



### Coffee Afternoon with PODs and Dothill Primary School

Dear Parents and carers,

As you may be aware, we are one of two schools taking part in the Autism in School project, working closely with Parents Opening Doors (PODs). As part of this project, we are offering the opportunities for parents to attend Coffee Afternoons in school - the first one taking place on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February, from 1:30pm - 2:30pm. Jayne and Uma from PODs will lead on a session, to inform you about PODs and what support they offer to parents. If you are interested in attending the session, then please email [dothill.primarysend@taw.org.uk](mailto:dothill.primarysend@taw.org.uk) so we have a record of people coming into school. Mrs. Karen Sturmey (Learning Mentor) and I will also be attending and look forward to listening to the information and chatting with you.

We look forward to welcoming you and hope that those of you that have children with SEND or have SEND concerns are able to make it.

Kind regards,

Nikki Harvey

Deputy Head Teacher

Here is some further information about PODs

#### What does a Parent Carer Forum (PCF) do?

The official parent carer forum for Telford & Wrekin - Parents Opening Doors (PODS) is grant funded by Department for Education (managed by Contact) to be the strategic partner in Telford & Wrekin and is completely independent. Parent carer forums are local groups run by parent carers of disabled children and their aim is to make sure that services in their area meet the needs of disabled children and their families. The grant is used to strengthen parent carer forums, so that parent carers can participate in the strategic planning and decision-making around services for children and young people with SEND in their area including Local Authority and Health services, as well as community partners.

"Parent Carer Participation is when parents and professionals work together, recognising each other's knowledge, to make informed decisions about services that make the best use of resources" extract Contact Charity

## **PODS Wider Charity offer includes:**

- **Parent Carer Forum:** representing and involving parent carers of children and young people up to the age of 25 years, across Health, Education, Social Care and partners.
- **Befriending Support:** trained befrienders working with parent carers on an individual basis (direct contact or phone), to support with newly diagnosed and challenging times.
- **Family Groups:** opportunities for families to come together during term time (parent carers) and holidays (whole families) to socialise, offer mutual support, access information and signposting.
- **Information:** sharing information to members via our weekly e-bulletins, social media, website and wider sources, signposting where appropriate, and sharing local knowledge and experience.
- **Inclusive Trips and Activities:** range of opportunities throughout the year to bring whole families together.
- **Sleep Support:** Trained staff delivering sleep training over a number of weeks, specially developed for children with additional needs.
- **LD&A Project:** specific health led project to offer peer support to families in crisis or at risk of admissions
- **Disability and Inclusive/Acceptance Awareness Training:** Delivering to groups and businesses

We hold many Family Groups throughout the month, Max Cards are available from our Family Groups or Events at a cost of £3 each, the Max Card is designed to make days out more financially accessible for foster families and families of children with additional needs. PODS also hold workshops, social events and fundraising events.