

Welcome

Good evening and welcome.

On behalf of the staff and committee we would like to thank you all for taking the time to attend our Annual General Meeting tonight. It is our pleasure to present to you the Pre-school Annual Report for 2024 and to inform you it has been another very successful year for Fazeley Pre-school.

Admissions

In July, 22 children left us to join Millfield and at the start of the new school year in September we welcomed 18 new children, taking this year's cohort to 22.

This year's cohort is considerably smaller than previous years as most of our new attendees wanted the full 30 hours entitlement. This in turn pushed out all our 2-year-old places, which will mean for the first time in our history we will have no children staying with us next year.

Numbers are looking reasonable for this coming September but as it is a low birth rate year we still have places available and are still taking enquires for places.

As a well-established setting who have served the community for well over 40 years, we do have a strong reputation within the area and a lot of our enquires for places are not only from local residents but are also from outside our area. In fact, a lot of enquiries for places come from word-of-mouth recommendations which is tremendously flattering.

Staff

We are very lucky at our Pre-school to have such dedicated, committed, and experienced staff who go well beyond their remit, working together as a team for the best interests of the children in their care. They work many unpaid hours, making Pre-school a fun and stimulating place for the children to play and learn every day. We are immensely proud of our brilliant, supportive team!

We are sure that you will agree that all the staff work so hard to make sure that your child's time at Fazeley Pre-school is special.

We also hope that you and your child/children will look back upon their time with us with fond memories of great warmth, care, and support. We really appreciate the huge amount of work that often goes unnoticed by others to make our Pre-school special and we would not have such a good reputation if it was not for such a hard-working team. We have a small team of seven staff who have a wealth of experience between them.

All our staff hold relevant Early years qualifications as well as having many years of experience between them.

All staff have Enhanced DBS checks.

Training

Unfortunately, the days of subsidised training have gone with budgets from Staffordshire Education Authority cut drastically over the past few years. Because of this, we must budget to pay for training ourselves and must be creative in the way in which we access different types of training. Staff have completed numerous on-line training modules, webinar training and when staff do get the chance to attend face-to-face training, they cascade this training to their colleagues. As a legal requirement, staff have all had to update core training regularly which includes Paediatric First Aid training, (which is coming up for renewal in May this year), Food Safety training and Safeguarding training, all of which must be paid for. All this core training must be updated every 3 years.

Rachel as our SENDCO attends SEND update sessions and cascades information from these training events and updates to the staff team.

Paula regularly delivers in-set training on a wide variety of topics to staff.

All staff have regular supervision meetings and appraisals and are actively encouraged to develop their skills and knowledge through mentoring and on-going training.

Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our fundraising at Pre-school during the past 12 months. Whether that contribution has been time, money, expertise or as a support to our fundraising events, it is most welcome. Without donations or fundraising, Fazeley Pre-school would not be able to operate. As a charity run group, we rely on fundraising to buy all those extras we would not be able to afford.

We have been particularly lucky this year to receive some large donations and funds from other events. Gorsey Bank Pre-school, which unfortunately had to close, donated a total of £7,000 to us, for which we are extremely grateful. We had another large donation of £700 from MOTO Services via a parent from last year and Julie raised a considerable amount by doing a sponsored parachute jump.

Our other regular biggest fundraiser, our sponsored FUNFIT challenge took place in May and other fundraising events included an Easter Egg Raffle, Smartie challenges and our Christmas Hamper Draw.

This has been by far the most money Pre-school have received from fundraising and donations in our history.

We are into the sixth year of asking parents to support us with the additional fee charge for all the extras that funding from SCC does not cover such as snack, craft & art resources, sundries, gardening and cooking activities, dance lessons etc. We are so grateful that parents understood why we had to introduce this and for their on-going support in paying this

The charge was set at £1.00 per hour this year. This is helping to keep our group financially viable.

All money raised is used to replace or buy new equipment, goes towards parties for the children and the ongoing maintenance of our outdoor area and towards all the other day-to-day expenses listed above.

We have been able to purchase several big items this year, using money raised. These include a lovely den for the garden, an outside stage, a new set of tuff trays, sets of magnetic building tiles, benches, new gazebos, climbing equipment and other resources too numerous to mention. We are indeed lucky to have such a vast wealth of resources and equipment for the children to use.

Again, thank you to everyone who has helped with our fundraising efforts and for the ongoing support with paying the extra fee charge.

Links with Parents

We have always prided ourselves on the relationships we form with parents, and it has been particularly lovely to have so many families this year whom we have already formed relationships with because their other children have attended previously.

Each year we hold a Mother's Day celebration and invite parents to attend our Easter Bonnet Parade. We welcome dads to a Stay & Play event for Father's Day and have a joint Sports Day and Graduation celebration event in July which is always very well attended and enjoyed by all.

This past year has also seen us invite parents in to our Story time Café and at Christmas we held a Christmas Stay & Sing event, followed by mince pies and hot chocolate on the patio. We held parent consultation meetings in October and have lots of other events planned for the coming year including a Stay and Sing event in February. Parents are kept informed of news and given regular information via Newsletters, email, and Facebook as platforms for communication. As mentioned, our Facebook page and email keep everyone informed about all aspects of Pre-school life, forthcoming events, and news. We also post photos of the children on our settings photo blog, giving a snapshot of what the children are doing at Pre-school.

We also have an Instagram account, and this has proved very popular with parents as again it gives a snapshot of what the children are doing on a daily basis.

We would just like to say that communication with our parents is essential. You are important to us - we are all part of a big team working together and supporting each other to make sure that the children reach their full potential, so thank you for the part that you play in that too.

Outdoor Play/ Garden

Our outdoor area is used on a daily basis and is what makes our Pre-school special. We spend as much time as we can outdoors, and it gives all our children a fantastic area to explore and play in. The children love being outdoors, and our garden provides them with lots of activities to keep them active and busy whilst enjoying the elements and fresh air.

They can choose to play with planned activities on the patio area, play in the sand pit or mud kitchen as well as experiencing activities such as planting, looking for birds and bugs or challenging themselves with physical activities such as scaling our climbing wall or doing somersaults on our gym bar. We cannot emphasise enough the value of outdoor play and we are so lucky to have such a wonderful facility for the children to use. The garden is a big area to maintain so we must say thank you to everyone who helps maintain the garden.

It also takes a lot of money to maintain our outdoor area. Sand to fill the sand pit and just topping up the bark costs well over £600.00. This coming year we will need to replace sand, bark, and gravel again, as well as renew decking and fence posts.

Special Events

As mentioned previously we held Mother's Day and Easter Bonnet celebrations in the Spring and Dad's Stay & Play sessions in June to celebrate Father's Day

We held a lovely joint Graduation Ceremony & Sports Day event for our children in July to celebrate their time with us. It is always a poignant and emotional event.

On the last day of the school year in July, we had our end of year Pirate Party which is always a great fun event which of course all the children enjoyed.

For our new cohort in September, we have had a Stay & Play session for Story time Café, held our Christmas Stay & Sing event and held a Christmas Party at the end of term which was great success with lots of dancing and party games.

Transitions & Links with Schools

Most of our children move on to Millfield school and we continue to have strong links with them. We hope that this partnership continues to ensure the smooth transition of our pupils. We want all our children to have a smooth transition to school and we work hard to make sure that this happens, so we invite teachers from all prospective schools, not just Millfield to visit us here at Pre-school to make sure that relevant information is passed on and that they have the chance to meet the children.

Conclusion

In conclusion, although we are always worried, like many other community settings, about our financial security, we have managed to have a very successful year, mainly due to the wonderful donations received. These have helped put us in a more stable financial position moving forward into next year and coupled with parental support and our fantastic staff team, we know that our setting, despite all these concerns will move forward and go on providing a wonderful community setting for local children to attend.

We would like to thank you once again for attending tonight and to thank the outgoing committee for their support over the past year. We do have to elect a new committee tonight; our Pre-school is vital to the community, and we want it to continue to be successful. We would ask you to think about joining our committee, without one, Pre-school cannot operate.

Lastly and most importantly we would like to thank the children for making our place of work so rewarding, enjoyable, challenging, and different every day and to thank you as parents for choosing our Pre-school for your child. We hope to continue and grow and to provide the children with what we feel is a fantastic start to their education.

Paula Thompson

Maria Harborow

Pre-school Manager

Chairperson

FAZELEY PRE- SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

31ST DECEMBER 2024

FAZELEY PRE-SCHOOL
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 2024
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

<u>Receipts:</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Payments:</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Fees Received	14,984.50	17,780.49	Wages	84,074.32	86,390.13
Staffordshire C.C.	87,834.89	101,656.87	Inland Revenue	635.18	3,108.19
Apprentice Incentive	1,500.00		Insurance	1,144.39	1,199.71
Donations	6.00	7,000.00	Ofsted/Accreditation	50.00	50.00
Sweatshirts	215.00	330.00	Fees/Subscriptions	545.40	1,086.80
Fund Raising	561.63	1,969.83	Rent	8,240.00	9,427.00
Funfit	849.00	957.00	Stationary/Printing	1,721.20	1,480.45
			Refreshments	711.62	866.21
			Gardening	485.56	1,584.17
			Telephone/Postage	208.96	205.45
			Resources/Equip.	5,141.27	9,836.60
			Celebrations	1,008.95	1,211.92
			Sweatshirts etc.	393.98	488.62
			Heat/Light	1,160.06	
			Trainings	330.50	48.00
			Sundry Expenses	789.90	1,148.75

<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£105,951.02</u>	<u>£129,694.19</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>£106,641.29</u>	<u>£118,132.00</u>
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<u>Represented By:</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(690.27)	11,562.19
Balances as at beginning of the year	<u>41,198.23</u>	<u>40,507.96</u>
Balance as at end of year	<u>£40,507.96</u>	<u>£52,070.15</u>

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Bank Current Account	39,792.82	51,573.21
Cash in hand	<u>715.14</u>	<u>496.94</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>£40,507.96</u>	<u>£52,070.15</u>

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE OF
FAZELEY PRE -SCHOOL**

I report on the accounts of the Fazeley Pre-School for the year ended 31st December 2024 which is set out on the attached page.

Respective responsibilities of committee and the examiner.

As the charity's committee you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under Section 43 (7) (b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners qualified statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- (1) Which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

CAGraham

*Carol Graham
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13th January 2025*