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MAY 2016

## ANNUAL REPORT

I am delighted to report that it has been another positive year for the preschool. We were awarded 'Outstanding' at our Ofsted inspection in November and managed to get some free advertising in the local papers as a result. We are nearly at full capacity on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but still struggle on a Monday mornings as parents are put off when they cannot do a full day. We have 11 school leavers this year, 10 of which successfully applied for Great Addington Primary. We are currently marketing for September and hope to attract some new families.

After many difficulties BT have finally managed to install the phone line into the hall and the internet is up and running at last. This is making a huge difference at preschool already, with the staff managing to upload observations for parents to view throughout the day. I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the paragraph from last year's report and hope that now that the internet has been installed the parish council would consider making a contribution to monthly costs please.

"We are able to pay the cost of £918 BT quoted to have a line installed to the hall ready for internet access. BT are now awaiting authority from the electricity company to install the line on their pole. We have been quoted a total cost of £21.99 per month for internet. The hall have kindly offered to share some of the cost with us and we hope that now, the council have gone paperless, The Parish Council will also make a contribution to benefit from the line. The monthly cost is a 12 month contract and will remain at that price for the full 12 months at which point we are free to change supplier should the cost increase."

We are still intending to erect a permanent canopy to provide some shelter outside and have set funds aside from the grant obtained last year. We are currently in the process of applying for planning permission.

The government are still promising to increase the 15hours free childcare per week to 30hrs, rumoured to come into effect September 2017 but I think there are talks of trying to bring this forward. We are currently only able to offer 7 sessions per week (21 hours) so if the 30 hours funding is introduced we fear we would lose some children because we cannot accommodate them for the sessions they need. If the opportunity presents itself we would like to seriously consider offering full childcare 5 days a week.

Our financial concerns going forward are the introduction of pensions for all staff, a legal requirement from January 2017. A cost that will rise over the next 5 years and will cost the preschool a significant amount of money. The minimum wage has already increased twice this financial year and is set to rise again in the future, this has a tremendous effect on the childcare industry and we have not heard yet whether the funding from the council will increase as a result. All childcare will, no doubt, have to increase their charges to parents to cover staffing costs, we just hope we can remain competitive.

Our fund raising total for the year currently sits at £1694 and we hope to raise more at our quiz night fundraiser, pencilled in the diary for June 18th. Huge credit for this goes to the hard work of the Committee, support of parents and the local community. The Committee extend our thanks for supporting us this year.

The Committee and I extend our thanks to previous Committee members who greatly contribute to the current good condition of the Pre-School and our gratitude to the community for its continued support.

Tamsin Frost  
Committee Chair