

# 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.



**Hi all**

We have now entered a new year & most of us would have liked to have left 2020 with all that it brought with it behind us, unfortunately not, it is not over yet!! We have to move forward as we can't go back but bring with us any positives & good memories into this new year, that's not to say we should forget. We have vaccines now that we didn't have before & promises that this will help us through the next stage of C -19 although we have lots of uncertainty & decisions around schools & what we should do which has caused a great deal of worry & concern given all the news surrounding school returns this week. It is up to all of us to work together & that means listening to the correct information, support our schools to keep our children & young people safe. Please look out for info from your school as they are not all the same at the moment. There are many challenges ahead, face masks, hand gel, social distancing, queues, some joy & some sadness are still following us into this new year but we have come so far. In Slough we are still in Tier 4 along with many others places around the country so at least we are not alone in all of this so more information on Tier 4 & what it means for us: [www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/tier-4-stay-at-home). Latest data & info for Slough from Public Health Berkshire dashboard: [www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/covid-19-dashboard](http://www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/covid-19-dashboard) Please check the guidance if you are unsure of what you should, or should not do but hands – face(coverings) – space still remain in place to reduce transmission & we can all do it if we try hard.

### CONTACT US:



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### “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

We at Special Voices would like to wish you all a happy & healthy new year with a big thank you for your continued support, participation & engagement throughout last year. We have continued as a forum despite the difficulties, challenges & many changes we have remained committed to working as a forum collecting & representing your views & experiences where needed for all our children, young people & adults with additional needs. We still need volunteers more than ever just contact us if you would like to find out more about the work of Special Voices. This year is no different in collecting your views & experiences although in a different way we still need you to do this please by way of postal surveys or telephone calls whichever suits you best and appreciate the time you can give to support us

### **Virtual Coffee Breaks (change from Days) 2021 – Every Friday, drop in between 10 - 12pm - 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

### **Virtual Information Day via Zoom**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**Drop in anytime between 10am -2pm**

**Contact us before the event for the codes to join in on the day**

We have arranged this day for busy parent/carers/professionals with timetabled guest speakers to give you the right information at the right time plus to let you know most services are still available in Slough although they may be delivered in a different way to what we are used to during C - 19



### **Virtual Family Participation Day via Zoom**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021. 1 – 3pm**

**You will need to book your family for this event in advance by telephone**

There will be a free gift for child/young person & a virtual entertainer – Magic show – music & dance

Free draw for parent/carers, 4 lucky people will receive one of the following gifts- home hamper – sweet box- fruit hamper – toy box - plus of course the odd poll or survey



We at Special Voices had lots of events planned for this new year as indeed many other people did, we still do but C-19 has prevented us from going ahead with some of our bigger events due to large gatherings. We are holding more events than we ever did before virtually via Zoom although we know they are not the same & for many that don't have access to our virtual events for whatever reason this is a challenge but we have made it possible to keep in contact with us via telephone & us with you in the same way plus text messages.

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