

SPECIAL VOICES NEWSLETTER



Welcome to Special Voices (Slough parent/carer forum)

Special Voices is a group of parent/carers of children, young people & adults with disabilities/additional needs & is the parent/carer forum for Slough. We are all volunteers working in partnership with the Slough Children's Services Trust, Local Authority, CCG's and voluntary organisations to help shape and develop future services in Slough through participation and co-production with all your views & experiences that you share with us, without you we couldn't change things for all children/young people/adults in Slough.

CONTACT US:



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“Like” us on Facebook

Special Voices Community Group (with logo above)

Donate to us:

localgiving.org/charity/specialvoices

Follow us on:

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www.specialvoices.co.uk

**Classroom 3,
Cippenham Baptist Church. 11
Elmshott Lane. SL1 5QS**

**Our office is now open every
Monday from 7th September
between 10.30 – 12.30pm with an
appointment system in place to
manage social distancing so it is
safe for us all to return:**

Hi all

We at Special Voices have seen many changes in recent months just like the majority of you during Covid-19, social distancing, isolation, lockdown, no school, no respite & face coverings plus so much more, a massive challenge for us all as parent/carers but we did it. It is now time for another big change, children & young people back to school/college, for some this will be a huge relief & for others there will be worry & concern at the thought of this. We at Special Voices have been preparing for this for some time, uniforms, start dates & times, school lunches & school transport not just us but schools have worked hard to put all this in place to keep everyone safe.

It should all be in place by now but if it is not then please contact your school direct for uniforms, dates, times & lunches as all schools have their own arrangements in place for us to follow. For home school transport contact: 01753 477240. SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities, Information, Advice Support Service) will help you on: 01753 787693. SEND Team (Local Authority) on: 01753 787676 & Family Information Service on: 01753 476589. These are difficult times for everyone, we all have different circumstances but we believe we should all try to work together to make what seems big changes, happen. We have our part to play in this too by following the guidelines of each school such as where children/young people will be dropped off/collected & times are important to keep with social distancing.

We at Special Voices know that for some it will be a worry, naturally everyone wants all children/young people & school staff to remain safe at all times that is why schools will follow all guidance & we must follow any advice & guidance that we are given too.

We are here to listen even if you don't have anything in particular to say, or if you have any concerns please don't leave them as we can put you in touch with someone who will try to help. We are all in this together & try to get through it the best we can

Virtual Coffee Days 2020 - Fridays 10 - 12pm with ZOOM

We now have to manage our “coffee days” in a different way while social distancing is in place & do hope you will join us virtually with Zoom

Every Friday “Drop” in anytime between 10 – 12pm (please note change of time)

You can choose at what time, & how long you wish to join us for during the two hours.

We have chosen Zoom as we believe it is quite easy to set up & free should you need help to do this then please give us a call on: 07990693439 beforehand

Each week when you join us your name will be entered into a draw for a free small gift as a thank you for your continued support during these difficult times.

Friday 4th September @ 10.15pm. Guest Speakers:

Karen from Slough Healthy Smiles on Oral Health & Jeni from SENDIASS

Urgent WE NEED YOUR HELP! we have some surveys that need to be completed so we are telephoning you using the numbers overleaf & do hope you can do this with us. If you have a spare 10 minutes & want to help do this then text us & we will call you back to complete it, or we can post it to you

New to Special Voices? We are still taking contact details for you to join us in all that we do as we need your feedback & experiences on services here in Slough

Slough Mencap are asking for your help in shaping their future clubs & activities for when they open again. If you are a carer for an adult(18plus) with learning disabilities, additional needs or they have recently left education then please contact Eleanor on: 01753 543160 Slough Mencap provide lots of services to help improve the lives of families so why not give them a call and see how they can help yours.

Afternoon Tea: We at Special Voices gave out wristbands during Carers Week as a thank you to carers with the promise of an afternoon tea with lots of cake, scones, jam & cream. We are pleased to let you know that plans are now taking place for this to happen, not all together as we wanted but in groups of 10 so we can abide by social distancing rules. We will be in touch with you soon but if you don't have a carer's wrist band then please contact us on: 07990693439