

# LINDALE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP

England & Wales · Charity number 1026222

## Details

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**Other names** LINDALE NURSERY, LINDALE PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1993-10-19

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

## Contact

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**Address** School House  
School Hill  
Lindale  
Grange-over-Sands  
LA11 6LE

**Phone** 01539532208

**Email** [lindalepreschoolnursery@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lindalepreschoolnursery@hotmail.co.uk)

**Website** [lindalepreschoolnursery.org](http://lindalepreschoolnursery.org)

## 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:** Lindale Pre-School cares for children from 2 - 4 years 11 months we serve a rural area and follow the EYFS guidance for 0 - 5 year olds we are open Monday - Friday 8.45 - 12.45 term time only

## Classification

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

## Geography

- Cumbria

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£50,680	£51,537	-	-
2024-08-31	£42,811	£42,811	-	-
2023-08-31	£40,110	£50,662	-	-
2022-08-31	£45,880	£45,868	-	-
2021-08-31	£31,687	£34,317	-	-
2020-08-31	£45,526	£45,526	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
<b>DR IAN GEORGE</b>	Chair	2014-01-21
Helen Entwisle		2024-03-12
Karen Austin-Walsh		2022-08-16
Kim Rachel Law		2019-11-18

**LINDALE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

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# Accounts

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## Annual General Meeting

Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **Welcome and apologies for absence**

#### **Attendance**

Ian George (Chair), Kim Law, Helen Entwisle (Treasurer), Caroline Wood, Lucy Warren (Deputy Manager), Amy Douglas (Nursery Assistant), Claire Dawson (Nursery Manger) Sara McClure (Chair, School Governor).

#### **Apologies**

None

### **Managers' Report**

September 2024 – August 2025

September 2024 started off with an OFSTED inspection on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Overall effectiveness Good

The quality of education - GOOD

Behaviour and attitudes - GOOD

Personal development - GOOD

Leadership and management - GOOD

Previous Inspection – GOOD

Inspector Susie Millward Sampson

The inspection went well, Susie enjoyed all the activities, Lucy and Amy did amazing.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective. There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

To further improve the quality of the early years provision, the provider should: teach children about the healthy use of screens and online safety to help prepare them for life in the modern world.

[50260509](#)

Maintenance

Main maintenance was the boiler - £93.34 for a service and then £324.54 for a new circuit board.

Numbers were great over the year with an average of 10 children a day.

We had four trips out with the children – Fell Foot, Grange Prom, Dentist and Flether's fruit and veg, Sizergh Castle trail. Each week we did our woodland walk and we also have walks around the village and trips to the park.

Tapestry

We are still using Tapestry for registers, observations and communication with parents, most parents seem to be using it now.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has been moved over to school as a government initiative, children coming into school from 8.15am get it free, club starts at 7.45am – Lucy, Amy and Claire are running breakfast

club, one member of staff stays for the hour, the other member 30 minutes to give us time to make sure everything is set up for nursery starting at 8.45am. School pays 1.5 hours wages per day.

#### Nursery session

Session are run with the focus of learning through play, we follow the children's interests which works well and keeps the children motivated and excited to learn.

#### **Report from Sara (Chair School Governor)**

Sara came along to clarify who pays what for maintenance.

The building is owned by Carlisle diocese, in 2008 a lease agreement was drawn up between governors and school, the lease expires in 2029, school pay a peppercorn rent to the diocese on the proviso that the building is looked after, the building is rented to nursery, it is a commercial rent at £16 per day, this does cover the utility bills, fire regs, legionella testing etc, bar £81.75 per year. School wants to keep the rent as low as possible, not going into full commercial rent, hence nursery needs to find the money for the boiler (£2,300). Taylor Newton Hibbert have agreed to pay the full £2,300 to have the boiler replaced.

## Chair's Report Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery

Dr Ian George 24 Feb 2026

### Operations

Overall, Preschool is in a good place. Period.

Maintenance and repair responsibilities. These sit with the landlord. Bit tricky for us:

- We rent School House
- The revenue goes to Primary School
- Primary School manage the relationship with Preschool
- School House is owned by The Diocese

We need to look at the rental agreement together and work out who does what so that we can have more productive conversations.

### Finances

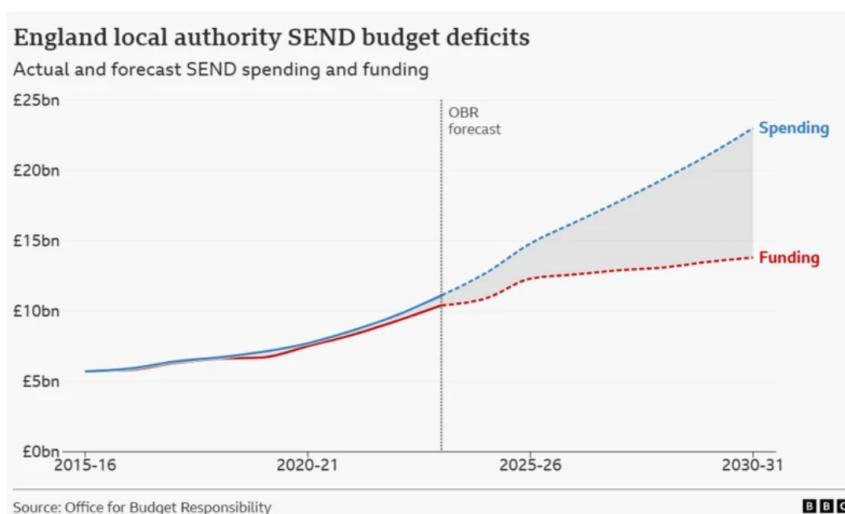
Last year slight drop in reserves, but we're OK.

We need to watch the pennies, but we're in a reasonably good place – balance as at 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 was £16,059.39.

Numbers, as always are a key concern. Although we have a steady flow, the 'natural' volume of kids coming through year on year can cause challenges in making the numbers balance. I want us to be in a position where we are thinking about what's best for the kids, rather than what can we cut to protect the future.

## Outlook

Income needs to start rising in a more realistic way over the next few years, but the long-term view is unclear.



### SEND changes

The cost of the current SEND system has increased sharply

Overall spending on SEND has risen by two-thirds in the past decade

In 2024 the National Audit Office described the system as "broken", warning it was "financially unsustainable" for councils and saying that although costs were rising it was still not delivering better outcomes for children.

Just over 1.7 million (about one in five) pupils in England's schools receive support for special educational needs.

As of January last year, 639,000 young people up to the age of 25 had education, health and care plans (EHCPs) in England - the number has more than doubled in a decade.

### The Change Plan

- By 2035, EHCPs will be reserved for only the most complex special educational needs
- Children who currently have an EHCP will keep them until they reach the next stage of their education – *Do we need to think how we help the transition?*
- Children will be reassessed for EHCPs as they move up to their next stage from 2029
- Under the changes, the government projects that the proportion of children with SEND on the current highest level of support in school will start falling each year from the end of the decade. *This could mean its going to get harder, or it could mean the challenges are going to be recognised and accommodated more in mainstream.*
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### **Election of Committee Members**

Ian George – Chair

Helen Entwisle – Treasurer

Caroline Wood – Secretary

Any other business?

- We would like to take the children out more, from September 2025 this has been a struggle as a lot of parents work and we need parents to help with transport, car insurance needs to have business cover on if they take any nursery children, it also needs and MOT.

It was suggested that we did some fund raising or ask Taylor Newton Hibbert if they would give money towards hiring a minibus, Claire is willing to drive, she would like to have a driving assessment first.

- We also need a contingency plan for when staff are ill or on training.
- Lisa Wise had approached Claire asking about training up to become a nursery practitioner, Claire suggested that she contacted Kendal College to see what was currently available, and said that Lisa could do her placement with us.
- Helen Entwisle also said she was looking into childcare and would be happy to help out 2 days a week. Claire needs to have a meeting with Lisa and Helen to discuss these possibilities.
- The accountant's bill is now running at £978 per annum, Helen suggested we look into trying to reduce this and suggest Free Agent, Helen uses these herself and will look to see if Barclays have anything similar, Claire will phone the accounts.

Date of next meeting

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2027



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# Accounts

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## **Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery 2023/24 Report**

### **Chair's Report**

#### **Overview**

The 2023/24 academic year has been a good year for our nursery. There have been challenges, both personal and organisational, but Claire, Lucy and Amy have overcome them and reinforced their cohesion as a high performing team. This is amplified by the calmness and purposeful business of the kids when any member of staff is absent; clearly unphased or overly dependent on any single adult.

At a macro level, challenges still exist with the disparity between political rhetoric and funding, with many preschools around the country having to close their doors. With regard to the extended hours being proposed, staff have decided they would like to leave things as they are. I am in agreement (not that I have any choice) as this would adversely affect our financial position.

#### **Staff**

Claire maintains her unflappable calm, leading us all, and developing new ideas to stimulate and grow our children. Shre remains flexible, filling in for gaps in staffing or the need for extra support.

Lucy continues to show her deep care for the children and provides a beacon of stability throughout the week for the children. When Claire is absent, Lucy steps up and deputises for her in the nursery.

Amy continues to be an increasingly important member of the team. She is quiet, but has an unassuming efficiency that ensures no-one is left behind or misses out on opportunities to learn.

When you put them all together, we can see how lucky we are to have them. This is something we should be championing to existing and prospective parents as many nurseries struggle to secure top quality staff in their settings.

#### **Finances**

Finance is an ongoing struggle. We have had years of under investment, despite this we have managed to maintain a reasonable level of financial stability and resilience. However, our reserves are going down at a steady and unsustainable pace, if we do not address the imbalance between costs and revenue.

Given recent changes in taxation, namely the increase in national insurance for employers, the burden on preschool grows further. This is going to necessitate a rise in fees. Clearly, we will keep this to a minimum, but we have to absorb the rise of staffing and tax costs somehow.

The so-called 'Toddler Tax', 20% VAT on preschool fees, does not apply to us as we do not take any school-age children.

#### **Looking Ahead**

We are good at looking after our children and, given our community focus, treat them as our own. Our other strength is in looking after the parents, who often get forgotten, yet face many struggles themselves. Rarely does anyone fall through the gaps.

As we face the potential of a new government and approach next, we must hope that those starting out in life become a true priority and the funding reflects this. In the meantime, a focus on numbers and balancing the books as best as possible remains our secondary priorities.

## **Leader's Report**

### **Overview**

September 2023, we started off with an average of 9 children per day.

Still carrying on with greeting parents and children at the gate and outside play for the session, just going in for lunch, our woodland walk is still very popular, helping the children to walk on rough terrain, manage their own risk and keep safe. In April we painted pictures of Blue Bells, lots of wonderful art work. We have had lots of trips to the park and round the village.

Lots of physical play and following the children's interests – Exploring and Learning through play.

### **Recruitment**

We started having Open Days every term, this have proved to be beneficial in recruiting more children, also current parents are invited to come along and see what we do.

### **Communications**

Amy has taken over Facebook for us, putting Chat, Play and Share session on from County which is a good link for nursery/home learning plus any information we need to share with parents.

We have found that more parents aren't wanting their child on Facebook so to ensure we keep the communication open we are using Tapestry online for messaging and asking parents which is the best way of communicating with them.

### **Calendar**

At Easter we did a raffle and sing-a-long which was very well attended by parents/carers, another link to involve parents in the setting.

March 24 we had a trip to Greenland's Farm to feed the lambs, again all parents/carers were invited. We also had a visit to the dentist in Grange, they let the children sit in the chair, we had a little quiz about what foods and drinks are good or bad for teeth. This was then followed by a trip to Fletchers to buy some fruit for snack.

May 24 we went exploring on the prom at Grange, playing on the park and then having ice creams.

July 24 we celebrated all the children with a trip to Fellfoot.

We keep our link with School strong, taking the children over to their open mornings and let parents know about the afternoon sessions.

### **Ofsted**

We were still waiting for Ofsted to come and inspect us. Not this school year. They did come September 2024, three weeks into term, the inspector was great, very supportive and giving us all the opportunity to expand on what she wanted to know, she kept checking if I needed a break when we did the learning walk and management and safeguarding meeting.

[Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery - Open - Find an Inspection Report - Ofsted](#)

### **Staff**

Lucy full time.

Amy - Monday, Wednesday, Thursday Friday,

Claire - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

As staff we all support each other, cover for each other when needed, we work well as a team, all with different skills and approaches.

I would like to say a big thank you to Lucy and Amy for all their hard work and support to enable Lindale Muddy Boots to be what it is.

### **Attendance**

We have 14 families on the books this year, with only 8 places available over the week and numbers are filling up for September 2025.



## **Fundraising.**

Councillor Jenny Boak wants to donate £500 to Lindale Muddy Boots, she has gone through the school - Claire will contact Westmorland and Furness Council and give them our bank details to sort out payment to us.

Amy suggested that we contact someone who is doing the Keswick to Barrow sponsored walk, last year we received £350 from the organisation. Claire knows someone who is doing the walk and will ask if they are happy to nominate Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery on their application.

Before the village church closed, people in the village made donations to repair the church roof, this has never been done. Lucy will talk to Niki and ask who is on the committee and then ask if people would like to support Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery.

Taylor Hibbert charity: Claire will ask if she can attend a meeting and ask for funding for new windows and repairs of the nursery.

## **Election of committee**

Ian George - Chair

Helen Entwisle - Treasurer

Caroline Wood - Secretary - (Caroline wasn't at the AGM as she is new to the role and wasn't able to adjust her schedule for this meeting.).

**Lindale Pre School Playgroup**

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31/08/2024  
Income & Expenditure Summary

Income		Expenditure	
	£		£
Fees	16,137.25	Wages	34,100.03
Free entitlement	26,393.89	Er's Pension	400.14
Grants	0.00	Er's NI	1,061.96
Fundraising	163.22	Emp allowance	- 1,061.96
Computer Refund	36.66	Rent	5,225.50
Small Refunds	80.00	Insurance	984.95
		Equipment	847.93
		Licence	354.95
		Sundries	787.18
		Dinners	2,094.84
		Accountancy	864.00
		Repairs & renewals	3,234.00
		Courses	14.95
		Broadband	735.71
		Deficit	-6,833.16
	<u>42,811.02</u>		<u>42,811.02</u>

**Represented by:**

**Cash at bank**

Barclays Comm Acc	14,035.12	Retained Funds b/f	21,480.97
Santander Acc	612.69		
Petty cash	0.00	Surplus/(deficit)	- 6,833.16
<b>Net assets/(liabilities)</b>	<u>14,647.81</u>	<b>Closing</b>	<u>14,647.81</u>

I hereby certify that I have examined the above financial statements for Lindale Pre School Playgroup for the year ended 31 August 2024 and found them to be in accordance with the information and explanations provided to me.

  
T R Clarke F.C.C.A.  
Clarke Jefferies  
Chartered Accountants  
Unit 9  
Moss End Business Village  
Crooklands, Milnthorpe  
Cumbria  
LA7 7NU

Date  
18 March 2025

**Lindale Pre School Playgroup**

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Date  
18 March 2025

**LINDALE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1026222

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# Accounts

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Annual General Meeting  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
6.30pm  
Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery

Agenda

Present

Ian George (Chair), Kim Law, Sarah Coutts, Jeana Sweeney, Tess Williamson, Lucy Warren, Amy Douglas, Claire Dawson

Apologies

Lydia Kirkwood (Treasurer), Karen Austin-Walsh (Secretary)

Leaders Report

We started off in September 2022 with good numbers which built up over the year.

Staff - Lucy and Claire plus Amy and Lydia as students, Amy worked Monday, Wednesday and Friday, attending college on a Tuesday. At the end of September Lydia decide it wasn't the right time for her to study so left college and nursery.

Over the year Amy completed her Level 3 Diploma in Children's Learning and Development.

Through communication with parents, either chatting at the gate, getting them to fill in their child's 'All About Me' section on Tapestry we planned and set up activities which catered for their interest and different ages. As weather warriors, we have carried on using the outside and going on Woodland walk, going to the park and walking around the village which seems to be our unique selling point as we are getting lots of positive feed-back from parents old and new.

At Christmas time we decorated our tree outside (several times), and made lots of Christmas crafts, and as always letting the children be creative.

We also have a lady from the village (Terri) come in once every half term to play her guitar for us to sing along to.

We would like to say a big thank you to J L Tree Care, who very kindly donated a lot of wood chippings for the front garden at the beginning of December.

March 2023, Amy coordinated an online raffle which raised over £400.

At the end of March, we had a very successful trip to Greenland's Farm and most of the parents came along with us.

We ended our nursery year with a great trip on the Gondola, Coniston.

## Maintenance

- PAT testing was done in July 2023
- The bathroom flat roof was repaired in August 2023 at a cost of £3,000 (church money was used to fund this).
- We have had the front gate rehung and repaired. (No invoice as of yet)

The kitchen door was repainted in August 2023.

All points raised at last AGM have been completed.

## Chairs Report

### Aims

The aim of preschool remains the same: to provide a secure setting where our local children can flourish, enjoy their introduction to learning and build a foundation of success upon which their future school life can be built. In the current environment of ongoing austerity and a deeply personal cost of living crisis for many, staff have demonstrated an ongoing vigilance, looking for the early signs of problems with the children and their families. This has resulted in supportive action and remains a cornerstone of our approach.

### Strategy

Whilst our priority remains the children in our care, we have had to take an increasingly resilient approach to the viability of the setting. Funding continues to fall behind costs and there are no signals this will change for the foreseeable future. This means we need to challenge the value of every decision we make and hold those external organisations accountable for the impact they have on us, whether intentional or otherwise.

As chair, I hold staff in equal measure when it comes to my priorities. As such, the approach to remuneration remains one of paying a fair wage within the constraints of revenue. This means living wage is our benchmark, rather than minimum wage, and zero hours contracts do not form an acceptable part of our staffing strategy.

Where we have exceptional needs, we will support these as much as possible, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to fully deliver stated requirements when the funding that should support them falls far short of the actual cost. It is my intention to challenge these settlements in the future so that we do not follow many charities that rely on local government support into a state of financial collapse.

## Staff Wellbeing

Staff morale seems to have been high throughout the year with the team working well together and splitting responsibilities around days on duty.

Claire continues to do a sterling job of managing situations in her usual calm and supportive way, which is much appreciated and relied upon by staff, parents and children alike.

Both Lucy and Amy form an important part of the children's time in the setting and often take the lead on activities with Claire playing a supporting role. This positions the setting well for the future as absences can be accommodated with little impact on the smooth running of the preschool day.

## Leadership

Claire remains integral to the operational management of preschool and communication between Chair and Manger have continued to go well. Trust is strong and both rely on the other for support in delivering the aims of the setting and dealing with specific or unexpected issues.

## Outlook

The outlook for preschool is good with the primary care points being a focus on financial viability and the ongoing attraction of children to Lindale as their first-choice nursery.

## Treasurer Report

See attached Income and Expenditure Summary

Current balance as at 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 = £17482.13

## Election of Committee

Ian to stay on as Chair

Lydia to stay on as Treasurer - Lydia did ask if we could start looking for a new treasurer, she will stay on until everything is sorted.

Karen to stay on as Secretary

Jeana to join the committee - needs to complete EY2 and DBS

Sarah to stay on the committee.

## Any Other Business

Fundraising to develop nursery.

We would like to have a lean to on the back of nursery to enable us to carry on being an outside nursery, we are waiting for quotes, this will be a major fundraiser.

Also, Claire has completed her woodwork course and would like to purchase a woodwork bench and tools, approximately £600

To follow the curiosity approach, we would like to purchase some more resources -

Busy Board

<https://amzn.eu/d/cbJXbVU> - example, we would want this on a bigger scale.

we would also like to purchase combi locks so the children have to remember the combination to unlock some, padlocks and keys to strengthen fine motor muscles. I would also like to visit Ragtag Art where we can purchase lots of loose parts play resources, approximately £500.

Thank you so much everyone for coming along, we will have another meeting in the summer term.

**Date of next AGM**

February 2025

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HMRC PAYE Refund	0.00	Insurance	1,270.46
Small Refunds	0.00	Equipment	1,662.27
		Licence	218.48
		Sundries	929.85
		Dinners	2,335.00
		Accountancy	648.00
		Repairs & renewals	96.00
		Courses	300.00
		Broadband	670.41
		Deficit	-10,551.97
	<u>40,110.34</u>		<u>40,110.34</u>

### Represented by:

#### Cash at bank

Barclays Comm Acc	20,868.28	Retained Funds b/f	32,032.94
Santander Acc	612.69		
Petty cash	0.00	Surplus/(deficit)	- 10,551.97
Net assets/(liabilities)	<u>21,480.97</u>	Closing	<u>21,480.97</u>

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Date  
27 November 2023

## Lindale Pre School Playgroup

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Date  
27 November 2023

**LINDALE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1026222

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# Accounts

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AGM

Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Present: Claire Dawson, Lucy Warren, Amy Douglas, Lydia Kirkwood, Kim Law, Karen Austin-Walsh, Ian George

2.Preschool Managers Report

September 2021 - August 2022

September 2021 started off with a good number of children on the books. Staff - Lucy, Mandy and Claire and Abby who was a student, Abby was then offer an apprenticeship in Kendal from December so moved on, also in December Mandy handed her notice in.

We put an advert out and took on Morgan from January. Morgan stayed with us from January to July 2022 only leaving due to a change in her personal circumstances.

We put an advert out for a qualified nursery assistant without any success. Lucy investigated available funded qualifications at Kendal college, and we then readvertised and took on Amy from September 2022, Amy is doing a Level 3 Diploma in Children's Learning and Development, working Monday, Wednesday and Friday and attending Kendal college on a Tuesday.

From Nov 21 - March 22 we worked with County piloting a new scheme called Move 2 Write.

A collaboration between Cumbria Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Cumbria County Council to support the writing development of children in Cumbria. There were eight sessions in total which both children and staff enjoyed, at the start the children had to draw a picture of themselves and redraw themselves at the end. It was very apparent that the course was a success as the end results where amazing.

We are still using the outside, and our woodland walk is still a big hit. We walk around the village and use the local park. All children and staff are dressed appropriately for the weather, so we don't need to come it unless it's extremely cold or wet. We follow the children's lead and listen to their voices when planning most of the activities encouraging them to learn through exploring and play.

Tapestry and Learning Journal - we are putting observations on each week for parents to see, this is a lot easier than the old system of printing out pictures and sticking them in a book.

To ensure all the children are working to their stage of the development we check the EYFS 2021 Thoroughness which shows us what observations each child has and if there are any missing.

Fire Inspection

We had a fire inspection and full risk assessment done in June, this lead to needing some improvements, radio connected alarms, new safety lighting, rewiring all lighting circuits, and replacing switch's and ceiling pendants. This has all been completed and we are now totally compliant.

- Lydia Kirkwood was thanked for her assistance and support over the past year.
- Move to Write Collaboration highlighted for its engagement with the children, whilst fitting firmly within the Nursery's ethos of hands on/physical sessions in the outside. IG asked if this approach was still ofsted policy and was assured this remained the case.
- The Nursery had a successful 'Ofsted Readiness' visit from the Council.
- Monday's staff meeting is centred on EYFS thoroughness check for each child.
- CD is commencing a reciprocal support/mentoring programme and paired with Little Rascals, Troutbeck. Provides an opportunity to idea share and give/receive support with a similar setting.
- The Nursery has now gone paperless with parent communication; embracing the Tapestry system. It was highlighted that these could be downloaded and kept by parents in a similar way that the paper books had, should a parent choose. Tapestry also gave parents a keener understanding of the child's place within the EYFS.
- The building had recently been rewired, undergone a full fire inspection and risk assessment and a weekly check/record system was in place to ensure systems were monitored and maintained.

### 3. Chairmans Report

- As the Chair IG highlighted his focus on ensuring the long term continuity of the Charity and that recent price rises were unlikely to return to previous levels.
- A Government inc of 4p/child is expected, as is an alteration in child:staff inc to 1:5 instead of 1:4. The nursery doesn't desire an overall increase in numbers, but will find the alteration useful by allowing flexibility.
- IG highlighted the importance of maintaining the cycle of knowing the upcoming yrs attendance numbers in advance
- Spend of monies was discussed: 2,000 initially, followed by 1,600 on rewiring leaving 6,500
- Building maintenance aspects were raised and 3 were highlighted; roof / painting of doors / front gate
  - o CD to organise 3 quotes for the roof
  - o LW to look at feasibility of repair/repaint of current gate vs installation of new gate
  - o Painting of doors - (apologised I missed any action!)

### 4. Treasurers Report

- Staff had moved to a 12mth salary, CD aware of requirement for preparedness of pay slips in advance to facilitate payment in a timely manner each month.
- In August the account held a balance in excess of £32,000, the Charity was in a strong position at this time.

## 5. 2023 Dates & Activities

- CD undergoing woodwork training to lead the children in project work. Equipment will be required to deliver this new aspect, expect to raise funds through various fund raising avenues.
- IG reminded all that the Nursery has an open invite to attend Coniston Steamer FOC
- **IG to contact Duncan**
- CD would like to organise a farm trip in the spring - possible Greenlands
- Development of front room with an indoor/outdoor theme has evolved with bird watching stations; looking at binoculars for the children. LK - highlighted the live Osprey CAM.
- IG - visit to meathop moss
- **AD tasked with investigating fundraising opportunities for the nursery:**
  - o K2B
  - o Local Community Fund - opens to new applications springtime
  - o Tesco
  - o Raffle - using online programmes such as galabid
  - o Direct to business- incl BAE/Siemens/Tritech/

## 6. Health & Safety

- Recently completed checks incl:
  - o Fire
  - o CO
  - o PAT
- KL highlighted an asbestos check being undertaken in the school
- LW highlighted that disease control within the Nursery setting was well managed and controlled with steps taken by staff and parents to help minimise spread.

## 7. AOB

- o Breakfast Club was going well with positive attendance.

Date of next AGM 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Lindale Pre School Playgroup**

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31/08/2022  
Income & Expenditure Summary

Income		Expenditure	
	£		£
Fees	17,908.27	Wages	33,879.44
Free entitlement	24,361.72	Er's NI	1,234.01
Grants	0.00	Emp allowance	- 1,234.01
Fundraising	23.93	Rent	2,346.49
HMRC PAYE Refund	3,574.52	Insurance	50.00
Small Refunds	11.80	Equipment	1,310.90
		Licence	233.04
		Sundries	366.41
		Dinners	1,766.40
		Accountancy	1,314.00
		Repairs & renewals	935.03
		Courses	182.45
		Broadband	430.96
		Surplus	3,053.32
	<u>45,880.24</u>		<u>45,868.44</u>

Represented by:

**Cash at bank**

Barclays Comm Acc	31,420.25	Retained Funds b/f	28,979.62
Santander Acc	612.69		
Petty cash	0.00	Surplus/(deficit)	3,053.32
<b>Net assets/(liabilities)</b>	<u>32,032.94</u>	<b>Closing</b>	<u>32,032.94</u>

I hereby certify that I have examined the above financial statements for Lindale Pre School Playgroup for the year ended 31 August 2022 and found them to be in accordance with the information and explanations provided to me.



T R Clarke F.C.C.A.  
Clarke Jefferies  
Chartered Accountants  
Unit 9  
Moss End Business Village  
Crooklands, Milnthorpe  
Cumbria  
LA7 7NU

Date  
25 October 2023

**Lindale Pre School Playgroup**

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Date  
25 October 2023

**LINDALE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1026222

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# Accounts

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# Annual General Meeting

Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## **Welcome and apologies for absence**

### **Attendance**

Ian George (Chair) Kim Law, Lydia Kirkwood (Treasurer), Lucy Warren (Deputy Manager), Morgan Allen (Nursery Assistant).

### **Apologies**

Kristal Nikolaou (secretary), Claire Dawson (Manager)

## **Leaders Report**

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022

1 September 2020 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021

After having to close in March 2020 due to COVID restrictions and lock down we were all very happy to open again in September 2020.

After completing risk assessments, giving nursery a full deep clean, carrying out all safety checks and having meetings with staff to confirm they were all happy to come back to work we made one or two changes to how we run the setting to keep staff, children and parents as safe as possible.

Following the Government Guidance which at the time said we had to limit the amount of adults in the setting, we greeted children and parents at the gate, checked everyone was fit and well and then took the children off the parents, carried out the session outside whatever the weather. Child and staff were all well wrapped up and it worked well as we didn't have any COVID cases at all over the year. Parents were happy and confident that their children were being well cared for at a very low risk of contracting COVID. The only time we were in the setting was lunch time and the room was well ventilated at all times.

What did we do?

We had lots of wonderful activities, utilising the mud kitchen lots, creating all sorts of wonderful recipes and imaginary play, socialising and working together. Every Monday we had our walk into the woods, whatever the weather encouraging the children to manage risk, explore, look at changes in the environment and build confidence. We also had some great walks in the village.

As County had told us to focus on the children's Personal, Social and Emotional development we used the story 'The Colour Monster' who had lots of different feelings and emotions.

In October Lucy and Graham added welly boots with flowers in to nursery fence, this has had lots of positive feedback from parents and passers-by.

Fundraiser – we put a photo of water trays on facebook to show parents/carers what we would like to raise money for - we had an amazing response from parents/carers making donations so we were able to order the unit in November 2020.

Although we haven't gone on any trips further afield this nursery year we have had lots of fantastic activities, growing potatoes and beans, using the park, village and woods and following the children's interests.

During the year staff have been amazing working together and ensure everyone kept safe, following all Government Guidance.

July 2021, Lucy and Claire received a wage increase in line with the living wage increase of 2.2% and all Lucy's hours went to Deputy Pay. This was put in place from September 2021.

Breakfast club is going well with a regular cohort of children each day.

We finished off our nursery year with a visit from an ice cream van 99's all round.

### **Chair's Report**

With the shutdown of Preschool, finances have been a key concern. However, the focus placed on getting the right mix of kids and days has paid dividends resulting in a strong performance and healthy balance sheet. This has enabled us to fulfil a key commitment to support the wellbeing of staff by offering a pay rise of 5%. This is above the previous rise given in September and will start in February 2022. Overall this mitigates the effects of inflation over the past two years and means staff can spend time focused on supporting the kids, rather than worrying about how to pay their bills. To ensure that this is viable over the long-term, the current approach of prioritising local kids who want full week attendance will continue. Linked to an early focus recruitment means next year becomes financially secure at the earliest possible point. In terms of numbers, 12 is still considered the optimum number, but this could be enlarged to 16 with an extra member of staff and reorganisation of how things are run. Expansion will only be considered if the numbers justify it and the solution remains financially viable.

In terms of development, the outdoor approach is working very well and will continue. Claire Dawson is going to expand the offering further by completing a carpentry course and we will be investing in equipment to follow this up during morning sessions. The intent is that Claire will conduct one-on-one sessions to ensure safety and maximise the learning opportunity for those children that show an interest and will gain most from the experience.

Overall, the staff have done a great job in welcoming back both children and parents. Preschool is seen as different and welcoming by parents and visitors alike. This is clearly down to the professionalism and positive outlook of the staff. As such, staff wellbeing remains a priority for both Manager and Chair and will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Ian George  
Chairperson

### **Treasurer's Report**

#### **September 2020 - August 2021**

Lydia Kirkwood

Starting September 2020 Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery account balance was: £21,652.17

End of August 2021: £29,842.57

Starting this School Year at Sept 2021 balance was: £29,833.80

£8000 has been donated by the Lindale Church to be used for building work and maintenance on the premises.

### **Election of Committee Members**

Dr Ian George – re-elected as Chair

Mrs Lydia Kirkwood – re-elected as Treasurer

Mrs Kristal Nikolaou has emailed to say she wishes to resign.

Currently recruiting a secretary.

Mrs Karen Austin-Walsh – elected as Secretary

## 2022 Dates and Activities

Ideas for trips out.

- Boat trip on Coniston
- Castle Head
- Fell Foot

## Finances

5% increase on pay for all employees when money is there.

Very positive financial year (£40,000)

We need to inform the church of what we spend £8,000 on, (currently forward emails of invoices.)

## New Starters

To comply with our admissions policy we will put those on the list first who are going to use Lindale CE Primary School.

## September 2022

Monday – Thursday we have 8 children and Friday 7

Discuss avenue on expanding when numbers go over 13, we can take a maximum of 16.

## New Ideas and current learning.

Claire is going to do a carpentry course which covers Health & Safety, Risk Assessments and all aspects of carpentry with children, carpentry will be done on a one to one basis to ensure safety. Child led and outdoor learning is going well, the children are very happy and accessing all the resources, woodland walks, trips to the park and walks around the village and proving to be of real benefit to the children's learning.

Move 2 Write – a session run by Children's Occupational Therapy and Local Authority Early Years.

All activities help to underpin the development of children's writing skills.

Improves readiness for writing at a developmentally appropriate level

- Improve ability to carry out practical activities in the classroom such as getting changed for PE
- Improve ability to regulate their sensory systems in order to support their participation in activities.

## Maintenance & Improvements

The shed roof is being repaired, pane of glass fitted back in.

An extended flu is being fitted on the side of nursery so all fumes don't go where the children play.

Flat roof over bathroom – need to get quotes to get this replace as soon as possible.

Lean To - Get quotes and funding to complete this on the back of nursery.

## Fundraising

Our next fundraiser will be a sponsored slide, climb, run, balance at Lindale Park to raise money for some outdoor traffic signs for the playground.

## Health & Safety

Kim to give Claire all risk assessments for the building. ✓ Feb 22

New plug covers to be purchased. ✓ Feb 22

## Links with School

Jodie to set new date for stay and play.

Encourage nursery to go to school on occasions.

## Date of next meeting

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023





**LINDALE PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUP**

England & Wales - Charity number 1026222

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# Accounts

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Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery AGM November 2020

Meeting Minutes  
23.11.2020

Present: Meeting was held remotely in accordance with COVID rules and safety considerations.

**Introduction Chair & Leaders Report.**

September 2019 started well with a good number of children on the books.

**Staffing**

Current staffing - Claire - Nursery Manager, Lucy - Deputy Manager in Claire's absence, Fiona - Nursery Assistant, Mandy Nursery Assistant.

With Fiona Massey working in nursery on a Wednesday, this has been a good link with school and has helped to improve the consistency of learning and further support the children's progress and covers an Ofsted requirement.

**Renaming**

Everyone is loving our new name - Lindale Muddy Boots Nursery and we are certainly living up to expectations.

**Finances**

Financial position is good.

We did try to move banks from Barclays to the Coop, due to the length of time and amount of paperwork, it was decided to stay with Barclays.

See attached spreadsheet for Annual Accounts for the year ended 31.08.2020

**Nursery Sessions**

We have taken the children out every Monday to the woods, whatever the weather, the suits have been a real asset. It's really helped the children manage risk and keep themselves safe, build their confidence and see changes in the environment.

We have put the woodland walks on Facebook each week and this has really helped with recruiting families.

We are still focusing on learning through play, which parents are very supportive off, and a lot of our learning is now outside each day.

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020 we closed nursery due to the COVID restrictions and the Government Guidance. We did try to open again 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, as we didn't have enough up take, we made the hard decision to stay closed until September 2020.

July 2020 after having discussions with Fliss she decided not to come back after maternity leave. Fliss really enjoyed working with us at Muddy Boots and it was a hard decision, she is absolutely loving being a Mum and we wish her all the best.

Committee Members all re-elected.

Chair - Ian George

Secretary - Kristal Nikolaou

Treasurer - Lydia Kirkwood

Committee member - Kim Law

We do need to recruit more parents onto the committee.

Next AGM Meeting was decided to take place on 22.11.2021

**Lindale Pre School Playgroup**

Annual Accounts for the year ended 31.08.2020

**Income & Expenditure Summary**

<b>Income</b>	£	<b>Expenditure</b>	£
Fees	8,166.62	Wages	32,997.42
Free entitlement	27,619.09	Er's NI	1,249.51
Grants	0.00	Emp allowance	- 1,249.51
Fundraising	71.67	Rent	2,176.03
JRS Grant	9,668.73	Insurance	475.14
		Equipment	1,024.04
		Licence	605.27
		Sundries	229.70
		Dinners	407.10
		Accountancy (3 years)	650.00
		Furlough Claim Costs	240.00
		Payroll Bureau Costs	354.00
		Repairs & renewals	2,290.42
		Courses	250.00
		Broadband	489.92
		Surplus	3,317.07
	<u>45,526.11</u>		<u>45,526.11</u>

**Represented by:**

**Cash at bank**

Barclays Comm Acc	21,652.17	Retained Funds b/f	18,947.79
Santander Acc	612.69		
Petty cash	0.00	Surplus/(deficit)	3,317.07
<b>Net assets/(liabilities)</b>	<u>22,264.86</u>	<b>Closing</b>	<u>22,264.86</u>

I hereby certify that I have examined the above financial statements for Lindale Pre School Playgroup for the year ended 31 August 2020 and found them to be in accordance with the information and explanations provided to me.



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Date  
02 August 2021