

# Sensory Inclusion Service Hearing Impairment Newsletter

Issue

33

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

Well, it's Easter and so hopefully a time for new beginnings! This has been a hard year with all of us unable to see those we love and cherish and many having suffered great loss in their lives. But hats off to our children and young people who, despite the enormous challenges presented to them, have done the 'best they can' to access education and move forward – sometimes a tiny step at a time!

The service has welcomed access to TEAMS to meet with you all, a real boost to our spirits to see your faces and to know that you are all still there and now (most of you) back in your nurseries, schools and colleges with a real desire to learn and to move on to the next stage. This newsletter is testimony to the many wonderful talents and interests you have and a time to celebrate! Please continue to share your achievements – they inspire others to challenge their limits!

Labi Siffre, a great songwriter, once wrote, 'The higher they build those barriers, the taller I become,' and all of us who have the privilege of working with your families now know this to be true! Well done to all of you.

Theresa and Graham

## Current Face Mask Situation

We are aware of and understand the concerns over the recent advice given to schools around face masks. The SIS Team is working with schools and giving advice on reasonable adjustments that can be made to support children with sensory impairment.

The Audiology team at the hospital are circulating the following link to all of their patients. The company provide materials that families may want to use in the current situation. Please be aware it is more targeted at adults with hearing loss. SIS is NOT endorsing this company or recommending any of its products but thought it would be useful for you all to be aware of what they offer.

[Accessible face coverings \(hearinglink.org\)](http://hearinglink.org)



## Lockdown Achievements

### Shine Like a Rainbow

You smell like a cupcake  
With a cherry on top, so  
Sparkle like all you've got  
Now listen carefully  
I beg you to shine like a  
rainbow  
Day after day.

By Effie Bingham



### Willoe Butler

Willoe was chosen by the NDCS to become an Ambassador for Deaf children and young people with the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) in 2020. Unfortunately, due to Covid, Willoe wasn't able to have the full experience of being part of the team but was still able to make a difference by being part of a campaign to raise awareness of the challenges deaf children and young people are experiencing with face masks in school. This included creating a petition signed by over 50,000 people from the UK. Well done on this great achievement.



### High Sheriff of Shropshire Award

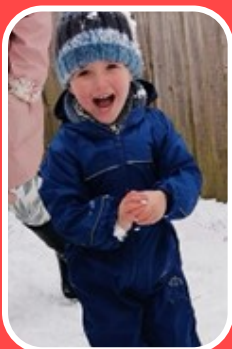


Tobey has been chosen to receive a High Sheriff Award in recognition of his contribution to the community. Tobey was nominated because of the positive impact he's had on the life of another young man. Tobey has had a progressive hearing loss since he was young and in 2016, aged 11, was told that he needed cochlear implants to be able to hear in the future. For Tobey, who has a fear of medical procedures, this was an enormous challenge but he eventually had his first cochlear implant in 2017.

In 2019, Tobey was asked if he could offer support to J, a boy who wanted to have cochlear implants but who faced similar fears to Tobey. At this stage, Tobey was facing the difficult prospect of surgery for his second implant and still had the same fears and anxieties as previously. However he put aside his own challenges to meet J and talk to him about the process. He was open about his experiences and talked about how he faced his fears and the benefits that surgery had brought. Talking to Tobey helped J undertake his own CI journey and that October J also underwent the surgery. This surgery has had an immensely positive impact on J's life and without Tobey sharing his own experiences, it may not have happened.

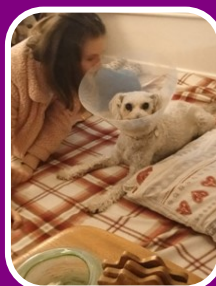
Tobey was nominated by Sarah Court (Teacher of the Deaf) and Dawn Ball (Social Inclusion Facilitator) because he was able to put aside his own fears in order to help another person. Everyone who knows Tobey is extremely proud of him, not only for overcoming his own fears but also for turning his experiences into a positive for someone else.

### Harry Coggins



Harry has been a lockdown super star! His family and school staff are so proud of how well he has worked in school. He comes in to school every day with a huge smile on his face and is eager to learn. He has been concentrating well and is learning how to use his implant to help him listen. Well done Harry!

### Abbie Randle



Abbie has started having singing lessons over Zoom. She is doing really well and remembers to wear her hearing aids for her lessons! She has a really lovely teacher who understands her hearing loss.

Abbie has also been taking good care of her dog Pepper who had a tumour on her leg. Abbie is looking forward to becoming an Aunty in May!

## Lockdown Achievements Continued ...

### Alex Barrett



Alex is currently studying Maths, Physics and Chemistry A Levels in the final year of 6th form at his school. Like all young people, he has had to get to grips with schooling at home. To begin with the experience was rather daunting but he is very self-motivated and soon settled into a well-organised routine.

Alex has missed meeting up with friends during lockdown but has kept in touch with them through on-line gaming, video chats and the occasional local walk. He has also kept fit by cycling - both mountain biking and doing his daily paper round. Alex is part-way through his Gold Duke of Edinburgh award and some of the activities have had to come to a stop. However, he

has been able to carry on with his volunteer work at a local nature reserve and his chosen skill of spoon carving, increasing the household collection of cooking spoons.

Fortunately, Alex has coped well with lockdown, largely due to his positive, 'can-do' and easy-going approach to life. Alex hopes to go on to university to study Engineering, specialising in renewable energy (fingers crossed for good exam results!).

### Alfie Rixon

Alf has recently won the West Midlands area Young Reporter of the Year competition.



Alf sent in a report explaining how he had gone from being mainly in a wheelchair to walking and biking through the lockdown period. He also raised questions regarding how children's treatments and support have been affected by the pandemic.

Alf was diagnosed with osteosarcoma (bone cancer) about three and a half years ago whilst back in the UK from Canada, where he'd been living since he was three. He went through three different kinds of chemotherapy and had his lower left leg amputated in November of 2018. Shortly after this he fell and broke the femur of this leg leaving him bed bound, and then wheelchair bound, for about a year. Over the last year he has had to rebuild his physical strength so that he can learn to walk on a prosthetic and get mobile again. Alf had a number of health issues that he has had to overcome, one of which was a complete loss of the top end (higher pitched sounds) of his hearing.

As a mark of the enormous progress made by Alf over the past twelve months Alf, his sister and dad are going to walk ten miles (from Wem to the top of Grinshill and back) to raise money for Hope House. This is something that was unimaginable to him just a year ago.



### Haydn Wilding

Haydn has worked hard through Lockdown. He has been taught at home since February 2020. He has achieved several certificates from his on-line studies. He is very proud of his achievements!



### April Ashley

April chose to take up a new hobby during the lock down period. She has been taking pictures of Wildlife and is becoming a skilled photographer.





## Lockdown Achievements Continued ...

### Dylan Taylor



Dylan did some great English work during lockdown. He found some of the tasks challenging but he persevered and created some excellent work. Dylan's teacher said that he had given 100% and she was proud of his great work.

### Ruby-Mae Carter



Ruby has drawn this amazing picture of her mummy, brother and sister. Ruby's family are super proud of her!

### Sofia Craig



Sofia and her brother have walked 100 miles in 30 days to raise money for gingerbread.org.

They raised nearly £450. Well done Sofia!

### Amelie Taylor



Amelie, year 2 moved up 14 word sets and 3 book bands. Amelie's parents and teacher are very proud of her.

### 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)



#### 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)

## Need this in large print or Braille?

If you would like to receive this newsletter in Large Print or Braille, please email [sendandinclusion](mailto:sendandinclusion)



[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](mailto:Local.Offer@shropshire.gov.uk) Telephone: 0345 678 9063