



A Word in Your Ear



The Swindon Hearing Support Team's Newsletter

Issue 5, December 2018

****ALL CHANGE!****

The Hearing Support Team are moving!
As from 7th January 2019 we will be located in our new office at Dorcan Academy, St Paul's Drive, Swindon SN3 5DA

We hope that there will be as little disruption to our service as possible but we will need some time to pack up our office and settle in to our new home!

We will not be arranging routine visits to schools between 17th December and 14th January. We will respond to urgent enquiries only in this period.

We hope that normal support visits will resume after this time but please bear with us as we get to grips with our new environment and processes and as we update our systems in line with our new hosts.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team at Red Oaks School for their hospitality and support over the years.

****REPORTS****

Please be aware that we will no longer be routinely posting reports to parents of school aged children. We will now send them via secure email to school SENDCos and ask that schools print and forward reports to parents for us. We will continue to post reports directly to parents for those children not yet attending a school setting.

Parents - If you have not received a report from us following a visit to your child's setting, please contact their school in the first instance.

HST

Hearing Support Team

All our new mobile numbers are overleaf

Staffing News



Heather Campbell went off on Maternity leave in June and celebrated the safe arrival of her beautiful son soon after. Mum and baby are both doing well.

Good Luck and best wishes to Ian Sharp who left the team at the end of July to work in Wiltshire.

Welcome to Nida Batchelder who joined us in June on maternity cover and to Joanne Cooke (not to be confused with Jo Coote!) and Jenny Wilkins who joined the team in September.

Calling all parents and carers!

The Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG) is an opportunity for services to work together to make sure that deaf children and their families have good quality local support which meets their needs.

The group includes representatives from health (like audiologists and paediatricians), education, local charities, local authority services, the National Deaf Children's Society and parents of deaf children, who have a unique overview and experience of those services.

Any parents out there who would like to come along to the next meeting will receive a very warm welcome as we would really value your input.

The next meeting will be in March at the Saltway Centre, Swindon. Please contact us for further information

Dates for the Diary



Dec 2018

End of term for HST is 21/12/18. Have a lovely Festive Season! We will be back for the new term on 7 Jan 2019 2019

EARMOULD IMPRESSIONS IN SCHOOL

We now have 2 members of staff who are able to do earmould impressions in school for children over 5years old.

If you are struggling to get your child in to clinic but they need a new earmould please speak to your Teacher of the Deaf about the possibility of arranging to do this in school

Signalong text service

Text a sign request is an automated service available 24 hours a day.

Text **SIGN** and the word or phrase you need to look up to **07446 462146**.

Receive 4 free signs per month per user or subscribe for unlimited service for a year for only £30.

See signalong.org.uk for more details

Did you know that there are Deaf Friendly Swimming sessions available in Swindon?

Ask your Teacher of the Deaf for more information



New team contact numbers !

All the team have new mobile phone numbers – please update your contact details...

Tamara Turchet	07727 197219
Jill Nokes	07727 188395
Jo Coote	07727 189143
Nida Batchelder	07727 099584
Jenny Wilkins	07727 112245 (text only)
Jo Cooke	07727 127439

Healthy Minds

During the summer term we ran a Healthy Minds course for a group of primary aged children in Swindon. This involved the children coming to 4 sessions to explore ideas relating to emotional development and discuss with their peers various topics such as emotions vocabulary and understanding more about their deafness. Each child made a scrapbook of all the things they wanted to keep from each session.

The feedback from the children was very positive with all of them commenting that they would like to attend groups like this more often as they enjoyed meeting other deaf children.

We are keen to run this course regularly, so if you know of any children or families that may be interested then please contact Jill Nokes 07727 188395 or Jo Coote 07727 189143

Have you heard about Swindon SEND Families Voice?

A new group has been set up by parents and carers of children and young people aged 0 – 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Swindon who help give families in Swindon the opportunity to have their say on a range of issues that impact their everyday lives.

By working together with families, their aim is to feedback your collective voices and work in partnership with our Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group (Health) to influence and strategically shape the way SEND services are delivered.

They also organise activity days (art, craft and sensory days, mindfulness workshops, transition to adulthood days etc) for families of children with SEND in Swindon. Check

out their website or email them directly:

web: <https://swindonsendfamiliesvoice.org.uk/>

email: swindonSENDfamiliesvoice@outlook.com

Pre-school Group for Swindon deaf children

Some of you will remember 'Vibrations' - an informal preschool group that met monthly, involving different activities, some music and singing and a chance to get to know other families of children with a hearing loss. Sadly this group is no longer running because of a drop in attendance.

We would like your views about forming a new group led by Teachers of the Deaf for our pre-school pupils and their families:

- Does Swindon need a regular group for families with pre-school deaf children?
- When do you think would be best to run such a group? Which day? What time? How long for? How often?
- What activities and events would you like to see happen at the group?

Please send your ideas, thoughts and suggestions to Tamara or call Jo directly to chat!
tturchet@swindon.gov.uk
Jo Coote - 07727 189143

Phone-in Wednesdays



Support at the end of your phone line for any queries or issues that come up.

One of our team will be available every Wednesday from 1.30pm – 3.00pm to answer your questions about hearing loss, hearing technology, education or support for our deaf children in Swindon.

Contact us on 01793 493920