

## VISION SUPPORT TEAM NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

New this spring-  
'Virtual'  
playgroup  
session for  
pre-schoolers

### Welcome to our brand new Newsletter!

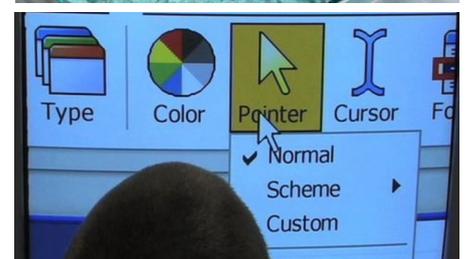
**CELEBRATIONS** – This past year of uncertainty has had many challenges for people of all ages groups, and has affected many aspects of daily life, yet the resolve of communities, especially in trying to support Education, children and young people is something to celebrate. As part of that, during this Spring Term has been evidenced with the introduction of a Pre-school 'Virtual Playgroup for Vision Impaired' little– ones, which has been a huge success. It has been a delight meeting the preschoolers and their parents, singing and experiencing sensory stories together and shall carry on into the new term! Please see leaflet below for future dates.

At the other end of the education spectrum, the Post-16 event organised by our Teams FE and PFA Lead \* brought together the opportunity for young learners with vision impairment to have a 'student voice' platform, discussing the process and options available to them in their next stage in development, work, apprenticeships or University. Specialist speakers were invited to give a truly valuable 'warts and all' overview of how to make successful applications and access the right support at chosen destinations. Exciting times ahead for our young people and something to celebrate as a light in these strange times!

*'This term we have been recruiting a new teacher to join our team after Easter. During the interview process, for the first time we invited an ex-student to join us on the panel. She has a severe unstable vision impairment, but is a fantastic advocate for her fellow peers and is now studying psychology at a local University. It was a very powerful experience to have her on the panel, which gave a different element for the candidates; and also supported her to understand the interview process for her own personal needs, for when the time comes for her to apply for a job in her future chosen career as a teacher of special needs'.* Charlotte Hollis, Assistant Service Lead for Sensory Support and Physical Difficulties Team.

#### LEARN TO TOUCH TYPE

<https://www.typingclub.com/>



**VISION SUPPORT TEAM– WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO?**

Made up of a team of Specialist teachers of children with vision impairment, specialist teaching assistants and Braille tutors, all with the outcome aims to enable successful educational achievement and social inclusion for our Birmingham children and young people with vision loss. We are all passionate in working to support children and young people with vision impairment across the full age range of 0-25 years to achieve eight learning outcomes:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1) Learning to access, access to learning | 5) Meeting others                |
| 2) Use of equipment                       | 6) Getting around                |
| 3) Independence and negotiation skills    | 7) Looking after himself/herself |
| 4) Participation                          | 8) Life after school             |

USEFUL WEBSITE ADDRESSES	
<a href="https://www.look-uk.org/">https://www.look-uk.org/</a>	Supporting young people with vision impairment
<a href="https://www.rnibbookshare.org/cms/">https://www.rnibbookshare.org/cms/</a>	Join to access accessible books, which can also be adapted by our reprographics team.
<a href="https://www.focusbirmingham.org.uk/pages/category/sight-loss-support">https://www.focusbirmingham.org.uk/pages/category/sight-loss-support</a>	Sight loss support charity offering services to Birmingham residents.
<a href="https://www.victa.org.uk/">https://www.victa.org.uk/</a>	Empowering children and young people with vision loss.
<a href="https://www.sense.org.uk/">https://www.sense.org.uk/</a>	For all ages experiencing complex disabilities and or deaf-blindness.
<a href="https://yourdolphin.com/">https://yourdolphin.com/</a>	Accessibility for sight loss and dyslexia.
<a href="https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/news/new-student-support-service/">https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/news/new-student-support-service/</a>	A new support service for students with vision impairment.
<a href="https://crystaleyes.me/">https://crystaleyes.me/</a>	Bespoke vision impairment training and support.
<a href="http://www.bagbooks.org/">http://www.bagbooks.org/</a>	Multi-sensory stories
<a href="https://www.ukaaf.org/">https://www.ukaaf.org/</a>	UK Association for Accessible Formats.

Lego Braille Brick article;

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-sensory-revolution/202101/lego-braille-bricks-help-blind-children-learn-read>

Sensory Support  Access to Education

**CONTACT US:**  
**Vision Support Team**  
**Part of Sensory Support and Physical Difficulties Service**  
**Based at:**  
**ADDERLEY CHILDREN'S CENTRE**  
**1 ST SAVIOURS ROAD**  
**SALTLEY**  
**BIRMINGHAM**  
**B8 1HN**  
**TEL:0121 303 1751**

### This is braille – alphabet card

Braille is a system of raised dots used by blind people to read and write. It was invented in 1824 by the Frenchman Louis Braille. A braille "cell" is made up of six dots like a domino, with each letter using a different pattern. There are some short forms of common words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z	and	for	of	the

To make numbers in braille we put this special numeral symbol ⠠ before the letters A to I for numbers 1 to 9 so A = 1, B = 2 and so on. J is used for zero.

So 6 is the numeral symbol followed by the braille letter 'F' like this: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

And the number 160 is like this: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠



Vision Support Virtual  
 Pre-School  
 Play Group

**COME ALONG AND MEET OTHER FAMILIES WITH PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN WHO HAVE VISION IMPAIRMENT**

**DRESS-UP    SENSORY STORIES    SONGS    GAMES**

**ACTIVITIES    FUN**

Please contact Karen Barguss for further information on: 07730 281 769

Or email: karen.barguss@birmingham.gov.uk

Download the Microsoft Teams app: <http://aka.ms/getteams>

**JOIN OUR SESSION ON THE 16TH OF MARCH BETWEEN 1-2PM..**

Further session on Tuesday 30th March between 1-2pm.



The Team also continue to support those in Year 6 and 11 in the transition phase of their educational journey, having places confirmed this March change is afoot!

This period of transition, in the times that we have lived through over the last 12 months, has brought to the foreground how important the ongoing support and communication with our children, young people and parents is! The aim is to continue in this support, so that our young people 0-25 years achieve their learning outcomes.

**Link to the singing Braille alphabet video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBQCZr-Qius>