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DDCS Committee

Chairperson: Mrs. Helen Fox
Secretary: Ms. Sionhan Michaels
Treasurer: Mr. Nick James
Designated Safeguarding Officer: Ms. Dawn Bevington
Newsletter editor: Mrs. Jan Evans.
Next committee meetings: Thursday 10th November 2022
Thursday 5th January 2023

Our next meeting is due to take place at **7.00pm on Thursday 10th November 2022 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:jaeans63@hotmail.co.uk) for further details.

THANK YOU KAREN!!

At the DDCS AGM in September, our secretary Karen Forbes-Chapman took the decision to step down from her long held role. The DDCS Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Karen for all her hard work as a long running secretary and wish you all the best in your new adventures. We are happy to say that Karen will be staying involved with DDCS as a committee member and we look forward to still seeing her at future events and meetings.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In conjunction with Karen's decision to stand down as Secretary, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Secretary Siobhan Michaels. Siobhan has been a committee member for several years now and has kindly agreed to step up into the role.

We also welcome new committee members Erin Straw, Gemma Thompson, Jack Francis and Jane Lennon.

If you would like to become involved with the running of DDCS or have any ideas to share, please contact any member of the committee for information.

MORE AMAZING DAYS OUT.....

Since the last newsletter, we have had 2 more amazing days out.



The first was to West Midlands Safari Park on Saturday 15th October. DDCS were very kindly allocated 100 tickets through VARIETY – THE CHILDREN'S CHARITY. These tickets allowed families entry to the Safari Park at a drastically reduced price of £2 per wristband.

All 100 tickets were allocated and it turned out to be a fantastic day out. The weather was kind to us and I understand at one point a wedding party was seen to jump the queue for the Merry-Go-Round!

"Just wanted to say thank you so much for this fantastic generous trip. We had a brilliant family day out together, which we otherwise would not have done. Thank you again. My child found this a bright side of being hard of hearing and felt special because of it. – Jen & family"

Our other day out was a return visit to Sycamore Adventure in Dudley on Thursday 27th October. Again this was a free day out and a great time was had by all. As well as the usual activities available, there were Halloween craft sessions for everyone to take part in. A big thanks to Sycamore Centre for another brilliant day.



COMING SOON!!!



This years **DDCS Family Christmas Party** is on **Saturday 3rd December 2022** from **2pm to 5pm** at the **Amblecote Christian Centre, 102-104 Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge, DY8 4BS.** We have secured a fantastic face-painter team called the **Painting Pixie**.



Come along for an afternoon of partying, music and dancing.

Activities include 'Guess the weight of the cake', 'Guess how many sweets in the jar' and 'Name the Teddy'

There will be crafts to make or you could pose for photos in the photo booth.

Of course, we will also be having a special visit from Santa himself.

To reserve you place please contact Jan for a booking form.

Contact jaevans63@hotmail.co.uk



We are very excited to have reserved tickets to a signed performance of the Panto **"DICK WHITTINGTON"** at **BIRMINGHAM HIPPODROME** on **Sunday 8th January 2023 at 5.15pm.**

The full cast line-up has now been confirmed and as well as the hilarious

Matt Slack, it has been announced that Marti Pellow, of WET, WET, WET fame will also be part of the cast along with Doreen Tipton and many more famous faces.

Tickets are going fast, over half have already been allocated so if you would like tickets to this amazing afternoon out, please contact Jan for a booking form asap. Again, please email jaevans63@hotmail.co.uk

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 2022



November 4th & 18th
December 2nd

Contact Louise Westwood on
07824598809 for further information.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2022/2023

Autumn term

Term ends Friday 16th December

Spring Term 2023

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



A big happy birthday to the following members:

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
	Deen B

DDCS would like to give a very warm welcome to new members Daniel G and Kayla M. We look forward to seeing you and your families at our events very soon.

DUDLEY DEAF YOUTH CLUB (DDYC) IS BACK!

After a very long absence and with thanks to new volunteer staff, we are now able to re-start Dudley Deaf Youth Club.

DDYC will meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month starting on Thursday 19th January 2023.

The club will run from 6pm to 8pm at Queens Cross Network, Wellington Road, Dudley, DY1 1RB and is open to any deaf/hearing impaired children aged 10 to 18.





If you have a child that would like to come along and join in with activities, games, crafts or just to meet new friends, please contact Jan by email at javans63@hotmail.co.uk and an enrolment form will be sent to you.

Alternatively, you can contact DDYC by text only on 07745 034531.


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(DDYC)

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DY1 1RB
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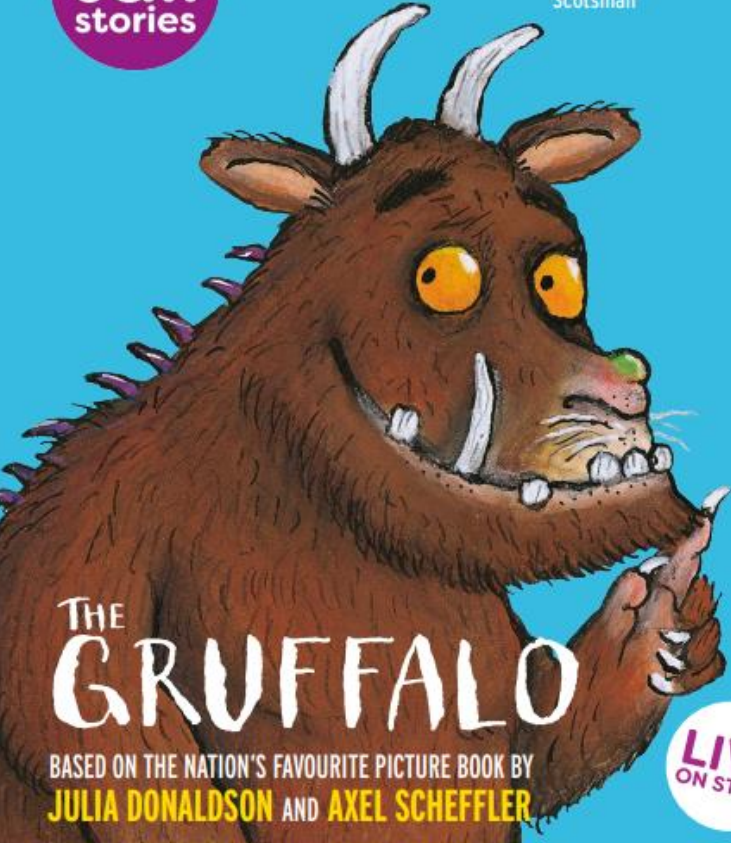
Open to deaf/ hearing impaired children
aged 10 to 18



WHAT'S ON LOCALLY?



'AN ABSOLUTE DELIGHT'
Scotsman



THE GRUFFALO

BASED ON THE NATION'S FAVOURITE PICTURE BOOK BY
JULIA DONALDSON AND **AXEL SCHEFFLER**

LIVE ON STAGE

B:Music
Town Hall

TUE 27 DEC 2022 –
SUN 15 JAN 2023

BOOK NOW 0121 780 3333 | BMUSIC.CO.UK
Town Hall, Victoria Square, Birmingham B3 3DQ

BSL

The Gruffalo © Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler 1999 - Myzillion Children's Books

NDCS NEWS

Using BSL to contact 999 in an emergency.

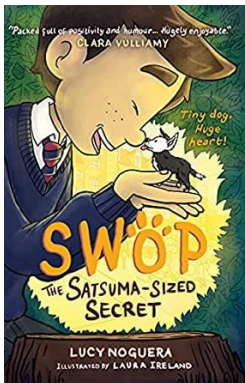
The new 999 BSL Emergency Video Relay Service helps British Sign Language (BSL) users make emergency calls by connecting them to qualified BSL interpreters who will then relay the conversation to a call handler with emergency authorities.

The service, which went live in June, can be used to contact the police, ambulance, fire or coastguard. The 999 BSL service is free and operates 24/7 every day of the year. It's for emergency situations only, for example if someone is seriously injured or lives are in danger.

For less urgent situations, BSL users can use SignVideo to contact the police on 101 and the NHS on 111.

To use the 999 BSL service, you can: • download the free 999 BSL iOS or Android app onto your phone or tablet go to the 999 BSL website: 999bsl.co.uk.

In an emergency, there are three very simple steps to follow: 1. Open the app or web page. 2. Press the red button 'Call 999 Emergency now'. 3. Connect to an interpreter. For more information about the 999 BSL service, a list of FAQs, and how to download the app, visit 999bsl.co.uk.



SWOP THE SATSUMA-SIZED SECRET by Lucy Noguera is available from bookstores. Priced £6.99 RRP. Suitable for ages 5 to 10 years.

The book is about Ernie, a boy who has just moved to the city from the countryside. He finds a tiny dog and names him Swop. When Ernie has his first day at school, Swop goes with him without Ernie knowing. Ernie has a sister called Ivy who is deaf and the book contains several illustrations where Ivy uses sign language and there is a finger-spelling alphabet at the back of the book.

SUPPORTING PARENTS NEW TO HEARING LOSS IN PERSON EVENT

Saturday 26th November 2022 9:30am to 4:30pm at Sense Touchbase Pears, 750 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6NA.

Parents, grandparents or anyone who has caring responsibilities for a child with any type of hearing loss is welcome to attend.

We have space at this event for a maximum of two adults from each family. You only need to complete one application form per family.

On the day, you will have chance to:

- Meet other parents and carers and have a chat.
- Learn from our experts about things like early communication, understanding hearing loss and technology. You will be able to ask them any questions!
- Hear from our fantastic volunteers who are parents of deaf children, our deaf role models, and deaf young people. They will tell you all about their experiences and chat to you.
- Meet our team and find out how the National deaf Children's Society can support your family's journey with childhood deafness.

Communication support

If you require any communication support for the event such as a British Sign Language interpreter or other language interpreter, do let us know when you apply, so we can provide these for you.

Refreshments

We will provide a light breakfast on arrival, some lunch and refreshments during breaks, so we can enjoy the day together.

Childcare

If you are unable to secure any childcare, then we will have a crèche available to pre-book. **Pre-booking is essential**, as our creche is provided by a company external to the National Deaf Children's Society. You will be able to pre-book the crèche when you fill in our application form.

Apply at <https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/our-events/events-for-parents-carers-and-families/supporting-parents-new-to-hearing-loss-in-person-event/register-birmingham/>