

# 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 with additional needs in Slough.

### CONTACT US:



**Tel: 07990 693439**

**07487 524361 - 07956 368421**

**[info@specialvoices.co.uk](mailto:info@specialvoices.co.uk)**

### “Like” us on Facebook

Special Voices Community Group (with logo above)

### Donate to us:

[localgiving.org/charity/specialvoices](http://localgiving.org/charity/specialvoices)

### Follow us on:

Twitter @specialvoices

**[www.specialvoices.co.uk](http://www.specialvoices.co.uk)**

**Classroom 3,**

**Cippenham Baptist Church.**

**11 Elmshott Lane. SL1 5QS**

Our office is now open every Monday 10.30 – 12.30pm just text us if you are coming so we can manage social distancing so it is safe for us all to return:

### Hi all

We now see our children/young people/adults with additional needs back in school & college which has presented many concerns, worries & challenges for parent/carers & hard work for all these settings to put everything in place to keep everyone safe & we have a part to play in this by following instructions from schools especially when dropping off/collecting your child. Social distancing (space), face coverings & hand washing still remain part of our everyday life to reduce transmission & it is up to all of us to follow this guidance, recent difficulties of C-19 testing & delays in results have been an issue nationally in recent weeks not just Slough. We at Special Voices have continued to collect your experiences during these difficult times virtually, by post & telephone although in a different way we still feedback to that particular service. We as volunteers have been working from home like so many others and that really should mean just that, working no matter where you happen to be.

It should all be working well by now but if it is not then please contact us, for home school transport contact: 01753 477240. SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities, Information, Advice Support Service) on: 01753 787693. SEND Team (Local Authority) on: 01753 787676 & Family Information Service on: 01753 476589. 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 – Every Friday, drop in between 10 - 12pm with ZOOM

We do hope you will join us via Zoom, 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 attend your name will be entered into a free draw for a free small gift as a thank you for your continued support during these difficult times. **Guest Speakers: TBC each week**

## Special Voices Virtual Annual General Meeting on Zoom

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020(contact us for codes to join in)**

We would like to invite you to our AGM where we will give you a brief account of what Special Voices have been doing during the last year and an update on our group's activities during C-19, guest speakers (TBC) All welcome (text us for the codes during that week to join in)

There will be a free draw for parent/carers attending our AGM of three gifts, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> - DVD player with selection of DVD's, CD player with selection of CD's & a large "home" hamper basket for three lucky attendees to choose one. Agenda & report will be shared on screen but should you require a paper copy in advance or if you are a parent/carer & would like to nominate yourself to join the team then please contact us. Look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day.

Children's quiz with free gift for attending and prizes

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 1 – 2pm**

Parent/carers come & join us on Zoom along with your additional need's children, young people & siblings for a fun quiz. Text us nearer the time for the codes to join in



### **Afternoon Tea:**

We at Special Voices gave out wristbands during Carers Week as a thank you to carers with an invitation for an afternoon tea with lots of cake, scones, jam & cream. We regret that this event has been postponed now for a second time due to C-19 restrictions & we don't want to promise you something & not deliver. We now intend to make this a "take away" from our office on November 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 2pm with a free gift & canvas bag so please contact us to redeem your invitation & arrange which day & time is best for you to collect, not all together as we wanted but we have to abide by social distancing rules. Contact us on: 07990693439