

IN TOUCH

Sheffield Vision Support Service 'Out and About' Newsletter

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First hand experiences are an important and enjoyable part of our learning in the Vision Support Service. Educational visits are often planned as part of mainstream learning. The Primary Team organise 'Out and About' sessions every few weeks on a Friday afternoon specifically to bring our group of Braille users together. It gives the pupils a chance to meet up with their blind friends, exchange news, share new experiences and practice cane skills together. We plan a range of activities taking in different venues and for lunchtime as a group, taking the opportunity to travel using public transport whenever possible.

Visits this year so far:

29th September 2017 SRSB Lunch in the dining room with SRSB clients and a chance to make and try fruit smoothies

20th October 2017 Graves Park Children ordered their own lunch in the café then visited the animal park

24th November 2017 Central Fire Station Blue Watch showed us around a fire engine followed by lunch in Atkinson's cafe

15th December 2017 Sheffield Cathedral Café lunch, tactile trail and carol concert. We met the Dean of Sheffield.

2nd February 2018 Winter gardens and Central Library Tram journey, picnic lunch indoors and a chance to read Braille together in the library

9th February 2018 SRSB Lunch in the dining room with SRSB clients followed by pancake making.

23rd March 2018 Junglemania Lunch in the café and a chance to move around freely and safely

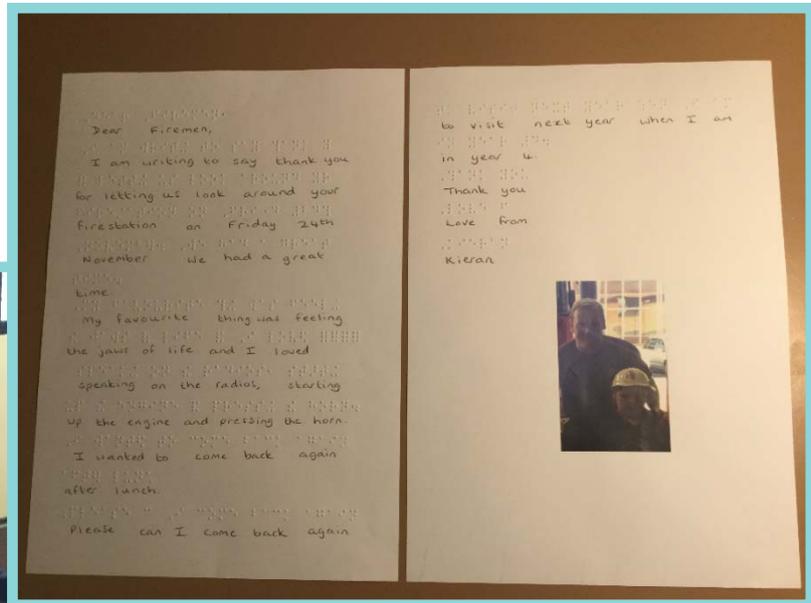
"My favourite 'Out and About' is going to Junglemania because there is a big bouncy castle and I get to jump really high. I really like sitting on the swinging ball and zooming really fast again and again!"

Alfie Mitchell

(The 'swinging ball' is similar to a zip-wire)

Out and About Group Visit the Central Fire Station

We were all very excited to visit the Fire Station last November! Blue Watch made us feel really welcome and showed us around the fire engine. We got to sit in the driver's seat and in the back of the engine too. We were able to handle the cutting tool, radio, hose pipe and even got to turn on the siren. It was very loud and we had to put our hands over our ears to muffle the sound!! The firefighters gave us all a helmet and we have an invitation to go back again very soon. We all can't wait, particularly Kieran. He wanted a second visit immediately after lunch!!



Kieran reading the Fire Station sign, he wrote his very own 'Thank You' letter to 'Blue Watch'.

Mckenzie Enjoys the Fire Station Visit

Mckenzie is now in Year 4 at Hinde House. He was very excited about his visit to the fire station and talked about it all week in the run up to the visit. He was full of questions on the day and wanted to explore all the equipment. He particularly liked the firefighters' radio and talked to Kieran who was sitting in the driver's seat at the time!



Alfie's Independent Route into School



Alfie is now in Year 2 at Montenev Primary and is starting to learn key landmarks on his way into school with support from his older sister Lacey in Year 6. Eventually, Alfie will become independent in getting into school on his own from the main school gate. Mum now drops him off some days with Lacey and he is learning how to follow a planned route recommended by Mr Turton, Habilitation Officer with the Sheffield Vision Support Service.

Alfie and Lacey beginning to learn a safe route into school, December 2017

Amirah the E Cadet

On 6th February 2018 the pupils and teachers at Dobcroft School celebrated Safer Internet Day. The theme of the day was thinking about how we can use the internet to be nice to people and make them feel good.

As part of her role as an E-Cadet, Amirah Malik in Year 2 helped with the day. Each year group had an assembly, where they listened to stories about how they would feel if people make bad comments about some work they had done that was displayed on the internet. After the assembly, the E-Cadets went to different classes to help the children make posters about how we should be nice about people, photos and things we see on the internet. Amirah has been an E-Cadet since September 2016, after being chosen by Mrs Harrison, the Deputy Head Teacher.

“There are two E-Cadets from each class and our job is to help Mrs Harrison teach the rest of the school about how to keep safe when using the internet. I really like going to the meetings with Mrs Harrison and the other E-Cadets, as we talk about interesting, important things.” explains Amirah.



My favourite part of Safer Internet Day was going into Kingfisher class, which is my own class, because I really liked helping my classmates to do brilliant posters.”

Amirah Malik

Skye Starts Piano Lessons at Rainbow Forge Primary



Skye is currently in Year 1 at Rainbow Forge Primary School.

Her favourite learning experience is playing the piano.

She enjoys playing nursery rhymes and has taught herself a wide range of familiar songs.

She has a weekly lesson taught by Mr Martin from the Sheffield Music Hub who says she has a very good ear for music and can listen to a tune and play it back without making any mistakes.

She really enjoyed playing in assembly at Christmas in front of all her friends at Rainbow Forge and her very proud Mum and Dad.

Looking ahead to the Summer Term:

- Friday 11th May: visit to Heeley City Farm
- Friday 25th May: picnic in the park and water play—
Millhouses Park

We are also hoping to plan possible visits as
below:

- visit to the Sheffield Mosque at Heeley
- possible Forest Schools visit

We would love to hear from parents, schools and anyone else reading this to get feedback on this newsletter.

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Link to Vision Support Service Local Offer

<http://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/kb5/sheffield/directory/service.page?id=PMqF2VmZ0xo>