

Chair's Report for 2010-2011

Thank you all for coming to our AGM

We have had a challenging year financially (as Jon will later explain) from 2010-2011 due mainly to changes to funding and a small intake of children. Despite this, we continue to be a popular and successful pre-school.

Staff

First and foremost I would like to thank all of the staff for their relentless hard work throughout the year to keep the pre-school a happy, warm and safe environment in which our children can play and learn. Our staff continue to deliver the EYFS to our children whilst catering to the needs of the individual child in order to provide a child-lead curriculum. Activities lead by the children's interests and curiosity continue to be the strengths of our small and friendly pre-school.

We have been fortunate enough to keep hold of our fantastic team of staff and I know all parents and children are ever thankful for the continuity of care that this provides. Louisa unfortunately had to endure a broken ankle for most of the summer term. Thanks to the dedication of the regular team and our new member of casual staff, Lavonne Pellow, we survived and we are pleased to say that Louisa is back and fully fit again!

All staff have regularly attended various training sessions this past year, further building on their expertise in nurturing our children, whatever their needs. Sharron Ricketts has just been enrolled on an Early Years Professional course, which, over the next few years, will enable her to gain a degree in her area of expertise. This will benefit the pre-school greatly and shows how devoted our staff are to their work.

As well as the staff who work directly with the children, we have to extend huge thanks to our previous administrator, Natalie Fox. Due to other work commitments, Natalie had to resign from this post at the end of June but has been ably replaced by Rachel Hanson who will continue to ensure that pre-school runs efficiently from the outside! Natalie continues to keep our website up-to-date ensuring that everyone is able to access necessary information about the pre-school.

At the end of this year we also decided to appoint a dedicated 'fundraiser' in order to help us continue to build our future. Louise Treacher intends to explore all avenues that might be open to us for raising those little 'pots' of money, which can do so much!

Committee

I have been Chair of this committee now for the full 3 years and as such I will have to resign from this position today. I would not have been able to do this job without the unending support of all the committee members. You truly are a dedicated team and it has been a pleasure working with you all. I will continue to be part of the committee whilst I am living in the area and if the new Chair wants advice, I will not be far away!

The committee has stayed fairly consistent this year with Jon Kerr continuing to find his way through our finances. Gilly, despite having some time out for a broken foot, has remained our secretary. Other invaluable (and some long-serving) committee members include Ali McNee, Sheri Kingston, Lavonne Pellow and recently Ingrid Godfrey. I know some of you intend to step down today but, as I have already said, your contributions over the last few years have been invaluable. Ann-Marie has continued in her role to help us work together with the school PFA and we have managed to arrange some more joint fundraising ventures over this past year.

Fundraising

We have had a variety of successful fundraising events this year, some new ideas and some not so new:

The school Christmas fair once again became a place to sell our traditional wreaths. This year our homemade soup and rolls went down particularly well mainly due to the fact it was snowing.

Our Burn's Night was a tremendous success. I know it was hard work to organise but it was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us who attended...I can't wait for the next one!

Our family photo day was once again a big success and hopefully will continue to be an annual event.

The Easter Egg Hunt was a joint venture this year and well attended by both pre-school and school children.

We ran a breakfast walk this year for the first time in the spring and all the children and parents deserved the bacon and eggs after walking so speedily around the fields. Outside caterers made a huge difference as it clashed with mothers' day but meant that the mums could relax (just a little) for once!

Bag2School - we have had 2 very successful collections organised this year and hopefully there is still more to collect over the coming months.

I ran a Bodyshop party at home before Christmas - Thank you to those who could come and buy something!

The main fundraising event for the summer came in the form of the 2nd Summer Fete and Dog Show for the village of Hinton St George. There are many people to thank for being involved with organising, sponsoring and supporting the event. As well as our committee, parents and friends of pre-school, my thanks go to Lucy Atherton who ran the Dog Show part of the day and also I have to thank Calor Gas UK for donating over £400 worth of barbeque as one of the main prizes in the raffle and also Lyme Bay Dentistry for their donation of £400 worth of tooth whitening treatment. The raffle alone raised over £400. The whole event raised about £800.

We have so many supporters for our pre-school throughout the year - thank you to everyone who contributes in whatever way.

Fees & Funding

Fees this year remained at £3.49 per hour for most of the year. The result of the government restructuring of funding meant that we had no increase at all last year and will not get an increase for the foreseeable future. Fees reluctantly have been raised for the non-funded hours to £3.64 so that we can continue to provide the wonderful care to our children.

Charity Commission

Information regarding the pre-school as a charity is up-to-date with the charity commission and has been submitted on time this year (before the end of June).

Policies and Procedures

I have continued to keep policies updated this year following on from the OFSTED inspection over a year ago. Most policies are now up-to-date and there is a timetable for updates of policies which will be shared in future committee meetings.

Recommendations for the future

1. To continue to work to find funding solutions to provide equipment and resources and training.
2. To encourage new committee members to embark on the free committee training courses in order that the pre-school can be run in a professional and successful manner.
3. To look at extended pre-school hours in order that we can become more flexible in the childcare that we offer thus encouraging more parents to look at our pre-school for their childcare provision.
4. To update and reprint our prospectus as it is now almost 4 years old.

Finally, I would like to say thank you to everyone for helping me with the responsibility of being Chair of pre-school over the last 3 years. I know that this pre-school is a brilliant place for all our children and with the team of staff we have, it will always to be so.

Helen Harding

Chair of St George's Pre-school Committee