

Parish Council Annual General Meeting - report from Padbury Pre-school

Tuesday 20th April 2016.



Padbury Pre-school has now been operating for 7 years and during this past academic and financial year we have continued to develop and improve as an independent provider of the highest level of cost effective quality childcare. At the start of the academic year September 2015 all sessions were full and we were operating at full capacity however over the course of the year we have become a victim of our own success. We have lost children (careless we know!) due to families relocating out of the area resulting in a drop in income. We now have several spaces in sessions over the week.

Our manager has completed her first full year at the pre-school and has proved to be a fantastic asset, highly regarded by the staff and parents and adored by the children. We have welcomed 2 new members of staff who have settled in and are enjoying being part of the team. One member of staff has completed her NVQ Level 3 and another member of staff has just started training for her NVQ level 2. We continually look at supporting and developing the skills of our other team members to further improve on their exceptional skills and abilities as and when finances allow.

Our staff team continue to improve our service and the care of the children through a range of fun and exciting activities including both adult led and free play activities which take place both inside & out. Thanks must go to Councillor Dickens for cutting back the trees in our outdoor area free of charge which allows more sunlight into our building and outdoor space.

The pre-school continues to run as a not-for-profit organisation registered with companies house & the charities commission. We look at many ways of raising funds to ensure we continue to provide the resource to the village that we currently do. We were lucky to obtain a Technology Grant which has enabled us to purchase a new laptop which was desperately required when our old one gave up. We have also purchased an online assessment package called Tapestry which tracks the childrens progress against the EYFS statements. Tablets have been purchased for staff to take photos and complete observations of the children. We are now loan free and have paid back all the money we borrowed to buy the new building. The building is now owned by the pre-school. The amount of money we are spending on consumables is considerably higher than last year due to increased numbers and tired worn out resources. We are looking for sponsorship to purchase a shed and new resources for the pre-school. Wages have increased with the national minimum wage increases and also with the introduction of the pension scheme. We are currently operating with a deficit budget.

We are currently advertising to fill our September sessions as there are currently a number of spaces. We run busy fingers on a Monday afternoon as an advertising tool to promote the setting to parents of young children. This session currently runs at a loss due to a member of staff being paid to run the session. From September 2017 we will no longer be able to run Busy Fingers as the government pushes for 30 hours of free childcare. This will increase our wage costs further.

We are lucky to have a dedicated voluntary committee who manages the pre-school in their spare time to ensure it remains the fantastic place it always has been. Without the committee we would not survive. We have been lucky to appoint a new chair to the pre-school committee – Mrs Tricia Norwell.

*where fun becomes learning!*