

World Autism Awareness Week 2017

Round up of activities and celebrations

Last month Autism West Midlands were joined by local organisations and schools to celebrate World Autism Awareness Week. We celebrated throughout the week with an awareness day at Birmingham Airport, a special party day held by our Family Support team, Silly Sock day and the launch of our brand new awareness video.

Birmingham Airport Awareness Day

As part of World Autism Awareness Week we held a special stand at Birmingham Airport. The team spent the day raising awareness for autism and the important work we do as a charity to passengers and staff at the airport. The day was a wonderful success with lots of people asking questions and gathering information from the stand.

Family Support Fun Day

Our hardworking family support team held a very special family day on Saturday 1st April. Children alongside parents and carers had a lovely day taking part in activities such as cake decorating, Easter themed ceramic painting and a magic show. There was a stress relieving head massage for grown up's and a West Midlands fire truck for the children to sit in. Each child also got given a delicious chocolate Easter egg to enjoy at home too!

Brand New Awareness Video

Increasing autism awareness is vital to ensuring that people with autism and their parents and carers receive the right support. World Autism Awareness Day is about raising awareness for people on the autism spectrum throughout the world. Our brand new 'Did you know' video has some great facts about autism and has been produced to help raise more awareness and acceptance. To view the video please visit www.youtube.com/AutismWestMidlands

Silly Sock Day

On Friday 31st March 2017 local schools and organisations showed their support for Autism West Midlands and took part in our annual Silly Sock Day. The 2017 Silly Sock Day has been our most successful one so far, with hundreds of people wearing silly socks throughout the region. We would like to say thank you to all those who took part and showed their support for Autism West Midlands.

We would also like to share with you a special Silly Sock Day story from one of the schools that took part. Six school girls at Perry Hall Primary School, acted as autism champions, in support of World Autism Awareness Week. The girls from the school based in Wolverhampton, approached teachers to ask for permission to wear silly socks during World Autism Awareness Week 2017. The teachers who recognised the importance of raising awareness for autism encouraged them to hold a presentation on why raising awareness is important to their fellow classmates. Encouraged by what the girls had said the school decided to take part

in a number of special autism awareness raising activities throughout the week. The school held special assemblies and lessons during World Autism Awareness Week, teaching children key facts about autism and discussing the importance of raising awareness to help encourage acceptance.

In celebration of all their hard work all children and staff members came to school in their Sillyest Socks on Silly Sock Day to help raise money for Autism West Midlands.

We were delighted to hear about all the hard work the children and teachers at the school had put into World Autism Awareness Week and asked if they would like to share their experience in our magazine. Well done to all the children who took part in writing as journalist. We would like to share with you an article written by Havi P.



Silly Sock Day!

On the 31st March 2017 as the school bell rang 9 o'clock hundreds of children arrived at the Perry Hall Primary School entrance wearing a plethora of 'Silly Socks' inspired outfits to support and raise money for autism.

Autism is a lifelong condition which affects the way people communicate, think, behave and experience their senses. This developmental condition is neither rare nor common, only one in every one hundred people are affected by autism! This means people with this disorder have problems with everyday life so do not bully or make fun of them because they are only being themselves.

So they could truly embrace autism Perry Hall have created a competition for Silly Sock Day, to raise awareness for this amazing condition. This competition has a £1 entry fee and if they wear the craziest socks they have and for a chance to win some brilliant prizes. Although Perry Hall have been helping with autism for a long time they have began to improve their facilities (they are creating a 'sensory room').

As well as all of this, we have had a fabulous day and have also raised a huge sum of money and awareness for autism, which the appreciation for has been immense!

By Havi P