

Hearing Inclusion Newsletter

Issue

48

Spring 2026

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



Holiday Cover

There is a Teacher of the Deaf on duty every week of the Easter holidays.

Call **01952 385269** for support.



Nanci is now in Year 11 and continues to be an exceptional role model to her peers. She is working hard towards her GCSEs and hopes to progress to A Levels in French, Geography, and a third subject yet to be decided. Her passion for these subjects reflects her ambition to travel and explore new places in the future.

As a dedicated Prefect, Nanci consistently demonstrates maturity and commitment. Since the start of Year 7, she has been awarded the 100% Effort badge every term – an accolade given to only six pupils per class. She now proudly wears an impressive total of 13 badges on her blazer!

Beyond her academic achievements, Nanci has completed her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and has volunteered at a local primary school, where she made a highly positive impression. Outside of school, she enjoys Morris Dancing and is a Black Belt in Combined Martial Arts, both of which she attends with great enthusiasm each week.

I'm excited to see where Nanci's journey takes her as she reaches the end of secondary school and moves into the next chapter of her life. Well done, Nanci!



Shropshire
Council



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough

Elliot has been confidently and clearly educating his classmates about his hearing loss. He recently shared a fantastic PowerPoint presentation titled "All About Me", where he explained his deafness and helped his peers better understand how he hears.

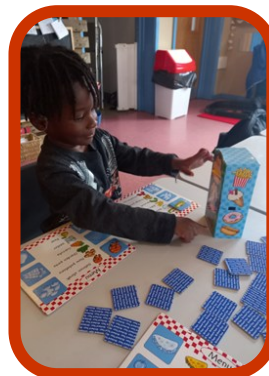
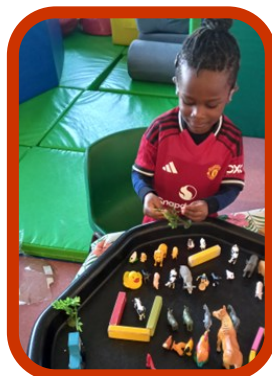
As part of his presentation, Elliot demonstrated how a hearing aid sounds using a stetoclip, and he even taught the whole class the British Sign Language alphabet, enabling them to sign their own names.

Amazing work, Elliot — we're very proud of you!



Three year old Chamuel received his cochlear implants in September 2025 and has been wearing his processors consistently ever since — well done, Chamuel!

Chamuel loves listening to stories and songs, and he enjoys joining in with turn taking games both at Nursery and at home. He is football mad and has great fun playing with his two brothers.





The hospital have informed us that they are no longer accepting orders of hearing aid batteries and tubing via email. Please visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BatteryR>



Once received, the requested items will be posted directly to your home address.

As a reminder, please only contact Stepping Stones to request a hearing test via Community Audiology:

PRH Audiology - 01952 282804 RSH Audiology - 01743 261482

Or email sath.audiology@nhs.net

High Sherriff of Shropshire's Outstanding Young Citizens Awards 2026

A huge congratulations to Rory, who was crowned the Junior Winner at the recent celebration event!

Rory has a hearing impairment and, following his diagnosis, received support from the Sensory Inclusion Service. This led him to activities run by the Shropshire Deaf Children's Society (SDCS), which help children with hearing impairments build friendships, develop confidence, and feel empowered.

After benefiting from these events, Rory wanted to give something back. He chose to fundraise for SDCS so more children could access similar opportunities. Setting himself an ambitious challenge, he trained for a 1000m sponsored swim – despite previously only swimming 400m. Through determination and hard work, he completed the full distance and raised an incredible £1,400.

His fundraising has since helped provide forest school activity days at Wrekin Forest School for children across Shropshire.

Well done, Rory – an outstanding and inspirational achievement!



WELCOME

to the team



Hello! I'm Beth. I have just started working with the amazing SIS team as a Specialist Language Practitioner, a new role within the service. This is a very exciting opportunity, one that allows me to bring my passion for deaf education to the children and families of Telford and Wrekin. I have worked for a great number of years within a mainstream school with a deaf resource provision supporting children from Nursery to year 6.

In my spare time, I enjoy taking my two young daughters on days out with the family, going on holiday and visiting National Trust sites. I also volunteer with Shropshire Deaf Children's Society. I love attending all the wonderful events they hold for the families and enjoy helping to set up ones for the future.

I look forward to meeting you all soon!

Deaf Football sessions



Our football sessions are proving very popular, and it's fantastic to see more children getting involved each time. These sessions are specially designed for primary-aged children who are deaf, with British Sign Language (BSL) support provided to ensure everyone can take part, feel included, and enjoy the game.

The team are currently seeking funding to help expand this provision. If you know of any businesses or organisations that may be able to offer support, please get in touch.

A huge thank you to our amazing partners: Telford & Wrekin Council, Shropshire Football Association, and Shropshire Deaf Children's Society. And an extra big shout-out to Ercall Wood Academy for kindly letting us use their facilities.

Session dates

Saturday 11th April 2026	16:00 - 17:30	Ercall Wood Academy, TF1 2DT
Saturday 9th May 2026	16:00 - 17:30	Ercall Wood Academy, TF1 2DT
Saturday 13th June 2026	16:00 - 17:30	Ercall Wood Academy, TF1 2DT

If you are interested in attending, or would like to know more information, please contact info@ercallcoltsjfc.co.uk

BSL Celebration Event

Over the last year, our Family Signing project has given deaf children and their families more opportunities to learn and use sign language together. The project delivered 18 sessions, taught by a local deaf BSL tutor and supported by volunteers from the charity and the Sensory Inclusion Service. These sessions were fun, relaxed and a brilliant way for families to build confidence signing at home while also getting to know one another.

To celebrate everyone's hard work, we held a BSL Celebration Event. Families from all three groups came together, joined by members of the deaf community and staff from Paediatric Audiology, the National Deaf Children's Society and VISS. It was a lovely opportunity for families to discover local support and meet the people behind these services.

A highlight of the event was a workshop led by deaf signed-song performer and writer Rebecca Withey, who taught everyone how to sign the K pop hit Golden. The children picked it up brilliantly – the adults might need a little more practice!

We also enjoyed a BSL story time session featuring the book *Can Bears Ski?*. Each child received their very own teddy bear wearing the same type of hearing device they use – whether a hearing aid, BAHA or cochlear implant – which made the story even more special.

Looking ahead, we hope to establish a local BSL Level 1 class, as many families have expressed interest in continuing their learning. The success of this project has shown how much our community values these opportunities, and we'll be seeking further funding to offer more Family Sign Language sessions and community events in the future.

We would like to say a huge thank you to National Deaf Children's Society for providing the grant to support the project.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to the National Deaf Children's Society for providing the grant that made this project possible. Their support has been invaluable in helping families learn and grow together through sign language.



My NDCS app

My NDCS is our free app to support you and your deaf child with any level of hearing loss in the UK as they grow. Find expert information tailored to your child's age and where you live, inspiring stories and online events.

App features

- Find expert information on all aspects of childhood deafness that's tailored to your child's age and where you live.
- Read inspiring stories from other families and deaf role models.
- Find events to get advice from our team of experts and connect with other families.
- Use the journal to record key moments and milestones in your child's journey. You can also add notes to share with professionals later.
- Use our glossary of key terms for quick reference.

Get started

My NDCS is available for iOS and Android users in the UK:

- Download the free My NDCS app from the App Store or Google Play.
- Create an account so the app can provide you with tailored information.
- Turn on notifications in 'My account' to be alerted when new content is added.

Visit

<https://ndcs.org.uk>

for more information

National Deaf Children's Society Family Fund Programme

The National Deaf Children's Society is working in partnership with Family Fund to deliver a nationwide programme to support families raising deaf children aged 0 to 11, or who are still in primary school.

The programme will fund specialist equipment, assistive technology, and British Sign Language (BSL) learning, helping children with hearing loss to communicate more effectively and take part fully in everyday family life, education, and play.

Applications are made directly through Family Fund. You can apply even if you have previously applied for a Family Fund grant.

Visit

<https://apply.familyfund.org.uk/ndcs>

for more information

Smart Tech, Safe Choices!

International Safer Internet Day was on February the 10th. This year the theme was 'Smart tech, safe choices - Exploring the safe and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence'. If you missed it, here are a few top tips from the UK Safer Internet Centre <https://saferinternet.org.uk/> to help you stay safe when using AI:

Understand what AI is and how it can be used

Artificial intelligence technology is used by lots of people every day. AI suggests videos on streaming apps like Disney+ and Netflix, gives directions on map apps, can help translate different languages and can even create music and poems. Talk to your friends and family to see what they know about AI and where they have used it.

Consider how using AI can impact you and other people

Like a lot of other technology, AI can save us time and energy. You could use it to find the answer to a question, to check your spelling, or to create images or videos. Whilst AI can be a great tool, it's important that we think about when and how we are using AI, and don't use it in place of our own thinking and creativity, or to do things that may upset or worry other people.

Remember that AI is technology and isn't perfect

Even though it might seem like it knows everything, AI can still get things wrong. If you are using AI to get information or help with something, it is important to think carefully about what it tells you and remember that it should never replace support from people you know and trust. If you are ever unsure about something AI has told you, check with other sources, this could include looking on websites you trust or talking to an adult.

Look out for signs that something might be AI generated

It can feel hard to tell if something has been created using AI or not. Some websites and apps will tell you that AI was used, but this doesn't always happen. There are some signs you can look out for including if it looks surprising or shocking, if it looks too perfect, or if there are details you know aren't true. If you see something you are not sure is created using AI or not, speak to an adult about the signs they look for and try to work it out together.

Know where to get help

Although we know that AI can be used in a lot of great ways, remember there is always someone who can help if you are worried about something that has been created by AI or if you have concerns about the way you, or someone you know is using AI. You can speak to trusted adults like your parents, grandparents, teachers, or club leaders about any concerns you have online.

A Simple Tech Hack That's Making a Big Difference - Using an AUX Lead with a Radio Aid

As many of our families know, small adjustments can make a huge difference to access and independence. One simple—and very affordable—piece of equipment that has been a game changer for some of our students recently is an AUX lead.

Eisa, a Year 11 student preparing for his GCSEs, has been using an AUX cable to connect his radio aid directly to his laptop and other devices. The impact, in his words, has been "massive", and he's keen to share his experience so other families "can benefit just as much as I have."

By plugging his radio aid receiver into the headphone socket of his laptop using an AUX lead, sound is sent straight to his hearing aids through the radio aid system. This cuts out background noise and provides a much clearer, more focused listening experience.

This has been especially helpful during revision. Eisa uses YouTube channels like Easy As GCSE to support his learning, and being able to hear audio clearly has helped him concentrate on the content rather than battling distractions. As a young person with ADHD as well as hearing loss, reducing extra noise has made revising far more manageable.

He also loves that he can use it completely independently—just plug the AUX lead into his device and receiver, and he's ready to go. He's even found it works brilliantly for gaming by plugging it into his console controller. It's become a simple "life hack" that has transformed the way he accesses learning and leisure.

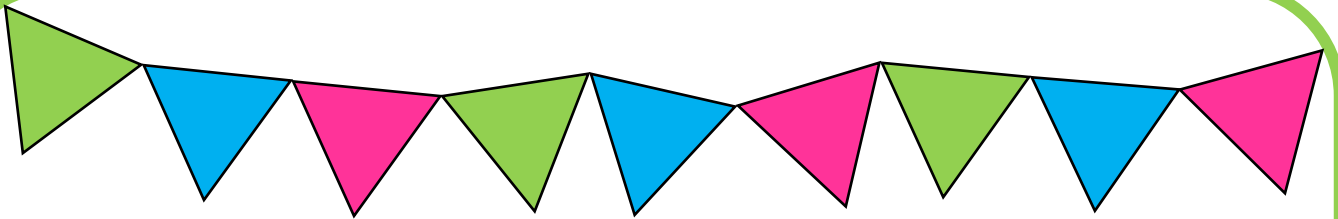
This setup can also be used in school. With an AUX lead and a simple headphone splitter, audio from a laptop can play through classroom speakers while simultaneously transmitting directly to a student's radio aid—far clearer than placing a microphone next to a speaker and hoping for the best.

If you'd like advice on setting this up safely and effectively with your child's radio aid system, please speak to your Teacher of the Deaf—we're always happy to help at home or in school.

A huge thank you to Eisa for sharing his experience and encouraging other deaf young people to try this simple but powerful adjustment. Sometimes the smallest pieces of tech can make the biggest difference.



Eisa is using an aux lead, plugged from his radio aid in to a laptop to access the audio from a YouTube revision video about Lady Macbeth.



Welcome to our new chair, Charlotte



I'm Charlotte, and I'm delighted to be joining SDCS as the new Chair. I work at a large primary school in Wolverhampton as the Inclusion Lead, where I have the privilege of supporting pupils and families every day. I have a strong passion for inclusion and ensuring that every child is supported to thrive. I'm really excited about the opportunity to work with SDCS, to strengthen links with families and to help support the children the charity serves. I'm looking forward to working alongside the committee and wider community to continue the fantastic work of SDCS.

Horse Riding



Our recent horse riding sessions proved incredibly popular, with fantastic attendance and enthusiasm from the children. Each week, it was wonderful to watch their confidence grow—both in themselves and in their riding skills. For many, it was a chance to try something completely new, and they embraced the experience with bravery, curiosity, and huge smiles.

The sessions offered far more than just time in the saddle. Children had opportunities to learn about horse care, build trusting relationships with the instructors and ponies, and develop balance, coordination, and communication skills. We saw friendships forming, children encouraging each other, and a real sense of achievement as they reached new milestones.

Feedback from families has been overwhelmingly positive, with many commenting on how valuable the experience was for their child's wellbeing, independence, and self esteem.

Sponsored Walk

Our sponsored walk will take place at Attingham Park
Attingham Park, Atcham, Shrewsbury SY4 4TP

on **Sunday 5th July 2026**, 10am.



Please join us on our walk to raise funds for the Shropshire Deaf Children's Society.

All money raised will go directly towards future activities and opportunities for children across Shropshire.



If you would like to join us, contact Nicky

nichola.clark@telford.gov.uk or **07581 035047**

Committee meeting dates

SDCS helps to fund many of the activities organised by the Sensory Inclusion Service, including the Awards Evening, Parents' Event, Transition Day, Arthog and the much loved Pantomime. They also support activities and outings for our Family Group, and contribute towards the cost of our annual training course, which enables us to upskill support staff in schools across Shropshire.

Our committee is small and made up of parents whose children receive support from the Sensory Inclusion Service. We are always keen to welcome new members who can bring fresh ideas and help us with our fundraising efforts.

If you are interested in finding out more or would like to come along to support please email

secretary@SDCS.org.uk

The next **committee meeting** will take place

Tuesday 21st April 2026 16:00 - 17:30 The Cock Hotel, Wellington, TF1 2DL

The **AGM** will take place

Tuesday 19th May 2026 16:00 - 17:30 The Cock Hotel, Wellington, TF1 2DL

We hope to see you there!

Sensory Inclusion Service Family Group



SIS (HI) Family Group takes place every Tuesday during term time for deaf children and their families.

Families can arrive anytime between 9.30 am - 11.30 am.

Summer 2026

April

16th - Sunflowers

23rd - Oh Dear!

30th - Whatever Next

May

7^h - Deaf Awareness Week

14th - Jack and the Beanstalk

21st - Elmer

26th - Half Term

June

4th - The Very Hungry Caterpillar

11th - Don't Forget the Bacon

18th - Father's Day crafts

25th - Summer crafts

July

2nd - Trip

9th - Mr Bear's Picnic

16th - Party

The Stepping Stones Centre, Brunel Road, Malinslee, TF3 2BF Sat Nav TF3 2HZ

If you would like to attend Family Group, contact Nicky

nichola.clark@telford.gov.uk or 07581 035047

Do you have any good news to share?

We would love to hear from you!

Whether it's a personal achievement, a community success, or something you're proud of — big or small — please let us know. Your stories help us celebrate the wonderful things happening across our service and inspire others too.

Please send to nichola.clark@telford.gov.uk

Discover all you need to know about education, health and care services in Telford and Wrekin.

On the [local offer](#) website, you can find information and advice about services, support and activities for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities all in one place.



Local offer for special educational needs and disability

www.telfordsend.org.uk

SCAN WITH YOUR SMART PHONE...



[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](#).

Local.Offer@shropshire.gov.uk
0345 678 9063



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