

HELPLINE NUMBER

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DDCS Committee

Chairperson: Mrs. Helen Fox
Secretary: Ms. Siobhan Michaels
Treasurer: Mr. Nick James
Designated Safeguarding Officer: Ms. Dawn Bevington
Newsletter editor: Mrs. Jan Evans.
**Next committee meetings: Thursday 2nd March 2023
Thursday 4th May 2023**

Our next meeting is due to take place at **7.00pm on Thursday 2nd March 2023 at Stourbridge Fire Station Community Room and also via a Zoom link.**

If you wish to join us, either in person or on Zoom, please email Jan [jaevans63@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jaevas63@hotmail.co.uk) for further details.



A big HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following members..

March	April
Devon F	Mohammad Ismail A
Ahmed I	Mu'adh E
Ella M	Joseph C
Emily M	Jack H
	Hadiqa H C
	Oscar M
	Sam G
	Louise S
	Jessica S
	Cyrus N
	Arjun D
	Amaar L
	Thomas D

Hearing/Visual Impairment Services

Parents/Carers & Toddlers Group

The Stourbridge Centre, Forge Road,
Stourbridge, DY8 1XF
Sessions 9:45 - 11:45

Our group is open to all parents/carers with their hearing impaired/visually impaired babies, toddlers and pre-school brothers and sisters.

Session dates 2023



March 3rd & 17th 2023
April 21st 2023

Contact Louise Westwood on **07824598809** for further information.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023

Spring Term 2023

Term starts Tuesday 3rd January 2023
½ term Mon 20th to Fri 24th February
Term ends Friday 31st March

Summer Term 2023

Term starts Monday 17th April 2023
½ term Mon 29th May to Fri 2nd Jun 2023
Term ends Tues 25th July 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS

DDCS are in the process of planning more events for 2023.

We have a confirmed booking for a trip to Cadbury World on **Saturday 1st April 2023** (perfect timing for all those chocolate eggs at Easter), see below for details on prices and how to book tickets.

SAVE THE DATES.... We have also planned a trip to Chester Zoo on **Wednesday 2nd August**, (more details to follow soon) and our Christmas Party is already booked for **Saturday 2nd December**.

Look out for emails and/or keep checking our Facebook page and newsletters for details on all forthcoming events and ticketing information.

A GREAT START TO 2023

What a fantastic time everyone had at the Panto in January, a great start to 2023. The Panto at Birmingham Hippodrome starred the hilarious Matt Slack alongside Marti Pellow, Dr Ranj and many more stars. All 40 tickets were taken and the special effects, particularly with King Rat and Matt Slack's double decker bus, were amazing. Here are some of the feedback received....

"We had an absolute fantastic time! Thank you x D's face was a picture when he saw the bus! he was amazed!! We love the pantomime every year and we look forward to the next one! I know how expensive these shows are and we are very lucky to be able to benefit from funding making it affordable for us all to go as a family we are so grateful! seeing everyone enjoy it is priceless."

"Thank you so much, we had a fab time."

"Thank you so much once again Dudley Deaf Children's Society, we all had a brilliant time as we do every year, thanks to you. Xxx"



We are already planning to visit the Panto again in January 2024 and have reserved tickets for the 5.15pm signed performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday 7th January 2024. Details on applying for tickets will be sent out later in the year.



COME AND JOIN US ON A TRIP TO CADBURY WORLD!

We have secured a date for a trip to Cadbury World, Bourneville, Birmingham on Saturday 1st April 2023.

The trip will include a free coach which will leave from the lay-by adjacent to Showcase Cinema, Castlegate Way, Dudley, DY1 4TA (times to be confirmed).

Tickets are available to deaf children and their immediate family only.

A deaf child and one carer are free of charge.

An additional parent/carer costs £10

Additional siblings costs £5 each.

*****Coach travel free of charge*****

If you would like to attend, please email us with the number of tickets you require. Please include names of all attendees and ages of children and whether or not you require a seat on the coach.

Email to dudleydeafchildrensociety@yahoo.com by no later than Thursday 16th March 2023.

Once your details and any payments have been received, we will email you with confirmation of your reservation. Please let us know if you pay by bank transfer (use reference Cadburys and your surname).

Times for the coach departure and return will be confirmed as soon as Cadbury World confirm our entry time.

A selection of DDCS merchandise will be given to any DDCS child members attending an outing with us (one per child only).

We look forward to seeing you and hope you will join us on this amazing day out (even if you don't like chocolate! 😊)

DUDLEY DEAF YOUTH CLUB (DDYC) IS BACK!



After a very long break, DDYC returned to Queens Cross Network in January where we welcomed members old and new. Our first meeting coincided with Chinese New Year and we had great fun craft-making and sampling Chinese food. We tasted Chow Mein, Vegetable Curry, Chinese Crackers, Seaweed, Prawn Crackers, Soy Sauce dip and we made Duck Wraps.

Our favourites turned out to be the Duck Wraps, Chicken Chow Mein and the Vegetable Curry, although everything was eaten and there were no leftovers!

February saw our next meeting where we played board games, badminton and tried out various recipes for microwave mug cakes. We made vanilla mug cakes with chocolate chips and sprinkles or chocolate and biscoff mug cakes. All of which tasted delicious and were eaten as soon as they were cooked!



If your deaf child is aged 10 to 18 and would like to come along to Youth Club to meet new friends and have fun, then **our next meeting is on Thursday 16th March 2023** from 6pm to 8pm at Queens Cross Network, Wellington Road, Dudley, DY1 1RB. Then every 3rd Thursday in following months.

At our March meeting, we will be focusing on Easter crafts as well as games and a chat amongst friends. Drinks and snacks will be provided. Cost is £3 per session.

If you are not already a member, please email Jan at dudleydeafchildrensociety@yahoo.com and we will arrange to send out membership forms or just come along and we can fill them in on the night. You can also contact DDYC by text only on 07745 034531.

NEW DDCS MERCHANDISE

Our chairperson, Helen, has obtained new merchandise with the DDCS logo on, in order to promote our society.

We now have snap wristbands (£2 each), trolley coins (£1 each) and lanyards (£1 each) available for sale. If you would like to purchase any of these items, please email us at dudleydeafchildrensociety@yahoo.co.uk

All items will also be available to purchase at any of our upcoming events.





NDCS NEWS

GETTING SMART WITH TECHNOLOGY

Smart hearing devices - Hearing technology is becoming increasingly smart, with most new hearing aids, cochlear implants and bone conduction hearing devices having Bluetooth integration. This means deaf children and young people can connect them wirelessly to compatible smartphones, tablets and televisions, allowing them to hear the audio directly through their hearing devices. Many hearing aids also have their own apps that you can connect to. These apps can help you to do things like stream phone calls, audiobooks and music, as well as check on the status of a hearing aid battery or even locate your lost hearing aids on a map. Allowing children access to the app is a great way to teach them independence in controlling and caring for their own hearing technology.

Smart doorbells - Smart doorbells are very popular. They're helpful for deaf people, as they can be alerted to visitors at the door by receiving a notification on their phone, tablet or smart screen, such as the Amazon Echo Show, so they don't have to hear the doorbell or use a flashing one. It's also possible to see who's at the door via the app before answering (or ignoring it!). Options we've tested, and found to be useful, include Ring (ring.com) and Blink (amazon.co.uk). When considering smart technology, check if the product requires an ongoing subscription to work beyond the initial free trial, as the costs can add up.

Looking to the future - Oticon's latest hearing aids and the app they use can communicate with internet-connected devices, such as smart kettles, washing machines and other appliances compatible with digital automation software IFTTT (ifttt.com/oticon). These smart devices can be programmed to send a customised message from the app to the hearing aid. The options are endless, such as announcing Google Calendar appointments, Twitter alerts and Amazon Alexa notifications. It can be linked to smoke alarms and safety devices too, but a reliable backup is essential in case an internet connection fails.

Check out the latest edition of NDCS Families magazine (Spring 2023) and see if you can spot our very own DDCS members telling their story in the section titled "How do I help my hearing children to understand their sibling's deafness?" <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/media/8562/d0243-families-magazine-spring-2023.pdf>

BSL ZONE .co.uk

Did you know that you can watch award winning BSL Zone programmes on Film4 and Together TV every Monday?

Prefer watching TV online? You can easily watch at any time on www.bslzone.co.uk, or on our app, which is available as a free download!

Our programmes all have English subtitles. They're packed full of deaf role models, with fun educational stuff, comedy, short films and even a dedicated children's section...what are you waiting for?

Google Play App Store **kindle fire**

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