



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 30 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM
At WILLASTON PRE-SCHOOL

Minutes

1. Welcome and introductions (DM)

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2. Chair's Report (DM)

See attached. The Chair commented on Covid and the continuing success of the Pre-school during a challenging time. Formal thanks given to staff and the Administrator .

3. Finance (LG)

All had a hard copy of the finances, including audited accounts to Year End August 2020. The Accounts and Trustees report have been filed with the Charity Commission. The accounts were formally approved unanimously. There was a brief discussion around finances during Covid times, and future numbers.

4. Manager's Report (JP)

See below. The Manager elaborated on the increased use of the outdoor area and the positive impact this has had on the children's learning. It is intended that the introduction of an online record to mark the children's progress will support the children's learning and improve family communications.

5. Committee organisation (DM)

The Chair commented on the committee posts available and received suggestions for specific roles. Not all impacted members were able to be present so nominations will be formally agreed at the next meeting. There were several nominations suggested.

6. Questions from parents

Those present shared thoughts and ideas on the outdoor play area and discussed how new children settled in. One grandparent thanked the staff formally for the support that her family has received.



CHAIR'S REPORT

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.”

Charles Dickens – A Tale of Two Cities

Our Pre-school ‘city’ has been full of good times, wisdom, and belief. We have had plenty of light and hope. That is all down to the endeavours of the staff over the last couple of years and the resilience of the children.

The Pre-school has had to cope with the worst of times in the world around them, foolishness, and incredulity. There have been times when we have all felt despair and the Pre-school lights were turned off as the building was closed.

Jacqui has stayed positive throughout, supporting children and families and developing a dynamic curriculum that has led to positive growth and development for the children. There have been so many challenges on the way and the staff have met the obstacles and overcome them with humour and perseverance. Our thanks to them for sticking with us and for everything that they do.

The oldest children whose time at Pre-school was impacted by Covid have now moved on to school and appear to be thriving. The younger children are fast making up ‘lost time’.

We are buoyant, managing financially and numbers are good. We must put on record our gratitude to Debbie Reyland for her drive to keep the Pre-school functioning in the best possible way. Many early years providers across the country have struggled to continue to operate, whilst we are moving forward positively. Thankyou Debbie from all of us.

“Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning”. Winston Churchill

Let us hope that this current situation will end at some point, and we can look to the future with confidence.



MANAGER'S REPORT

Last year - Most of our learning took place outdoors. The children made great progress, and although there was less small group work there was greater emphasis placed on extending the children's learning through their chosen activities.

We introduced explorer days - learning through nature and making the most of the park and surrounding areas. Very successful although by the end of the year we were finding think of new ideas difficult because of the restrictions of the park (no long grass areas, fallen sticks, pathways and communication friendly spaces). The children loved these days so this year we have decided to continue but only do 4 weeks a half term. We are having more "wild" areas in our own area for the children to explore.

We are also going to plan activities around gardening. Last year we grew potatoes which we harvested in Sept and have made potato prints and wedges for snack from them. The children were fascinated to find so many potatoes when we had only put 3 in (counting, more and less, understanding growth and changes, how plants reproduce, physical development in digging strengthening their arms etc.).

Assessment and progress - Last year through post-it observations and paper learning journeys. Termly assessments were completed and feedback given to Cheshire East and our parents. We use Wellcomm (as recommended by Cheshire East and SALT).

Children who had most or all areas above age related expectations 61%
Children who were mostly at age related expectations 28%
Children who are mostly below age related expectations 1%
Children who scored 9 on Wellcomm 44% (highest score for children 2-6)

Transition - I talked to all the teachers about the children giving information about their strengths and weaknesses, sent trackers to those school who wanted them and gave copies for the parents to take in with their learning journeys.

Parents as partners - We feel very lucky to have such supportive parents and want to involve them in the learning that their child is doing at Pre-school. We have listened to parent views and this year are recording evidence electronically.

This year - We have lower numbers of rising 5's but higher numbers of children with SEND who are we are very able to support.