl and '+', or  
Ctrl+Mousewheel up  
Zoom out = Ctrl and '-', or  
Ctrl+Mousewheel down  
Default Zoom level: Ctrl+0  
Full screen mode: F11

## Ophthalmology Charity Ball 2020

### Black tie event



Raising money for new equipment in Ophthalmology

14<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Albright Hussey, 528 Ellesmere Road, Shrewsbury, SY4 3AF

150 places available in total, bring partners/friends/family, all welcome.

Approximate cost £35

DEPOSIT £10 per person to be given **ASAP**

Email [colette.hewitt@nhs.net](mailto:colette.hewitt@nhs.net)

Will be looking at doing a raffle or auction and a few party games!



### **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.



### 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



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