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What's New?

14th December 2017

Calling all parents who have recently visited secondary schools!

We really want to hear more about the experiences of parents and carers when visiting secondary schools leading up to the Year 7 Transfer. Whether you are the parent or carer of a child in **year 6** preparing for transfer, or you have been making an early start by visiting secondary schools whilst your child is in **year 5** (or below), we need to hear from you!

In order to produce a credible report for the local authority regarding parents' experiences when visiting secondary schools, Our Voice need to hear from more of you about what approach local schools are taking to welcoming children with SEND. We know from talking to you that when visiting local schools, some of you have felt that the school staff have discouraged you from seeking a place for your child. On the other hand, some of you have had great experiences of schools who were welcoming and inclusive in their approach. It is really important that we can gather sufficient information about how inclusive and welcoming local schools are, and the anonymised information from your responses will be shared with the Local Authority and used to make recommendations and highlight areas of good practice.

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey in respect of any schools that you visit (this should only take about 5 minutes) [here](#).

Thank you to everyone who has already taken the time to complete the survey – your input is much appreciated!

Save the date reminder: Parents' Conference – 16th March 2017

Last week we announced our forthcoming Parents' Conference, which will be taking place on Friday 16th March, at the Dugdale Centre, Enfield. More information about the format and content of the event will be coming in the new year, but in the meantime, please make sure that you have saved the date in your diaries. We have also attached our flyer.

Fundraising update:

Our Voice receives very limited funding from the DFE and Local Authority, and your generous support is very important to us, and helps to ensure that we can continue to run free and subsidised events for our members. We have been able to benefit from two specific fundraising initiatives this year:

Waitrose Green token scheme

Great news! You may remember that during September, Our Voice were one of the three organisations benefitting from the Waitrose 'green token' community scheme in both the precinct store in Enfield Town and the smaller store on Windmill Hill.

We are pleased to say that, thanks to your support in putting tokens in the Our Voice section of the box, Waitrose have kindly donated £571 to Our Voice.



Crowdfunding

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our Crowdfunding appeal – we raised a fantastic £431!

This money will go towards paying for our family fun days, including our Christmas party that took place on 2nd December. These events provide a great opportunity for families to spend time together in a fun and safe environment and are very important to many of our members.



Pre-school Speech and Language service

Do you have concerns about your pre-school child's talking or understanding? If so, you can attend a drop-in session at a local Children's Centre. For more details, including the dates, times and venues of the sessions, during January and February, please see the attached flyer.

We hope that you have found our newsletter useful. If you have any feedback, or anything that you think we could be telling our families about, please let us know. Our contact details are:

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