

Treasurer's Report

1. There was a surplus of £5,017 for year ended 31 August 2024, as a result of the amazing effort put in by everyone in the Summer when we were very full. Our hot lunches and extended hours are proving ever more popular. As a result, we were able to give everyone a supplementary payrise in September to reflect the pre-school's success.
2. There is a strong balance sheet and healthy reserves, including a £22k redundancy reserve required to meet our statutory obligations for our long-serving staff.
3. Rent was increased to £8 per hour from September 2023 but has been frozen at this level for the coming year.
4. Government funding broadly increases by maybe 2% a year per child while our costs increase at a greater rate (particularly imposed pay rate rises through NMW, which will rise to £12.21 from April 2025). Our ability to increase our income is severely limited by government funding so we rely on a healthy headcount to fund our main costs of salaries, pensions and rent. The next payrise is due in April.
5. The forthcoming changes in Sept 2025 (when children over 9 months old will qualify for funding of 30 hours per week) should help fill our places (as children can start their funded place with us from their 2nd birthday) but the level of funding will determine how hard it is for us to break even.
6. Audit of August 2024 accounts is scheduled for January 2025.
7. Clean audit report for 2023. Final accounts submitted to Charity Commission by June along with the annual return/trustee's report.
8. Currently the budget for year ended August 2025 anticipates a small deficit dependent on occupancy and SEN funding. I would advise that no further price increases are undertaken so that we remain competitive with the local market. Only 20% of our hours are unfunded. We have five new starters booked from February onwards.
9. We have just been informed that the Zochonis Charitable Trust will donate £1,400 towards the cost of the forthcoming Paediatric First Aid course in Jan 2025 which all staff need to undertake every 3 years. This is yet again a wonderful help to our charity, as are the parental donations gratefully received.