

## Our brave friend, Caden.

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April, Caden and his mum (Mrs Hedgecock) spoke to us about a special scientific experiment Caden is taking part in. Caden was born with a condition called microtia which means that one of his outer ears was not formed correctly. He has never been able to hear anything through this ear. However the Audiologist (ear specialist) helping to manage for Caden's condition suggested that a bone mounted hearing aid maybe something that will help him gain some hearing.

Currently Caden is wearing an elastic headband with an amazing piece of equipment called a BAHA (bone anchored hearing aid) valued at £2,500. This pioneering device presses against the bones in Caden's skull and collects the sound vibrations his bones detect. It then transmits these to the tiny bones into his inner ear and then the vibrations are turned into sound giving him approximately 20% hearing. The results of this experiment will be studied by the Audiologist team who will then decide whether he should have an operation to have a permanent BAHA which will be surgically secured into his skull.

We think Caden and his family are incredible and very brave. We are all delighted that he is now able to hear some sounds in this ear for the first time since he was born. Good luck Caden and thank you for explaining your condition to us.

