

PRIORSLEE PRE-SCHOOL

England & Wales · Charity number 1058227

Details

Other names PRIORSLEE UNDER FIVES PRE-SCHOOL

Status Registered

Legal form Other

Registered 1996-09-24

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

Contact

Address Priorslee Community Centre
Priorslee Avenue
Priorslee
Telford
TF2 9NR

Phone 01952299979

Email info@priorsleepreschool.co.uk

Website www.priorsleepreschool.co.uk

Activities

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: Preschool

Classification

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

Geography

- Shropshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£130,240	£123,861	-	-
2023-12-31	£149,451	£120,859	-	-
2022-12-31	£104,792	£103,961	-	-
2021-12-31	£64,799	£92,560	-	-
2020-12-31	£100,942	£73,691	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
David Jones		2022-09-06
Ellie Clempson		2023-02-08
JANE THURSFIELD		
LEIGH MICHELLE WILLIAMS		
STACEY ENEVER		2013-09-23

PRIORSLEE PRE-SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1058227

Accounts

Report from the Trustees of Priorslee Pre-School for year ending 31st December 2024

For the past financial year Priorslee Pre-School has continued to fulfil its obligations to the local community by remaining solvent, of good reputation and by providing an invaluable service, not just to the local community, but to residents of the wider area of communities of the town of Telford.

As a trust we knew that 2024 was to be a challenging year for us. We had enrolled numbers to generate the income we needed to face the rise in National Minimum Wage of 9.8% and knew that we had to pass this increase through to all our staff to ensure that pay differentials were maintained as the incentive to achieve through personal professional development. The downside of this was that we knew that in July 2024 we had a massive cohort of 21 children making the transition to primary school, leaving us with vacant seats and gaping holes in our revenues. As our income comes predominantly from Government funded children it would serve no purpose to increase our sessional charges, we needed the Government to recognise the funding increase we needed to cover our outgoings- and were, as usual, severely disappointed, as the increase given fell far short of the wage award.

We were frugal in our outgoings, assisted by the volunteered and invaluable services of our Committee members to undertake jobs we could not afford to outsource- caretaking, maintenance of building and grounds, I.T. support, payroll, book keeping and general administration functions to name but a few. We entered September 2024 with £56,000 in the bank due to an average monthly funding award of in excess of £12,000 in the early part of the year, however this fell to £6,000 a month from September and the surplus cash drained away to support our payroll- we ended the year with £45,000 in the bank. Whilst many sectors trim their staffing costs in line with their income this cannot be the case for early years providers- we are governed by the legal requirement of the number of qualified staff to children in our care- separate ratios of staff to 2 year olds than for 3 and 4 year olds, and if we let staff go in the hard times then our business cannot grow back. That is simple logic. The same logic applies that qualified childcare practitioners do not offer their services on a casual basis, they demand a permanent contact of employment. If you have a loyal, hard working and qualified team of staff you have a "family" dedicated to giving the highest level of care to children that you must keep together at any cost. The Committee decided that we would carry on forward and face the consequences- that of possible closure when the bank was drained, whilst facing the further obstacles of a further increase in both National Minimum Wage, an increase in employer's National Insurance contributions and a new local pre-school opening as part of the new Thomas Telford primary academy in 2025.

In conclusion I would like to thank both the staff and the Committee for all their efforts in the past year. They set aside, without question, their families to put their dedication to the children in our care at the forefront of their lives. As the number of children with special needs continues to grow our belief in "Every Child Matters" means that we will continue to offer these children a place where they are cared for, and can flourish and grow, whilst our staff often go unappreciated for their efforts by parents, guardians and politicians.

I hope that this year will see our loyalty to the local community recognised and rewarded, so that enrolled numbers grow and we return to profitability. My greatest wish remains that whichever political party governed, then they would value it similarly.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Priorslee Pre School

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2024, which are set out herein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 examiner's statement

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

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Apex Chartered Accountants
94 Moseley Street
Digbeth
Birmingham
B12 0RT

18th August 2024

APEX CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
94 Moseley Street
Birmingham
B12 0RT
0121 622 6512
email: info@apextax.co.uk
www.apextax.co.uk

PRIORSLEE PRE-SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1058227

Accounts

Priorslee Pre-School Annual Trustees Report for Year Ending 31st December 2023

Whilst the quality of service and level of care offered to the children of parents and guardians is acknowledged by the wider community to be of the highest quality available, and the offering to children seen to be the ideal balance between learning and play within the EYFS framework, the Government policy of offering 30 hours of free childcare to the families of three year olds where both parents are working can have limited impact upon our business as our maximum numbers allowed per session under our OFSTED registration is limited to 24 children, and our fire certification on the building restricted to 30 people at any one time. This policy, originally due to be introduced in September 2017, has, at last, been introduced, leading to the refusal of a large portion of private nurseries and pre-schools to accept children wholly funded this way, creating an early scramble for places that seems to be tailoring away.

The local demand for places for two year olds was artificially increased in December 2023, when our adjoining Academy Trust gave two weeks notice to parents of two year olds, both attending and on the waiting list for their Little Seedlings Nursery, that they would not be offering any two year old places for the term starting in January 2024, as this was not financially viable, leaving parents without places for their children.

Our annual accounts for the year ending 31st December 2023 show a healthy net surplus of £28,592, for which we are grateful, although acknowledging that this comes at a price. Of the 33 children we currently have on roll, we have two with physical disabilities and nine with Special Educational Needs, the strain on our staff shows, especially on our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, who has battled tirelessly against a backdrop of reducing specialist support from the local council, to secure the support needed to allow the children to progress to the level needed to make the transition to primary school. Whilst the financial picture looks rosy, with £64,547 available in the bank to carry forward to the next financial year, the “rise and fall” revenues of our industry probably means that this sum will drain away during the latter part of 2024, as we have 21 children leaving us to go to school. In this age where we see settings and the industry in general struggling to recruit and retain the staff necessary to open and operate, it serves no purpose to reduce staffing levels and risk losing valued, experienced and loyal staff.

It needs no highlighting that we remain solvent, of good reputation, and of service to the local and wider community.

Our staff remain loyal, supportive and dedicated to the future success of the setting, continuing to support the local community by working to the best of their ability to give the highest level of safeguarding, education and care of children, for which we send our gratitude.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Priorslee Pre School

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2023, which are set out herein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 examiner's statement

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

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Apex Chartered Accountants
94 Moseley Street
Digbeth
Birmingham
B12 0RT

11th July 2024

APEX CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
94 Moseley Street
Birmingham
B12 0RT
0121 622 6512
email: info@apextax.co.uk
www.apextax.co.uk

PRIORSLEE PRE-SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1058227

Accounts

Trustees of Priorslee Pre-School Annual Report for year ending 31st December 2022

5th April 2023

For the past financial year Priorslee Pre-School has continued to totally fulfil its obligations to the local community by remaining solvent, of good reputation and by providing an invaluable and affordable service, not just to the local community, but to residents of the wider area of communities of the town of Telford. The pre-school continues to operate from the former local Community Centre, although, for children's safeguarding reasons, we have ceased all public lettings of the venue, and will continue to be solely for pre-school use for the foreseeable future. It remains, however, our policy as a registered charity, to support local residents in the provision of the highest standard childcare at an affordable price- especially relevant when all other household costs are soaring- from mortgages to loans, fuel to food costs, taking many young families to financial breaking point.

It is heartening to see, from the Treasurer's report, that the unverified annual accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021 show us returning to slight profitability, and look to increase this in the next financial year with less of our children making the transition to primary education, thus holding up our numbers on roll. As the new housing developments planned for Hereford Drive, Gatcombe Way and Castle Farm Way are now coming to completion and occupation, with 25% of the housing stocks given to social housing, we are finding the long-anticipated demand for places created, although, at a price, as there is now a much higher incidence of children having special needs.

In a year of increasing overheads we have looked for cost savings, and achieved these in many areas – broadband and telephone, printing costs etc., allowing us to maintain our staffing levels whilst paying the annual minimum wage increase and supporting the pay differentials for achievement reflected in our pay band structure. During the year we have recruited an apprentice who is educated, ambitious, hard working and compassionate, soon to achieve the qualification of City and Guilds Early Years Educator Level 3, which will, in turn future-proof the business.

The Trustees wish to thank the parents and guardians, as well as our Managers and their dedicated team of staff for their continued support.

John Barker

Chairperson of Priorslee Pre-School

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Priorslee Pre School

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out herein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 examiner's statement

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

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Apex Chartered Accountants
94 Moseley Street
Digbeth
Birmingham
B12 0RT

24th August 2023

APEX CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
94 Moseley Street
Birmingham
B12 0RT
0121 622 6512
email: info@apextax.co.uk
www.apextax.co.uk

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Priorslee Pre School

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out herein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 examiner's statement

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

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Apex Chartered Accountants
94 Moseley Street
Digbeth
Birmingham
B12 0RT

24th August 2023

APEX CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
94 Moseley Street
Birmingham
B12 0RT
0121 622 6512
email: info@apextax.co.uk
www.apextax.co.uk

PRIORSLEE PRE-SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1058227

Accounts

Trustees of Priorslee Pre-School Annual Report for year ending 31st December 2021

6th April 2022

The outline of the financial accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021 presented by the Treasurer to the AGM, and subject to verification by the independent auditor show a nett loss for the year of £27,771, accurately reflecting the devastation caused to the early years sector by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is an uncertainty running through every thread of society- uncertainty about continuity of employment, uncertainty about meeting the rising cost of living, uncertainty about continuing good health and getting treatment if your physical, mental or dental health fails, uncertainty about whether your close friends or family will give you a fatal dose of Covid-19 and you will pass away, isolated in hospital and without the support of friends and family. There has been a prolonged period when everything we held dear was snatched away and we did not know if it would return- and to some it will never return. The trust between humans, the very foundation of our society, will also be broken down for years to come as the virus mutates, evades the vaccines and seriously harms or kills at random- the young, the old, the fit and the vulnerable, both vaccinated at not so.

As predicted last year, we started the new academic year with six children on roll. We have to employ staff of a minimum qualification, and so we cannot employ on a “rise and fall” basis- qualified early years staff are in great demand. So it was, with the minimum of children attending our employment costs far outstripped our non-protected local authority funding, exactly as everyone except the Government said it would. Our £48,000 of funding only went a short way to covering our staffing costs of £67,000, and certainly did not cover our vastly increased cleaning and anti-bacterial fogging costs. Additionally we had costs of £1400.00 for extra training for our staff in mental health and wellbeing, as well as speech, language and communication- all necessitated by lockdown and a slow return to education.

That all said we did survive- mainly due to our frugality and the work of our voluntary committee members in previous years, and our enrolled numbers grew as families gained in confidence, leaving us going into 2022 with the challenge ahead of us. However the latest prediction from the Early Years Alliance is that the number of early years settings closing this year will increase from the 2000 of last year to between 3,500 and 4,000 this year- such a huge loss and a giant hole in the availability of both pre-school education and, of course, childcare. We are already hearing and reading stories of settings refusing to accept Government funded children at the paltry rate offered- some refuse totally, others charge substantial top-up fees- this is not how the Government intended it!!! We hear of settings now charging upwards of £60.00 a day for the care we charge £26.00 for. In the current economic climate families are full of uncertainty about the future and feeling the squeeze on household budgets- with rises in fuel bills, transport costs, food costs, rent and mortgage rate rises, and thus to raise the cost of childcare would serve only to increase the pressure on families. The Management Committee have made a commitment that, at whatever cost, and whilst ever our reserves remain, we will not increase the burden on families- we see this as our core value as a community based charity.

In conclusion I would like to thank both the staff and the trustees for all their efforts in the past year. They set aside, without question, their fears, their vulnerabilities, and, not least, their families to put their dedication to the children in our care at the forefront of their lives.

Whilst they often go unappreciated for their efforts by parents and guardians, without this dedication our setting would have become just another Government closure statistic.

I hope that this year will see our loyalty to the local community recognised and rewarded, that enrolled numbers grow and we return to profitability.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Priorslee Pre School

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out herein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 examiner's statement

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

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Apex Chartered Accountants
94 Moseley Street
Digbeth
Birmingham
B12 0RT

14th September 2022

APEX CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

94 Moseley Street
Birmingham
B12 0RT
0121 622 6512

email: info@apextax.co.uk
www.apextax.co.uk

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Priorslee Pre School

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out herein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 examiner's statement

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

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Apex Chartered Accountants
94 Moseley Street
Digbeth
Birmingham
B12 0RT

14th September 2022

APEX CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

94 Moseley Street
Birmingham
B12 0RT
0121 622 6512

email: info@apextax.co.uk
www.apextax.co.uk

PRIORSLEE PRE-SCHOOL

England & Wales - Charity number 1058227

Accounts

Trustees of Priorslee Pre-School Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 2020

7th April 2021

It would be remiss of me not to add the reality check to the Treasurer's report on the financial performance of Priorslee Pre-School, and to spell out, in real terms the level of support we received, the way our industry views the Government lack of support, whilst their expectations of us are both high and unrealistic, and to face the grim reality of a future still in the grip of a pandemic.

Firstly I would like to thank the Co-op Local Community Fund, and all those who participated in it by nominating us as their chosen good cause. Our original bid was for funds to replace the flooring in the Community Centre, but, as heart and lung problems emerged as symptomatic of catching Covid-19, we reviewed the local community demographic, viewed our location, and decided that of greater potential benefit to the community would be a fully accessible defibrillator with 24/7 access- fully automatic and suitable, at the flick of a switch, for adults and children alike. We have not publicised our purchase- it is for community benefit, and so needs to remain intact and serviceable until the day it saves a life. We do not need publicity or public thanks- we exist as a charity to serve the needs of the community. The remainder of the Co-op grant we subsidised to carry out urgent remedial works- replacing the worn out laminate flooring in the kitchen area with non-slip Altro flooring and also replacing the badly stained vertical blinds throughout the centre.

The Government were generous in their funding- this was maintained at 2019 levels and helped towards the increased cost of operating safely- extra cleaning, anti-bacterial whole area fogging, extra hand wash and hand gel stations. Great news for 2020, but not repeated for 2021 when it was obvious that job losses, the end of the furlough scheme, Covid-19 still spreading and creating fears of visiting multi-occupancy spaces were all going to lead to a reduction of the number of children on roll, and also funding received. An accountant would give you the instant solution; - "Increase your charges," but, in times when the furlough scheme is about to end and jobs will be lost, an increase in National Insurance contributions due from next April, rising food prices and fuel bills, schools still only accepting pupils in expensive logo embroidered or printed school wear, family expenditure is already spiralling out of control, with the resultant uncertainty and mental pressures on many families. As a Committee we do not see it as the role of our charity to move the cost of providing childcare that gives parents the opportunity to work in keep their living standards to a cost that is beyond affordability and thus to increase pressure on the family finances.

The latest statistics from the Government highlight that in excess of 2000 early years providers have been lost since the start of this year at a cost of more than 11000 childcare places, detrimental to both working parents and to developing the children who our own future! Without additional support to our sector this number will grow and grow- what a very poor show from a Government, outwardly supported by a key member of the Royal family, that not only advocate the immeasurable benefit to a child of receiving early years education, but also, in the midst of the current uncertainties, the massive benefit to a young child's mental health and wellbeing

derived from the mixing freely to play with their peer group- making friendships that can quite possibly last the whole of their lives and provide an invaluable release from the confusing and bemusing things they hear banded around their own homes.

We have an invaluable role to play in supporting, educating and nurturing the future generations- this was recognised when the Government needed us to continue to provide key worker childcare at a time when our staff were fearful of their own and their own families health and wellbeing. They expected us to put our fears aside- no matter how old, ill, frail or fearful our staff were, not only for their own wellbeing, but also for that of their loved ones. Our reward for this dedication and support is not forthcoming- just like the high street shops and the travel industry we are abandoned to wither and die, leaving only those who have profited in the past, building up cash reserves at the expense of re-investing in their offer to the children, to continue in a position where their services are charged at premium price and beyond the reach of many. This flies in the face of the founding principles of our society- that of free education for all and signifies deep rooted problems for years to come. For our part we have cash reserves that were accumulated by a combination of careful budgeting and by volunteers carrying out unpaid work, but these will have to be managed carefully to allow us to fund the changes that need to happen this year. We have a large investment to make into making sure our staff training is not only kept up to date, but also that extra training is given to address child mental health and wellbeing issues as well as the Early Years Foundation Stage changes later this year at a time when one of our managers reaches retirement age and a successor must be found. I am also, at age 68, not immune to advancing years, and look to make a phased step away from my duties as both Chairperson and Designated Safeguarding Lead that have seen me be in the setting every day of opening since the pandemic struck over a year ago. My aim is for us to elect a new Chairperson who I can support by stepping into a role as Deputy Chair, and to make a phased handover over time.

In conclusion, having spelt out the harsh realities of the future challenges, I would like to pay the greatest of tributes to the staff of Priorslee Pre-School, who have worked tirelessly for the past year, putting their dedication to their role in childcare in front of their own health, families and fears, comforting those in need and supporting those who felt vulnerable. I hope that our dogged determination and will of steel will see us through the darker days and take us into the light beyond.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Priorslee Pre School

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out herein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 examiner's statement

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

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Apex Chartered Accountants
94 Moseley Street
Digbeth
Birmingham
B12 0RT

24th August 2021

APEX CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

94 Moseley Street
Birmingham
B12 0RT

0121 622 6512

email: info@apextax.co.uk
www.apextax.co.uk

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Priorslee Pre School

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out herein.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the 1993 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 43(3)(a) of the 1993 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the 1993 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

Our examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and 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 examiner's statement

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

1. which gives us reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the 1993 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with accounting records and comply with accounting requirements of the 1993 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in our opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Apex Chartered Accountants
94 Moseley Street
Digbeth
Birmingham
B12 0RT

24th August 2021

APEX CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
94 Moseley Street
Birmingham
B12 0RT
0121 622 6512
email: info@apextax.co.uk
www.apextax.co.uk