

Sensory Inclusion Service Hearing Impairment Newsletter

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

What A Year!

2020 has been a difficult time for everyone, especially here in Shropshire. The year started with awful weather and flooding across the county that affected the lives of so many. Then before we knew it we were thrown into the jaws of the terrible Covid pandemic which seems to have turned our lives upside down, inside out and back to front all at once.

Many people in our society have pulled together with the most amazing community spirit, but one group of people in particular have shone – the young. Despite lockdowns, school closures, restrictions on contact with friends and family, strange systems in place in schools, uncertainty around exams and futures, mask-wearing cutting off lines of communication, our hearing impaired young people have been shining examples of positivity, acceptance and resilience. This newsletter is given over entirely to them, to celebrate the amazing joy they bring to so many with their achievements, and we raise a huge Happy Christmas cheer to thank them for being so utterly amazing and giving us inspiration in these difficult times.

Lockdown Achievements

Harry Smith



Harry has received a Celebration Certificate from school for being supportive and caring, being polite and showing good manners, showing respect to others and always trying his best. Harry has also just been presented with a Head Teacher award for hitting 150 merits, mostly for good listening and excellent work. Well done Harry!

Elliot Taylor

Elliot's mum wrote: 'Elliot has recently achieved his 5m and 10m swimming badges - he's suddenly grown in confidence when swimming and now loves throwing himself in the pool, which terrifies me! Well done Elliot!'



Nathaniel Roberts

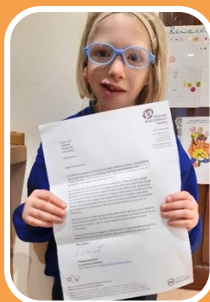


Nathaniel's mum wrote: 'My son Nathaniel, who has hearing problems and speech delay, was advised not to start school this year but to delay it until next year. With support we have been able to get him accepted into school this year.'

He is so happy and excited he got to join school with his friends from nursery and wasn't left behind. His Teacher of the Deaf writes, "He is really happy in school, and loves to chat despite his speech delay. He has lots of friends and really enjoys taking part in all the activities. He sings beautifully! Well done Nathaniel.'

Florence Giles

During the June half term Florence did a fingerspelling challenge where we challenged her to fingerspell a new word each day and posted it on Facebook. She raised £205 which was split between the NDCS and the Riding for the disabled centre at Much Wenlock. Well done Florence!



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Lockdown Achievements Continued ...

Sam Gullefer



Sam's mum wrote 'Our Son Sam has hearing aids fitted in October 2019, at 5 years old. He's made fantastic progress with his speech and this month has been discharged from SLIC services. He has worked incredibly hard with his reading and is now

reading at the level expected for his age group. We are so proud of what he has achieved. I feel the most exciting development has been the growth in Sam's confidence, he's always loved playing sports at home with his Dad and Grandad but was very shy and withdrew from joining in at our local clubs but over the last few months he has begun to join in and loves playing with his teammates now. Yes feel this has been a result of having better communication with the use of his hearing aids.'

Evan Davies



Evan's mum wrote 'Lockdown has been tough for Evan, however he still has football and this season he has joined the Ellesmere Rangers Under 15s as his U14s team folded. He's still playing left back and is maturing into a great defender. Evan played really well in pre-season friendlies against players twelve months older. Evan took part in his first competitive match recently, which was a hard fought 1-1 draw and Evan walked away with man of the match. He's still on the England deaf team trial programme but sadly the next one will not take place due to high level of covid in the Manchester area, so he'll have to wait till February for the next one.'

Daniella Wilding



Daniella is delighted to have passed her Level 1 BSL course. This was particularly challenging during lockdown as face to face lessons and practice sessions were cancelled. This is a great achievement Daniella, well done!

Maisie Skitt-Wright

Maisie's Teacher of the Deaf wrote: 'Maisie has amazed everyone with her transition to school this year! She is thriving in her Reception class at Broseley C of E Primary, and the whole staff team have embraced learning sign language. She can't wait to get to school every morning, to see her friends and teachers. What an inspiration!'



Abi Randle

Abi's mum wrote: 'Abbie has overcome her phobia of face masks brilliantly. She has always had a fear of masks, and changes to people's appearance, and when we were told to wear masks re Covid, we feared Abbie would be too scared to go anywhere. But we started slowly, I made facemasks and left them around the house, we worked on it slowly, and now, although Abbie will never like masks, especially full face character masks, she has overcome this fear of basic facemasks. And... Abbie has just taken her Grade 4 tap exam and passed with a distinction. We are so proud of her achievements this year!'



Zoe Goode

My daughter Zoe had passed her silver award for playing the keyboard at the beginning of the first lockdown. She then continued her lessons on zoom and has since passed her Gold award too! Congratulations Zoe!



Lockdown Achievements Continued ...

Ollie Haycocks



Ollie's mum wrote: 'In August Ollie and his sister Ella joined our local Paddle boarding club. They love it!! Ollie loves any sort of physical challenge and gives it his all!!!'

This photo is of Ollie and Ella in the summer. They

were overall winners of the Shropshire virtual games competition. Over the course of the six-week schedule, six different activity challenges were launched – dodgeball, new-age kurling, athletics, boccia, tennis and cricket.

They were both very excited to be the overall winners and won a family pass to Telford sky reach. School also held a virtual well done assembly where they were both guests.'

Daniels Rozenbaum



Daniels' Teacher of the Deaf wrote: 'Following his transition to Shrewsbury College, Daniels has had a fantastic first term on his Motor Vehicles Maintenance course. Alongside

his Functional Skills in Maths and English courses, he has received glowing reports from all his tutors, and has passed his assessments with flying colours. With his sign language support in place, he is thoroughly enjoying college life, despite the current challenges. Well done Daniels!'

Ephena Bingham

Effie wrote about her experiences during Lock Down:

The Bug



Although the bug has meant that we haven't been able to go out much, I have still done lots of interesting things. Most of the stuff I have done has been using the computer. The NDCS did a dancing class. I was really enjoying it until I fell over and hurt my bum. I have also met a penfriend called Freya. We write to each other a lot and I love getting her letters.

I usually go to Brownies every week, but that is also on the computer now. We have still done lots of fun things, like making sock snowmen and painting rocks for Remembrance Day.

At home, we haven't been able to do much but I have ridden my bike, walked the neighbour's dog, celebrated Halloween and played family games.

It was great to go back to school. Things have changed. We have to wash our hands and stay apart which is hard, but we still get to do lots of fun things, and every Friday someone gets a Head Teacher's award for excellent work. I have managed to win quite a few of those since the bug came along. Teresa, my teacher of the deaf, has also been brilliant.

Every year, we spend Christmas in Ireland and England with my grannies and grandads, but this year will be different. This doesn't mean that Christmas is cancelled – Santa will still come and my sister will still be annoying.

Effie

Lockdown Achievements Continued ...

Lucia Evans



We are very proud of Lucia she is now a school prefect for her final year at secondary school.

Emily Wakenshaw



Emily recently received a Sunshine Award from school for her magnificent writing skills and super work. Great work Emily!

Caden Instan



My son Caden, who loves animals used his own money to sponsor a fox with Cuan Wildlife. Very proud parents!

Bright ears hearing aid dolls

Clare Tawell set about making her daughter a doll with hearing aids after she was fed up of toys not reflecting her real life. She was so pleased by her daughter's delight with her new doll with hearing aids she decided to launch an entire line. Her Bright Ears business sells online to families around the world, priced to cover only her costs at no profit. Pictured here with their bespoke dolls are Daisy and Emily.

For more information go to her online shop:

<https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/BrightEars>



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