

Annual Statement

Stannington Village Pre-School

January 2021 (Covering Sept 2019 to July 2020)



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, 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.

This year has been significantly affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic which started to influence our daily working just before Lockdown at the end of March 2020. Much of what we would have achieved during the academic year was severely curtailed by our closure from late March through to the start of the new year in September. Due to lockdown we were unable to hold our AGM in relation to 2019.

We have benefited from a stable staff this year with no staff changes to report.

We placed a small number of staff on Furlough wef May 2020 until the end of August.

Pandemic aside, we continue to have a steady stream of enquiries for places through the year. Once the pandemic is over, we are confident we will quickly return to full occupancy.

We continue to offer Early sessions to children as part of our flexible provision.

The website and Facebook page continue to extend our reach and keep parents and carers informed during normal operating but especially during the pandemic.

The transition to school continues to run well. The relationship we have with Stannington Infant School remains strong and positive; we work collectively to support children with the move. School continues 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, Sarah & Anne are always happy to answer any questions.

Managers Report – Sarah Atack

Pre School had a very positive start the first half of the year, we were operating on near full capacity and had a steady flow of children joining us throughout the year. The staff team has remained unchanged and we had a successful six months as a team building our CPD and completing training. In March 2020 Pre School was closed due to the Covid 19 pandemic and remained closed until the start of the new academic year. During the closure we worked well to keep regular contact with staff and families through our social media pages, emails and telephone calls. We remained consistent as a team and used the closure to consolidate training and meet any requirements. Enquires continued to come through to Pre School for January, April and September 2021 places and it enables SVPS to have a steady flow of children ready to start the New Year.

Administrators Report – Anne Fellows

The return to near full occupancy in the first part of the year meant that we achieved a healthy surplus for the financial year 2019 to 2020. 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 will ensure that we continue with our policy of careful management, controlled costs with strong team work, to ensure we continue to operate at a sustainable level.

Closing Pre-School and Toddlers in March and then Furloughing staff were difficult decisions but we were driven by the need to keep children and staff safe and to ensure we were viable as a business once normal operating conditions return and parents again needed us.

Toddler Group – Diane Shepherd + Anne Fellows

Toddlers has continued to see increased attendance over the financial year 2019 to 2020. In September 2019 we received a donation from The Bee Fund which enabled us to invest in a range of Tea & Coffee equipment allowing parents and carers to have self-service access to refreshments. Feedback has been very positive.

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.

Toddlers has unfortunately been closed since the March 2020 lockdown. We look forward to its eventual re-opening as we are aware it provides a vital opportunity for toddlers, parents/carers to meet others in a safe and caring environment.

Stannington Village Pre-School