

Play leader's Report May 2023

The staff team remains constant; however, we did say goodbye to Sam Beesley who left July 2022. She had gained a degree in childcare last year and now works at Coleham primary school. We are very happy to have welcomed Fi Iddon into our team as chair of the group, Fi has been a good friend to us all and her support, wisdom and willingness to support us where possible is very welcomed-thank you Fi, especially for leading services for us. We have employed 2 new members of staff, both part time, to enhance our team: Jennie a qualified teacher and Rebecca who is unqualified in childcare but very eager to gain training when possible. We also have gained 2 support workers until the July break to assist in supporting our children who need extra support. We still have an outstanding small qualified core team to draw from, which remains one of our key qualities. Reg has also remained an outstanding finance administrator for the group. Our setting cleaner has continued to be reliable and consistent and we are grateful for her hard work at the end of three sessions.

I cannot convey how grateful I am to our chairperson Fi for all her support and commitment not only to me but to the group in general.

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 –finance administrator – many years' experience with the health authority

Anna Parry-Administrator-qualified teacher

Sam Burke-Admin and cleaner

Vicky- qualified level 3

Jo Collier-level 6 qualified teacher

Jennie Otter-qualified teacher

Rebecca Oliver-unqualified

Charlotte-supply cover-qualified

Cat Barrett-Support worker

Sarah Corfield-Support worker

Staff News

Social times include a Staff Christmas get together and general social get togethers.

Community events include:

- Singing time at Hazeldine residential home
- Sports day at Hazeldine
- Balance bike training at Coleham school
- End of school year service for all families at 10.30am service
- Palm Sunday church service
- Harvest church service
- Developing our Garden areas

- Lantern advent procession and service
- Invitation to Coleham School nativity
- Visit to Coleham school for talent show
- Termly parent's evenings
- Qualified teacher phonics input
- Nativity service in church
- Shropshire music services

Toddler Group

Toddler group has started again after Covid now on a Wednesday and remains an outstanding ministry for our community. It also provides an excellent opportunity to help babies transition into preschool. Thank you, Sheila, Jill, Jan and Elizabeth, it has been very encouraging to receive support from the church community in developing the toddler group further.

Large sand pit

We are very happy to start using our new sand pit and the children are really enjoying this new area.

Food Hub

We 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 a Thursday morning and has proved to be a very valuable provider of fruit, vegetables, rolls and bread to our children and their families, who are encouraged to help themselves of unwanted food.

Tuesdays Assemblies

Hopefully Tuesday assemblies will start again but remains unable to do so as we cannot guarantee water has not made the carpet very wet for the children to sit on. Assemblies will include Bible stories where children learn about Jesus as our Lord and friend and about how the Holy Spirit enables us to continue this work.

The ruby red garden

This is a community garden and we are very pleased that Jo has taken on the project of developing this area.

Forest School

We continue to offer forest school sessions at Coleham School lead by Ruth, we are grateful to Coleham school for offering this facility and also Ruth for leading so expertly.

We also visit inside out learning forest school sited at the methodist church on Belle vue road.

Areas where improvement is needed

The entrance to preschool along the lane remains at best dirty and at worst disgusting with dog mess and drug dealing/using. In reality it needs sweeping weekly to maintain a clean and clear path. This remains a problem for the group.

The canopy is always in need of cleaning and remains a difficult area to reach.

The iron fencing needs painting

The Garden continues to need tending

The lane continues to need sweeping

To Conclude

We are continually encouraged in the work we do, caring for children and their families and have been deeply moved by some of the comments we have received in the past year.

It continues to be a privilege to work at Holy Trinity Preschool and to serve the community, whilst working alongside amazing compassionate people. We are privileged to work in an environment of love and care. This has to transmit to the children and families. New ideas and projects continually keep preschool an evolving environment, one of our main ventures this year has been developing a weekly hot meal for the children; developing social and fine motor skills. This meal is both gluten free, vegan free and acceptable for all those with allergies to encourage inclusivity. We are grateful to Sam for cooking us delicious meals!

So, thank you to Fi, Sheila, Reg, Ruth, Anna, Jo, Jennie, Cat, Sarah, Sam, Vicky, Charlotte, the families and all the children for walking with Jesus and caring for each other.

Shirley