

Stawley Preschool Report for Parish Council AGM June 2017

Stawley Preschool has continued to be a successful and thriving community hub. We currently have 32 children and although we will say good bye to several when they leave for primary school we already have a number of new children coming in September and there are constant enquiries for places.

Our staff team has increased from 5 to 7 as we have needed 2 extra part time staff to help us during our busy period and will be with us until the end of this term. The staff form a strong team and work incredibly hard to care for and build the confidence of our children and they know all the families extremely well. Their knowledge of the Early Years Foundation stage is second to none and they bring an amazing amount of enthusiasm and creativity to the programmes and activities that they offer each term. This has been recognised in a recent Ofsted inspection which reported an unequivocal outstanding in all areas. Our thanks go to all the staff for this fantastic achievement as well as to everyone who has supported us over the years including local families, preschool committees, the pavilion committee, FOSS and the wider community.

Since the October AGM new committee members have taken on their roles with great dedication and have been involved in organising a number of fundraising events to ensure the financial success of the preschool. In the autumn term the Christmas Fayre, organised and run with FOSS, was really well attended in spite of an untimely virus going around. Santa's Grotto was by far the most exciting part of the event. During the spring term the staff held a Quiche and Cake sale and a raffle at the Parent Catch Up and this term they are doing a sponsored Fun Run at Killerton dressed as ladybirds! We also supported FOSS at the summer fete in May by serving the cream teas and together we raised a whopping £1,385.

Money raised from these events is reinvested in resources for the preschool and the wider community to enjoy. This has included recent improvements to the play area including a renovation of the wendy house, a new path and turf which has inevitably required a new lawnmower! We plan further additions to the play area in the form of a sand pit and picnic bench.

To finish, a key issue we face is our future. As we are a committee run charity preschool which depends upon volunteers, we are always in need of the kind support of the community. Each year we have been able to elect a healthy number of parents onto the committee although this is becoming an increasingly difficult task in spite of the increasing number of children attending. This year a number of committee members will be stepping down including the chair and treasurer and despite continued communication about the need for volunteers we might struggle to replace them. We are investigating alternative ways to ensure the sustainability of the preschool as sadly, without the committee, the preschool would have to close. We welcome all support and advice to enable us to continue being an outstanding preschool.

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