



Middletown Centre for Autism Parent Group

Dear parents/guardians,

As many of you may be aware the school is working with Middletown Centre for Autism to help raise awareness of the needs of our children with ASD.

As part of the programme Middletown have organised a coffee morning for parents on:

Thursday 14th September from 9.30am- 10.30am

This is an opportunity for parents to meet Middletown staff and other parents informally to discuss the needs of their children and explore how Middletown, the school and parents can work together to support our children moving forward.. It will be an invaluable opportunity for parents to seek practical advice and guidance from the Middletown team.

Following this initial coffee morning there will be 5 more Thursday morning sessions organised. These will be themed according to the areas that parents have raised at the coffee morning as well as providing an opportunity for school staff to work with parents. Each session will explore some of the support strategies and initiatives that they have been working to develop in the school in cooperation with Middletown staff.

These sessions will be held on the following dates:

Date	Time
Thursday 28 th September	9.30-10.30am
Thursday 5 th October	9.30-10.30am
Thursday 12 th October	9.30-10.30am
Thursday 19 th October	9.30-10.30am
Thursday 26 th October	9.30-10.30am

These sessions offer a valuable opportunity for parents to avail of the support and expertise of Middletown staff while they are working in St. John the Baptist Primary School. Middletown will be finishing their programme of support in St. John the Baptist Primary School in December 2023. We hope to be able to take this work forward as a school community with staff and parents working together to support the needs of our pupils with ASD.

Prior to our coffee morning it would be very helpful if we could get an initial expression of interest to help us gauge numbers for tea, coffee and refreshments.

If you wish to attend the initial coffee morning on **Thursday 14th September 9.30-10.30am** can you please call the school office at 02890 614564 to register your interest on the morning of **Friday 1st September** between **9.00am** and **11.00am** or email the school at info@stjohnthebaptistsps.belfast.ni.sch.uk as soon as you can indicating your child's name and who will be attending the group.
We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Maguire
Vice Principal

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Principal: Mr Donnelly