

# STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP (WELLS)

England & Wales · Charity number 1022365

## Details

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**Other names** ST THOMAS PLAYGROUP WELLS

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1993-06-08

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

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**Address** Stepping Stones Playgroup  
Stoberry Park School  
North Road  
Wells  
Somerset  
BA5 2TJ

**Phone** 01749677011

**Email** [finance@steppingstoneswells.co.uk](mailto:finance@steppingstoneswells.co.uk)

**Website** [www.steppingstoneswells.co.uk](http://www.steppingstoneswells.co.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN UNDER STATUTORY SCHOOL AGE BY ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH COMMUNITY GROUPS

**Activities:** Pre school playgroup

## Classification

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- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

- Somerset

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£125,279	£96,473	-	-
2024-08-31	£89,141	£80,399	-	-
2023-08-31	£78,765	£70,177	-	-
2022-08-31	£69,404	£66,576	-	-
2021-08-31	£68,312	£77,268	-	-
2020-08-31	£82,237	£75,021	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>Derek Logan</b>	Chair	2024-02-28
Adele Andersson		2023-07-01
Candice Blackman		2021-02-01
Carly Thompson		2002-09-18
Caroline Teakle		2024-05-21
Charles Ford		2026-03-04
Jennie Walmsley		2021-10-15
Rosie Phillips		2024-10-03
Sarah Barkle		2018-09-01

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP (WELLS)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1022365

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# Accounts

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## Chair Report

Welcome to the 2025 Report and Accounts.

Stepping Stones continues to be a provider of preschool education for children aged 2 until school age. We continue to provide a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities and take a full part in the local community. We work closely with Stoberry Park School and embrace the Early Years Learning Framework.

It has been an excellent year with settled staff and high attendee numbers. Revenue growth was high as a result of the extended early years funding for 2 year olds being introduced by the Government. We have been able to strengthen our financial position over the year.

We started two initiatives during the year. Firstly, the Board decided to change our governing status to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, and this process is now underway.

Secondly it has become necessary to begin to consider the future of the premises from which we operate. Our latest Somerset Council property survey has highlighted the sustainability of the building is short term without substantial expenditure. As a result, discussions have taken place with our Landlord, Somerset Council, to consider options. One is a new building and a bid for financial support for this has been submitted to the Council funding department. The outcome should be known in Spring 2026.

Internally we have commenced our own fund raising by launching "The Big Step" to attract donations, grants and community monies via raffles and auctions. This is going well.

Derek Logan

Chair

# STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity No. 1022365

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	9,849	17,287
Fees: Registrations	350	
Government Grants for 2, 3 and 4 year Olds	95,436	66,992
Fundraising	1,805	708
Donations	17,390	3,850
Interest Receivable	450	304
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>125,279</b>	<b>89,141</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Salaries/Sick Leave	77,473	69,230
Pension NEST	3,646	1,711
HMRC	6,589	
General Administration Expenses		681
EYA Payslip Service	432	
Accounting Software (Intuit)	330	
Equipment/Activites/Consumables/Resources		1,547
Consumables/Leavers/Presents	2,053	
Petty Cash Transfer		
Activities/Resources	1,133	
Telephone/Utilities/Rates		4,563
Utilities	416	
Phone/Broadband	465	
Insurance/Licences/Subscriptions		1,101
Insurance	688	
Licences/DBS	759	
Repairs and Safety Checks	2,022	874
Advertising/Promotional		116
Website/Email Hosting (IONOS)	130	
Training/Travel	92	403
AGM/BIG STEP	152	
Uniforms	92	175
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>96,473</b>	<b>80,399</b>
<b>Excess/(Shortfall) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>28,806</b>	<b>8,742</b>
Balance at beginning of year	45,104	36,362
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,910</b>	<b>45,104</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Petty Cash at 31 August	175	115.89
High Interest Deposit Account at 31st August	54,432	
Bank Current Account at 31 August	17,216	20,697.00
Deposit Accounts at 31 August		24,291.07
Deposit Account New Build at 31 August	2,061	
Deposit Account Redundancy at 31 August	25	
	<b>73,910</b>	<b>45,104</b>



Treasurer



Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name Stepping Stones Playgroup Wells

On accounts for the year ended

2025 Charity no (if any) 1022365

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [ ] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below \*) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 29/14/26

Name: ALEC CHRISTOPHER STRAUGHAN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

[Empty box for professional qualification]

(if any):

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Address:

32 ST MARTIN'S LANE, MARSH FIELD,
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SN14 8LZ

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**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP (WELLS)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1022365

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# Accounts

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## Chair Report

Welcome to the 2024 Report and Accounts.

Stepping Stones continues to be a provider of Pre-School services for children aged 2 until School age.

It has been a good year with a settled staff and high attendee numbers. Revenue and retained surplus have both increased which has resulted in a stronger financial position.

We continue to provide a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities and take a full part within the local community. We work closely with Stoberry Park School and embrace the Early Years Learning framework.

During the year Ofsted undertook an inspection, and we again achieved a Good standard. This plus the reputation we enjoy is a credit to the strong team we have. Thank you to them. It is also pleasing to report that we have a full committee.

Looking ahead we hope to maintain both our standards and progress.

Derek Logan  
Chair

# STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity No. 1022365

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	17,287	14,520
Government Grants for 2, 3 and 4 year Olds	66,992	59,879
Fundraising	708	486
Donations	3,850	3,760
Interest on Deposit Accounts	304	120
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>89,141</b>	<b>78,765</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Salaries	69,230	64,259
Pensions	1,711	966
Administration	681	1,139
Equipment/Activites/Consumables/Resources	1,547	2,044
Telephone/Utilities/Rates	4,563	387
Insurance/Licences	1,101	805
Repairs and Renewals	874	139
Advertising/Website	116	197
Training/Subscriptions/Memberships	403	241
Sundry/Uniforms/Photos	175	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>80,399</b>	<b>70,177</b>
<b>Excfees/(Shortfall) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>8,742</b>	<b>8,588</b>
Balance at beginning of year	36,362	27,774
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,104</b>	<b>36,362</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Petty Cash at 31 August	116	83
Bank Current Account at 31 August	20,697	12,292
Deposit Accounts at 31 August	24,291	23,987
	<b>45,104</b>	<b>36,362</b>

KGreen

Treasurer



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP

On accounts for the year ended

2024

Charity no (if any)

1022365

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended DD / MM / YYYY.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than that disclosed below~~\*) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Alec Straughan

Date:

14/06/25

Name:

ALEC STRAUGHAN

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

N/A

Address:

32 ST MARTINS LANE
MARSHFIELD
CRIPPENHAM SN14 8LZ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

[Empty box for disclosure details]

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP (WELLS)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1022365

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# Accounts

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**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Stepping Stones Playgroup (Wells)

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1022365

**Set out on pages**

One

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2023.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

**Signed:**

*Alec Straughan*

**Date:**

26.06.2024

**Name:**

Alec Straughan

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

N/A

**Address:**

32 St Martins Lane, Marshfield,

Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN14 8LZ

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

# STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity No. 1022365

## Financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2023

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT	2023 £	2022 £
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	14,520	8,946
Government Grants for 2, 3 and 4 year Olds	59,879	46,797
Government Grants	-	11,622
Fundraising	486	823
Donations	3,760	1,049
Interest on Deposit Accounts	120	3
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>78,765</b>	<b>69,240</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Salaries	64,259	60,953
Pensions	966	-
Administration	1,139	511
Equipment/Activites/Consumables/Resources	2,044	915
Telephone/Utilities/Rates	387	1,407
Insurance/Licences	805	1,160
Repairs and Renewals	139	562
Advertising/Website	197	400
Training/Subscriptions/Memberships	241	208
Sundry/Uniforms/Photos	-	330
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>70,177</b>	<b>66,446</b>
<b>Excfess/(Shortfall) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>8,588</b>	<b>2,794</b>
Balance at beginning of year	27,774	24,980
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,362</b>	<b>27,774</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>		
Petty Cash at 31 August	83	164
Bank Current Account at 31 August	12,292	3,744
Deposit Accounts at 31 August	23,987	23,867
	<b>36,362</b>	<b>27,774</b>

KGreen

Treasurer

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP (WELLS)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1022365

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# Accounts

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**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Stepping Stones Playgroup (Wells)

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1022365

**Set out on pages**

Three

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2022.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

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- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

**Signed:**

*Alec Straughan*

**Date:**

10/07/2023

**Name:**

Alec Straughan

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

N/A

**Address:**

32 St Martins Lane, Marshfield,  
Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN14 8LZ

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

# STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity No. 1022365

## Stepping Stones Playgroup

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2022

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	9,095	7,737
Government Grants for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds	46,797	55,395
Government Grant	11,622	3,999
Job Retention Scheme	0	0
Covid Grant	0	0
Fundraising	823	676
Hot Lunches	0	0
Donations	1,065	503
Refunds	0	0
Interest on Deposit Accounts	3	2
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>69,404</b>	<b>68,312</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Salaries	60,953	61,818
Pensions	0	2,408
Administration	464	5,759
Equipment/Activities/Consumables/Resources	1,092	1,810
Telephone/Utilities/Rates	1,407	3,130
Insurance/Licences	1,160	897
Repairs and Renewals	562	127
Advertising/Website	400	401
Training/Subscriptions/Memberships	208	559
Provisions/Milk	0	126
Lunches	0	93
Outings	0	0
Sundry/Uniforms/Photos	330	139
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>66,576</b>	<b>77,268</b>
<b>Excess/(shortfall) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>2,828</b>	<b>(8,956)</b>
<b>Balance at beginning of year</b>	<b>24,793</b>	<b>33,750</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>27,622</b>	<b>24,793</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
Petty Cash at 31 August	11	63
Bank Current account at 31 August	3,744	6,864
Deposit Accounts at 31 August	23,867	17,866
	<b>27,622</b>	<b>24,793</b>



Treasurer

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP (WELLS)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1022365

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# Accounts

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**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
Stepping Stones Playgroup (Wells)

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1022365

**Set out on pages**

Three

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2021.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

*Alec Straughan*

**Date:**

10/07/2023

**Name:**

Alec Straughan

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

N/A

**Address:**

32 St Martins Lane, Marshfield,

Chippenham, Wiltshire. SN14 8LZ

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

# STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP

Registered Charity No. 1022365

## Stepping Stones Playgroup

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2021

	<b>Total 2021</b>	Total 2020
	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	7,737	8,668
Government Grants for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds	55,395	59,837
Government Grant	3,999	0
Job Retention Scheme	0	7,248
Covid Grant	0	2,300
Fundraising	676	1,077
Hot Lunches	0	35
Donations	503	3,000
Refunds	0	61
Interest on Deposit Accounts	2	11
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>68,312</b>	<b>82,237</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Salaries	61,818	58,885
Pensions	2,408	3,421
Administration	5,759	5,875
Equipment/Activities/Consumables/Resources	1,810	1,060
Telephone/Utilities/Rates	3,130	1,691
Insurance/Licences	897	994
Repairs and Renewals	127	396
Advertising/Website	401	253
Training/Subscriptions/Memberships	559	624
Provisions/Milk	126	166
Lunches	93	1,001
Outings	0	308
Sundry/Uniforms/Photos	139	348
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>77,268</b>	<b>75,021</b>
<b>Excess/(shortfall) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>(8,956)</b>	7,216
<b>Balance at beginning of year</b>	<b>33,750</b>	26,535
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,793</b>	<b>33,750</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
Petty Cash at 31 August	63	250
Bank Current account at 31 August	6,864	10,958
Deposit Accounts at 31 August	17,866	22,542
	<b>24,793</b>	<b>33,750</b>



Treasurer

**STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP (WELLS)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1022365

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# Accounts

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# STEPPING STONES PLAYGROUP


Registered Charity No. 1022365

## Stepping Stones Playgroup

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 August 2020

	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
<b>RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	8,668	9,357
Government Grants for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds	59,837	43,108
Job Retention Scheme	7,248	0
Covid Grant	2,300	0
Fundraising	1,077	4,072
Hot Lunches	35	510
Outings	0	414
Donations	3,000	0
Refunds	61	94
Interest on Deposit Accounts	11	11
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>82,237</b>	<b>57,566</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Salaries	58,885	44,855
Pensions	3,421	2,301
Administration	5,875	2,826
Equipment/Activities/Consumables/Resources	1,060	3,098
Telephone/Utilities/Rates	1,691	994
Insurance/Licences	994	873
Repairs and Renewals	396	601
Advertising/Website	253	196
Training/Subscriptions/Memberships	624	408
Provisions/Milk	166	345
Lunches	1,001	1,062
Outings	308	428
Sundry/Uniforms/Photos	348	454
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>75,021</b>	<b>58,441</b>
<b>Excess/(shortfall) of Receipts over Payments</b>	<b>7,216</b>	<b>-875</b>
<b>Balance at beginning of year</b>	<b>3,753</b>	<b>4,639</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>		
Petty Cash at 31 August	250	250
Bank Current account at 31 August	10,958	3,753
Deposit Accounts at 31 August	22,542	22,531
	<b>33,750</b>	<b>26,534</b>

  
Chairperson

  
Treasurer

  
Secretary

**Stepping Stones Playgroup**  
**AGM**  
**Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020**  
**At 7:30pm**

**Attendees:** Carly Thompson (Playgroup Leader), Claire Rood (Chair), Sarah Barkle (Treasurer), Zoe Hummerstone, Laura Payne, Mary Watt, Charlie Hichens, Ellen Ayers

Emma Wheat, Simon Laken, Polly Vidler, Kate Hayler, Gemma Woods

**Apologies:** Veronica Ballard (School Representative), Gina Mann (Secretary), Khia Collins, Karen Sims, Simone Steele, Charlotte Connybeer.

**Approval of Last Years AGM Minutes:** Approved by those present.

**Chair Persons Report:**

Thank you all for coming this evening. It's great to see you.

My name is Claire Rood and I am the current Chair of Stepping Stones Playgroup. I have been involved on the Committee of this playgroup for 4 1/2 years now. I have also worked at Stoberry for about 14 years so I have seen plenty of children leave Stepping Stones and begin their "big school" journey along with my own children.

What a mad 6 months it has been!

Firstly, I would like to thank all of the staff. They have had to work under very different routines and they have just got on with it and made things safe and normal for the children as possible.

Carly as you know is our Playgroup Leader. Carly works exceptionally hard with the running of Playgroup, especially over the last few months with all of the Covid-19 paperwork she has had to do on top of what she already does to keep Stepping Stones open. Kiah joined the team just as lockdown started so the start of a new job was very different for her but we officially welcomed her as part of the Stepping Stones team.

All of the staff provide a huge amount of support and commitment to the Playgroup, the children and their families and they are a fantastic team who create a lovely atmosphere here for the children.

A group of children moved into Reception Class at the beginning of September and they are doing really well. The staff at Stepping Stones are fundamental in preparing the children so well for their new "big school" adventure. As you can imagine the new routines Mummy or Daddy taking you into school and all of the other routines are so different but they have all adapted really well. We see them most days in their playground all looking happy. I see the Playgroup children coming in most mornings and I can say they have also coped really well with leaving adults at the gate and coming into Playgroup and all of the different routines they have now.

Moving onto the Committee Members – We are ruled by the Preschool Learning Alliance Constitution which we have adopted. This Constitution states that we need a minimum of 5 Committee Members and a maximum of 12, of which 60% need to be current parents.

The Committee fulfil a vital role of our Playgroup. It is the Committee who are responsible for hiring staff and performing staff appraisals. They are responsible for keeping control of the money and running the preschool as a business. The Committee fundraise to provide essential resources such as toys, craft materials, bikes and equipment for the children to enjoy. Any help provided by parents with fundraising events and helping out on cake stalls is always appreciated.

We would love to be able to buy new resources and equipment for the staff and children. The staff, currently have a wish list of resources that they would love to purchase for the children.

Keeping the building in a good state of repair is an ongoing concern too. We are currently looking for a "handy man" to come on a regular basis to keep up with some of the general maintenance.

In short without the dedication and commitment of the staff and the Committee then the Playgroup cannot function and cannot remain open. We need 3 Officers posts, Chair, Treasurer and Secretary to be filled. I have really enjoyed being part of the Committee. However, this is my last meeting as Chair of Stepping Stones. So my position as chair is available and must be filled. If these 3 positions are not filled, then we are acting against our Constitution and very sadly Stepping Stones will have to close as we will then not be acting legally.

Finally, I would again like to thank all the team, staff, Committee and parents in working together to keep Stepping Stones running to benefit all of the children.

**Playgroup Leaders Report:**

Carly has been Playgroup Leader for 3 years now. Zoe Hummerstone is Deputy & SENCO. ZH is also currently studying to complete her Foundation BA Hons Degree. Laura Payne is ENCO, Mary Watts PE instructor, Charlie Hichens our apprentice completed her level 2 Childcare Certificate and is currently studying for her Level 3. Kiah is our new team member who officially started on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Ellen Ayers is the administrator who sends out information for parents and assists Carly.

It has been a very different academic year. Stepping Stones Playgroup stayed open throughout the pandemic to offer support to key workers and vulnerable children. It was very sad not to have a Teddy Bears Picnic and say goodbye to our preschool children. However our lovely Key Workers visited every child in their group to say goodbye and hand over all their bags to remember their time at Playgroup.

This academic year has also been strange with risk assessments, cleaning everything, removing toys, setting things up for the children to come back to Playgroup. Parents now can't come on site so we don't have time to talk to you all. So if there is anything you need to talk to us about, please email or phone us.

We now have a new 9am start, which will start as of tomorrow. This now means that the morning session will go back to finishing at 12pm.

We have sadly had to cancel many events so far and we will unfortunately have to cancel the Playgroup Christmas Party with Santa and the Sing a Long. Although we are hoping to record something to put online.

There is a school inset day on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. However Playgroup will be open as usual.

It is half term in 2 weeks time. There has been some talk of the government extending the half term holiday to 2 weeks instead of one. But so far nothing has been announced or confirmed.

It has been a privilege to work with all your children and watch them grow and learn over this time.

**Treasurers Report:**

Reported by CR, that due to Covid-19 there isn't much to report on. Covid-19 has affected our fundraising massively which is down on £3,000 from last year. Glastonbury Festival didn't go ahead this year so there were no donations from them either.

Explanations in further detail can be given if required.

**Election of New Committee:**

	Name	Proposed	Second By
Chair	Simon Laken	Claire Rood	Emma Wheat
Treasurer	Sarah Barkle Tim Hayler	Claire Rood Emma Wheat	Carly Thompson Ellen Ayers
Secretary	Emma Wheat	Claire Rood	Ellen Ayers
School Representative	Veronica Ballard	Carly Thompson	Emma Wheat
Committee Members	Polly Vidler	Emma Wheat	Ellen Ayers
	Ellen Ayers	Carly Thompson	Claire Rood

**Members Stepping Down:**

- Claire Rood as Chair
- Gina Mann as Secretary
- Simone Steele
- Charlotte Connybeer
- Sophie Brammer
- Gemma Woods

**Date of Next Years AGM:** Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

<b>Report to the trustees/ members of</b>	Stepping Stones Playgroup (Wells)		
<b>On accounts for the year ended</b>	31 August 2020	<b>Charity no (if any)</b>	1022365
<b>Set out on pages</b>	One		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/08/2020.

**Responsibilities and  
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent  
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**  **Date:**

**Name:**

**Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):**

**Address:**

**Section B**

**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.



CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Report to the trustees number of	31 August 2020	On accounts for the year ended	One	Set out the pages
Charity no. (if any)				
As the charity trustee of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).				
I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts under section 145 of the 2017 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed the specific Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(2)(b) of the Act.				
I have completed my examination. I confirm that in material matters there have been no instances of non-compliance with the requirements which give rise to a concern to believe that in any material respect:				
• the accounts do not accord with the accounting records				
I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination for which section 145(2)(b) would be required to be reported.				
Reported by:				
Role:				
Professional body:				
Address:				