

Uplands Pre-School

Report from Treasurer 2022 to be read in conjunction with accounts

The group has had a successful year financially and are in a good position to carry on operating a viable business. However finances have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic which forced government to close early years settings. The accounts have been audited by Sharon Peacock and all books are up to date and correct.

The group is operating offering 15 hours free childcare for 3-4 year old and 30 hours free childcare for eligible working parents (group is paid at an hourly rate of £4.19 rising to £4.36 April 2022) and have been receiving funding for some 2 years olds depending on the situation of the family. The group is also receiving additional funding for child using the disadvantage formula for some postcode areas. A few of our children are also entitled to Early Years Pupil Premium which is used to directly support the individual child. Meetings have been held between key persons and parents to decide how to spend the money using children's interests and areas identified on trackers as needing support. Disadvantage formula has been spent wisely on resources or to enhance staff ratios for children needing additional support.

From January group was fully opened to all children. Those who wanted to extend childcare hours due to reaching their funding period or claiming 30 hours wanted to increase their sessions. Group is registered for 40 children so decided as a group, using the back room without payment as centre not being used by other groups, to take more children and split the group. Will be unable to do this moving forward as Jubilee room would be too expensive for us to take on as well as the rent for the main hall. Decided to go to full capacity with the view to getting some additional funds.

Fees for those children who are not yet entitled to government funding are £14, being increased to £15 from September 2022, a session. Most parents have been prompt in paying but appropriate letters have been sent if they got behind with payments. Our invoices show clearly funded and non-funded hours and these go out each term with two payment dates and details so that payments can be paid directly into the Pre-School's bank account. Book Bags and T-Shirts are being paid for, Book Bags £5, T-Shirts £6 and Fleece £14, and it is likely that the cost of these may rise in September due to increased costs from Screenprint. Breakfast and Lunch Clubs continue to be very successful.

Children starting last September required extra sessions from January and April luckily we were able to keep sessions back. We are now full to maximum to get as much money behind us for September so that we can keep sessions free to follow the same pattern next year. This will be dependent on higher bills and costs associated with Children's Centre; we are closely monitoring the situation.

Voluntary contributions are charged at £5 per session for Nature Buddies, not all parents are paying so it only just covers the cost of running the sessions with LM of £160 per week. We still have to pay £600 every three months for maintenance, we have had no proper bills for electricity and water since we started in September, these bills will be split evenly with LM but we are still losing money. Last week we had a council tax bill for £3,100 for the Children's Centre, we tried to seek help from Suffolk County Council explaining that if this was the case we would not be able to continue with the Centre. We have finally managed to speak to someone from the council who is looking into us being exempt as we are a registered charity.

We have been able to increase numbers all day Monday and Tuesday as we split the children between two buildings. This is the only way of keeping both buildings going; if numbers drop one building would have to go.

The Community Centre has had to put our hourly rent rate up due to fuel bill and the cost of living rising. We are not paying what other hall members are but the situation will be monitored depending on the utility bills coming in. If the Management Committee for the hall struggle with finances long term it would mean closure.

Covid-19 pandemic put a financial strain on the group as staff were off for 10 days with pay as well as having to pay for cover; this cost rather a lot but was beyond our control.

Payments have been made in respect of annual fees to the Pre-School Learning Alliance and Ofsted, and the insurance premium has been paid to Sterling, cover having been increased to reflect additional hours operating for breakfast and lunch clubs. PAT testing has been completed and invoice paid.

Ashley Turrell has been employed on a temporary basis to support the group with lunch times and some sessions. Wages are paid directly into bank accounts. We are still having problems with receiving money towards Rosie Thurbon's apprenticeship. Melanie Eaton has been taken on as an apprentice. New contracts have been signed. Pension scheme is in place and most staff are enrolled in scheme. Staff are kept informed of any changes.

Fees are currently up to date. Fees are currently – Session Fees £14, Lunch Club £5.00 and Breakfast Club £3.00. These will be increased in September to Session Fees £15, Lunch Club £5 and Breakfast Club £3.

Sponsored walk to take place in May to help raise funds for two more outside canopies.

Easter part helped us to raise money to send to the children of Ukraine.

UPLANDS PRE-SCHOOL

ACCOUNTS 1 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022

Balance b/f		19960.87
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INCOME

Income/Fees	21590.90	
Funding	162791.26	
T Shirts	202.00	
Grant	2473.38	
		<u>187057.54</u>
		207018.41

EXPENDITURE

Staff Wages	152071.48	
Screens/Resources	2482.55	
Meals/Expenses etc	710.22	
Toys/Books etc	413.55	
Hall Hire	9085.00	
Courses/Renewals/Licenses	1463.53	
Insurance	421.50	
Postage	130.61	
Stationery	2835.18	
Cleaning Materials/Food	865.19	
Butterflies of Britain	6821.74	
Maintenance/Equipment	4947.62	
Phone Rental	394.27	
Audit	80.00	
Nest Pension	5535.64	
Pat Testing	69.34	
Bank Charges	15.00	
Ofsted	35.00	
DSB Check	265.75	
Refund	165.00	
		<u>188808.17</u>

Balance c/fwd		<u>18210.24</u>
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Bank Statement as 1t 31 March 2022		18210.24
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