Annual Statement

Stannington Village Pre-School

January 2020 (Covering Sept 2018 to July 2019)

**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 are in desperate need of new parents/ carers to sit on the pre-school committee to ensure we can continue to provide this service to our community. If you are interested and feel you could spare a couple of hours for a meeting once each half term please talk to Sarah or Anne for details.
* We have had several staff changes during the period: January 2019 saw Sarah Attack join as Pre-School Manager (see Sarah’s report for more details) and Anne Fellows move into the role of Pre-School Business Manager so we continue to benefit from her vast experience of running an early years setting.
* We continue to have a high number of enquiries for places through the year and this in turn has kept demand for places in September 2019 higher than in previous years. The following items have had a significant influence on occupancy.
* Ongoing offer of Early/Late sessions to children as part of our flexible provision.
* Our Facebook page continues to be an extremely valuable tool in reaching parents regularly and quickly and letting them see what we have planned for the day.
* 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.
* Looking ahead to 2020 we would ask for your support with our fundraising via the Co-op to weatherproof our outside space with artificial grass. You can become a member at <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/32593> and see how we are doing. We will start to offer 2 additional places each day taking us to a 22 place setting.

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

**Pre-School Managers’ Report** – Sarah Attack

* We have had some staff changes during the period: January myself (Sarah Atack) joined SVPS as Pre-School Manager when Kerry Mosley left to pursue new ventures. In July 2019 Hannah Quarmby was promoted to Deputy Manager and In September 2019 we welcomed Alex Ashmore a new Supervisor to the team.
* 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.
* Relating to children’s progress, we have implemented a tracking system to monitor children’s continuous development. Children are assessed through their learning and tracking reports are arranged in a professional and parent friendly format, showing progression of each child as they move on to their next developmental stages of the EYFS. The reports help us as practitioners maintain strengths and identify any weaker areas so that in turn, we are able to narrow any gaps and maintain a positive progression through teaching and learning.
* Together with parents we have made a positive impact throughout the year to maintain our friendly and professional parent partnership. Parents are welcomed into the setting and we offer an ‘open door’ approach enabling parents to visit the setting whenever they wish allowing them to feel a valued part of the SVPS ethos. Termly stay and play sessions, community walks and visits to our local neighbourhood are also play an active part in promoting our parent partnership.
* Occupancy is now full and there are no places available in Pre School until the next academic year starts in September 2020. Places are now been offered to current and future parents with a high demand of interest.

**Business Managers Report** – Anne Fellows

The return to near full occupancy in the year has meant that we achieved a healthy surplus for the year. However, increases to the size of the staff team and the rising cost of wages can impact on the level of profit we see in the future. 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

At the end of 2017-18 we were tasked with increasing income and viability of Toddlers. We worked at raising the groups profile via the website and Facebook, reviewing the lay out and content of provision. As a result of the success of the measures taken and a small increase in the fees charged, we have increased our attendance and thus our income by 31% for the tax year 2018-19.

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. We are grateful for the positive feedback we have been given. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions and we are always available to talk to during toddler sessions.

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