

VI Team Newsletter

Autumn 2025

We hope everyone has had a lovely summer and all children have settled well into their new classes or schools.

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Please let us know your good news stories or make suggestions for the next newsletter! You can also contact us with any enquiries at: visualimpairmentteam@rotherham.gov.uk

Parent sessions

- Our next parent coffee morning will be 24th November 9.30-10.30am. We will be joined by Rotherham sight and sound who will share what they can offer to support children and families.
- CVI training for parents will be on 19th January 10am (Fully booked) & 11.30am at Kimberworth place

Please watch out for more information on these!

Team updates:

- The whole teaching team recently attended the national CVI conference. We had a great day and gained some really useful knowledge, especially from the leading expert in the field, Gordon Dutton!



Good news stories

- Yasin is progressing well with touch typing and becoming increasingly independent when using his iPad to access learning.
- Aliza has shown motivation towards her long cane.
- James is independently getting round his new secondary school.
- Sam has successfully used a toaster to make himself a crumpet.
- Kyron is wearing his glasses more, using his iPad and has shown commitment in starting to use a Hoople.
- Riley has passed level 3 touch typing.
- Oliver has had a successful transition to secondary and using his Chromebook.
- Somya has now learnt to take and crop photographs to support her visual access.
- Jayden can now use tactile skills to identify coins!

Staff star: Helen Dyson!

Here at the VI team, we have started sharing positive messages with each other and our favourite will be the newsletters staff star, so you can get to know some of our lovely staff!

Helen was chosen this time for our favourite comment:

‘She is an absolute joy to work with. Nothing is too much trouble, and she is always smiling. Brightens my day.’

Helen joined us September 2025 and has settled brilliantly into the team, she is always willing to learn new ways to better support the children and we can confirm – she is always smiling!

Christmas craft pupil social:

Our next pupil socials will be:

Tuesday 9th December 4-5pm

This will be held @ Kimberworth Place

This event is open to all VI pupils and their siblings.

Pupils are to attend the session independently for children over 5, due to restricted space. Appropriate levels of staffing will be provided.

Children aged 5 and under will need a parent to stay with them.

A parent's room is available in the next room with coffee and cake while you wait for your child.

This event is completely free!

Pupil socials

We had a great time at our Halloween session recently.....



Habilitation Habilitation

Crossing safely with confidence

The pedestrian crossing tactile rotating cone

Navigating busy streets can be challenging with visual impairment especially if audible signals are absent or unreliable. Fortunately, many pedestrian crossings now include a discreet accessibility feature- the tactile rotating cone.

Located on the underside of the push-button box, this small cone begins to rotate when the green man signal is active, indicating traffic should have stopped and it is safe to cross. The cone is textured with ridges, making it easy to detect by touch. It is especially helpful for individuals with dual sensory loss, offering a silent, tactile cue that complements or replaces audible signals.

Introduced in the late 1980's and designed following research at Nottingham University, they are now a familiar feature at pedestrian crossings across the UK. Simple, yet effective, these small devices can support your children to cross independently and safely.



Next time you are at a crossing, reach under the signal box and feel for the cone- it is a small device making a big difference.

Customeyes

Did you know that you can buy accessible books for your children, in font print size, layout and colour need for their individual access?

Customeyes by Guide Dogs can do this for you and the cost is the same as the book price in stores. This would make some great Christmas presents for our children.

If you aren't sure what font and layout you need for your child, or would like some more information on this, then please don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's QTVI or at visualimpairmentteam@rotherham.gov.uk

Here is the link to purchase books CustomEyes Books | Guide Dogs



RNIB Bookshare

Did you know that many of our children access their books electronically?

RNIB Bookshare is a free resource for children and young people with Visual Impairment where a huge array of books are available to download in large print.

All children on our caseload who require large print will have a log in and this should have been shared with you. Children should know how to access this.

If you do not have a log in or your child is not sure how to access it, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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