

March 2026

# Spring 2026

## Children's Sensory and Physical Needs Service

### Staff News

#### Joining Us This Term

On Monday 23rd March 2026 we will be welcoming Rachael Thorpe, who will be a new Specialist Practitioner with the Physical Needs Team. This is a new position that has been created within the team, and we are very excited for Rachael to join us.

We are pleased to welcome Laiba Latif to the team. Laiba has been working on a voluntary basis at Swain House Deaf Resourced Provision and has been successful in her application to join us as a permanent Specialist Support Worker in the Resourced Provisions.

We wish you both well in your new roles, and we hope that you enjoy working with us.



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#### Our vision as the STaSS team is:

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## Meet the Team ... 5 Minutes with ...

### **Michelle Audsley** *Support Team for Deaf Children Early Years Lead Teacher of the Deaf Deaf and MSI Children and Young People Service*



#### **A Day in My Life as an Early Years Teacher of the Deaf**

I like to start early around 07:00, checking emails from audiology and early years settings as well as text messages from parents. There is newborn hearing screening every week so I call the hospital to check when they are.

There are always updates, filling in our running records of visits, checking audiology reports and following up on new referrals, or requests for support.

At 09:00, I'm at the hospital for newborn hearing screening confirmation clinics. All babies in the UK have a hearing test soon after they are born. Some babies are referred on for further tests, our service attends all the appointments where the audiologist tells the parents their baby is deaf. My role is to explain the process, reassure the family, and outline the next steps in early support. These conversations can be emotional, but they're also where we begin to build trust with the family.

By mid-morning, I'm heading to a nursery visit. I observe a child during play, check their hearing technology, and model strategies staff can use to support the deaf child. If we are applying for an EHCP I also review paperwork with the SENCO to ensure the correct provision is in place.

Lunchtime is usually a mix of admin and a sandwich. I write up notes, update plans, and book visits with families.

In the afternoon I might be joined by Afza or Penny on a home visit. Visiting families at home is a highlight of my work as a ToD, getting down on the floor to play and help parents see and celebrate their child's listening and language development.

By 16:00, I wrap up the day by planning tomorrow's visits and preparing resources. Every day is full, varied, and centred on helping deaf children getting the best support wherever they are.

## Meet the Team ... 5 Minutes with ...



**Deborah Craig**  
*Physical Needs Team  
Leader  
Vision Impairment and  
Physical Needs Service*

**What inspired you to work in education?**  
I had work experience in a special school when I was in 6th Form and loved it.

**What's a fun fact about you that most colleagues wouldn't know?**  
I studied in Budapest for a year as part of my degree and speak a little Hungarian!

**If you could have dinner with any historical figure or fictional character, who would it be and why?**  
Robin Williams, I think he would bring the perfect mix of empathy, humour and kindness.

**What's your favourite part of the school day or academic year?**  
Summer Term- warmer weather, long days and fun trips.

**What's a book, movie, or podcast you'd recommend and why?**  
My children used to love 'Wow in the World' podcast- perfect for car journeys and entertaining for the adults as well!



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## Deaf and MSI Children and Young People Service

**16<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 is Sign Language Week (SLW)**, and our team has been raising awareness and celebrating by organising events and assemblies across our three resourced provisions at Gillington, Swain House and Hanson.

**Hanson Delta Academy Resourced Provision** pupils have been learning all about the Milan conference in 1880 where the use of sign language in education was banned, and assemblies have been delivered to the whole school to share this interesting history:

### Did you know that before 1880:

- All deaf schools used sign language and pupils were taught by deaf teachers.
- Deaf communities were strong.
- Many deaf people went on to become Lawyers, Scientists, Artists and Headteachers.



BUT in 1880 at the second International Conference of the Education of the Deaf in Milan, the use of Sign Language was banned.

- 164 representatives went to the conference and only one of them was deaf.
- 154 people voted to ban the use of sign language in education.
- Deaf teachers lost their jobs, and deaf children were punished for using sign language and struggled to access education.



It wasn't until the 1980s when schools began to use sign language again to educate deaf children.

At the 21<sup>st</sup> international Congress on the Education of the Deaf in 2010 the decisions made in 1880 were officially rejected and an apology was issued

### The British Sign Language (BSL) Act 2023

- BSL was officially recognised as a language of England, Scotland and Wales
- The Government must promote BSL
- Deaf people must be involved in decisions

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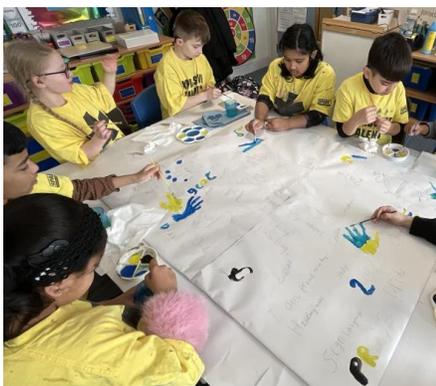
To offer high quality support for all children through a collaborative approach to provide transformational learning experiences so that children can flourish and make excellent holistic progress and successfully transition to responsible citizens

## Deaf and MSI Children and Young People Service

**Girlington Primary School** pupils took part in a whole school assembly signing lesson led by our very talented Resourced Provision pupils, who were their teachers for the afternoon. This was a great start to Sign Language Week, where the RP children thoroughly enjoyed being in charge as teachers! The children in assembly showed a lot of enthusiasm and really enjoyed learning BSL from their deaf peers. SLW celebrations continued with a cupcake sale and all the children at Girlington Primary were invited to wear blue on one of the days, where they could contribute a voluntary donation of £1 (for the British Deaf Association).



**Swain House Resourced Provision** started by introducing Sign Language Week 2026 during the headteacher's assembly, where the whole school learnt and signed 'Happy Sign Language Week' together. The children in the Resourced Provision and Mrs Robinson have been busy creating and delivering a fun and exciting activity pack for each class in school including BSL flashcards, puzzles and colouring activities to complete throughout the week. They have also enjoyed painting a Sign Language Week 2026 banner in the colours blue and yellow to represent the colours of the Deaf flag.



**The Support Team for Deaf Children** have been promoting Sign Language Week and some of the schools they visit have signed up to the free lessons that are available to schools via Signature School of Signs and will be delivering them over the week.



### **Hanson Delta Academy Resourced Provision**

Deaf Instructors have been working to create signed stories for 'BSL Story Time', a series of accessible stories for parents and Deaf children to enjoy. We are aiming to create a story per term that can be accessed via a QR code, published on school websites and posters. Look out for the posters around your provision!



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## Support Team for Deaf Children

### Special School Family Networking Days

Emma and Steph held the first of our new Special School Family Networking Days, an event designed to bring parents together in a supportive and welcoming space. The session took place at Britannia House and offered families the chance to meet others, share experiences, and discover practical ways to support their children both at home and how they are supported in school.

Parents have the opportunity to connect with other families who understand the unique challenges and achievements that come with supporting a child with additional needs.

The event also provided a chance for parents to learn more about the different support pathways available, discuss concerns with staff, and explore ideas to help strengthen their child's wellbeing and progress.

The feedback from the first session has been extremely positive. Family Networking Days will now take place every term, ensuring families have regular opportunities to build connections and feel part of a wider support network.



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## Physical Needs Team

The focus of our most recent parent survey was around access to sports clubs outside of school hours and Ann Gabriel from the team has been attending the West Yorkshire Disability Sports Regional Meetings to find out more! A new sport that is fully accessible is Kin- ball, which is a team game played with a large lightweight ball suitable for wheelchair users and there is a new Kin-ball and multisport session running every Saturday morning as part of Mixed Ability Sports activities at the Karmand Centre, Barkerend. For information about all the Mixed Ability Sports as well as other inclusive clubs happening in Bradford please see our page on Bradford Schools Online for more details! [Physical Needs Team | Bradford Schools Online](#)



To support schools with inclusive sports day ideas we have been part of a regional network of specialist teachers who have met to put together some guidance for schools when planning sports days so all students can participate. This should be ready for the summer term and will be available on Bradford Schools Online. For specific advice around individual students, the team can of course give personalised advice.



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## Vision Impairment Outreach Team

### Early Years Music Session at the Library

The Early Years VI team recently hosted an event themed around 'Music'. We welcomed children from our Primary Resourced Provision at Grove House, as well as outreach children from across Bradford who attended with their parents and school support staff.

The children had a range of opportunities, including making their own musical instruments, exploring sound, socialising with new friends, and reconnecting with familiar faces from previous events. The team worked incredibly hard to bring together all the resources needed to make the event a success, ensuring the children gained as much as possible from the experience.

We were also delighted to welcome Daniel from the charity Amber Trust, who brought a wonderful selection of musical instruments. He led an engaging half-hour session filled with singing, playing, and active participation. The children were fully immersed, and it was truly lovely to see how involved and enthusiastic they were. We were thrilled to have Daniel join us and to highlight the fantastic support the Amber Trust offers to children with vision impairment.

We've already received highly positive feedback from parents, who expressed how successful the event felt and how valuable these opportunities are for bringing the community together. Many shared their hope that these events will continue.

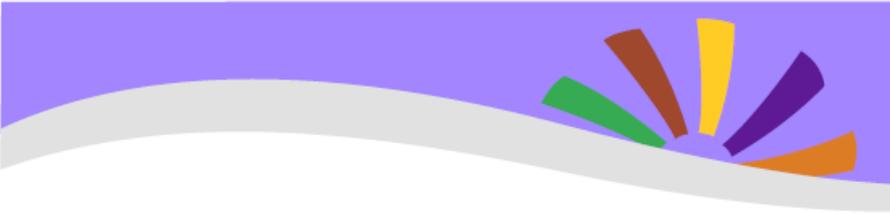


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## Vision Impairment Outreach Team (Continued)

Upcoming Events



# VI Community Fun Day 2026

**Saturday 11th July 2026**  
**10:30AM - 13:00PM**

Hanson Delta Academy, Sutton Avenue, Bradford, BD2 1JP

**A celebration day for families of children & young people with a vision impairment**

**What's Happening:**

- Goalball games
- Everybody's Cycling - accessible cycling options
- British Blind Sport activities
- Local parent group stall
- Community information stalls
- Live music from Amber Trust young performers

**Guest Speakers:**

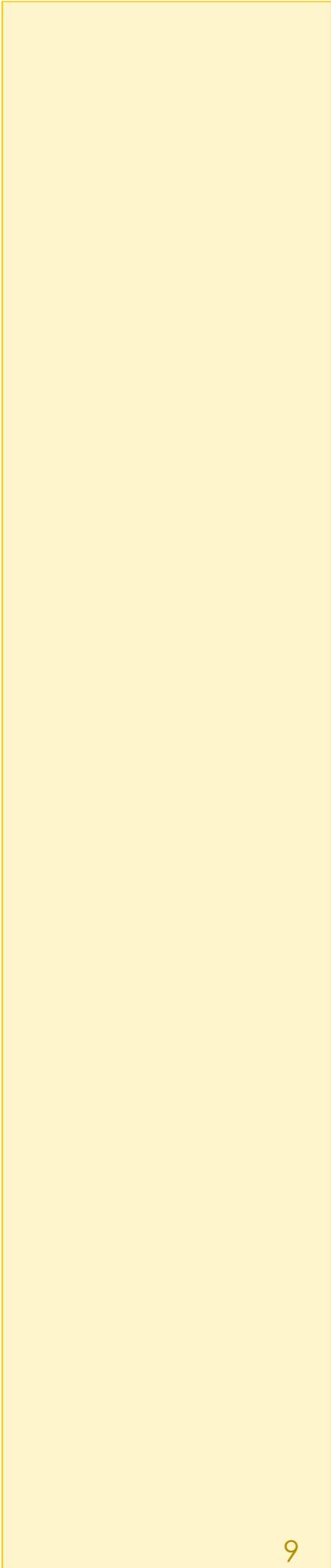
- Inspirational talks from professionals and community advocates
- Insights from VI specialists supporting children and families

**Who can attend:**

- Families of children and young people with a vision impairment
- Siblings, carers and extended family
- Professionals and community members wanting to connect

**Free refreshments provided throughout the day**

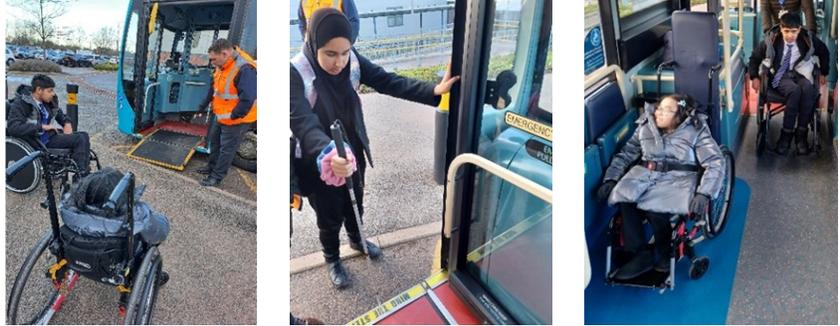
**Come along, join in, and celebrate with our VI community!**



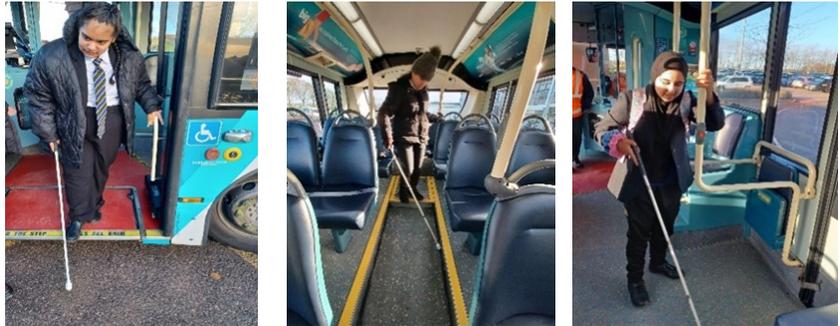
## Vision Impairment Habilitation Team

### Hanson Bus Experience

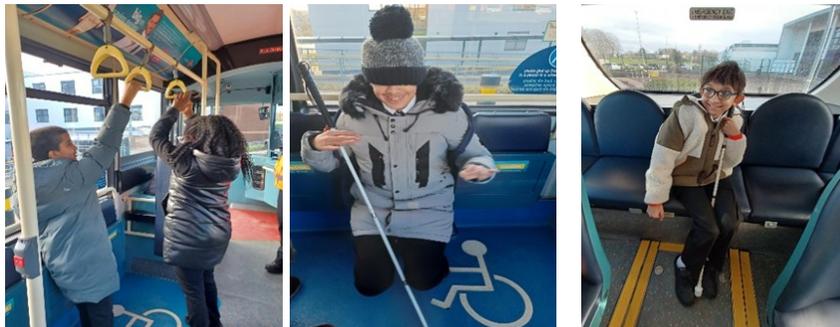
The Vision Impairment Habilitation outreach team organised for a bus to visit Hanson so that VI students could experience getting on and off a bus, paying the driver and locating a seat.



As they had the bus to themselves, they had the chance to explore the entire bus, something they would not normally be able to do.



All the students enjoyed the experience.



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## Grove House Primary School Resourced Provision for Children with Vision Impairment

### World Book Day

At Grove House we celebrated World Book Day in March. As part of the celebrations the children and staff dressed up in some great book character outfits! We also celebrated the day through enjoying some tactile story sessions, alongside our friends from class. The children introduced their friends to braille and showcased how they use their brilliant braille skills to read. The children also explored tactile pictures alongside their friends and demonstrated how they use their tactile skills to make sense of illustrations. It was a lovely day, and the children really enjoyed celebrating reading alongside their friends.



### Trip to the Panto

In January, the children enjoyed a trip, alongside the pupils from Hanson Academy VI LARP, to the Alhambra theatre to watch an accessible showing of the Pantomime 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves'. The children and staff had a wonderful time! The fantastic songs and storytelling made it an engaging and exciting event for our children, and there were some very exciting moments, especially when the giant dragon appeared on the stage.



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## Girlington Primary School Resourced Provision for Deaf Children

### Year 3 Science Investigation

The RP pupils in Year 3 participated in a science investigation with their class. As part of their forces topic, they investigated whether different materials affect how well an object can go down a slide. They worked in small groups and used different materials such as carpet, cardboard, hessian, smooth wood and foil. All children worked well together and discovered that the smoother the surface the faster the car went.



### Family and Friends' Cafe

RP pupils in years 1 and 2 held a café and invited their RP friends and everyone's parents and carers to come. They worked really hard to write invitations and menus, and made plenty of homemade food to serve to their friends and families. Lots of family members came to the café, and the children looked very professional while they served everyone! Family and friends then enjoyed playing games and socialising with each other. It was a great success, and everyone who came said they really enjoyed it.



### Imaginary Animal Habitats

The children in years 1 and 2 have been reading the book 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson. They learnt all about the different habitats that the animals in the story live in, and how to use adjectives to describe them. They then made habitats for their own imaginary animals to live in, and wrote postcards all about them using adjectives they had learnt.



### Bradford Stories Bus

The Bradford Stories Bus, an old American school bus transformed into a mini library, visited Girlington Primary School on World Book Day and the children in Year 4 had the opportunity to go on the bus to take part in the exciting reading activities. The children listened to a story and carried out a survey. They really enjoyed exploring a range of books on the bus. All children were also given a book to take home too!



### Creative Afternoon

In Year 3, they have been learning about how fossils are created. They used a collagraph block to make a motif pattern. They recreated fossils using printing ink. First, they made a stencil on to a polystyrene file and designed their own patterns linked to fossils. Then they pressed these into their art books. The children created some lovely work, which they were very proud of!



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## Girlington Primary School Resourced Provision for Deaf Children (Continued)

### Bread Rolls

Years 1 and 2 have been learning the story of The Little Red Hen. We baked bread just like the Little Red Hen did! We scooped the flour, poured the water, mixed the dough, kneaded the dough and baked the bread. We made our own bread rolls to eat and share with our family! Delicious!



### Eldwick Visitors

As part of the Year 3 Linking Project, children from Eldwick Primary school visited Girlington Primary. This is the second time this year the Year 3s from both schools had the opportunity to come together. The children took part in a range of activities focusing on celebrating similarities and differences of people within Bradford. They participated in art, poetry, team building activities and ICT, where they were able to ask questions to get to know each other more. The children really enjoyed working together and they had a great day getting to know their new friends.



### Fun Day at the Zoo

Year 6 children from Girlington Resourced Provision visited the Yorkshire Wildlife Park to learn more about animal classification. They saw wallabies, giraffes and polar bears to name just a few of the fascinating animals they encountered on their visit.



### Jam Sandwiches

The RP children in Years 3 and 4 learnt about instructions and how to follow these. They gathered the ingredients and equipment they needed then followed instructions to make jam sandwiches. Once they made them, all the children really enjoyed eating their tasty jam sandwiches! Yum!



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## Decorate Your Door Competition

For World Book Day, PW classroom decorated our door for the Swain House competition. The children worked together to show a city filled with rising water and animals trying to reach safety. They created the animals, buildings, and waves and added their own ideas to bring the story to life, as you can see in the video. We are very proud of the creativity and teamwork that went into creating our Flooded door!



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## Swain House Primary School Resourced Provision for Deaf Children

### Flowers, Fruit and Seeds

The year 3/4 pupils in the RP have enjoyed the start of their science topic 'Flowers, Fruits and Seeds'. They have discovered some amazing facts about flowers and have made close observations of different flowers using magnifiers. The pupils have created botanical drawings using pastels and some sculptures showing different parts of a flower.



### Flooded

The children in the RP enjoyed the launch of their new book, 'Flooded' by Mariago Ilustrajo. They loved a bit of role play, dressing up in waterproofs and wellies in preparation for a flood. They also enjoyed discussions around the theme of the story, 'Don't ignore small problems as they may get much worse!'



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## Swain House Primary School Resourced Provision for Deaf Children (Continued)

### World Book Day

We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day. Everyone came to school in their pyjamas or character costumes, and the room was full of excitement as we shared stories and talked about our favourite costumes, books and competitions.



### Busy Bees

The year 3/4 children in the RP have been busy bees helping to pollinate flowering plants. They found out how important bees are in the pollination process and how the bees move pollen grains from one plant to another. The children learned how bees make honey and enjoyed tasting honey sandwiches.



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## Hanson Delta Academy Resourced Provision for Vision Impaired Children and Young People

### Blind in Business Workshop

This term, we invited the charity Blind in Business to work with our secondary school pupils for the second year running on the theme of preparing for employment. Blind in Business is a UK-based charity that supports blind and partially sighted young people into employment. Their mission is to help students, school leavers, undergraduates, and graduates develop the skills, confidence, and knowledge needed to succeed in the world of work.

The workshop focused on sharing real experiences of people's journeys into work, helping students understand the different paths available to them and the support they can access along the way.

A key part of the session explored essential soft skills, including how to present themselves confidently, communicate effectively, and navigate conversations in the workplace. Students also discussed the topic of job interviews; particularly how much they may wish to disclose about their disability and how to approach those decisions thoughtfully.

The workshop created a fantastic opportunity for students from both Outreach and the Resourced Provision to come together. It encouraged them to reflect on their strengths and celebrate the unique qualities they bring to any future workplace.

We received lovely feedback from Jonathan and Joe, who delivered the session:

"I just wanted to say thank you for organising such an enjoyable event last Friday. They were a great bunch of students who we thoroughly enjoyed working with."

We are already planning further sessions and follow-up work. The atmosphere throughout the workshop was incredibly positive, and it was clear that all students benefited from the experience.

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*'It was very good especially hearing from vision impaired adults working with a support worker'*

*'I liked meeting students from other schools who have vision impairment'*

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## Hanson Delta Academy Resourced Provision for Vision Impaired Children and Young People (Continued)

### Trip to National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships

Students at Hanson Academy VI Resourced Provision have weekly coaching sessions for indoor rowing. It's an ideal sport to build strength and cardio fitness plus it's a completely accessible sport for vision impaired children and young people. In early March we entered 8 students in the championships. It was an exciting sports event with 300+ students competing from all over the North of England. All the students from Hanson Academy achieved medal positions in their races.



### Year 7 Reward Trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park

In recognition of their positive attitudes and hard work the entire year group spent a fascinating day at Yorkshire Wildlife Park. VI students had audio descriptions and some of the animals gave a few sound bytes of their own! This was a really enjoyable social event too, with a bus full of chatter on the way home.



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## Hanson Delta Academy Resourced Provision for Deaf Children and Young People

### English Schools Football Association celebrates a successful Deaf Schools' Cup at St. George's Park

On Wednesday 4th February, Hanson Deaf Resourced Provision students had an exciting opportunity to participate, with other UK Deaf Schools, in a challenging Deaf Football Tournament at St George's Park National Football Centre in Burton-Upon-Trent.

Our KS3 and KS4 pupils took on board some extra football training, provided by the Delta Hanson PE department, to improve their football skills and our pupils showed off their amazing skills on the football pitches. It was also a brilliant social event for our pupils to engage with other Deaf students outside the Bradford region.

They returned with medals to show their achievements. Well done to Hanson Deaf Resourced Provision .



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## Children's Sensory and Physical Needs Service

The Children's Sensory and Physical Needs Service is made up of the Deaf and MSI Children and Young People Service and the Vision and Physical Needs Service which includes, The Support Team for Deaf Children, The Vision Impairment Outreach Team, The Physical Needs Team and the Local Authority Led Resourced Provisions for Children and Young People who are Deaf and Children and Young People with a Vision Impairment.

These teams work collectively to provide information, advice, support, direct teaching and training to ensure that children and young people (CYP), 0 - 25 who are deaf or with a vision impairment, multi-sensory impairment, and physical / medical needs have their needs met.



# THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your continued hard work this term, it does not go unnoticed and you are all truly appreciated!

Eid Mubarak to all who have celebrated over the last week!

We wish you all a very Happy Easter, and hope you all have a lovely, well-deserved break in the holidays!

HAVE A VERY  
HOPPY  
EASTER

## Children's Sensory and Physical Needs Service

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To find out about more help and information for families with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) 0-25yrs in the Bradford district, please refer to our Local Offer website where you can find information, advice, support services and activities about SEND all in one place: <https://localoffer.bradford.gov.uk>

You can also sign up to receive a monthly SEND Newsletter at: <https://bit.ly/BfdSENDNewsletter>



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