

Sensory Inclusion Service Visual Impairment Newsletter

Issue
30
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Sensory Inclusion Service, Floor 6, Darby House, Lawn Central, Telford, TF3 4JA

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—ophthalmology—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

Upcoming Events

May

29th - Driving day

31st - Circus Starr

July

6th - Attingham Park Visit



Please look out for emails from Nichola Clark about upcoming events.

Driving Day



There are a limited number of spaces available for the driving day on 29th May 2024. If you are in year 8 and above and would like to know more, please contact Nichola Clark for more information nichola.clark@telford.gov.uk



Crystal has an eye condition called right homonymous hemianopia which is an absence of the visual field to the right in both eyes. It means that Crystal is visually unaware of anything on her right side of both eyes until it reaches her midline.

For several years Crystal's vision has been assessed using the Cardiff Cards assessment. The test relies on the QTVI making notes when observing Crystal's eye movements to determine whether she can see the picture on the card.

Although Crystal is unable to use her voice in conversation, she does communicate very well using her communication device. She can also match pictures easily, therefore it was decided that the visual assessment would be more accurate if Crystal was able to name the pictures on cards to complete the Kay Picture assessment, a different assessment. Some black and white pictures from the assessment were emailed to Crystal's teacher, who made some matching grids for Crystal to practise. Throughout the year Crystal played lotto games with friends and she worked hard to become familiar with the pictures.

Recently Crystal's vision was assessed using this method. Pictures were shown to her at a distance of 3 metres, as is usual for this type of assessment. The size of the pictures decreased and Crystal was able to point to the corresponding picture on her grid to determine her distance visual acuity. This assessment was more reliable for us to get a better understanding of Crystal's vision.

Here are pictures of Crystal using her matching grids.

Her teacher and other staff in school are very pleased with her progress and her family were impressed that we could use the more accurate visual assessment now. The QTVI is proud of the work that Crystal and her class have put in to achieve this outcome. Crystal was also very happy, particularly when she received praise. Well done Crystal, thank you for proving that this was possible.



Maya is doing really well in Reception and has made a start on learning braille. She enjoyed sharing the story of the Gingerbread Man, and as a treat she chose her friend Izzy to help her do some baking with Access Support Assistant Carla McGowan and QTVI Linda Webb. All the children in Class 1 got to take a gingerbread man home and they were delicious!



Varshil has learnt and achieved so much in such a short amount of time, he only started having Habilitation Training in 2022 and now uses a long cane to facilitate his independence. In school he uses it to negotiate the corridors and playground and outside of school he uses it to walk the short route to and from school. The long cane has opened up the world for Varshil, it's given him the confidence to explore his surroundings and learn about his community. So much so that Varshil is eager to travel on the bus to Telford Town Centre.

Clive Jones



My name is Clive Jones and I was injured whilst serving in the Army in 2000. These injuries left me totally blind. I have no light perception in either eye and have recently had both of my eyes replaced with prosthetic shells. Cosmetically my eyes look good, however I do still have pain behind the shells.

After I came out of hospital, I was taken to Blind Veterans UK (Formerly called St Dunstan's), a charity for Blinded ex-service men and women. It was here that I picked up a bow and arrow for the very first time and fell in love with the sport of Archery.

I have been involved in visually impaired archery since 2001 and having joined British Blind Sport (BBS) I have found myself winning the indoor and outdoor national championships several times and have been involved in the Great Britain team since 2022, shooting internationally in many countries around the world. I am hoping to be selected to be part of the team to shoot at the European Para Championships in Rome in May 2024. This all depends on meeting the criteria and finding funding for myself and my spotter through sponsorship. As yet V.I Archery is not a Paralympic sport, hopefully inclusion in the 2028 Paralympic Games in Los Angeles is a possibility and it's something that I am hopeful will happen.

I train as much as I can building up to any competitions, doing as well as I can and improving my World ranking which is currently number 6 and my European ranking which is currently number 5 in my respective category.

My motivation helps me to train hard to achieve my main aim of one day being involved in the Paralympics, shooting in the World and European and other competitions and hopefully gaining Sponsorship will enable me to do this.

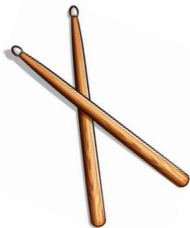
I have a lot of fun and enjoyment through Archery and I have made a lot of friends in the UK and around the world from participating in visually impaired sport. It is something that I would recommend to anyone who is blind or visually impaired to just give it a go and have fun.

Taiko Drumming Workshop

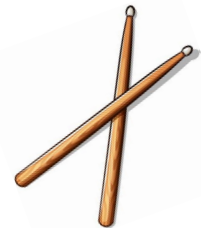
We were incredibly lucky to be invited to attend a workshop at The Hive in Shrewsbury.



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

Eye Care Liaison

R N I B

See differently

Here to offer practical and emotional support to anyone affected by sight loss, including families and carers.

Contact me today:

Emma Chaplin

Mobile: 07808 736 449

Email: e.chaplin2@nhs.net



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.

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

Little Stars Time to Play

Family Group meets every Tuesday in term time to support pre-school visually impaired children 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:

- Many art and craft activities have been carried out each week at Family Group.
- Families enjoy attending every week to share a cup of tea or coffee and to join in with activities, story time and singing.
- Talks from Library service, Health Visitors.



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.

If you are interested in attending, contact

Nichola Clark on 07581035047 or nichola.clark@telford.gov.uk

Little Stars Time to Shine

Sensory Inclusion Service Family Group

SIS (VI) Family Group takes place every Tuesday during term time for visually impaired pre-school children and their families.

Families can arrive anytime between 9.30 am – 11.30 am.

Summer 2024

April

- 9th – Guide Dogs
- 16th – Earth crafts
- 23rd – Guide Dogs
- 30th – Gardening Week

May

- 7th – Guide Dogs
- 14th – No Group this week
- 21st – Guide Dogs
- 28th – Half Term

June

- 4th – Butterfly crafts
- 11th – Guide Dogs
- 18th – Music
- 25th – Trip - TBC

July

- 2nd – Talk - Library Service
- 9th – Guide Dogs
- 16th – 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 – in 1982 I qualified as 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. During that time I also worked with many children with multi-sensory impairment and so since 2001, I have been in a Lead Teacher or Team Leader role at SIS so a lot of history here. For many years, I have overseen the work of VI and HI and 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 sensory impairment 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.

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.

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.

Sensory Inclusion Service update continued...

I know we mentioned Kim Tunbridge's departure in the last newsletter – she finally left us on February 16th but she has secured a post working with The Shrewsbury Ark so we all wish her the very best in such a new and exciting role. Her creativity at SIS and the new ideas such as Attingham days, her work at Little Stars and her work to coordinate the driving day and the drumming workshop are all amazing achievements. We will miss you Kim but you are not far away!

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 in so many different ways. 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 and the amazing Guide Dogs team 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.



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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