

Preschool Report 2022 – Shirley Corfield, Playleader

The staff team remains constant; however we are very grateful to Sam Burke who is our staff supply cover, enabling us to have cover for staff training or illness sometimes at short notice.

Reg has also proved to be an excellent treasurer for the group and our finances have never been so healthy, although we have to keep mindful of being economic.

The staff team also remain our biggest asset and I cannot emphasize how grateful I am to all of the staff - the level of maturity, expertise, professionalism, care and excellence is unbelievable, so thank you all.

Staff

Shirley – manager - qualified level 6

Sheila - part time deputy - qualified level 3

Ruth - part time deputy - qualified level 3 and Forest school qualified

Reg Harper – treasurer – many years experience with the health authority

Anna Parry – Administrator - qualified

Sam Robinson - qualified level 3

Vicky - qualified level 3

Jo - Qualified teacher

Sam Burke - setting business administrator

Sam Burke - setting cleaner

Charlotte - supply cover - qualified

Staff news

Social times include a Staff Christmas get together and a celebration evening to celebrate some significant staff birthdays.

It was very sad to hear of the passing of our friend and volunteer Judy. We held a prayer time in the garden before the Christmas lantern procession, where Judy's son and close family friends attended. We also planted an apple tree in her memory at this service that Fi lead. Sam Beesley is now known as Sam Robinson and she has just completed a child care degree graduating later in the year.

Finance

See Reg's report.

Toddler Group

We are running a Wednesday forest toddler group on a Wednesday morning in the ruby red garden. This is an excellent opportunity to help babies transition into preschool. Thank you Sheila, for your hard work in Toddlers. This group will run April until November and then indoors from November until April.

New Chairperson

We are very happy to welcome Fi Iddon into our team as the new chairperson for Preschool. Fi is the associate vicar at Trinity Churches Meole Brace and has been building relationships with our staff, children and families each Tuesday morning for quite a while now, so thank you Fi and welcome.

Residential home visits

We are very happy to be resuming our contact with Hazledine Court and Fairford Place, albeit outdoor contact at this stage.

Covid

We are very grateful that Covid hasn't been a threat in the setting in that the people and children who were infected did not pass on the virus at all. Thank you for all the protective prayers we received through this difficult time and they proved to have been answered prayers. We do however remain vigilant and not all our activities or routines are completely back to pre-pandemic times.

Hot dinner Wednesdays

From September we plan to serve a hot dinner to our children on a Wednesday. We are really hopeful that this can be extended to the wider community from October half term.

Food Hub

We continue to receive food donations from Shrewsbury Food Hub (a charity who re-distributes surplus supermarket stock) i.e. bread/cakes/fruit/veg. This food is supplied on a Tuesday and Thursday morning and has proved to be a very valuable provider of fruit, vegetables, rolls and bread to our children, families and the community as we place unwanted items in the lane for the community to help themselves to.

Forest school

We hope to resume our Forest School sessions at Coleham School but are waiting for Coleham to inform us when we can resume these sessions soon. We have however been attending 'Inside Out Learning' behind the Methodist Church, and the Wildlife Trust Centre sessions in Abbey Foregate.

Areas where improvement is needed

The entrance to Preschool along the lane remains at best dirty and at worst disgusting with dog mess. The council are not very quick to respond but in reality it needs sweeping weekly to maintain a clean and clear path. This remains a problem for the group. The flooring in the setting has come to the end of its life and needs replacing. The new garden area...The canopy is always in need of cleaning and remains a difficult area to reach.

We are very grateful to a couple of dads who chopped the willow tree and did general maintenance work in our garden. Sam's partner John also completes general handyman paid work for us which really helps.

To conclude

We are continually encouraged in the work we do, caring for children and their families and continue to be deeply moved by some of the comments we have recently received.

It continues to be a privilege to work at Holy Trinity Preschool and to serve the community, whilst working alongside amazing compassionate people. I feel very privileged to work in an environment of love and care. The ethos of sharing Jesus' love is constantly transmitted to the children and their families and also a learning environment for staff, children and their families. So..... thank you to Verity, Sheila, Ruth, Anna, Sam R, Sam B, Vicky, Jo, Charlotte, the families and all the children for walking with Jesus and caring for each other.

Shirley x