

Managers Report – Annual General Meeting

It has been a very busy year. We have been able to offer lots of different experiences and activities to the children. We have had a few children with high needs. These range from children who have Special Educational Needs, Anxiety, Speech and Language delay.

Staffing

It has been a steady year with staffing. Unfortunately, Cathy Waters has been on long term sick leave and feels that she is unable to return to her role. We are pleased that she does come in and visit us regularly when she feels up to it. We employed an administration assistant which has been a huge help in the office. Not only helping with the day to day admin but also clearing out 20 years of paperwork!

Where possible we have continued to encourage staff to attend training courses to continue their professional development. These are often available virtually which has meant it has been easier for staff to attend. Cameron Baggaley and Katherine Page are continuing to work towards their Level 3 apprenticeship. I am currently working towards a Level 3 SENCO qualification. We continue to have an open door policy where staff can come and speak to me as and when they need to. We also carry out termly supervision with all staff. All staff attended paediatric first aid training in September 2022.

Attendance

Attendance has been a little lower this year but our waiting list continues to be healthy and the Lunch Club has continued to have a great impact. Due to the three term in-take, it is difficult to “fill” all vacancies as we have to save spaces for those starting in January and April. We have a maximum of 260 sessions available each week. In Summer of 2022 we had 198 sessions filled, Autumn 2022 – 164, Spring 2023 - 183 and we look to have 215 filled for the Summer of 2023.

We currently have 14 children on the waiting list for Autumn 2023.

Our new starters have settled in well and built friendships with the elder children who are now preparing to move on to “Big School” in September. Most of our children are hoping to move on to Winnersh Primary School and the rest on to Wheatfield Primary School and some other local schools.

All staff have continued to work extremely hard to ensure they have developed good relationships with their key children’s families. We have kept parents up to date by sending out regular emails and monthly newsletters.

Tapestry has continued to be an asset, allowing us to share the children’s activities and learning daily. We have been able to invite parents in for stay and play again and for parents evening whilst also offering telephone or video calls.

Garden

The garden continues to be the main attraction at Greenwood, we have had two permanent shelters built so that we can use the small garden in all weathers and the parents have somewhere sheltered to drop off and pick up the children. It also means that we have been able to set up more resources in the garden.

Inside

The more natural and open-ended resources continue to be popular in the setting and giving the children more opportunities to use their imagination. We continue to improve the setup of the Pre-school, with the aim to make the setting open ended and homely. The children are able to access the resources they would like to use and if they can’t see or reach them, they know they can ask an adult to help them. We will be looking to develop our sensory area before Christmas 2024. We needed to update the heating as a number of the heaters weren’t suitable. We decided to install an air conditioning unit which will keep us warm in the winter and cool in the summer, it has made a huge difference to the temperature in the building.

Transition

It has been good to go back to a “normal” transition process with our school leavers. We have been working closely with the Primary schools to ensure that the children are prepared to move up and we are giving the staff as much information as possible to prepare them for the intake. We are particularly concerned regarding the children who will be moving up in September 2023 as there is a lot of children who suffer from anxiety because of the impact of COVID lockdown. We are already communicating with the schools to set up extra provisions.

Provisions

We are continuing to ensure that we are meeting all the children's needs. We have delivered speech and language support for those that need it as well as other provisions such as Attention Autism and Sensory Circuits. The biggest provision has been time – giving those children with anxiety, lots of adult attention whilst also developing their independence.

Trips and Experience

We have been able to organise and offer a lot more activities and experiences.

Soon after the last AGM we organised a visit from a ranger from Zoolab to come in with an assortment of animals and creatures which the children were able to touch and stroke.

We have also had visits from the local librarian who came in to share some new books with the children and to deliver a story telling session.

Wokingham Fire brigade visited us, bringing along a fire engine for the children to see as well as letting them have a go with the hose.

Parents have been coming in to visit and share their skills with us, one mum came in to cook some Columbian food and a dad came in and led a drumming session.

We had a visit from a Dental nurse who taught us how to look after our teeth. We all had a go at cleaning big teeth and looking at how to give the teeth a good brush.

To celebrate the Queens Jubilee, we held a picnic and sports afternoon where parents came to join us.

We had the photographer visit in the summer term and for Christmas, she will be back again next summer.

We held our traditional Teddy Bears picnic which the children really enjoyed.

We did book soft play for our end of term treat but unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to the heatwave, however the children did all receive a free pass.

In November, we held a sponsored bounce and fun morning where the children learnt about firework safety and had a go at holding a real sparkler.

Louie Taylor came in to speak to us about road safety with his puppets. The children really enjoyed the show and used what they learnt in their play, setting up scenarios and acting them out on the road in the garden.

We held a mini Christmas fete to raise funds. Lots of families from Winnersh Primary school visited. It was a huge success and enjoyed by all.

We held our traditional Christmas Party. The staff did an amazing job organising games and a mini disco. We were visited by Father Christmas who met all of the children and gave them gifts in our specially designed grotto that the staff had worked so hard on making in the outside area.

uSports continued to come in, delivering multisport sessions to the children. The cost has increased significantly so we have made the hard decision to stop using them from Easter and will be looking at alternatives for the summer term.

We held our Easter Party where children brought in Easter Bonnets that they had made at home. The children took part in Easter themed crafts and games. They thoroughly enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt and were rewarded with an Easter Egg each which was kindly donated by Tesco.

Fundraising

We have held a number of fundraising events:

Jubilee Party £248

Winnersh Fete £197

Photographer £90

Wheatfield School Fete £76.70
Fun morning - £57
Sponsored Bounce £433
Christmas Fete £191.20
Christmas Party £60
Smarties Challenge £177.10
Easter Party '23 £60

It goes without saying that the staff at Greenwood make it the amazing setting that it is. Their support and flexibility is always appreciated.

I would also like to thank the Committee and Trustee's for their hard work, especially Atika for the support she has given myself and the setting, it has been much appreciated. As always a huge thank you to Karen Davies who is always on hand to help and advise.

Thank you to the staff at Winnersh Primary School who enable us to use the school facilities and supports us in many other ways.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to all of our families who attend and support our Pre-school with their children.