

Annual Statement

Stannington Village Pre-School

November 2018 (Covering Sept 2017 to July 2018)



Chair Persons Report – Justine Martin

- I start as always by offering my thanks to the committee and staff for their time and efforts this year. We have said goodbye to Sarah Cambell who due to work and family commitments has resigned from the committee. We always welcome new parents/ carers to sit on the pre-school committee, if you are interested and feel you could spare a couple of hours for a meeting once each half term please talk to Anne or Sarah for details.
- We have had no major staff changes during the period: At Easter, Kerry Mosley and Anne Fellows re organised their working patterns to achieve a better overlap of service and as a result a more continuous management presence in pre-school. In July Sarah Lomas relinquished her role as Toddler Group Supervisor
- We have continued to benefit from a committed and professional staff who bring a wide range of skills and interests to the job. Staff continue to engage in CPD to gain new skills and to consolidate existing ones. Staff continue to demonstrate a high level of commitment without which our drive to continuously improve our provision would falter.
- We have seen an increase in the number of enquiries for places over the last year and this in turn led to an increased uptake of places in September. We will, once all new children take their places, be operating at over 90% occupancy – a rate not seen for quite a few years. The following items have had a significant influence on occupancy.
- The decision to offer before and after school sessions for a trial period from September 2017 has had mixed results. Early morning sessions are the most popular, late sessions are not so popular. However, we believe that offering the service has had an overall positive impact on the increased number of enquiries and children taking places. We will review the economic feasibility of earlies and lates termly to assess the situation.
- The website has helped to extend our reach and we receive inquiries from people who have looked us up first and used the information to inform their choice. The website also helps to ensure existing parents/carers are kept informed.
Our Facebook page has been an extremely valuable tool in reaching parents regularly and quickly and letting them see what we have planned for the day.
- Ofsted inspected in May and we were pleased with the GOOD grading we were given. We will be looking at the areas they identified for further development on an ongoing basis.
- The transition to school continues to run well. The relationship we have with Stannington Infant School remains strong and positive and we work collectively to support children with

the move. School continue to provide feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of each cohort which allows us to review teaching practice.

Please remember that you can visit pre-school at any time, Anne & Sarah are always happy to answer any questions.

Administrators Report – Anne Fellows

The increase in occupancy over the last year has meant that we moved back in to profit for the accounting year 2017-2018. This will increase in the year 2018-2019 due to 90%+ occupancy. However, costs do continue to rise and this can impact on the level of profit we see. We must ensure that we continue with our policy of careful management, controlled costs with strong team work if, we are to continue to operate at a sustainable level.

We continue to benefit from the generosity of our parents and committee in terms of time and donations of equipment, we are most grateful.

Toddler Group – Diane Shepherd + Anne Fellows

The group is currently running at a loss and although the committee see this as a charitable group and understand the community/pre-school benefits, we have reviewed the provision in light of what other groups in the area provide and charge and what parents and children need and want from a drop-in group. We have adjusted our setup as a result and worked at raising the groups profile via the website and Facebook. As of September 2018 we are starting to see a moderate increase in attendance and takings.

We have introduced healthier snacks for the children and a wider range of craft activities.

We would like to say a big thank you to the parents/carers who continue to support the group and help to set up and tidy away; your help is invaluable and always appreciated. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions and we are always available to talk to during toddler sessions.

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