**Dear Parent/Guardian,**

**We enjoyed meeting your children today at our *Hedgehog Finds Her Voice* workshop, our exciting new book, which was co-produced by some of the children of Clearwater Academy. I wanted to share a few things with you about the book that might be of interest and I hope your child enjoyed our workshop. If you have any questions about the book or the workshop then please feel free to contact us, our contact details can be found on the bottom of this letter.**

**Best wishes,**

**John de Gruyther**

* We created *Hedgehog Finds her Voice* as a resource to help tell the story of all children who feel their voices have not been heard.
* *Hedgehog Finds Her Voice* was written guided by restorative principles and was co-produced with the children of Clearwater Academy.
* We created *Hedgehog Finds Her Voice* with the aim of helping children and young people speak about their experiences of crime or trauma, and to help the other people in their lives know how to listen and help.
* We have worked with many children and young people, affected by trauma and crime, who have told Victim Support that they feel;

* Blamed, or their experiences have been minimised as they have been told to just "get over it,” or “just make friends and move on.”

* What happened to them was not important

* Scared or embarrassed to talk about what has happened.

* The adults in their lives are very busy (teachers, parents, carers, police officers) and that they might be a burden to them by saying something.

* They can't share certain things with others out of fear or embarrassment.

* That people can misunderstand the impact of them feeling sad and try to fix everything for them, without asking what the child might actually need.

* There are many other reasons children do not feel listened to and it is our job to work with each other as communities and families to listen well and help our children feel supported.

* *Hedgehog Finds Her Voice* has been created to help show people the importance of real, deep and active listening. And how listening and validating someone's experiences is the first step to helping them recover from crime or trauma.

* A free copy of *Hedgehog Finds Her Voice* will be sent to every primary school in Gloucestershire and will be followed by classroom based workshops in schools talking about the themes of the story.

* We are developing an Active Listening Guide for adults and will be delivering training sessions on the themes of the book to other organisations that work with young people. In these sessions we will let everyone know that our services are available to children and families affected by crime and that they are free and confidential.

* *Hedgehog Finds Her Voice* will also be used throughout Victim Support Gloucestershire to help children and parents talk about the impacts of trauma with copies being sent to those who require it and used in our one to one support sessions.

* *Hedgehog Finds Her Voice* will also be available to buy online directly from the publisher and from most online book stores. <https://www.troubador.co.uk/bookshop/young-children/hedgehog-finds-her-voice/>