

Sensory Inclusion Service Hearing Impairment Newsletter

Issue

34

Summer 2021

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

Team Leader Update

Well what a year it has been! It has been a difficult time for all children and families. The pandemic has presented particular challenges for all sensory impaired children. There is no doubt the children and their families have risen to the challenge. We wish all the children and young people a well-deserved summer break and send particular good wishes to all those going on to pastures new at new schools, colleges, jobs or universities! Fingers crossed for those eagerly awaiting exam results this summer.

We would also like to thank our whole team for their work over this academic year. They have managed to continue to deliver an effective and consistent service to children, families and schools. It has also led us to discover new ways of doing things that may support our work in the future. At the moment, we do not know what September will bring but we hope we will be back to 'as normal as possible' across all areas of our work.

Over the summer break, we will have the usual 'cover' duty with at least one of the team available each week. Some of our newly diagnosed families will also receive some specific support over the break. If you do have concerns or questions then please contact our office on 01952 385269. Contact details can also be found on the Local Offer on SEND - Local offer (telfordsend.org.uk)

Audiology Update

The ENT and Audiology team continue to work through the backlog of cases as a result of the pandemic. From a hearing aid review point of view, the Audiology team still has a number of children to see to ensure they are back on their normal schedule of reviews. If you are awaiting an appointment and you have any particular concerns then contact your Teacher of the Deaf. Over the summer break, please contact SEND and Inclusion admin at Darby House who will contact the Teacher of Deaf on duty.

There are still weekly meetings between the teams so we can alert the hospital-based teams to issues that need to be addressed. This is also the case if you feel your child needs new earmould impressions.

In terms of the old 'Wednesday' clinics at RSH and PRH – these continue to be telephone based. SIS/ Audiology and ENT still meet weekly to discuss cases. These are children who are due to be seen within the clinic and then are followed up with a phone call to the families. Again, if you were due one of the Wednesday clinics and you have a particular issue then please let your TOD know and we can add them as an extra for discussion at the clinic.

FM systems at home

As you are aware, over the summer break we recall as many FM systems as possible to ensure that we don't lose any kit over the break. Over this summer however, many schools are doing summer transition and other activities. We are allowing the systems to remain with the children and other special circumstances that are judged on an individual basis. If you wish to keep the FM system over the break please let your TOD know. These are extremely expensive pieces of equipment that cost around £2000 per child so if you are using them at home then please look after them as we only have a limited budget and they can take a long time to replace.

CORONAVIRUS

**PROTECT
YOURSELF
& OTHERS**

For local information and advice
for vulnerable people, businesses
and families, visit:

www.telford.gov.uk/coronavirus



Cochlear Implant Safety Guidance

Each manufacturer of implant systems is responsible for issuing its own safety guidance related to their individual devices. The national steering group – the British Cochlear Implant Group- has issued a paper that allows you to link to these. Please see below for the link:

<https://www.bciq.org.uk/safety/>

SDCS Achievement Awards

Kimberley Jones Award

Willow Butler



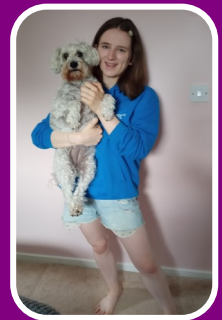
Willow has been profoundly deaf since birth. Despite this she has worked extremely hard in the many schools she has attended and has always demonstrated a positive attitude to facing challenges and acting as a role model to many other children and young people with hearing impairment. She has a very kind temperament and a keen sense of humour – always ready with a quick smile and willing to do anything she can to support others.

Despite being incredibly nervous she put herself forward for an NDCS selection day to represent the voice of young people with hearing loss nationally and was selected to join the youth panel. Her natural humility meant that she was astounded when she was chosen. She is always kind to others on transition days etc and her 'can do' attitude has even reached to undertaking GCSE Spanish which she has just completed at William Brookes School alongside a wide array of other GCSE subjects.

Willow's Teacher of the Deaf, Theresa Robinson said, "It has been a joy to support her and to work alongside her and we wish her well in getting the GCSEs she needs and deserves so she can proceed to Shrewsbury Sixth Form College to study A Levels."

Kimberley Jones Award

Abbie Randle



Abbie has overcome many challenges over the years, including a fear of people wearing masks. The recent pandemic was a real challenge for Abbie and she has managed to overcome her phobia. Abbie has blossomed into a confident young lady and has recently been chosen as a school prefect. Abbie has supported a number of young hearing aid wearers who have missed out on transition support due to Covid by offering virtual peer support sessions. Her mum said, "She was chuffed and really proud of herself." Abbie is a great role model and fully deserves the SDCS Award.

Further Education Award

Rhian O'Toole



Rhian is always smiling, in spite of the many challenges she has had to face over the years. She has overcome difficulties with determination and characteristic good humour and has achieved amazing success. She is extremely hard working and gained Level 3 qualifications in both Beauty and in Health and Social Care at college, which she intends to put to good use as she is hoping to start a career in healthcare. She is also a fantastic role model for younger students who she has mentored with kindness and empathy. Those of us in the team who have been lucky enough to work with her agree that Rhian is a wonderful student and a super young person and we all wish her the very best for her future.

SDCS Achievement Awards continued

Andrew Broughton Award

Imogen Poole



Imogen has had a Baha fitted and an operation on her knee which left her wheel chair bound for some time. She's now back on her feet and always works hard in school. Staff say that she is always chatty and happy and has a very positive attitude to her learning in school.

Andrew Broughton Award

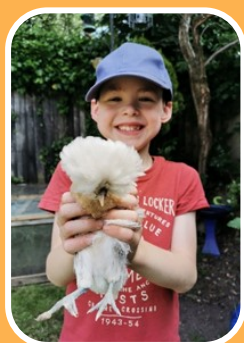
Ted Evans

Ted has settled back in to school really well following lockdown and significant heart surgery, is working hard and making really good progress with his speech and Makaton.



Margy Lloyd Award

Ray Turner



Ray is 7 years old. He has a twin brother, Jim. They were born at 26 weeks. Both boys are an absolute delight! They are well known at hospital clinics for their fun personalities and happy go lucky natures. Their health journey has been challenging.

Ray has a severe bilateral hearing loss. He was not aided until he was over one years old due to a diagnosis of Auditory Neuropathy Spectrum Disorder. Hearing aids were worn until cochlear implants operations were carried out in 2017 when Ray had two operations in May and December of that year due to complications in one ear.

Ray is truly amazing! Despite his complex medical history he has faced every challenge. It has been a pleasure to watch him grow in confidence over the years. He is now in Year 2 and he embraces school life. He is very popular with friends.

The progress with his communication has been phenomenal. He will now talk to you about all aspects of his adventures with his family and curriculum work in school. He was once a reluctant writer as he found it challenging but there is no stopping him now. I know school staff and his family are very proud of his achievements. Well done Ray! He is a deserving recipient of the SDCS award.

Margy Lloyd Award

Elliot Taylor

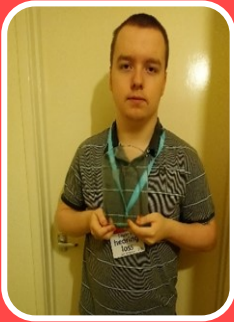
Elliot has worked extremely hard to make the transition from nursery to Primary. He has had an amazing year in the Reception Class at Meole Brace C.E. Primary School. He was diagnosed with a profound hearing loss at 2 years old. He went on to wear hearing aids and then to have bilateral cochlear implants just before his 3rd birthday.



Elliot is now 5 years old. He has visited Birmingham Children's Hospital regularly for hearing tests, processor appointments and speech and language outreach support. He has taken everything in his stride. He is always hard working, highly motivated and keen to do his very best. He has made accelerated progress with his receptive and expressive language. Socially he has lots of friends and enjoys the amazing opportunities provided by his family to attend activities after school and at weekends. He is always smiling and has an amazing sense of humour!

Elliot should be very proud of his achievements.

Achievements



Callum Tong

Callum was awarded the North Shropshire College Student of the year Award. The college said, "Callum has contributed in lessons over and above and persevered during lock down with his own needs, where many may well have given up." Well done Callum!



Eric Smith

Eric recently took part in his 2nd go-karting race at Hooton Park and came in 2nd place.

Well done Eric!



Sion Smith

Huge congratulations to Sion who has passed his driving test first time, and on the same day had confirmation of his place at Reaseheath College to start a course and apprenticeship in Plant and Machinery in September. Sion has been an excellent self-advocate with college services to ensure he has his hearing needs met when he starts his course, some of which will be residential.

Umar Zubair



Umar received a certificate from school for his reading. His parents are very proud of his progress.

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



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- 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



[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