

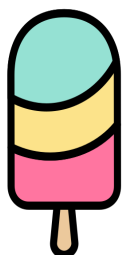
Hearing Inclusion Newsletter

Issue

49

Summer 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 summer holidays.

For urgent support, Call **01952 385269** or
email sendandinclusion@telford.gov.uk



Radio Aids and Pacemakers

Please take care when using radio aid equipment if you have a pacemaker or other implanted cardiac device.

Radio aids use wireless technology which may, in some circumstances, affect the operation of implanted medical devices.

As a precaution:

- Keep transmitters and receivers away from the pacemaker site whenever possible.
- Follow the guidance provided by your pacemaker manufacturer and healthcare team.
- If you experience dizziness, palpitations, or any unusual symptoms, move the device away immediately and seek medical advice.
- Staff supporting people who use both a pacemaker and a radio aid should ensure equipment is used in line with manufacturer recommendations.

If you are unsure whether a device is suitable for someone with a pacemaker, consult the device manuals or contact the manufacturer for advice before use. Person wearing the pacemaker to seek advice from their cardiologist as to whether or not it is appropriate and advisable for them to be wearing a transmitter.

Safety first

when in doubt, check with the relevant healthcare professional or manufacturer.



Shropshire
Council



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

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to create a better borough**

Growing Our Game: Deaf Football Sessions Expand to 16

Following the huge success of our Deaf football sessions for children aged 5-11, we are excited to announce that we are now able to extend the age range up to 16!

We are delighted to be able to offer more young people the opportunity to take part, develop their skills, and enjoy football in a supportive and inclusive environment.

All sessions include a BSL interpreter to ensure that everyone can fully access and enjoy the sessions.

If your child is aged 5-16 and would like to attend, please contact us for more information and to secure a place.

We are also currently seeking funding to help expand this provision further. If you know of any businesses or organisations that may be able to offer support, we would love to hear from you - please get in touch.

Session dates

Saturday 11th July 2026	16:00 - 17:30	Ercall Wood Academy, TF1 2DT
Saturday 5th September 2026	16:00 - 17:30	Ercall Wood Academy, TF1 2DT
Saturday 3rd October 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



Pantomime 2026



This years pantomime, **Aladdin**, will take place at **Theatre Severn**

on
Sunday 13th December 2026

Following the positive feedback from last year's event, we are delighted to announce that there will once again be a party, with a brunch beforehand.

These events are organised to help families connect and build relationships with one another. The party element was added to create more opportunities for families to socialise together, and we are pleased to be bringing it back after such a positive response. Please keep an eye out for my email over the summer with further details.

nichola.clark@telford.gov.uk

Sensory Inclusion Service Newsletter



Do You Have Some Good News to Share?

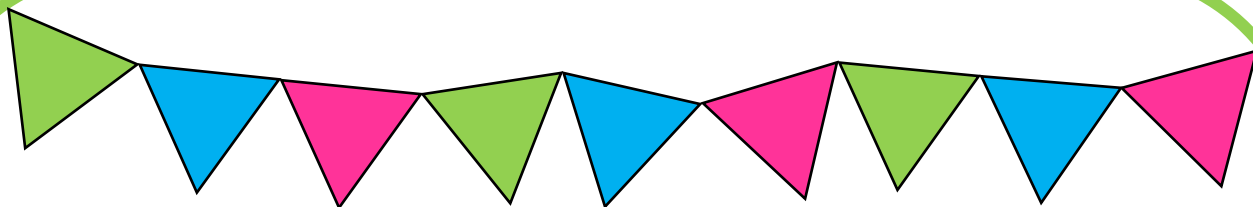
Our newsletter has been created to celebrate the achievements of the amazing children and young people we support.

Has your child reached a milestone, learned a new skill, overcome a challenge, achieved something at school, made a new friend, or enjoyed a positive experience in the community? We'd love to hear about it!

Every achievement matters—big or small. Sharing these special moments helps us celebrate success, recognise progress, and inspire other families across our Sensory Inclusion Service community.

Please send us your stories, achievements, or photos (with consent) for a chance to feature them in an upcoming newsletter.

Let's celebrate the wonderful things our children
and young people are accomplishing every day!



Our Fabulous Fundraisers

A huge thank you to the following schools for your support during Deaf Awareness Week

St Lawrence Primary School £224.55 by holding a bake sale	Longlands Primary School £119.62 by holding a non uniform day	Church Aston Infants School £92.70 by holding a bake sale
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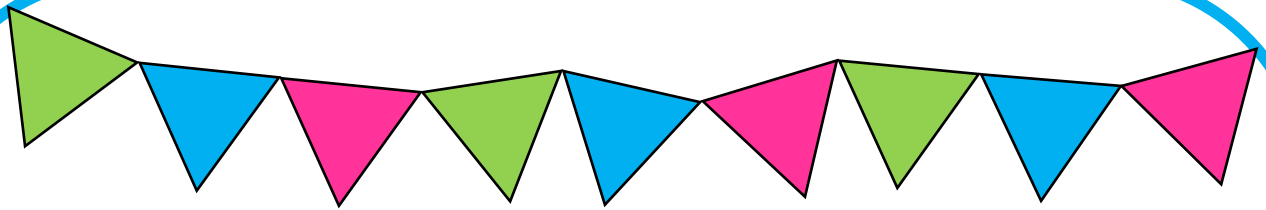
Deaf Awareness Week 2027 will take place from **5th May to 11th May 2027**.

This annual event celebrates Deaf culture, promotes the use of sign language, and advocates for the removal of communication barriers to ensure equal accessibility and inclusion in society.

To mark this important week, we would be grateful if you would consider fundraising for our charity. This could be through a school or college event, a sponsored challenge, or an activity undertaken with family and friends.

Every penny raised will help support families of deaf children across Shropshire, enabling us to continue providing vital services, information, and support.





Shrewsbury Point 2 Point

We had 3 runners representing Shropshire Deaf Children's Society in Shrewsbury Point 2 Point back in May



Abi raised

£160

for the charity.



Rachel & Phoebe raised

£440

for the charity.



A huge thank you to all our fundraisers and supporters.

Every penny raised helps us support deaf children and their families across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin.

If you have a fundraising idea, we'd love to hear from you.

Please get in touch

nichola.clark@telford.gov.uk



Sponsored Walk 2026

Thank you to all the families who joined us for our annual sponsored walk at Attingham Park.

The walk is always a wonderful opportunity for families to come together, enjoy time outdoors, and connect with one another while raising valuable funds for the charity. These funds help us continue to provide events, activities, and support for families of deaf children across Shropshire.

We are still in the process of collecting sponsorship money and will provide an update on the total amount raised in our next newsletter.

If you were unable to join us but would still like to support our work, you can make a donation using the QR code below.

Thank you for your continued support!



Committee meeting

The charity plays a vital role in making many of the Sensory Inclusion Service's most valued activities possible. From special events like the Awards Evening, Parents' Event, Transition Day, Arthog, and the much-loved Pantomime, to funding activities and outings for our Family Group—its impact is felt by children and families across Shropshire.

It also helps fund our annual training programme, ensuring that school support staff have the skills and confidence to provide the very best support for our children.

Our committee is a small, friendly group made up of parents just like you—people who understand first-hand how important this support is. By joining us, you can make a real difference, help shape future opportunities, and ensure these experiences continue for all our families.

We are always keen to welcome new members, whether you can offer a little or a lot of time. Fresh ideas, enthusiasm, and support with fundraising all help us do even more for our children.

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

Monday 14th September 2026

7pm

The Cock Hotel, Wellington, TF1 2DL

We hope to see you there!

Awards 2026

Our annual awards took place at Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre in Craven Arms.

Jenna and Becky, from **MERAKI** delivered a pottery painting workshop.



Following the workshop and awards presentation, families enjoyed a picnic before taking the opportunity to explore the site at their leisure. We extend our sincere thanks to Jenna, Becky and Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre for making the day such a memorable experience.

To find out more information about Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre and Meraki,
visit

[shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre](https://www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk)

MERAKI

The Margy Lloyd Achievement Award 2026

Margy Lloyd was a Teacher of the Deaf who sadly passed away a number of years ago. The award was set up in memory of her and the excellent work she did.

This award is presented to a child or young person with a hearing loss who has overcome a difficulty or faced a new challenge.



Hattie is an incredibly deserving recipient of this award. Diagnosed with infant medulloblastoma in November 2017, she faced the very toughest of beginnings, spending seven months in Birmingham Children's Hospital undergoing intensive treatment. Despite such a challenging start to life, Hattie has shown extraordinary strength, courage, and determination every step of the way.

Over time, her hearing has gradually deteriorated because of the tumour and the impact of ongoing medical monitoring. She has worn bilateral hearing aids since September 2018, managing a moderate hearing loss that is profound in the higher frequencies. Even with these challenges, Hattie has approached life with resilience and positivity, never allowing her circumstances to define her.

The year 2026 has been particularly demanding. After being given the go-ahead by the oncology team and the Midlands Hearing Implant Programme, Hattie underwent cochlear implant surgery on her left side in April, while continuing to use a hearing aid on her right. This major milestone was followed by numerous hospital visits in Birmingham—all while preparing for her Year 6 SATs.

Just as she was looking forward to an exciting residential trip to PGL with her classmates, Hattie faced another unexpected setback, requiring urgent surgery for hip displacement. Yet, through it all, she has remained remarkably positive, showing incredible resilience, adaptability, and strength of character.

What truly sets Hattie apart is not only her bravery but her spirit. She has a fantastic sense of fun, a warm and caring nature, and a strong moral compass—always demonstrating kindness and a clear sense of right and wrong. She is an inspiration to those around her, showing that even in the face of adversity, it is possible to thrive with courage, compassion, and joy.

Hattie's journey is one of perseverance, positivity, and quiet determination, making her truly deserving of this award.



Daisy-Mae has always been a joy to visit and greeted her Teacher of the Deaf with a welcoming smile. She has always been a reliable hearing aid wearer and has consistently used her radio aid, taking greater responsibility for it as she has got older. She has become increasingly confident with her communication over her time in primary school and loves to talk on subjects of interest to her. Daisy-Mae should be proud of herself - even though when tackling the hardest of challenges. As Daisy-Mae is about to move into secondary school I know she will continue to work towards being her very best and will face new challenges with a can-do attitude. Well done Daisy-Mae.



Florence has now come to the end of her primary school journey and will be moving into Secondary School from September. She has always approached daily life in a positive manner. She is always polite, hard-working and a joy to visit. Florence has always been extremely reliable in wearing her hearing aids and has made good use of her radio aid, taking responsibility for it where needed. Florence should be proud of her achievements. She will undoubtedly take her great can-do attitude with her to secondary school. School would also like to add that Florence has consistently demonstrated exceptional determination, resilience and a positive mindset in all that she undertakes. She embraces opportunities with enthusiasm and a genuine belief that success comes through effort and perseverance. Her commitment to sport, particularly rounders, has been outstanding; she approaches every challenge with energy, dedication, and a willingness to keep improving. Florence has also shown remarkable growth in her independence, developing the confidence and self-belief to overcome obstacles with maturity and courage. One of Florence's greatest strengths is her ability to bring positivity to those around her. Her wonderful sense of humour, warm personality and infectious optimism brightens the classroom every day.

Wishing you all the very best Florence.



The Kimberley Jones Award 2026

This award was set up in memory of Kimberley, a student of the Sensory Inclusion Service who bravely dealt with her illness but tragically passed away in 2009.

This award is presented to a pupil who shows progress dealing with their hearing loss and/or facing new challenges.



We are all incredibly proud of Julia and everything she has achieved during her time at secondary school. She works so hard and shows real determination in everything she does.

Who would have imagined that the smiley little Julia, making her Goldilocks porridge at school with her Teacher of the Deaf, would one day be speaking so confidently to a room full of teachers on our SIS course? Julia held her audience spellbound as she encouraged them to reflect on the hearing challenges our young people face every day.

She has now completed her GCSEs - and just as importantly, enjoyed her Year 11 school prom! We couldn't be more proud of all she has accomplished so far and we are excited to see what she does next. But first, it's time for her to have a well-earned summer holiday!



Sophia had a fantastic transition to secondary school last year and has continued in Yr8 to push herself to achieve her potential across the curriculum. Despite not studying Spanish until she started at secondary school, she achieved the Yr7 award for Spanish at the end of the last academic year for doing so well, scoring an amazing result in the end of year assessments. Sophia also attended a range of extracurricular clubs at school and continues to do so. For example, recently coming second in a long-distance race for an athletics event, where she represented her school. Sophia has also become much more confident when talking about what helps and supports her in school and is very responsible with all her hearing equipment. Sophia was the first student to try the new note-taking facility at school and is embracing how this can now support her to be more independent in lessons, whilst providing her with notes to look back on. Sophia takes responsibility for her note-taking kit, as well as emailing staff the notes for them to be summarised. Sophia has also been working hard revising for her end of Yr8 assessments and feels that they have gone well. Sophia accesses the lunch club, and it has been lovely popping in there recently to see her talking and having fun with peers in an environment that supports her to do so. Sophia has really embraced her new school and is working very hard to achieve her goal of working with animals in the future. Well done Sophia!

Andrew Broughton Award 2026

This award is in memory of Andrew Broughton (Head of Service for Sensory Inclusion) who sadly passed away in 2010. This is presented to a young person with learning needs in addition to hearing loss.



Mason has made amazing progress with taking part in sessions with SIS and his base staff. His use of language has improved so much, and he happily takes part in all the activities shared with him. He continues to impress the team every day with his communication skills.

His staff team at school also need recognition for all the sign language they have learned this year and their willingness to put it into practise.



Jayden moved to a new school in September 2025. He quickly became a much loved member of his class and the wider school community. He has been largely non-verbal all of his life but since starting there, he has been working really hard with his teachers and Teacher of the Deaf to start using his voice more.

He is using signs to support his communication and really enjoys working, with encouragement, to use spoken words alongside his signing. He has learnt all of his phonic sounds and is using them to begin reading. He is also developing a really good sight vocabulary which he is able to sign and speak.

Jayden wears his hearing aids all of the time at school and will tell an adult if they aren't working. He also uses a radio aid and will remind his teachers to switch it on or off.

He is very caring with his peers and enjoys taking part in the more formal curriculum offered in his new school. He always works hard and is happy and cheerful with everyone. He has even started to have conversations with familiar adults and is loving playing football with his friends. What an amazing transition and first year Jayden!



The SDCS Further Education Achievement Award 2026

This award from the Shropshire Deaf Children's Society is presented to a student who has shown great progress dealing with their hearing loss and/or facing new challenges.



Oscar is finishing his A-level courses at 6th form college this year, in history, English literature and computer science, alongside an additional extended project qualification (EPQ). He is predicted excellent grades in all his subjects and can be very proud of his academic achievements so far.

Oscar is profoundly deaf and has two cochlear implants. He has overcome significant challenges over the years, and everyone who has worked with him - teachers of the deaf and tutors at college - comment on his dedication to work and determination to succeed, always maintaining a pleasant attitude and friendly manner. He is an exemplary student and an excellent role model for other deaf students.

Oscar has been an absolute pleasure to work with. He is polite and enthusiastic and has a super sense of humour. He has worked very hard, particularly at college level, and thoroughly deserves this award. He is leaving college this summer and is planning to go to university to pursue his interest - and considerable expertise - in computer science. He will no doubt achieve continuing success in all his future ventures.

Congratulations Oscar!



Wow! Haydn has had his first driving lesson - aged 13! We know - how old? Surely not! It's true - we've seen some amazing photos and videos of Haydn on his Young Drivers Course in Shrewsbury. He learnt all about the basics like safety checks, adjusting mirrors, steering, and using the clutch, brake and accelerator. Then he took his instructor for a drive around the course. From the videos, he looked focused and in control and most importantly, he said it was fun. Only a few more years to wait until he'll be putting his seatbelt on and driving up the road on his first trip to McDonald's!

Sensory Inclusion Service Family Group

Family Group meets every Thursday morning during term time for 2 hours. It is an opportunity for families of pre-school, deaf children to support each other and to meet with professionals from Sensory Inclusion Service.

It's a friendly, welcoming group which aims to provide a relaxed atmosphere. Refreshments are provided for adults and children.

Families receive a programme of events at the start of every term.



Guest speakers
Art and craft activities
Planned visits and parties
Stories and singing



This year, we have been fortunate to visit Kingswood Trust in spring and during the summer term, we visited Park Hall Farm, funded by Shropshire Deaf Children's Society.

Professionals in attendance

Hazel Snape - Teacher of the Deaf

Liaises with families regarding all aspects of their child's development and audiological needs, signposts to other agencies, liaises with ENT and audiology colleagues and makes ear mould impressions.

Nichola Clark - Social Inclusion Facilitator

Organises programme for the term, books key speakers, First Aider, organises refreshments, art and craft activities, liaises with SDCS for funding for activities and trips (see SIS newsletter.)

Mark Rutter - Hearing aid technician

Checks each child's hearing aid, cochlear implant, processor and radio aid system.

Audiology Team are sometimes in attendance in the audiology booth. Liaison and jointed up working takes place to support families.

Sensory Inclusion Service Family Group



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

Families can arrive anytime between **9.30 am – 11.30 am.**

September

3rd - No Group
10th - Teddy bear
17th - Spot
24th - Farmyard

October

1st - Harvest
8th - No group
15th - Porridge
22nd - Room on a broom
29th - Half Term

November

5th - Bonfire
12th - Odd socks
19th - Pudsey
26th - Tree

December

3rd - Christingle
10th - Christmas
17th - 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

Transition Day Celebration



The Sensory Inclusion Service recently hosted a successful Transition Day for Year 6 pupils, providing children with hearing and vision loss the opportunity to meet, connect, and build confidence as they prepare for the move to secondary school.

One of the highlights of the day was the positive interaction between the pupils. Children quickly formed friendships, shared experiences, and supported one another in a welcoming and inclusive environment. It was particularly encouraging to see Year 6 pupils engaging with students in Years 7 and 8, asking questions about secondary school life and receiving honest, reassuring advice from those who had recently made the transition themselves.

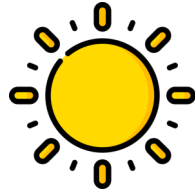
Throughout the day, pupils took part in a range of enjoyable and purposeful activities, including decorating name badges, playing games, preparing fruit kebabs and rocky road, boccia, and macramé keyring making. Alongside the social and creative opportunities, pupils also developed important skills to support their transition. Activities focused on organisation, independence, understanding timetables, packing school bags, creating pupil passports, and learning about hearing aids and radio aids. Role-play sessions encouraged pupils to develop confidence in advocating for their own needs as they move into a more independent school setting.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Social Inclusion Facilitator for her outstanding organisation and planning, which made the event possible. Thanks also go to the Teachers of the Deaf, Qualified Teachers of Vision Impairment (QTVIs), the Access Support Assistant, and the IT Officer for their invaluable support throughout the day. We are also grateful to Shropshire Deaf Children's Society and Sight Loss Shropshire for your support.

Most importantly, we celebrate the young people who attended. For many pupils, being the only child with a sensory loss in their school can sometimes feel isolating. The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet others with shared experiences, helping them feel less alone and more supported. Despite any initial nerves, pupils embraced the day, stepped outside their comfort zones, and engaged enthusiastically with both the activities and one another. By the end of the event, confidence had noticeably grown, new friendships had been formed, and pupils felt better prepared for the next stage of their education.

Following the success of this year's event - the first to involve both the Hearing Inclusion and Vision Inclusion Teams - we are delighted to confirm that the Transition Day will return next summer.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!



We look forward to seeing you again in September.

Are there any events you would like us to organise? We would love to hear your ideas.

Please send any suggestions 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.



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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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