

Web site: [www.dudleydcs.org.uk](http://www.dudleydcs.org.uk)  
Email: [dudleydeafchildrenssociety@yahoo.com](mailto:dudleydeafchildrenssociety@yahoo.com)  
New Helpline number: 07951644598

Charity number: 1016532  
Website: [www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)  
Free helpline number: 0808 800 888

**HELPLINE NUMBER**  
**07951664598**  
**Email ADDRESS**

[dudleydeafchildrenssociety@yahoo.com](mailto:dudleydeafchildrenssociety@yahoo.com)

**DDCS Committee**

Chairperson: Mrs. Helen Fox  
Secretary: Mrs. Karen Forbes-Chapman  
Treasurer: Mr. Nick James  
Membership secretary: Mrs Karen Forbes- Chapman  
Designated Safeguarding Officer: Mrs Karen Forbes- Chapman  
Newsletter editor: Mrs. Jan Evans.  
**Next committee meetings: \*\* To be confirmed \*\***

Unfortunately, DDCS meetings are still suspended until further notice in order to ensure the safety of our Committee and members. We will notify you all of new dates whenever we are able to. #StaySafe. A virtual Annual General Meeting for 2021 is currently being considered and we will of course, keep everyone updated with any changes or news.

Welcome to the winter edition of the DDCS Newsletter. I hope you are all keeping well. Although things are returning to some sort of new normal, there are no DDCS events planned for the immediate future, with the exception of course of the **PANTO!!!**

Hopefully 2022 will see us return to normal committee meetings and bring with it the opportunity to arrange some more fantastic events for you all. In the meantime, stay safe and (although this may seem incredibly earlier) have a peaceful and happy Christmas.



**TERM DATES 2021**

**Autumn Term**

Term ends Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**Spring Term**

Term starts Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022  
½ term Mon 21<sup>st</sup> – Fri 25<sup>th</sup> February  
Term ends Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Hearing/Visual Impairment Services



**Parents/Carers  
& Toddlers Group**



The Stourbridge Children and Families Centre,  
Forge Rd, Stourbridge, DY8 1XF

Fortnightly Friday Sessions  
9:45 'til 11:30  
See back for dates

Our group is open to all  
Parents/Carers,  
and their hearing impaired and visually  
impaired babies,  
toddlers and pre-school brothers  
and sisters

**Session dates 2021/2022**

November 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
January 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>  
February 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>  
Contact Louise Westwood on  
**07824598809** to confirm location.



For more information please contact:  
Cathryn Skidmore QTVI or Louise Westwood TOD  
The Mere Education Centre, Stourbridge, DY8 5PQ  
Tel: 01384 818003 Text: 07827873498



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

November	December
Ted Y	Mohammad Hasan A
Maisy E	Mohammed Musah B
Brooke M	Matthew C
Meghan G	Oliver C
Thomas H	Mackenzie C
Aleem I	Amirab I
Luke T	Grace K
Louise G	Lillianna D
Hasan A	Bobbi P
	Teddy S

**We wish you all a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY and hope you enjoy your day.**

## New drama workshops for 6 – 11 year-olds



We are inviting children to join Graeae's new drama group for children aged 6- 11 years old. We invite Deaf, disabled or neurodivergent children to join our new drama group – a new online space for drama (the good kind!) Come along to our 'taster' drama workshop via Zoom on Saturday 20 November 2021, from 10am – 10:30am. Led by Daryl Beeton and Kelsey Gordon. This will be a chance to meet our team, play drama games, meet other children and have fun together. If you are new to drama, we'd love to introduce you to a wonderful new community of fun! Siblings are welcome to join in for a taster session too. We aim to meet all access requirements including providing BSL and SSE interpreters, and Access Support Workers (via Zoom). There are no fees, no auditions and all our projects are led by Deaf and Disabled artists. We offer a friendly and dynamic team who love theatre and want to share this passion with you. Please sign up by Monday 8 November, 2021 to ensure you don't miss out! There are limited places available on the taster sessions. Get in touch now to sign up by writing to or calling: Mette Philipsen, Training & Learning Manager Email: [mette@graeae.org](mailto:mette@graeae.org) Telephone: 020 7613 6903 (please note: our in-office hours are limited currently, so please leave a message with your name and number and we will return your call) Liked the workshop and want more? If you've enjoyed your 'taster' workshop experience with us, or are just curious for more, we will invite you to become a member of Graeae's new drama group! We will be holding weekly drama sessions \*online from Saturday 27 November – Saturday 18 December 2021 (and to be continued in 2022). Our drama group in 2021 will be led by Disabled director and theatremaker, Daryl Beeton and Deaf actor and facilitator Kelsey Gordon. \*Under the current circumstances, many people are still uncertain about joining face to face groups. In solidarity with this community, we are delivering workshops online for the time being.

## NDCS NEWS

**Connect with other families** We know that connecting with other families with deaf children, and sharing your experiences, can be invaluable. Our Connecting Families team provides opportunities for you to connect with other families in lots of different ways, whether it's via digital spaces such as Your Community – a safe, online forum where you can ask questions, share experiences and chat with others, or through our social media channels. Face-to-face support and activities are also on offer through our local deaf children's societies, and less formally structured parent and family groups. Check out our online forum, Your Community, at [www.ndcs.org.uk/your-community](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/your-community) You can also discover your local deaf children's society at <http://www.ndcs.org.uk/findalocalgroup>

### Exam arrangements:

If your child is at school or college and is due to take exams this year, it's important to make sure their access arrangements are in place early. Contact your child's Special Educational Needs Coordinator or Teacher of the Deaf to discuss their needs. [www.ndcs.org.uk/exams](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/exams)

### Technology Test Drive

Our Technology Test Drive service offers deaf young people the chance to borrow a range of products to try out at home, such as alarm clocks, doorbells and specialist smoke alarms. This technology can be expensive so it's a good idea to try before you buy. [www.ndcs.org.uk/test-drive](http://www.ndcs.org.uk/test-drive)

## Technology to take you from nursery to university

Deaf children and young people face extra barriers in the nursery playroom, classroom and lecture hall, but there's plenty of technology which can help make things easier. Equipment such as: **The Damson Cisor wireless vibration speaker, The Groclock Sleep Trainer, Conversor's digital microphone or Note Taking Express** are all available to help make your child's learning journey easier. For information on products available to help your child at Nursery, Primary School, Secondary School and on into Further Education, visit the NDCS website at: <http://www.ndcs.org.uk/technology>



## STRICTLY SUPERSTAR ROSE RAISES DEAF AWARENESS

Whether you are a Strictly Come Dancing fan or not, there is no denying that this year's Deaf contestant Rose Ayling-Ellis has raised awareness of using BSL whilst also showing that being deaf doesn't stop you dancing!

Rose is making history as the first deaf contestant to compete on the show. The 26-year-old is used to smashing records, having become the first deaf actor to appear on Eastenders when she joined the soap in 2020.

Rose's dance partner is Giovanni and together they have wowed the audience and judges alike. Today (29<sup>th</sup> October), Giovanni tweeted to say "searches for 'sign language' rose by 1011% between 5pm and 8pm last Saturday whilst strictly was on air"

Rose is quoted as saying "I hope I will do the deaf community proud and break down more barriers. I am also very excited to learn a new skill and even better I get to learn whilst wearing beautiful dresses made especially for me!"

**WHAT A SUPER STAR! WE HOPE YOU GO ALL THE WAY TO THE FINAL ROSE!**

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## IT'S PANTO TIME! (Oh yes, it is!)



### **\*\*\*TICKETS ARE SELLING FAST\*\*\***

There are still some tickets available for the signed performance of GOLDILOCKS AND THE Three Bears at Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 1pm.

Application forms for tickets have been issued and seats are being allocated on a first come first served basis with priority being given to Deaf children and their immediate family. If any tickets remain, they will then be offered to extended families.

Please return your forms with any payment due to Jan Evans at the address shown on the booking form as soon as possible.

If anyone has difficulty in printing the form, please contact me on [jaevans63@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jaevans63@hotmail.co.uk) and I will send you one in the post.

## CHRISTMAS IS COMING



We are pleased to be rolling out our (BSL) British Sign Language Santa Hunt again and will have a qualified interpreter accompanying the hunt on **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 2- 3pm and 2.30-3.30pm.**

Background information is available from the website, so you can have a look at our offer.

<https://bclm.com/santa-hunts/>

Each timeslot will give you access into the Museum village and the Santa Hunt will begin. You are free to stay in the Museum once the Santa Hunt has finished until the Museum closes at 4pm, but your ticket will allow your group to arrive at the museum when we open at 10am.

### **Ticket prices:**

- Child (6 months – 15 years) £11
- Adults £17
- Children under 6 months are free but will need to book a free ticket

**Please note that entry to this event is via a special event ticket. UnChained Passes and Memberships cannot be used for entry to this event.**

Santa Hunts are designed for children. Therefore, there is a limit of two adults per child.

Each Santa Hunt has a maximum of 27 people in the group to create a more personal experience.

Each Santa Hunt is approx. 1 hour long.

If you wish to book, please get in touch with Chantelle Richards [chantelle.richards@bclm.com](mailto:chantelle.richards@bclm.com) Tel: 07714 133630  
Text Reply for enquires: 07520632500

## LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

Why not check out these ideas?



Find the perfect gifts for your loved ones and help change the lives of deaf people at the same time. Take a look at <https://shop.hearingdogs.org.uk/collections/christmas>

You will find Christmas cards, gift wrap, decorations, napkins, calendars and much more for sale.



Or why not sponsor a puppy as a gift? These pups will help a deaf person to stop feeling isolated and alone. The pup you sponsor will become their ears, and their best friend too, from just £3 per month Check out the website <https://www.hearingdogs.org.uk/sponsor-a-puppy/>



## CHRISTMAS IDEAS FROM NDCS



NDCS believe that every child deserves to see themselves represented in the stories they read. That's why, this Christmas, they are asking you to help give a book about a deaf character to a deaf child in need.

When you buy a book from NDCS online store this festive season, you'll have the chance to gift a book too.

Simply go to [ndcs-bookshop.myshopify.com](https://ndcs-bookshop.myshopify.com) , buy a book and NDCS will send another copy to a deaf child in need. You'll get a brilliant Christmas present for your child too.

For more ideas on how to make celebrations deaf friendly visit NDCS website at <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/parenting-and-family-life/celebrations/>