

# Helmdon Acorns Pre-School

England & Wales · Charity number 1035898

## Details

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**Other names** HELMDON PLAYGROUP, HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1994-03-31

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

## Contact

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**Address** Helmdon Acorns Pre School  
Hintons Close  
Helmdon  
Brackley  
NN13 5QP

**Phone** 01295 768327

**Email** [enquiries@helmdonacorns.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@helmdonacorns.org.uk)

**Website** [www.helmdonacorns.org.uk](http://www.helmdonacorns.org.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:** We are an Early Years Pre-school open to children aged 2-4 yrs. Based in the village of Helmdon, also serving the surrounding villages and Brackley. We are a Committee led charity and actively run fundraisers during the year to raise funds to provide educational recourses for the children in our care. We have strong ties within the local community and local Primary School.

## Classification

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

## Geography

- Northamptonshire

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-08-31	£121,387	£110,859	-	-
2024-08-31	£97,348	£91,390	-	-
2023-08-31	£96,766	£90,740	-	-
2022-08-31	£99,839	£101,631	-	-
2021-08-31	£96,523	£103,408	-	-
2020-08-31	£97,589	£95,537	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Anna Saunders		2020-01-15
Jessica Lauren Jill Baseley		2020-01-15
Karla Meaton		2023-01-01
Rachel Hurcombe		2023-01-01
Simon Allott		2022-07-01

**Helmdon Acorns Pre-School**

England & Wales - Charity number 1035898

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# Accounts

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**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**Year ended 31 August 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Parent Fees	11,040	17,933
West Northants Council Grants	94,529	75,244
Registration	210	210
Donations	2,637	1,237
Fundraising	579	1,292
Feed in tariff	5,007	-
Uniform	202	237
Snacks and cooking	1,443	1,110
Insurance claim for water leak	5,649	-
Bank interest received	91	85
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>121,387</u>	<u>97,348</u>
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent	1,687	2,812
Wages & National Insurance	79,027	70,240
Pension contributions	2,903	2,257
Staff / Graduate Training costs	240	689
Payroll costs	761	1,481
Building and Grounds Maintenance	9,669	2,092
Replacement items	676	974
Electricity & Water	1,076	1,144
Resources	2,899	1,609
Office Costs	668	768
Toys & Equipment	2,513	391
Food & Consumables	1,571	1,196
Uniform	171	347
Insurance	4,193	3,090
Miscellaneous	274	209
Telephone & Internet	1,074	767
Subscriptions	629	460
Independent Examination of Accounts	456	564
HR costs	-	300
Bad debts written off	372	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u>110,859</u>	<u>91,390</u>
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	10,528	5,958
<b>Bank Balances 1st September 2024</b>	16,030	10,072
<b>Bank Balances 31st August 2025</b>	<u>26,558</u>	<u>16,030</u>

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Statement of Assets as at 31 August 2025**

	2025 £	2024 £
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		
Deposit Account	12,745	6,131
Current Account	<u>13,813</u>	<u>9,899</u>
	<u>26,558</u>	<u>16,030</u>
<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>		
Total Funds	<u>26,558</u>	<u>16,030</u>

**Movement in Funds**

	Balance 01.09.24	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance 31.08.25
General Fund	<u>16,030</u>	121,387	(110,859)	26,558
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>16,030</u>	<u>121,387</u>	<u>(110,859)</u>	<u>26,558</u>

**Notes to the Accounts**

**Assets Retained for the Charity's own use**

The Charity occupies a purpose built building which has been funded by restricted donations. The total costs incurred at 31 August 2016 were £194,098.

**Change of Legal Form**

During the year the Pre School changed its legal form from an unincorporated charity to a charitable incorporated charity (CIO). As a result of this change, there has been no significant changes to the beneficiary class, the purposes for which funds are held and the persons who constitute the trustee body.

Although the change took place part way through the accounting year, the figures have been drawn up to include the results of the combining charities for the whole reporting period.

The combined charities are

Helmdon Acorns Pre-School	Charity number 1035898	Unincorporated
Helmdon Acorns Pre School	Charity number 1204208	CIO

The comparative figures are for the unincorporated charity.

**Approval**

I approve the Receipts and Payments Account set out on Page 2 and the above Statement of Assets, and confirm that all relevant records and information have been made available for their preparation.



Simon Allott :- Trustee  
 On Behalf of Helmdon Acorns Pre-school

Date: 21st May 2026

**Helmdon Acorns Pre-School**

England & Wales - Charity number 1035898

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **August 2023** To **August 2024**

**Charity name: Helmdon Acorns Pre-School**

**Charity registration number: 1035898**

### Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	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
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Creating an environment that is safe, nurturing and empowering for the children, enabling them to learn through play. Preparing pre-school children for their transition to primary school.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	

Other		
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## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	<p>Successfully preparing another cohort of children for their transition to primary school.</p> <p>Creating an inclusive, warm and caring environment for children to learn and play in; developing an interest in the outside through Forest School, flower and vegetable beds and general outside play.</p>

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	PPA Playgruop Constitution 1992
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>Unincorporated</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Elected for a period of 12 months at the annual general meeting. Retiring members are eligible for re-election. Co-opted members may join at any time on the invitation of the committee

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Helmdon Acorns Pre-school
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1035898
Charity's principal address	Hinton's Close, Helmdon, NN13 5QP

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Simon Allott	Chair		
2	Anna Saunders	Treasurer		
3	Jess Baseley			
4	Rachel Hurcombe			
5	Karla Meaton			
6				
7				
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15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

**Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved**

Director name		

**Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity**

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

**Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others**

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

**Additional information (optional)**

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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**Exemptions from disclosure**

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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**Other optional information**

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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	S. J. Allott	
Full name(s)	Simon Allott	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	10/6/25	

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Accounts for the Year ended 31st August 2024**

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**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Helmdon Acorns Pre-School  
Charity Number 1035898**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the pre-school for the year ending 31st August 2024, which are set out on pages 2-3.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Pre-School 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 Pre-School'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect :

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Pre-School as required by section 130 of the Act.
2. 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 this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed**



**Name:** Denise Balch

**Qualification:** A.C.A.

**Address:** 15 Towcester Rd  
Old Stratford  
Milton Keynes MK19 6AN

**Date:** 21st May 2025

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**Year ended 31 August 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Parent Fees	17,933	24,728
West Northants Council Grants	75,244	67,173
Registration	210	360
Donations	1,237	555
Fundraising	1,292	2,330
Feed in tariff	-	341
Uniform	237	343
Snacks and cooking	1,110	720
EYPP	-	197
Bank interest received	85	19
	<u>97,348</u>	<u>96,766</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>97,348</b>	<b>96,766</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent	2,812	2,250
Wages & National Insurance	70,240	65,063
Pension contributions	2,257	1,866
Staff / Graduate Training costs	689	245
Payroll costs	1,481	870
Building and Grounds Maintenance	2,092	4,111
Replacement items (Heating System 2023 )	974	4,671
Electricity & Water	1,144	2,692
Resources	1,609	1,468
Office Costs	768	713
Toys & Equipment	391	460
Food & Consumables	1,196	1,167
Uniform	347	305
Insurance	3,090	2,848
Miscellaneous	209	221
Telephone & Internet	767	868
Subscriptions	460	332
Independent Examination of Accounts	564	240
HR costs	300	342
Bad debts written off	-	8
	<u>91,390</u>	<u>90,740</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>91,390</b>	<b>90,740</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>5,958</b>	<b>6,026</b>
<b>Bank Balances 1st September 2023</b>	<b>10,072</b>	<b>4,046</b>
	<u>16,030</u>	<u>10,072</u>
<b>Bank Balances 31st August 2024</b>	<b>16,030</b>	<b>10,072</b>

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Statement of Assets as at 31 August 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		
Deposit Account	6,131	9,254
Current Account	9,899	818
	<u>16,030</u>	<u>10,072</u>
<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>		
Total Funds	<u>16,030</u>	<u>10,072</u>

**Movement in Funds**

	Balance 01.09.23	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance 31.08.24
<b>General Fund</b>	10,072	97,348	(91,390)	16,030
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>10,072</u>	<u>97,348</u>	<u>(91,390)</u>	<u>16,030</u>

**Notes to the Accounts**

**Assets Retained for the Charity's own use**

The Charity occupies a new purpose built building which has been funded by restricted donations. The total costs incurred at 31 August 2016 were £194,098.

**Approval**

I approve the Receipts and Payments Account set out on Page 2 and the above Statement of Assets, and confirm that all relevant records and information have been made available for their preparation.

Anna Saunders : Treasurer  
 On Behalf of Helmdon Acorns Pre-school

*ACSaunders*

Date: 21/05/2025

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Accounts for the Year ended 31st August 2024**

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Helmdon Acorns Pre-School  
Charity Number 1035898**

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**Signed**



**Name:** Denise Balch

**Qualification:** A.C.A.

**Address:** 15 Towcester Rd  
Old Stratford  
Milton Keynes MK19 6AN

**Date:** 21st May 2025

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Receipts and Payments Account**  
**Year ended 31 August 2024**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Parent Fees	17,933	24,728
West Northants Council Grants	75,244	67,173
Registration	210	360
Donations	1,237	555
Fundraising	1,292	2,330
Feed in tariff	-	341
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Snacks and cooking	1,110	720
EYPP	-	197
Bank interest received	85	19
	<u>97,348</u>	<u>96,766</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>97,348</b>	<b>96,766</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent	2,812	2,250
Wages & National Insurance	70,240	65,063
Pension contributions	2,257	1,866
Staff / Graduate Training costs	689	245
Payroll costs	1,481	870
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Electricity & Water	1,144	2,692
Resources	1,609	1,468
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Uniform	347	305
Insurance	3,090	2,848
Miscellaneous	209	221
Telephone & Internet	767	868
Subscriptions	460	332
Independent Examination of Accounts	564	240
HR costs	300	342
Bad debts written off	-	8
	<u>91,390</u>	<u>90,740</u>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>91,390</b>	<b>90,740</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>5,958</b>	<b>6,026</b>
<b>Bank Balances 1st September 2023</b>	<b>10,072</b>	<b>4,046</b>
	<u>16,030</u>	<u>10,072</u>
<b>Bank Balances 31st August 2024</b>	<b>16,030</b>	<b>10,072</b>

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Statement of Assets as at 31 August 2024**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		
Deposit Account	6,131	9,254
Current Account	9,899	818
	<u>16,030</u>	<u>10,072</u>
<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>		
Total Funds	<u>16,030</u>	<u>10,072</u>

**Movement in Funds**

	Balance 01.09.23	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance 31.08.24
<b>General Fund</b>	10,072	97,348	(91,390)	16,030
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>10,072</u>	<u>97,348</u>	<u>(91,390)</u>	<u>16,030</u>

**Notes to the Accounts**

**Assets Retained for the Charity's own use**

The Charity occupies a new purpose built building which has been funded by restricted donations. The total costs incurred at 31 August 2016 were £194,098.

**Approval**

I approve the Receipts and Payments Account set out on Page 2 and the above Statement of Assets, and confirm that all relevant records and information have been made available for their preparation.

Anna Saunders : Treasurer  
 On Behalf of Helmdon Acorns Pre-school

*ACSaunders*

Date: 21/05/2025

**Helmdon Acorns Pre-School**

England & Wales - Charity number 1035898

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **August 2022** To **August 2023**

**Charity name: Helmdon Acorns Pre-School**

**Charity registration number: 1035898**

### Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	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
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Creating an environment that is safe, nurturing and empowering for the children, enabling them to learn through play. Preparing pre-school children for their transition to primary school.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

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## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Successfully preparing another cohort of children for their transition to primary school. Creating an inclusive, warm and caring environment for children to learn and play in; developing an interest in the outside through Forest School, flower and vegetable beds and general outside play.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Total finds received is down £3.1 yr on yr however payments are also down by £10.9k therefore bank balances are stronger.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves held in provision for emergency maintenance and staff costs.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£9,254.00
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	N/A
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Financially the charity is in a stronger position vs 2022.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	PPA Playgroup Constitution 1992
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>Unincorporated</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Elected for a period of 12 months at the annual general meeting. Retiring members are eligible for re-election. Co-opted members may join at any time on the invitation of the committee

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Helmdon Acorns Pre-school
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1035898
Charity's principal address	Hinton's Close, Helmdon, NN13 5QP



## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		<i>ACSaunders</i>
Full name(s)		Anna Saunders
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)		Treasurer
Date	16/05/2024	

## Finance Report August 2023

Total income for the year was £96.7k which is -£3.1k vs 2022. The fees have the largest decrease of £15.4k year on year. To help with the drop in numbers for this year the Chair worked hard with West Northants Council to secure a grant of £15k which has greatly helped with the financial security of the charity.

Fundraising and donations are down year on year, this reflects the time that the current committee is able to commit to the setting and is in discussions to bring additional members on board specifically focussed on fundraising in 2024 and onwards.

The building has need extensive Maintenance and this is reflected in the costs, these have increased by £1.8k vs last year. It was also discovered that the building's insurance wasn't appropriate so has been increased and therefore the costs have been raised by £1.5k.

Overall the bank balances are in a better position vs 2022. In August 2023 that was £10k in the bank vs £4k in 2022. In the savings account there was £9.2k vs £2.8k.

# HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

Accounts for the Year ended 31st August 2023

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**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
Helmdon Acorns Pre-School  
Charity Number 1035898**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the pre-school for the year ending 31st August 2023, which are set out on pages 2-3.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Pre-School 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 Pre-School'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect :

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Pre-School as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.
3. 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.

**Signed**



**Name:** Denise Balch

**Qualification:** A.C.A.

**Address:** 15 Towcester Rd  
Old Stratford  
Milton Keynes MK19 6AN

**Date:** 31st May 2024

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL****Receipts and Payments Account****Year ended 31 August 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Funds</b>	<b>Funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	76,901	92,322
West Northants Council Grant	15,000	-
Registration	360	150
Donations	555	1,530
Fundraising	2,330	3,203
Feed in tariff	341	1,927
Uniform	343	426
Snacks and cooking	720	280
EYPP	197	-
Bank interest received	19	1
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u><u>96,766</u></u>	<u><u>99,839</u></u>
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent	2,250	2,068
Wages & National Insurance	65,063	77,776
Pension contributions	1,866	2,179
Staff / Graduate Training costs	245	575
Payroll costs	870	720
Building and Grounds Maintenance	4,111	2,262
Replacement Heating System	4,671	-
Electricity & Water	2,692	3,234
Resources	1,468	2,061
Fundraising Costs	50	100
Office Costs	713	688
Toys & Equipment	460	1,207
Food & Consumables	1,167	1,202
Uniform	305	914
Insurance	2,848	1,398
Miscellaneous	171	198
Telephone & Internet	868	952
Subscriptions	332	188
Independent Examination of Accounts	240	-
HR & Recruitment costs	342	391
Bad debts written off	8	3,518
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u><u>90,740</u></u>	<u><u>101,631</u></u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	6,026	-1,792
<b>Bank Balances 1st September 2022</b>	4,046	5,838
<b>Bank Balances 31st August 2023</b>	<u><u>10,072</u></u>	<u><u>4,046</u></u>

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Statement of Assets as at 31 August 2023**

	2023	2022
	£	£
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		
Deposit Account	9,254	2,834
Current Account	818	1,212
	<u>10,072</u>	<u>4,046</u>
<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>		
Total Funds	<u>10,072</u>	<u>4,046</u>

**Movement in Funds**

	Balance 01.09.22	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance 31.08.23
General Fund	4,046	96,766	(90,740)	10,072
Total Funds	<u>4,046</u>	<u>96,766</u>	<u>(90,740)</u>	<u>10,072</u>

**Notes to the Accounts**

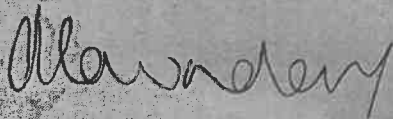
**Assets Retained for the Charity's own use**

The Charity occupies a new purpose built building which has been funded by restricted donations. The total costs incurred at 31 August 2016 were £194,098.

**Approval**

I approve the Receipts and Payments Account set out on Page 2 and the above Statement of Assets, and confirm that all relevant records and information have been made available for their preparation.

Anna Saunders : Treasurer  
 On Behalf of Helmdon Acorns Pre-school



Date: 2024

01/06/2024

**Helmdon Acorns Pre-School**

England & Wales - Charity number 1035898

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# Accounts

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## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **August 2021** To **August 2022**

**Charity name: Helmdon Acorns Pre-school**

**Charity registration number:** 1035898

### Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	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
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Creating an environment that is safe, nurturing and empowering for the children, enabling them to learn through play. Preparing pre-school children for their transition to primary school.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

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## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Successfully preparing another cohort of children for their transition to primary school. Creating an inclusive, warm and caring environment for children to learn and play in; developing an interest in the outside through Forest School, flower and vegetable beds and general outside play.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	There is a small deficit of £1,793 but this would have been a surplus had it not been for the bad debts.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves are held for emergencies i.e. repairs to the building and any redundancies
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£2,834
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	There is bad debt in 2022 which totals £3,518. This is mostly down to one family that left without paying their fees, the setting looked into a small claims court, but it was discovered that the original contract hadn't been signed. Processes are now in place to ensure that doesn't happen again.
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Staff costs vs the income received from the Government for funding continues to be a struggle when running the charity.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	PPA Playgroup Constitution 1992
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	<b>unincorporated</b>
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Elected for a period of 12 months at the annual general meeting. Retiring members are eligible for re-election. Co-opted members may join at any time on the invitation of the committee.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

### Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Helmdon Acorns Pre-school
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1035898
Charity's principal address	Hinton's Close, Helmdon, NN13 5QP



## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
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#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

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## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>ACSaunders</i>	
Full name(s)	Anna Saunders	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Treasurer	
Date	30/06/2023	

## HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

### Statement of Assets as at 31 August 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		
Deposit Account	2,834	5,333
Current Account	1,212	505
	<u>4,046</u>	<u>5,838</u>
<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>		
Total Funds	<u>4,046</u>	<u>5,838</u>

### **Movement in Funds**

	Balance 01.09.21	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Balance 31.08.22
General Fund	5,838	99,839	(101,631)	4,046
Total Funds	<u>5,838</u>	<u>99,839</u>	<u>(101,631)</u>	<u>4,046</u>

### **Notes to the Accounts**

#### **Assets Retained for the Charity's own use**

The Charity occupies a new purpose built building which has been funded by restricted donations. The total costs incurred at 31 August 2016 were £194,098.

#### **Approval**

I approve the Receipts and Payments Account set out on Page 2 and the above Statement of Assets, and confirm that all relevant records and information have been made available for their preparation.

*ACSaunders*

Anna Saunders : Treasurer  
On Behalf of Helmdon Acorns Pre-school

Date: 30/06/2023

## HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

### Receipts and Payments Account Year ended 31 August 2022

	<b>2022 Total Funds £</b>	<b>2021 Total Funds £</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	92,322	81,369
Registration	150	90
Donations	1,530	1,479
Fundraising	3,203	3,483
Feed in tariff	1,927	587
Uniform	426	412
Snacks and cooking	280	596
EYPP	-	13
Bank interest received	-	-
Coronavirus job retention scheme grants	-	8,494
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u><u>99,838</u></u>	<u><u>96,523</u></u>
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent	2,068	2,812
Wages & National Insurance	77,776	79,907
Employer pension contributions	2,179	2,367
Staff / Graduate Training costs	575	857
Payroll costs	720	763
Building and Grounds Maintenance	2,262	5,569
Electricity & Water	3,234	1,263
Resources	2,061	2,385
Fundraising Costs	100	-
Office Supplies	688	1,105
Toys & Equipment	1,207	675
Food & Consumables	1,202	1,052
Uniform	914	723
Insurance	1,398	1,382
Miscellaneous	198	875
Telephone & Internet	952	894
Subscriptions	188	290
Independent Examination of Accounts	-	222
HR & Recruitment costs	391	267
Bad debts written off	3,518	-
<b>Total Payments</b>	<u><u>101,631</u></u>	<u><u>103,408</u></u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	-1,793	-6,885
<b>Bank Balances 1st September 2021</b>	5,838	12,723
<b>Bank Balances 31st August 2022</b>	<u><u>4,045</u></u>	<u><u>5,838</u></u>

**Helmdon Acorns Pre-School**

England & Wales - Charity number 1035898

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# Accounts

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# Trustees' annual report for the period



CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Period start date

Period end date

Charity name

Helmdon Acorns pre-school

Charity No  
(if any)

1 0 3 5 8 9 8

## Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	Enhance the development & education of children under statutory school age by encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups and
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	& other appropriate facilities. Early years education, learning through play. Preparing children for pre-school transition. Providing opportunities for all children, regardless of race, culture, religion or means.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

## Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	
Other		

## Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.	Para 1.20	Another year of promoting children's wellbeing and development in a safe and secure environment. Supporting the local community in early years learning through the provision of excellent facilities and staff trained to the highest level. Successful transition of all pre-schoolers to their respective educational establishments.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

## Financial Review

	SORP reference	
Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Covid-19 has impacted the finances this year due to closures, zero private income at times and minimal foreign support
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	Reserves are held as previously advised in case of redundancies and/or repairs to setting might be needed.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£4,833.75 (07.07.22)
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	NIA
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	NIA
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	Children numbers in Sep 2022 are currently down vs same time last year.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	
Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted	Para 1.46	
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	
Other		

## Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:	SORP reference	
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Unincorporated association
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees must be proposed and seconded by existing trustees and then voted in by a majority of the trustees at a relevant meeting.

### Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	
Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		

## Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Helmdon Azorns Pre-school
Other name the charity uses	N/A.
Registered charity number	1035898
Charity's principal address	Hintons Close, Helmdon, Northamptonshire. NN13 5QP.

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Anna Saunders		2021 / 22	
2	Jessica Baseley		"	
3	Karla Meaton		"	
4	Thomas Pegg		"	
5				
6				
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20				

## Reference and Administrative details (cont)

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	N/A
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	N/A
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	N/A.

### Additional information (optional)

#### Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

#### Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Kim Sadler and Susanna Morgan - Setting Managers.

#### Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

N/A.

#### Other optional information

N/A.

## Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Date

**Helmdon Acorns Pre-School**

England & Wales - Charity number 1035898

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# Accounts

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**Helmdon Acorns Pre-school  
Annual General Meeting  
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on  
Tuesday 2nd March 2021 @19.45**

Present: Kat Carter (Chair), Mike Ludwig (Treasurer), Siobhan Smart, Anna Saunders, Jess Baseley, Tom Pegg, Pippa Springer

Staff: Sammie Vale (Setting Manager), Sue Morgan (Setting Supervisor), Kim Sadler (Setting Supervisor), Emma Pegg, Lorraine Aust

Apologies: Gina Rayner, Tracey Leach

**To agree Minutes of the January 2020 Meeting**

It was resolved to agree to the Minutes with no amendments.

**Chairs report March 2021**

**For year January 2020 to March 2021**

Under the conditions we have found ourselves having to come to terms with so many changes this year, I think we've had an amazing year here at Acorns. I am so very proud of the whole team, all of whom have shown immense dedication and perseverance during the covid-19 Pandemic which hit us a year ago. We have been dealt some real curve balls through the whole of this year and each time they've flown in Sammie and the team have confronted them with such a calm and unwavering resilience that we have managed to keep the Pre-school in the game even when the odds seemed to be against us.

Thank you to each and everyone of you who have been involved with risk management, decision making, supporting your colleagues, parents and most importantly the children, our children that you have kept so very safe during this last year.

We started 2020 with so many plans for fundraising for the setting and I've been bowled over by the way the committee have been so ingenious with alternative (socially distanced) fundraisers that have taken place over this year. We have had, Sammie's Storytime, Granny's (rather messy) Challenge and birthday fund, Mike's water balloon attack, Jess and Family's massive Christmas Hamper as well as our Halloween and Christmas Trails around the village.....all of which has raised some much needed funds for resources for the setting as well as being put towards some urgent maintenance jobs! My heartfelt thanks to all who have been involved (which I know is all of us!!) and my thanks as well to the people within our community and beyond who have supported our efforts even though times have been hard financially for so many. With the help of funds raised and the efforts of the team and volunteers we were able to put in a much needed washing machine and cupboards to make better use of the space in the disabled toilet. I know that there were also a lot of new, more natural resources put into the room for the children as well, which Sammie may well cover more about in her report later. Although there are still lots of things we want to do within the setting, what Sammie and the team have already put in place has made a huge difference to the children's environment.

Having had to close the setting due to the pandemic at the end of March 2020, we took the decision to Furlough 6 of the team from the beginning of May thus leaving our Management team still 'employed' enabling them to continue to work, keep in touch with parents and children and be on hand to make any decisions with the committee along the way. None of us really knew what was going on or how long the situation would last but during this time the management team kept a very close ear to the ground and worked to update risk assessments, policies and procedures and training. Towards the end of May we were able to open up again with a small cohort of children which consisted of key/essential workers and vulnerable children who attended the setting up until the Summer break.

During the summer break it was decided to update the teams contracts of Employment and we enlisted the help of the local HR Consultant to ensure that the changes were carried out correctly and in-line with current legislation. All the team were involved with each step of making these changes and there were some quite serious issues raised with regards to their current contracts that were in place, but I'm pleased to say that with the invaluable help from the team and committee we were able to rectify these issues and ensure that everything was correct and up to date moving forward.

We were so very pleased to be able to welcome all children back to the setting after the summer break and everyone seemed to settle back into the routine really well. New drop-off and pick-up procedures were put in place to ensure that all on-site were kept as safe and as distanced as possible and this system successfully carried on throughout the rest of the year. Sadly, during December the R number spiked again and as a country we were put into our 3rd lockdown, although the Government suggested that Early Years settings needed to remain open for all children. The decision was made after much careful thought and risk assessment that we would only open for key-worker and vulnerable children and the Preschoolers due to start in Reception Sept 2021. All parents were consulted and kept informed at all times and I'd really like to now thank all of our parents and carers for their understanding and support during the whole of this last year. All of the decisions that have been made during this time have always had the safety of our children and their families as a priority as well as the safety and wellbeing of the whole Acorns team and their families too. As of yesterday (1st March) we have now been able to open up to more of our 2 year olds on a staggered basis with the hope that we'll be back to capacity for the Spring.

During this year we have had some changes to the team. We temporarily lost Rebecca Fletcher to New Zealand for 6 months in October but hoping that she'll be back with the Team towards the end of spring. We also lost [Alex Hart](#) at the beginning of the autumn term but managed to secure a new cleaner in his place quite

quickly, we wish him well with his future at college and thank him for his time working with us. We have, however, gained a new member on the committee, Tom Pegg who was co-opted on during November and we also had a new arrival of baby Phoebe to Anna, Lee and Henry at the beginning of September.

I do also need to say about the very sad news that we received in October about Tracey's Husband Chris. We are all aware of what the family is currently going through and we all have them in our thoughts and prayers for what I am sure will be a very tough time for them ahead. They have an amazing support network around them and we will of course be here to help and support them as much as they need.

I am hopeful that this new year will bring some respite for all from the Pandemic and enable us all to move forward and start to live a little more socially. I know that Sammie and the Team have some brilliant ideas for the outside area and I really hope that we can get some funds in this year to enable us to put the Teams vision into action!

I have said before but this will be my very last year (if I'm nominated again!) as Chair and on the Committee. Saide is moving up to Reception in September and having been involved with the Committee for 6 years it's time for some fresh enthusiasm from some of our newer parents with children still at or due to start at Acorns in the future. I will be looking to have someone volunteer to become Vice-Chair so that I can have this last year to work with and hand over to someone else when the time comes.

### **Financial Report - Mike Ludwig (Treasurer)**

#### **Overview of our audited management accounts**

Cash balance at the beginning of the period = **£10,671.00**

- Deposit (Bus) Account = £4,011.00
- Current Account = £6,660.00

Income received during the period = **£97,589**

- Fees = £82,895 (*£19,471 down on than previous period*)
- C-19 Job Retention = £6,019
- Local Authority Grant = £2,500
- Fundraising = £4,645

Expenses paid during the period = **£95,537.00**

- Wages = £77,716 (*£9,529.00 less than previous period*)
- Other expenses align

Cash balance at the end of the period = **£12,723.00**

- Deposit (Bus) Account = £4,013.00
- Current Account = £8,710.00

### **Observation: Impact of Covid-19 and current situation**

- Significant impact on the reduced numbers of children and private fees on the setting - **£19.5k**
- While the accounts show a **surplus of £2k**, it's clear to see that without our fundraising efforts, the Job Retention Scheme and Local Authority Grant would not have been enough to cover our costs.

### **General Financial Update**

- We are still awaiting information about the funding rate for next year (from April) which makes it difficult to plan any increases in fees/stage wages in line with the planned increase again to the National Living Wage.
- We have added the cost of outsourcing payroll and are using a new hosted accounts package called Free Agent. Both services have been invaluable and certainly worth it to ensure that pay and finances are in order and correct.
- All staff had a pay rise in November 2020 in line with an increase in National Living Wage. This was delayed from April 2020 due to the pandemic.
- Balance as of 2nd March 2021 = Current (£5k) + Bus (£4.5k) **Total: £9.5k**

- While not strictly something for this report, it's important to know that income from the first term payments normally act as a bubble in our real world accounts. - we have had a drop in new places this term. This, plus a reduced payment from the Local Authority, means we are still in a precarious position.

### **Manager's Report - Sammie Vale (Setting Manager)**

#### **Manager's Report for Annual General Meeting 2021**

As I sit down to write the Manager's Report for this year's AGM I find myself reflecting on the rollercoaster that we have travelled over the past year with so many mixed emotions. I think that I can speak on behalf of everyone when I say that Covid-19 has brought challenges that have not been previously encountered, both professionally and personally. Navigating the Acorns ship has been exhausting, emotional and concerning at every juncture and yet, as I write, the overriding feeling is one of immense pride. At a time when the world was told to stay apart, the Acorns community has pulled together in a way that has been truly remarkable and I genuinely believe that it is for that reason that we have been able to weather the storm and keep our doors open. For that, I cannot thank everyone enough for the role that they have played in making this possible. Covid has, without doubt, presented us with the biggest challenge this year. Financially we have struggled to varying degrees at different points and professionally it has been hard to create an nurturing and stimulating environment that both fulfils our duty to the children and is within current government guidelines. But, against the odds, we've done it!

On Wednesday 18th March 2020 it was announced that all Early Years settings would be closed to all children other than those that were the children of Key Worker's or considered vulnerable. As we only had one child that fit this category we made arrangements to support them with alternative childcare and therefore close to all children from the end of the day on Friday 20th March. We were fortunate that the government continued to give our full entitlement of Early Years funding during this time however, with no private income coming in, we were unable to continue meeting our wages costs and other outgoings. Therefore, the decision was made to furlough Gina, Emma, Tracey, Lorraine, Becca and Alex leaving only myself, Susanna and Kim as working members of the team. During this time, we continued to support children and families by continuing to keep in touch with them at home and offering suggestions for activities that could be completed in lockdown.

On the 1st June 2020 we were delighted to reopen our doors for 3 days of the week to the majority of our preschool children so that we could offer them some support before their transition to primary school, and one child who qualified for key worker status. Whilst the transition was very different to previous years, we were able to facilitate an outdoor visit with Mrs Last from Helmdon Primary School so that the children had the opportunity to meet her before transitioning. We

were also able to successfully complete transition documents for all but one child in conjunction with parents. We were also really pleased to be able to offer these children a small celebration at the end of their time at Acorns with an afternoon tea party. Whilst we were not able to invite parents in for this it was enjoyed very much by the children and were pleased to be able to give them a small send off.

In September we took the decision to stagger the return of the children over the first half term so that we could adequately settle each of them after a long period of absence from Acorns. We started by bringing back our existing cohort of preschool children before adding new starters that were preschoolers and then finally the rest of the children who were not preschoolers. This was successful in that the children were able to adjust to the new routines and staff had the time to ensure that their wellbeing needs were being met before bringing in more children. During this time, we found that the lack of resources available due to government guidance to be a significant challenge. However, thanks to the largely fine weather, we were able to make the most of being outside in the garden. During this time, we were able to bring back Gina, Emma and, briefly, Tracey from Furlough. Lorraine was sadly unable to rejoin us at this time due to a restriction on working in more than one setting in the government guidance however, she was able to pick up some administration hours from home and became flexibly furloughed for this reason. Becca took a career break from the end of September as she and her family embarked on an exciting 6 month adventure living in New Zealand. She plans to rejoin us as bank staff upon her return in May of this year.

Very sadly, just a week after rejoining us in November, Tracey's husband Chris was diagnosed with inoperable cancer at the age of just 42. His Macmillan Nurse advised that the close contact of our work presented a significant risk to Chris and therefore recommended that Tracey should be furloughed so that she could shield to protect Chris. Unless the situation changes, this remains in place until the Easter break when we will review the situation again. I have remained in contact with Tracey and continue to offer our best wishes and support at this very difficult time for their family.

In January of this year we faced another hurdle as the Prime Minister announced that schools would close to all but key workers and vulnerable children but Early Years settings should remain open to all. During discussions with the team, we all expressed concerns about the risk of transmission within the setting with over 40 families a week mixing. With no possibility of separating the children into different groups we made the difficult decision to reduce our numbers once again and offer a place only to children in their preschool year and key worker children only. This was effective in making Acorns safer in the short term whilst the case rate and virus transmission was very high throughout the UK. I am delighted to say that, from next week, we will once again be back up to full capacity.

We have continued to remain committed to our Continued Professional Development and have made the most of any training opportunities - even though these have been largely done remotely! In the last year I have completed my Designated Safeguarding Lead, Health and Safety, Safer Recruitment and Effective Supervision and Appraisal training amongst others. Kim's refresher training for the Deputy DSL role has expired but the training course was delayed due to Covid however it is

now due to be held remotely next week. All staff are up to date with safeguarding training, food hygiene and Paediatric First Aid, although we have 2 that are due to expire when the extension runs out this month.

In March of last year, just before lockdown 1.0, Kim and I attended an excellent training session from EY Consultant Alistair Bryce-Clegg from ABC Does in which he talked about some fantastic ways to organise our curriculum to ensure that we are embodying the Characteristic of Effective Learning which underpin all EY practise. We both found the course to be very inspiring and came back full of enthusiasm to begin implementing changes. Unfortunately, this has been slow thanks to the pandemic but we are finally in a position to start rolling the training down to the rest of the team and we are hoping to begin working on our new curriculum from next month.

Last month, I consulted with staff, parents, the children and current tracking and assessment data to produce a Development Plan for the setting that outlines 4 key areas for development. They are: Quality of the Curriculum, Quality of the Environment, Personal Development and Leadership and Management. Using this, we now have clear goals and targets that we are looking to achieve across the next 6-18 months. This will be reviewed in September and again in January next year. We have big plans for changes to both the environment and the curriculum that will continue to build on Acorns as an outstanding Early Years Setting with the unique child at it's centre.

Despite all of the challenges and hurdles we have faced this year, Acorns continues to move forward in every way possible. We are very fortunate to have an incredible team who face each day with enthusiasm and adapt and embrace changes. I would like to once again extend my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped to navigate this challenging year and offer their support. As someone who was very new to the role when the pandemic hit, it has certainly been a learning curve! But throughout it all I have been heartened by the wonderful Acorns Community that I feel exceptionally proud to be a part of. Thank you.

### **Election of Trustees**

As I'm sure most of you are aware, Acorns is managed by a parent led voluntary committee of trustees - By joining the committee it enables you to take an active role in decision making within the setting to the benefit of your children's time with us. Acorns is run and managed day to day by Sammie & her team, as a management committee we need to now elect a chairperson, secretary, treasurer and a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 9 committee members to vote on any major changes or decisions involving Acorns.

Committee roles: Chair, Treasurer, Secretary & Committee members. Total allowed is 12 and in line with our current constitution no fewer than 60% of elected trustees must be current parents of children attending the setting. All elected committee agree to adhere to our current constitution.

I understand that Mike Ludwig will not be standing for re-election this evening so I would just like to take a moment to thank him for his incredible support, knowledge and his time spent with us as Committee member and then as Treasurer. This last year has been especially challenging and with his help and expertise

we have implemented some major changes to the infrastructure of the setting that I know will make a huge difference going forward into this next year. Mike, thank you...it really has been a pleasure to work with you.

### **Election of New Committee**

All current committee members stood down.

Re-election of new committee members, as follows:

- Chair Person – Kat Carter proposed by Pippa Springer, seconded by Anna Saunders
- Treasurer – Anna Saunders, proposed by Kat Carter seconded by Siobhan Smart
- Secretary – Siobhan Smart, proposed by Kat Carter seconded by Anna Saunders
- Fundraising Chair/Committee – Pippa Springer proposed by Jess Baseley seconded by Siobhan Smart
- Committee – Tom Pegg, proposed by Kat Carter seconded by Anna Saunders
- Committee – Jess Baseley proposed by Anna Saunders seconded by Siobhan Smart

**The meeting closed at 20.45**

**Next Proposed date for AGM – January 2022**

**Minutes signed off by Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

Accounts for the Year ended 31st August 2020

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**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL****Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31 August 2020**

	<b>2020 Total Funds £</b>	<b>2019 Total Funds £</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		
Fees	82,895	102,366
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	6,019	-
Local Authority Grant	2,500	-
Registration	210	246
Donations	650	460
Fundraising	4,645	3,679
Feed in tariff	170	302
Uniform	196	75
Staff Training Awards	-	52
Trips & visits	-	271
EYPP	302	76
Bank interest received	2	2
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b><u>97,589</u></b>	<b><u>107,529</u></b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Rent	2,250	1,688
Wages & National Insurance	77,716	87,245
Employee pension contributions	1,957	1,949
Staff / Graduate Training costs	777	533
Subscriptions	604	160
Fundraising Costs	547	928
Office Supplies	1,241	1,025
Toys & Equipment	1,725	1,082
Food & Consumables	1,922	3,529
Uniform	300	194
Electricity & Water	1,028	1,108
Insurance	1,382	1,371
Trips/ Visiting Music	-	819
Telephone	865	830
Building and Grounds Maintenance	3,192	5,528
Travel	31	2
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b><u>95,537</u></b>	<b><u>107,991</u></b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the Year</b>	<b>2,052</b>	<b>( 462)</b>
<b>Bank Balances 1st September 2019</b>	<b>10,671</b>	<b>11,133</b>
<b>Bank Balances 31st August 2020</b>	<b><u>12,723</u></b>	<b><u>10,671</u></b>

**Approval**

I approve the Receipts and Payments Account set out above and the Statement of Assets and notes on page 3 and confirm that all relevant records and information have been made available for their preparation.

M Ludwig : Treasurer  
On Behalf of Helmdon Acorns Pre-school

Date:

2020

**HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL**  
**Statement of Assets as at 31 August 2020**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>		
Deposit Account	4,013	4,011
Current Account	8,710	6,660
	<u>12,723</u>	<u>10,671</u>
<b><u>Represented by:</u></b>		
Total Funds	<u>12,723</u>	<u>10,671</u>

**Movement in Funds**

	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Incoming</b>	<b>Outgoing</b>	<b>Balance</b>
	<b>01.09.19</b>	<b>resources</b>	<b>resources</b>	<b>31.08.20</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	10,671	97,589	95,537	12,723
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>10,671</u>	<u>97,589</u>	<u>95,537</u>	<u>12,723</u>

**Notes to the Accounts**

**Assets Retained for the Charity's own use**

The Charity occupies a new purpose built building which has been funded by restricted donations. The total costs incurred at 31 August 2016 were £194,098.

## Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Helmdon Acorns Pre-School

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the pre-school for the year ending 31st August 2020, which are set out on pages 2-3.

### Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Pre-School 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 Pre-School'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 giving me cause to believe that in any material respect :

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Pre-School as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.

**Signed**



**Name:** Denise Balch  
**Qualification:** A.C.A.  
**Address:** 15 Towcester Rd  
Old Stratford  
Milton Keynes MK19 6AN  
**Date:** 19th April 2021

# HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL

Accounts for the Year ended 31st August 2020

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HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL  
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	2020 £	2019 £
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Regulated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants  
in England and Wales



Chartered Accountants  
and Business Advisers



FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2020

ACCOUNTS

HELMDON ACORNS PRE-SCHOOL