What a fantastic afternoon our children had at the Vitality Stadium at AFC Bournemouth!

On Wednesday 30th August 2017 a group of our children and young people were invited along to the Vitality Stadium for some soccer coaching and a tour of the stadium.

The children and parents were first taken on a tour of the stadium including the changing rooms, treatment room, press rooms and then a walk up the tunnel and on to the pitch.

They then got an amazing surprise...... a chance to meet AFC Bournemouth player Nathan Ake. They were able to ask questions and take pictures and he signed individual photos for each of them.

The children then had some coaching on the training pitches followed by a game and they also bumped into Callum Wilson as he was entering the stadium and he very kindly signed autographs and had pictures taken with the children. All in all it was a very exciting day and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

We wish to thank Hannah Powis at AFC Bournemouth for organising the visit and thanks to Steve for the tour and the coaches for spending their time with the children. They made us all very welcome and some very excited children went home that day!

THANK YOU AFC BOURNEMOUTH!
DDCS has two Facebook groups one is for general information which anyone on Facebook can access and one is a closed group, only for members. The second group is closed so that parents can keep in touch with each other, ask for advice or get information.

If you would like to join the groups they are easy to find just type "Dorset Deaf Children’s Society” into your search bar.

**DDCS GRANTS**

DDCS has funds available for grants and will consider contributing towards our member’s costs or partial costs for deaf related equipment, activities or learning. We have in the past contributed towards signing classes and provided literature to support signing. We have also provided specialist alarm clocks for children to become more independent at getting up in the morning!

Please contact us in writing or by emailing info@dorsetdcs.co.uk

Each case is considered on its individual merits.

**DDCS PHOTOS**

At our events we take many photographs that we cannot put on our website. DDCS Members can access these pictures to download on the Dorset DCS Shutterfly website.

If you would like to view, download and print pictures of your family then please contact Lucy Calverley by email – lcywhl@aol.com

Lucy will then add you as a member of the Dorset DCS Shutterfly website and you will be sent instructions on how to view the pictures.

Only DDCS Members can access the pictures.

**DDCS INFORMATION AVAILABLE**

There is a great range of information and support literature on many subjects relating to a child’s hearing loss available from NDCS.

You can find them on the NDCS website www.ndcs.org.uk or just call the helpline on 0808 800 8880 or email helpline@ndcs.org.uk

Dorset DCS also has a selection of this literature available at most of our events and we also stock the Audiology waiting rooms with information.

**PERSONAL CD / MP3 LEADS**

DDCS provides personal CD/MP3 leads for any hearing impaired child or young person in Dorset.

The leads enable sound to go straight to hearing aids by a special shoe attached to the leads. DDCS provides these through the Hearing Support Service. If your child would like some leads please ask your Advisory Teacher who can then order them through the Hearing Support Service, Educational Audiologist.

**HELP AND CONTACTS**

**CHAIRMAN** – Kevin Forbes, 11 Heather Road, Bournemouth. BH10 5EE 01202 510078

**TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** - Shirley Sorbie, Touchwood, 9 Oakdale Walk, West Parley, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 8PF 01202 571089

**SECRETARY** - Yvonne Hussain, 80 Gresham Road, Winton, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH9 1QT 01202 518330

Website – www.dorsetdcs.co.uk E-mail – info@dorsetdcs.co.uk

NDCS FREEPHONE HELPLINE 0800 800 8880 (voice & text)

**NDCS HELP LINE**

Do you need help and advice about DLA claims or education for your child?

If so please ring the NDCS help line number 0805 800 8850 or Email helpline@ndcs.org.uk

**HSS Pre- School Parent Support Group**

Come along and meet up with other parents and children! Longfleet Baptist Church, 138 Wimborne Road, Poole, BH15 2EX

For more information please contact Sarah Stobbart 07824 529461 or Sarah Poole on 07393 147291

For more information, news, pictures and future events please visit our website. www.dorsetdcs.co.uk
Every year, at our AGM, we present the Jenny Barrett Deaf Child Achievement Awards. The awards set out to reward achievements of hearing impaired children in Dorset and they are split into two categories, the junior category which is for eleven years and under and the senior category which is for twelve years and above. In 2017 there were a total of eighteen children nominated. The winners were announced at our AGM held on Saturday 14th October 2017 at Bournemouth Deaf Club. The awards were presented by Robin Barrett and the two overall age group winners received shields, certificates and cheques for £100 each. CHELSEA TUCK was winner in the senior category and winner in the junior category was OWEN BRAY. All other nominees received £20 vouchers and certificates. This year all nominees were also presented with a personalised autographed picture of Callum Wilson, of AFC Bournemouth. This year’s winner of Bournemouth Deaf Clubs Special Endeavour Award was CHLOE LEGG who received a cash reward from Keith Simmons.

All the nominees have done exceptionally well to be nominated. Congratulations to all of them!

### JUNIOR NOMINEES

**OWEN BRAY** received two nominations. He was nominated by Sue Gilston, HSS Advisory Teacher and his mother, Katie Bray, for his amazing achievement of taking part in his local theatre school performance despite joining the school late and having to learn words, lyrics and dances. He overcame the difficulties of singing in a group and dancing whilst wearing cochlear implants and kept up with his hearing peers with the fast paced routines. He did so well he was given a speaking part and even coped with a loss of transmission during a costume change.

**OLIVIA CALVERLEY** was nominated by her grandmother, Martin Calverley, for how she has settled into school and excelled at lessons particularly English and Maths. She shows commitment and enthusiasm and received an excellent school report. She also helps her little brother who also has cochlear implants and is very patient with him.

**GRACE HARWOOD** received two nominations. She was nominated by Sally Robinson, HSS Advisory Teacher, and her mother Lisa Harwood, for how she has overcome so many things in her life and always has a smile on her face. She has undergone a series of surgeries but remains happy and positive. She stood in front of her class to explain about her operations and is not afraid to give anything a go from a climbing wall to white water rafting.

**HARRY LAKE** was nominated by his mother, Judith Morris, for helping his mother at home when she was unwell. He found this time difficult but was very positive. He has also done well at school and his reading is outstanding.

**BEN STAGG** received two nominations. He was nominated by Michelle Christopher, HSS Advisory Teacher, and his mother Gemma Stagg for the progress he has made with his listening, language and communication. When he started school last year he could barely speak sentences but is now speaking more and more each day. He also attends a drama group.

**TILLY STAGG** was nominated by her mother, Gemma Stagg, for her confidence and how she loves school. She also helps her mum at home and loves gymnastics.

### SENIOR NOMINEES

**CALLUM BIRKETT** was nominated by his mother, Helen Carmichael, for how he has coped with medical and social difficulties at school and for doing his best. He lost attendance at school but nonetheless achieved some really good marks. He has put a brave face on and made an effort even when tired, discouraged or in pain.

**BEN BRYSON** was nominated by Michele Touye, HSS Advisory Teacher, for the courageous way he has coped with a very serious illness which has left him with a hearing loss, vision and memory problems. He never complains and is always smiling.

**ANGEL CURTIS** was nominated by Michele Touye, HSS Advisory Teacher, for her determination and giving everything her best shot. Her cerebral palsy makes it difficult to get around school and she has had frequent ear infections but she remains cheerful and tries her best and has a positive and strong attitude.

**HOLLY FARRAR** was nominated by her father, Geoff Farrar, for her hard work and determination in gaining her UCAS points to secure a place at Bournemouth University. Her parents are extremely proud of what she has achieved and never giving up as she was not expected to go to University.

**LUKE HAMILT-THOMS** was nominated by Elisabeth Gower, HSS Advisory Teacher, for how well he has done at school achieving excellent GCSE grades as well as being involved in Gold Duke of Edinburgh, Lifegard training, football, musical instrument exams and working in a shop. He attends the Oxbridge study group and is determined to do his best.

**CHLOE LEGG** was nominated by Melissa May, HSS Advisory Teacher, for overcoming her shyness and for her courage and determination. Due to her shyness she would not speak out at school and was not confident to express her views. She became a sports leader and managed to overcome her anxieties and represented her school. She also quashed her nerves and joined her local athletics club.

**EDWARD O’GRADY** was nominated by Elisabeth Gower, HSS Advisory Teacher, for his excellent GCSE grades and his determination and dedicated hard work. For the start of year 10 he was determined to do well. He gave up his own time to help a student who was nervous about joining the school. He is now studying A levels and plays rugby and is a competitive swimmer.

**SAUL PEARCE** was nominated by his mother, Sandra Mackrow, for the support he has given his mum during a very difficult year dealing with family issues. He has been very supportive and helping with his nephew who has come to live with them. He is a great role model and is very kind and considerate.

**FREYA PRETTY** was nominated by Michele Touye, HSS Advisory Teacher, for speaking to a group of TA’s and teachers explaining some of the difficulties a secondary pupil with a hearing loss faces in school. She did a presentation and answered questions. She also runs a signing club in school.

**MOLLY STAGG** was nominated by her mother, Gemma Stagg, for helping her mother and brothers and sisters. She is very kind and gentle and has had to cope with difficulties with her hearing aids and struggling to hear but she continues to be happy and try’s her best.

**CHELSEA TUCK** received two nominations. She was nominated by Sally Robinson, HSS Advisory Teacher, and Pat Saunders, HSS Teaching Assistant for how she has exceeded all expectations due to her determination despite difficult home circumstances, coping with chronic ear infections and school issues. She is a carer for her mother and because of family circumstances she was finding home and school challenging. Her future looked bleak due to circumstances beyond her control but she turned it all around in her last year of school and achieved some truly outstanding GCSE results.

**JOSHUA WHITICK** was nominated by Elisabeth Gower, HSS Advisory Teacher, for his grades in his AS levels. During school holidays he took part in a research project at Bournemouth University whilst also working on his EPQ project. He accompanied the Sherborne Town Twinning trip to Poland, completed the Ten Tors Challenge, Gold Award Duke of Edinburgh, plays hockey and fences. At half term he will be part of the British delegation attending the Erasmus conference in Cyprus.
Cherries fan Alfie Gibbs recently became the first person to be fitted with hearing aids branded with his club’s crest and colours.
The ten-year-old’s new kit came after a novel idea from the audiology team at Dorset HealthCare, with support from the club and London-based hearing aid manufacturer Starkey.
Alfie also plays for the Ability Counts football team which forms part of the wider AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trusts, Premier League and BT Disability Programme.
The young fan was also one of the first Cherries to wear the new Umbro home kit over the summer, when he represented the club at the Festival of Sport.

Alfie lives in Wallisdown with his mum Charlene, who said: “Since the age of four, we have really struggled to get Alfie to wear his hearing aids as he often got embarrassed - to the point where we both turned to learning British sign language to help him communicate better.

“But we have seen a real transformation in Alfie since he got these branded hearing aids and it is such a simple idea. He is more confident, and his communication is improving significantly by the day. He never takes them out and is always showing friends and family.”

Alfie was even more thrilled after the club invited him to meet some of his heroes as the Cherries fan got to show off the unique hearing aids to Cherries players Callum Wilson and Dan Gosling at Vitality Stadium.

In September 2016 the team of Advisory Teachers was joined by Sarah Pool and Cate Statham. Sarah came from working in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham and Cate had previously worked in Berkshire.

This September Sarah Joiner was also welcomed into the team, following the retirement of Sue Gillson.

Sue Gillson retired at the end of August after a long career working as a Teacher of the Deaf, 24 years of which were spent in Dorset.

She is now enjoying spending more time with her little granddaughter and has recently acquired an allotment.

Sue will be greatly missed by DDCS and all our members.

At the start of September 2017 Linda Higgins celebrated twenty-five years of working for the Hearing Support Service, a milestone also reached by Pat Saunders in January 2017.

Both Specialist Teaching Assistants began their long careers by working in the Sylvan Resource Base. Many of our older members have fond memories of the support they received from Linda and Pat over the years.

Congratulations and thank you!