



## **Extended Services in and around schools**

### **PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP**

**May 2008**

#### **Harmans Water Parents Group**

Following on from a successful Pyramid parenting group which ran in Harmans Water Primary school, a parents' support group has evolved.

When the structured group came to an end, the parents contacted the school to see whether they could still meet on a regular basis and whether the school would have some space that they could use. The school has offered them the use of a vacant classroom for a couple of hours on a fortnightly basis and has even set up a crèche which is staffed by a LSA. This allows the parents to come along to this support group in the knowledge that their younger children are looked after.

The group doesn't have a formal structure, however it offers them the opportunity to support one another, to chat about everyday issues and concerns in the knowledge that "someone understands".

The members of the group said:

"We enjoy coming to this coffee morning as it is completely non-judgemental"

"We give each other great support and gives us breathing space"

"It always is a friendly atmosphere"

"It is great just to have time to be away from home and have a chat with other ADULTS"

Following an informal consultation, the school is also opening up its IT suite during the group's meeting time which the parents can use. The school also intends on asking members of staff to attend the group on an ad hoc basis to explain to the parents how they can best support their children with their school work.

This group is hugely successful as it was established solely by the parents, most of who were not involved in the school prior to this group. The school wholeheartedly support this group and its future development.