

# Sensory Inclusion Service

## Visual Impairment newsletter

Issue

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



### Goodbye

At the end of this term we will sadly be saying goodbye to Gina as she moves on to pastures new. Gina joined the Sensory Inclusion Service in January 2000 as a Qualified Teacher for the Visually Impaired following a career in primary education. She has been an immeasurable asset to the team because she has expertise in so many areas. She has worked with babies and their families, toddlers in pre-school settings and children and young people in primary through to FE mainstream education, providing advice and support to meet visual needs and promote positive outcomes. She has supported staff and pupils at The Bridge School for many years, carrying out functional

vision assessments and planning visual stimulation programmes. Gina has always looked at visual impairment in the context of the whole child and her multi-disciplinary approach has been highly valued by everyone.

Gina, we wish you all the best and we will miss you!



Congratulations to Sarah Birch who completed her 25 metre certificate last term. Sarah has been receiving one to one tuition at The Quarry swimming pool with support from Sight Loss Shropshire. Previously Sarah had taken part in her class lessons at primary school but felt these one to one sessions gave her a chance to fully access the coaching. "I've had a great time with my instructor, Charlotte. She is so patient and came in the water with me to demonstrate the swim strokes. I have so much more confidence now and really enjoy my swimming lessons." Well Done Sarah!

### English Speech

Have you ever had a power cut at night time? You go to turn the light on, and it won't work. You need the toilet; how do you get there? It's too dark. You trip over your shoes you left on the floor the night before.

Imagine if the sun doesn't come out and it's still dark, forever. You need something from the shop, but when you get there you don't know what's on the shelves. How would you feel?

For people with a visual impairment this is a daily ordeal they have to face. What do you think it's like to go to a shop where you have to ask someone how much something is because it is not written in braille on the price tag? The price tag tells you the size, colour and price, but what if it's not in braille ... What size is it? How much is it? What colour is it? It's never ending ask, ask, ask. Tesco, Morrisons, Asda why can't you add braille labels to the shelves and all you other shops too?

One day this could happen, people with a visual impairment would be able to go to the shops independently and read the labels in braille for themselves. This is possible. This is do-able. This needs to happen. It needs to happen soon.

Deja McGowan (Y9 Ercall Wood) as part of a fundraising suggestion in an English lesson.

## Little Stars

We would like to say goodbye to Finley who will be leaving Little Stars to start school in September. His mum has written a few words to share their experience.

“We started Little Stars in January 2016 when Finley was 6 months old and I'm sad to say that the time has come for us to leave as Finley is due to start school in September. I am sad to leave but am happy that we found Little Stars for Finley and for us as a family. 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. 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 meet at **The Stepping Stones Centre, Brunel Road, Malinslee, Telford, TF3 2BF** on Tuesdays in term-time from 9.30 to 11.30.

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

We look forward to seeing some of you in future. Gill and Jo

The picture below shows Finley taking part in an art activity with his sister.



Registered charity no: 1043696

For children with a visual impairment and their families in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

OneVISION the charity that supports our Children and Young People have money to spend. If there is a resource or equipment that your child needs and you would like support in funding it then please contact OneVISION directly through their facebook page, write to them care of the Sensory Inclusion or talk to the QTVI who supports your child and they'll make the request on your behalf.

### A Good Experience



As requested by the young people themselves, a meal at the Dragon King Chinese restaurant in Shrewsbury was arranged by the Sensory Inclusion Service and OneVISION in April this year. For Josh Thomas as pictured above, this was the first activity that he had attended. Josh said 'I wish I had known about activities sooner. Being able to meet other young people with visual impairment made me realise I am not the only one. Dragon King was really good. I felt very nervous at first and very uncomfortable talking to people for the first time but when they start talking back to me, I felt very welcomed and it made me feel confident. I was the only boy at this event but it was still a good experience. I feel the activity I have been on and the activities I can continue to go on can change my life.' We look forward to seeing Josh at future activities!



The resources library for the use of parents/carers of children with visual impairment is now available.

Items 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. All items will need to be signed for on collection.

If your child enjoys the equipment/toys, it may be possible to request funding from the OneVISION charity to purchase your own. You can find details on how to do this in this newsletter.

A copy of the catalogue has recently been sent out via email but if you require a printed copy or would like more information please contact Jo Adcock on 07773 534390.

### Save The Dates



**Family bowling night in October**  
further details will follow shortly



**Young people's meal**  
Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November  
further details to follow



### **Family trip – Pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk**

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

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2020,  
Oakengates Theatre, Telford  
Further details will be sent out during the summer term.

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

We are looking for new members to join the SOS forum. The forum not only is an opportunity to make friends and have some fun (the last session involved some pizza making) but provides a platform for young people with differing abilities living within Telford and Wrekin to share their views about issues affecting them and other young people within the community.

The next SOS forum will be held on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July at 2pm at the Visitor's Centre, Telford Town Park**, if your child would like to attend please contact Jo Adcock on [jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk](mailto:jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk)

### Return of the Cookery Club



We now have venues to hold cookery clubs in both Telford (Lakewood Centre, Wellington) and Shrewsbury (Venue to be confirmed).

It is planned that the cookery club will be starting in the autumn term with sessions being held once every half term.

Sessions will take place between 5pm – 7.30pm. Places at each club will be limited to 6 young people. If your child would be interested in attending one of these clubs please email Jo Adcock on [jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk](mailto:jo.adcock@telford.gov.uk).



### Family Christmas Party with magic show by Razamatuzz

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December, 2.30pm –

5.30pm, Hadnall Village Hall, Shrewsbury

Further details will be sent out during the summer term.

Jointly arranged by OneVISION, a charity for children and young people with visual impairment and their families within Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin and the Sensory Inclusion Service (VI).

### OneVISION Charity need your help.

OneVISION members meet three times a year to help support, organise and fund activities, events and equipment for young people with visual impairment. Most of the current parent committee members have served the charity for many years and are now at the stage where their children are leaving education so we are in need of new parents to come forward to keep the charity running.

Janet Shepherd has recently joined the committee and we would like to thank her for her continued support.

### Next AGM

The next AGM is set for Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, 6.00pm at Addenbrooke House, Ironmaster's Way, Telford TF3 4NT.

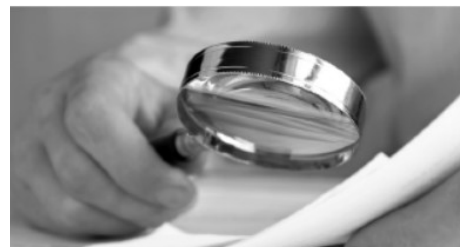
If you can offer your support please attend the AGM or contact OneVISION on [onevisionshropshire@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:onevisionshropshire@yahoo.co.uk)

Thank you.

### 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)



## 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](mailto:sendandinclusion@telford.gov.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)

### Search *Local Offer* Shropshire:

Your One Stop Shop for services and information relating to Special Educational Needs and Disability.

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/local-offer/>

Email: [local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:local.offer@shropshire.gov.uk)

Call: 0345 678 9063 asking for 'SEND Local Offer'

