# ASHWELL PLAYGROUP (HERTFORDSHIRE)

England & Wales · Charity number 1081830

## Details

| | |
|---|---|
| **Other names** | ASHWELL PLAYGROUP |
| **Status** | Registered |
| **Legal form** | Other |
| **Registered** | 2000-08-02 |
| **Register** | View on the Charity Commission register |

## Contact

| | |
|---|---|
| **Address** | Village Hall<br>West End<br>Ashwell<br>Baldock<br>SG7 5PJ |
| **Phone** | 07565528194 |
| **Website** | ashwellplaygroup.co.uk |

## Activities

**Objects:** THE AIMS OF THE PRE-SCHOOL ARE TO ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN PRIMARILY UNDER STATUTORY SCHOOL AGE BY ENCOURAGING PARENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN THROUGH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND BY:(A) OFFERING APPROPRIATE PLAY, EDUCATION AND CARE FACILITIES, FAMILY LEARNING AND EXTENDED HOURS GROUPS, TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT OF PARENTS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SUCH GROUPS, ENSURING THAT SUCH GROUPS OFFER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL CHILDREN WHATEVER THEIR RACE, CULTURE, RELIGION, MEANS OR ABILITY;(B) ENCOURAGING THE STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF SUCH CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES AND PROMOTING PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND RECOGNITION OF SUCH NEEDS IN THE LOCAL AREAS;(C) INSTIGATING AND ADHERING TO AND FURTHERING THE AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE PRE-SCHOOL LEARNING ALLIANCE.

**Activities:** OFFER OF PLAY FACILITIES AND PRE SCHOOL EDUCATION

## Classification

- **How:** Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** ASHWELL
- Bedford
- Cambridgeshire
- Central Bedfordshire
- Hertfordshire

## Finances

| Period end | Income | Expenditure | Assets | Employees |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2025-08-31 | £73,871 | £65,690 | - | - |
| 2024-08-31 | £56,188 | £49,725 | - | - |
| 2023-08-31 | £44,180 | £45,743 | - | - |
| 2022-08-31 | £52,916 | £59,016 | - | - |
| 2021-08-31 | £48,856 | £57,797 | - | - |
| 2020-08-31 | £47,506 | £45,778 | - | - |

## Trustees

| Name | Role | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| Dr Meredith Anne Smith PhD MRCVS | | 2019-09-26 |

# Accounts

**Treasurer's report September 2024- August 2025**
Ashwell Preschool
(formerly known as Ashwell Playgroup)

I am pleased to report that Ashwell Preschool had another profit making year, as a result of the knock on effect of the government changes to both the amount of money the local council pays to childcare settings for funded 2- and 3-year-old children and the number of hours of free funding for three-year-olds that parents are eligible for, all of which came into effect from April 1st, 2024.

During the academic year we retained a stable staff of 5, including our long serving Manager and Deputy Manager (both level 3 Early Years Educators) and an additional level 2 Early Years Practitioner, who joined us in October 2023. We were pleased to welcome back Kat Richardson in January 2025 after her maternity leave. One further non-qualified worker extended her hours, and we are now supporting her training to become a level 3 qualified Eary Years Educator.

In September 2024 there were 12 children on the register. By the end of term in July of 2025 there were 19 children on the register, 12 of which had participated in the usual transition activities up at the village school within the summer term, ready to join the school nursery class in September 2025. We are very grateful to the Early Years team at the village school for their help with hosting these events.

Our staff set up and ran the messy play tent at the Ashwell Village Show in August 2024 and received a generous grant from the show committee in return. Additional fund-raising events held during the school year included selling Christmas wreaths made by volunteers at St Mary's church Christmas Fair (Dec 2024), and provision of teas, coffees and car parking staffing for the village's Ashwell at Home event in May 2025.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Christmas wreaths** | | **£745.00** |
| **Ashwell at Home** | **Donation for car parking (this fell into the 25/26 accounts period)** | |
| | **Teas and cake stall** | **£70.00** |
| **Ashwell Show** | **Grant** | **£1563.29** |
| | **TOTAL** | **£2378.29** |

**I am delighted to report that we ended the accounting year in profit: £8,180.89**

During 2025 I have continued seek out new trustees. With new trustees in place, the conversion of the charity to a CIO can progress finally, allowing for a simplified and streamlined constitution and removal of any financial liability from the trustees.

Merry Pertwee, Treasurer, Ashwell Preschool

# Ashwell Preschool
# Annual Accounts

## for Year ended 31 August 2025

**Ashwell Preschool**
**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025**

**CONTENTS**

# Ashwell Preschool
# for Year ended 31 August 2025
# ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

## YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025

| | |
|---|---|
| **Trustees** | Meredith Smith |
| **ADDRESS:** | Village Hall<br>West End<br>Ashwell<br>Hertfordshire<br>SG7 5PJ |
| **ACCOUNTANTS:** | The Wright Account Services Ltd<br>16 Walkdens<br>Ashwell<br>Herts<br>SG7 5RU |

**Ashwell Preschool**
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR**
**YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025**

| **INCOME** | **2025** | | **2024** | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **£** | | **£** | |
| Childcare income | 71,288 | | 51,624 | |
| Fund raising Events Income | 815 | | 1,395 | |
| Grants & Donation | 1,582 | | 3,056 | |
| Interest Income | 186 | | 114 | |
| Total income | | 73,872 | | 56,188 |
| **Cost of Sales** | | | | |
| Cost of Goods Sold | 445 | | 317 | |
| Direct Expenses | 49 | | 10 | |
| **Total Cost of Sales** | | 494 | | 327 |
| **Gross Profit** | 73,378 | | 55,861 | |
| **EXPENDITURE** | | | | |
| Advertising & Marketing | 73 | | 71 | |
| Audit & Accountancy fees | 2,350 | | 2,571 | |
| Bank Fees | 1 | | 9 | |
| Equipment & Materials | 764 | | 669 | |
| Entertainment-100% business | 344 | | 326 | |
| Insurance | 560 | | 808 | |
| Snacks | 324 | | 266 | |
| Printing & Stationery | 220 | | 200 | |
| IT Software and Consumables | 475 | | 412 | |
| Rent | 7,424 | | 7,829 | |
| Salaries | 51,467 | | 35,193 | |
| Staff Training | 500 | | 498 | |
| Pensions Costs | 391 | | 140 | |
| Subscriptions | 50 | | 176 | |
| Telephone & Internet | 254 | | 229 | |
| Total Expenditure | | 65,197 | | 49,398 |
| Taxable (loss) / profits | | 8,181 | | 6,464 |
| **Profit for year** | 8,181 | | 6,464 | |

**Ashwell Preschool**
**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025**

## 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

**Accounting convention**
The financial statements have been prepared under the cash accounting policy.

**Tangible fixed assets**
Assets need to be of a value higher than £500
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.
There are currently no assets.

| | |
|---|---|
| Plant & Equipment | 25% reducing balance basis |
| Computer Equipment | 25% reducing balance basis |

## 3. FIXED ASSETS

| | | Equipment & Fixtures £ | Computer Equipment | Total £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **COST** | | | | |
| At 1 September 2024 | | - | - | - |
| Additions | - | | | - |
| At 31 August 2025 | - | - | - | - |
| **DEPRECIATION** | | | | |
| At 1 September 2024 | | - | - | - |
| Charge for the year | | - | - | - |
| At 31 August 2025 | - | - | - | - |
| **NET BOOK VALUE** | | | | |
| At 31 August 2025 | - | - | - | - |
| At 31 August 2024 | - | - | - | - |

**<u>Ashwell Preschool</u>**

**<u>APPROVAL AND ACCOUNTANTS REPORT</u>**

**<u>YEAR ENDED 31 August 2025</u>**

**COMMITTEE APPROVAL**

The accounts were reviewed by the committee and formally approved on:

**ACCOUNTANTS REPORT**

We have prepared the accounts on pages 1 to 4 from the books, records and explanations of the partnership and they are in accordance therewith, without carrying out an audit.

The Wright Accounts Services Limited
16 Walkdens
Station Road
Ashwell
Herts
SG7 5RU

| | |
|---|---|
| Signed By | Date Signed |
| Meredith Smith | |
| | 6/22/2026 |

Signed by:

8473B9E73CFB4FB...

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A — Independent Examiner's Report

| | |
|---|---|
| **Report to the trustees/ members of** | Charity Name<br>Ashwell Playgroup (Hertfordshire) |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31 August 2025 |
| **Charity no (if any)** | 1081830 |
| **Set out on pages** | 1-2<br>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets) |

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 08 / 2024**.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Signed:** | Emma Farquhar |
| **Date:** | 18 June 2026 |
| **Name:** | Emma Farquhar BFP FCA |
| **Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** | ICAEW member number 9251030 |
| **Address:** | 43 Medcalfe Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire<br>SG8 6HU |

| Section B | Disclosure |
| --- | --- |
| | Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners). |
| **Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose**. | |

# Accounts

# Treasurer’s report SEPTEMBER 2023- AUGUST 2024

Ashwell Preschool

(formerly known as Ashwell Playgroup)

Ashwell Preschool is currently flourishing, having benefitted from government changes to both the amount of money the local council pays to childcare settings for funded 2- and 3-year-old children and the number of hours of free funding for three-year-olds that parents are eligible for, all of which increased, and came into effect from April 1st, 2024.

During the year we retained a stable staff of 5, including our long serving Manager and Deputy (both level 3 Early Years Educators) and an additional level 2 Early Years Practitioner, who joined us in October 2023. We said a temporary goodbye to one non-qualified worker as she went on her maternity leave in January 2024. One further non-qualified worker extended her hours accordingly.

In September 2023 there were 9 children on the register. By the end of term in July of 2024 there were 21 children on the register, 16 of which had participated in the usual transition activities up at the village school within the summer term, ready to join the school nursery class in September 2024. We are very grateful to the Early Years team at the village school for their help with hosting these events.

Our staff helped to set up and man the messy play tent at the Ashwell Village Show in August 2023 and received a generous grant in return. Additional fund-raising events held during the school year included selling Christmas wreaths made by volunteers at St Mary’s church Christmas fair (Dec 2023), the annual village duck race (April 2024) and provision of teas, coffees and car parking staffing for the village’s Ashwell at Home event in May 2024.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Christmas wreaths** | | **£730.00** |
| **Duck race** | | **£510.68** |
| **Ashwell at Home** | **Donation for car parking** | **£1030.00** |
| | **Teas and cake stall** | **£154.40** |
| **Ashwell Show** | **Grant** | **£2000.00** |
| | **TOTAL** | **£4425.08** |

**I am delighted to report that we ended the accounting year in profit: £6463.55**

During 2024 I have continued to pitch to the Head of the village school a plan for the longer term, where support for staffing and management of the setting could be incorporated into the business management of the school. The preschool is in urgent need of new trustees, and I have asked the staff at the school to consider volunteering for a two-to-three-year term as a trustee, with succession planning within the staff also. With new trustees in place, the conversion of the charity to a CIO can progress finally, allowing for a simplified and streamlined constitution and removal of any financial liability from the trustees.

Merry Pertwee, Treasurer, Ashwell Preschool

# Profit and Loss

## Ashwell Playgroup
## For the year ended 31 August 2024

| | 2024 |
|---|---|
| **Turnover** | |
| 2 year old funded sessions | 11,039.14 |
| 3 & 4 Year old funded sessions | 20,445.66 |
| Donations received | 26.10 |
| Fund raising events Income | 1,395.08 |
| IDACI Funding | 29.02 |
| Interest Income | 113.74 |
| Self Funded Sessions | 20,109.75 |
| Trust & foundation Grants | 3,030.00 |
| **Total Turnover** | **56,188.49** |
| **Cost of Sales** | |
| Cost of Goods Sold | 317.34 |
| Direct Expenses | 10.00 |
| **Total Cost of Sales** | **327.34** |
| **Gross Profit** | **55,861.15** |
| **Administrative Costs** | |
| Advertising & Marketing | 71.00 |
| Audit & Accountancy fees | 2,571.25 |
| Bank Fees | 8.82 |
| Cleaning | 2.10 |
| Entertainment-100% business | 325.50 |
| Equipment & Materials | 666.94 |
| Insurance | 808.36 |
| IT Software and Consumables | 412.26 |
| Pensions Costs | 139.99 |
| Printing & Stationery | 200.39 |
| Rent | 7,304.39 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 525.01 |
| Salaries | 35,192.80 |
| Snacks | 265.92 |
| Staff Training | 497.62 |
| Subscriptions | 176.00 |
| Telephone & Internet | 229.25 |
| **Total Administrative Costs** | **49,397.60** |
| **Operating Profit** | **6,463.55** |
| **Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation** | **6,463.55** |
| **Profit after Taxation** | **6,463.55** |

CHARITY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

## Section A Independent Examiner's Report

| | |
|---|---|
| **Report to the trustees/ members of** | Charity Name<br>Ashwell Playgroup (Hertfordshire) |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31 August 2024 — **Charity no (if any)** 1081830 |
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- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Signed:** | EFarquhar. — **Date:** 8 April 2025 |
| **Name:** | Emma Farquhar BFP FCA |
| **Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** | ICAEW member number 9251030 |
| **Address:** | 43 Medcalfe Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire |
| | SG8 6HU |
| | |

| Section B | Disclosure |
|---|---|
| | Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners). |
| **Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.** | |

**ASHWELL PLAYGROUP (HERTFORDSHIRE)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1081830

# Accounts

# Charity Commission Annual Return 2023

Print Cancel

ASHWELL PLAYGROUP (HERTFORDSHIRE)
Charity registration number: 1081830

**Most of the information you give in this form will become publicly available on the Register of Charities. Any field that the Charity Commission will not display will be clearly marked.**

**This document is a record of the information provided in the Annual Return 2023.**

## PART A - Charity information

### Financial period

**Financial period start date**
01/09/2022

**Financial period end date**
31/08/2023

### Income and spending

**Income £**
£ 44,867

**Spending £**
£ 46,431

### Number of contracts from government

**How many contracts (other than grant agreements) did your charity receive from central government or a local authority during the financial period for this return?**
0

### Number of grants from government

**How many grants did your charity receive from central government or a local authority during the financial period for this return?**
12

### Value of grants from government

**What was the total value of the grants received from central government or a local authority during the financial period for this return?**
£ 14,713

### Income breakdown

**Donations and legacies (excluding Endowments Received)**

£ 12,272

**Charitable activities**

£ 29,854

**Other trading activities**

£ 2,689

**Investments**

£ 52

**Other**

£ 0

## Grantmaking

**Is grant making the main way your charity carries out its purposes?**

No

## Recipients of grants

**Please round all figures to the nearest pound (do not enter decimal points or commas).**
**Individuals**

£ 0

**Other charities**

£ 0

**Other organisations that are not charities**

£ 0

## Trustee payments

**Excluding out of pocket expenses, for what were any of the trustees paid during the financial period for this return?**

☒ e. None of the trustees have been paid

**Did any of the trustees resign and take up employment with your charity in the financial period of this return?**

No

## Income from outside the UK

**Did your charity receive income from outside of the United Kingdom in the financial period of this return?**

No

## Delivering activities outside the United Kingdom

**Did your charity deliver charitable activities outside of the United Kingdom in the financial period of this return?**

No

## Spending outside England & Wales

**Did your charity spend funds outside of the United Kingdom in the financial period of this return?**

No

**Total Spending outside England & Wales**

£

## Trading subsidiaries

**Does the charity have any trading subsidiaries?**

No

## Charity contact details correct

**Is the contact address displayed from the Register of Charities, correct?**

Yes

## Charity headquarters details correct

**Is this the same address that you use as your charity's administrative headquarters?**

Yes

## Charity contact address

**Address Line 1**

Village Hall

**Address Line 2**

West End

**Address Line 3**

Ashwell

**Address Line 4**

BALDOCK

**Address Line 5**

**Postcode**

SG7 5PJ

**Country**

## Charity Headquarters address

**Address Line 1**

Village Hall

**Address Line 2**

West End

**Address Line 3**

Ashwell

**Address Line 4**

BALDOCK

**Address Line 5**

**Postcode**

SG7 5PJ

**Country**

### Property

**Were any of your charity's properties held by holding or custodian trustees on behalf of your charity (excluding the Official Custodian) during the financial period for this return?**

No

### Membership type

**Is the charity part of a wider group structure with a parent body and subsidiary bodies?**

no, the charity is not part of a wider group structure

### Employment contract types

**People were permanently employed by your charity**

5

**People were on fixed-terms contracts with your charity**

0

**Self-employed people were working for your charity**

0

### Total overseas employees

**How many of the people above work on behalf of your charity outside of the United Kingdom?**

0

### Total employee payroll

**What was the total amount spent on employee payroll during the financial period relating to this return?**

£ 33,494

### Employees' salaries

**Did any of your charity's employees receive total employment benefits of £60,000 or more in the financial period of this annual return?**

No

### Governance policies

**Internal charity financial controls policy and procedures**

Yes

**Safeguarding policy and procedures**

Yes

**Financial reserves policy and procedures**

Yes

**Complaints policy and procedures**

Yes

**Serious incident reporting policy and procedures**
Yes

**Internal risk management policy and procedures**
Yes

**Trustee expenses policy and procedures**
Yes

**Trustee conflicts of interest policy and procedures**
Yes

**Investing charity funds policy and procedures**
Yes

**Campaigns and political activity policy and procedures**
Not applicable

**Bullying and harassment policy and procedures**
Yes

**Social media policy and procedures**
Yes

**Engaging external speakers at charity events policy and procedures**
Not applicable

## Safeguarding

**Has your charity provided services to children and/or adults at risk in the financial period of the return?**
Yes

**a. All required standard DBS checks have been obtained**
Not applicable

**b. All required enhanced DBS checks have been obtained**
Yes

**c. All required enhanced with Barred List(s) DBS checks have been obtained**
Not applicable

**d. DBS checks are not required other than Basic DBS checks**
No

## Serious Incidents

**Has your charity reported all Serious Incidents (including any historical incidents) that the charity became aware of during the financial period of this return?**
There were no incidents to report

## External risk and impact

**Donations**
Positive

**Other income - grants**
Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

**Other income - contracts**

Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

**Other income - investment**
Positive

**Expenditure on charitable activities**
Negative

**Expenditure on overheads**
Negative

**Number of volunteers**
Negative

**Number of employees**
Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

**Number of trustees**
Negative

**Fundraising activities**
Negative

**Capacity to deliver services**
Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

**Total service demand**
Unknown/No Change/Not Applicable

## Volunteers

**Excluding trustees, provide an estimate of the number of volunteers who carried out charitable activities on behalf of your charity in the United Kingdom during the financial period of this return?**
5

## Privacy statement

**Any information you give us will be held securely and processed only in accordance with the rule on data protection. We will not disclose your personal details to anyone unconnected to the Charity Commission unless:**

- **you have consented to their release; or**
- **we are legally obliged to disclose them; or**
- **we regard disclosure as either (a) necessary so that we can properly carry out our statutory functions or (b) necessary in the public interest.**

**We may share and disclose information about you with relevant public authorities, regulatory bodies and agencies, outside the Charity Commission but only if:**

- **we can lawfully do so; and**
- **we decide that disclosure is necessary for national security, crime detection, prevention, and law enforcement, or other issues in the public interest**

**Information we collect about you**

**We will use this information:**

**To enable us to carry out our statutory functions and duties;**

**This will include the following actions:**

**(a) update, consolidate, and improve the accuracy of our records;**

**(b) undertake crime detection and prevention and law enforcement and assist the third parties specified above to investigate or prevent crime and carry out law enforcement;**

**(c) data analysis, testing, research, statistical and survey purposes**

**Information we receive from other sources.**

**Information we receive from other sources**

**We may combine this information with information you give to us and information we collect about you.**

**We may use this information and the combined information for the purposes set out above (depending on the types of information we receive).**

**We will ensure that any such disclosure and use is proportionate; considers your right to respect for your private life; and is done fairly and lawfully in accordance with the data protection principles of the Data Protection Act.**

**The Data Protection Act 1998 regulates the use of 'personal data', which is essentially any information, however stored, about identifiable living individuals.**

**As a 'data controller' under the Act, the Charity Commission must comply with it. Any changes we may make to our privacy statement in the future will be set out in the replacement version of this form.**

**Please check back frequently to see any updates or changes to our privacy policy.**

## Declaration

**This annual return has not been submitted and no Declaration has been made**

**Ashwell Playgroup**
**1st September 2022 to 31st August 2023**
**Profit & Loss 2022-2023**

| | | Sept 22 | Oct 22 | Nov 22 | Dec 22 | Jan 23 | Feb 23 | Mar 23 | Apr 23 | May 23 | Jun 23 | Jul 23 | Aug 23 | **Total** |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Income** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sales | Invoice | £5,042.79 | £6.00 | £144.00 | £22.76 | £4,443.83 | £1,590.30 | £3,231.16 | £5,259.40 | £7,045.88 | £890.14 | £1,647.05 | £530.53 | **£29,853.84** |
| Sales | Other Income | £3.31 | £0.00 | £9,885.16 | £2,296.54 | £91.72 | £0.00 | £144.37 | £436.50 | £242.95 | £25.75 | £1,200.00 | £0.00 | **£14,326.30** |
| **Total Income** | | **£5,046.10** | **£6.00** | **£10,029.16** | **£2,319.30** | **£4,535.55** | **£1,590.30** | **£3,375.53** | **£5,695.90** | **£7,288.83** | **£915.89** | **£2,847.05** | **£530.53** | **£44,180.14** |
| **Less Expenses** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Events costs | Event costs | £0.00 | £0.00 | £10.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £38.26 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | **£48.26** |
| Events costs | Events costs (general) | £0.00 | £0.00 | £334.50 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £11.43 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | **£345.93** |
| Advertising | Advertising (general) | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £120.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £68.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | **£188.00** |
| Education and Trai | Education and Training ( | £190.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £182.00 | £13.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | **£385.00** |
| Materials & Equipr | Equipment | £0.00 | £30.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £129.00 | £37.20 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £45.14 | £340.19 | £0.00 | **£581.53** |
| Materials & Equipr | Materials | £72.41 | £20.40 | £30.52 | £6.42 | £33.73 | £93.04 | £118.52 | £6.10 | £138.42 | £0.00 | £156.53 | £0.00 | **£676.09** |
| Materials & Equipr | Outing/Christmas Party | £0.00 | £10.00 | £20.20 | £38.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £93.98 | £0.00 | **£162.18** |
| Office Expenses & | Office Supplies | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £9.99 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | **£9.99** |
| Office Expenses & | Printing | £9.99 | £9.99 | £0.00 | £9.99 | £19.98 | £0.00 | £9.99 | £9.99 | £9.99 | £9.99 | £9.99 | £0.00 | **£99.90** |
| Office Expenses & | Stationery | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £27.52 | £0.00 | £15.99 | £0.00 | £0.00 | **£43.51** |
| Other Expenses | Business Insurance | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £446.83 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | **£446.83** |
| Other Expenses | Subscriptions/Dues/Mer | £5.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £55.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | **£60.00** |
| Professional Servi | Accounting | £264.00 | £159.50 | £137.50 | £0.00 | £148.50 | £198.00 | £368.50 | £293.75 | £250.00 | £0.00 | £150.00 | £400.00 | **£2,369.75** |
| Professional Servi | Professional Services (g | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £5.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | **£5.00** |
| Rent or Lease | Hall rent | £0.00 | £602.37 | £0.00 | £602.37 | £602.37 | £602.37 | £602.37 | £602.37 | £602.37 | £602.37 | £602.37 | £626.89 | **£6,048.22** |
| Snacks | Snacks (general) | £22.06 | £0.00 | £26.75 | £0.00 | £27.91 | £37.88 | £47.51 | £15.47 | £26.71 | £42.72 | £3.24 | £0.00 | **£250.25** |
| Staff Training | Staff Training (general) | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £60.00 | **£60.00** |
| Supplies | Supplies (general) | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £1.19 | £0.00 | £133.90 | £0.00 | **£135.09** |
| Uncategorized Exp | Uncategorized Expenses | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 | £20.25 | **£20.25** |
| Utilities | Phone | £24.91 | £24.91 | £24.91 | £24.91 | £24.91 | £24.91 | £24.91 | £24.91 | £28.49 | £28.49 | £28.49 | £28.49 | **£313.24** |
| Wages & staff cost | Pension | £63.86 | £43.82 | £28.23 | £25.15 | £33.81 | £16.80 | £24.01 | £38.06 | £18.71 | £14.49 | £17.79 | £15.80 | **£340.53** |
| Wages & staff cost | Wages | £2,344.25 | £2,137.66 | £2,717.43 | £2,530.26 | £2,840.37 | £2,536.20 | £2,797.15 | £2,544.43 | £3,250.99 | £2,593.98 | £2,772.46 | £4,088.70 | **£33,153.88** |
| **Total Expenses** | | **£2,996.48** | **£3,038.65** | **£3,330.04** | **£3,237.10** | **£3,856.58** | **£3,638.20** | **£4,040.15** | **£4,229.69** | **£4,474.30** | **£3,353.17** | **£4,308.94** | **£5,240.13** | **£45,743.43** |
| **Net Profit** | | **£2,049.62** | **-£3,032.65** | **£6,699.12** | **-£917.80** | **£678.97** | **-£2,047.90** | **-£664.62** | **£1,466.21** | **£2,814.53** | **-£2,437.28** | **-£1,461.89** | **-£4,709.60** | **-£1,563.29** |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Cash in Hand** | |
| Current account | 914.32 |
| HI Savings Account | 8526.37 |
| Savings account | 60.97 |
| **Total Cash in Hand** | **9501.66** |

CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Independent examiner's report on the accounts

**Section A** Independent Examiner's Report

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Report to the trustees/ members of** | Charity Name<br>Ashwell Playgroup (Hertfordshire) | | |
| **On accounts for the year ended** | 31 August 2023 | **Charity no (if any)** | 1081830 |
| **Set out on pages** | 1-2<br>(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets) | | |

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 / 08 / 2023**.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, 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 Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- 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 order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Signed:** | [signature] | **Date:** | 26 June 2024 |
| **Name:** | Emma Farquhar BFP FCA | | |
| **Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):** | ICAEW member number 9251030 | | |
| **Address:** | 43 Medcalfe Way, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire<br>SG8 6HU | | |

| Section B | Disclosure |
|---|---|
| | Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners). |
| **Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.** | |

**ASHWELL PLAYGROUP (HERTFORDSHIRE)**

England & Wales - Charity number 1081830

# Accounts

# Ashwell Preschool
## (formerly known as Ashwell Playgroup)

### Treasurer's report SEPTEMBER 2021- AUGUST 2022

Ashwell Preschool (formerly known as Playgroup) have been in operation since the 1970's! Over the past fifty years times have changed. From humble beginnings as a Mothers and Babies group, staffed solely by volunteers, the Preschool is now an Ofsted registered, Early Years Educational setting for children aged 2-4, and was rated **GOOD** on a recent Ofsted inspection in May 2021. We employ members of staff whom are qualified Early Years Educators and Practitioners, and follow the age appropriate curriculum laid out in the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. Our management committee look after the business side of the setting, seeking grants and additional funding, dealing with staff training and recruitment, updating and maintaining the policies for the setting in conjunction with the Leader, and liaising with the school in termly Early Years meetings.

Autumn term 2021 started fairly typically with just 6 children on roll. By July 2022, we had 17 children on roll. 13 of these were 3-year-old children and they participated in several transition sessions up at the village school during the summer term to help them prepare for starting their new term in the Nursery class at the school in September 2022.

The renovation and resurfacing of the village hall garden was completed in September 2021 and has provided the children with a lovely new safe play surface, with the addition of some new play equipment too. The garden has been greatly enjoyed by the children in the setting for this academic year, including the cohort of leavers from July 2021, most of whom have returned to the preschool for successful lunch clubs and afternoon sessions.

By the year end, 31st August 2022, accounts show *a loss of £5841.58*

Whilst this is disappointing, to put it into context, we looked at sources of income.

1. Our fundraising ability was reduced due to a lack of volunteers, and including grants and donations totalled £3539.56, which is less than in previous years.
2. One main grant application submitted in April 2022 was indeed successful but this income was not awarded and presented to us until after this accounting period (HCT grant amount total = £9072 ).

In summary, had the HCT grant been awarded in July 2022, which is customary following an April application, the year would have ended in profit. Nonetheless, given the ever-increasing costs of running the setting and the difficulty in fundraising with so few volunteers, we must be mindful of our tight budget and low income reserves.

Our sources of income consist of the amounts allocated by NHDC for all 3 year old children whom become eligible for 15 hours of funded childcare, and for funded children aged 2, - whom for example may be from a low income household or from local authority care. ***Note these amounts have remained unchanged for years now.***

All other funding is by means of donations and from fundraising events held by the management committee.

Historically, and pre-COVID, the setting has run at an approximately £5,000 loss each academic year, and hard fundraising by committees of 10-16 people running a "Winter Wonderland", a big Quiz, the village Duck Race and other smaller local events has significantly offset this loss or removed it completely.

Post COVID we find ourselves as a management committee of 2! We face increased staff wage costs which are essential in order to recruit and keep trained staff, and a 15% hike in hall hire in 2022 (this equates to approximately £1000 increase), with a further rise anticipated in September 2023. Our business model is simply not functional in these times of a paucity of volunteers within the community, plus generally increased pressure on households to be considering their own income and a lack of free time to help out charities such as ourselves in planning and running events. Our yearly deficit is now approximately £9000 prior to receipt of any grants or income from fundraising.

For the mid to long term, I am seeking a means of greater financial security for the Preschool, which I believe should come from direct support from the village school. For good reason, there is no other village within our local area where a preschool functions independently of the village school. Assistance is provided for other settings by means of a rent-free site, and often additional managerial support with the day to day running of the setting.

We believe our location in the village hall is a satisfactory one, and need not change (in fact we provide a vital source of village hall income), but we intend to pitch to the school governors a plan for the midterm where some reliable fixed amount of financial support for the preschool is incorporated within the school's own grant applications to the Henry Colborn Trust (HCT) for example, and further support for staffing and management of the setting is incorporated into the business management of the school also. Whilst we do submit a grant application to the HCT each year this is not always successful and our ability to communicate with the HCT is significantly less effective than that of the school, in spite of our role as an educational setting.

Fundraising by volunteers for the preschool will remain a requirement but the hope is that this fundraising could be for items such as a new equipment shed, or updated play equipment, rather than to meet the ever-increasing deficit in the running costs of what we believe is an essential village service.

We continue to provide a valuable source of low-cost early years education within the village. We enter the academic year 2022-2023 with a new settings manager and look to a future of greater liaison with the school to help maintain our high standards of teaching of the preschool children in our care, and to reliably meet our financial deficits in running costs.

Merry Pertwee (nee Smith)

Treasurer, Ashwell Preschool

# Ashwell Playgroup Profit & Loss 2021-2022

**From September 2021 to August 2022**

| Income | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Variance |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Voluntary Sources** | | | |
| Unfunded Fees | £17,256.50 | £16,809.00 | £447.50 |
| Lunch Club | £1,733.00 | £1,764.00 | -£31.00 |
| Breakfast Club | £906.00 | £1,011.00 | -£105.00 |
| Afternoon Session | £9,146.00 | £9,042.00 | £104.00 |
| 2 yr Funded Fees | £497.16 | £6,612.79 | -£6,115.63 |
| 3 yr Funded Fees | £19,408.52 | £15,040.62 | £4,367.90 |
| SENCO funding | £250.00 | £0.00 | £250.00 |
| IDACI | £114.18 | £0.00 | £114.18 |
| **Total Voluntary Sources** | **£49,311.36** | **£50,279.41** | **-£968.05** |
| **Fundraising Income** | | | |
| Fundraising Events | £2,422.24 | £5,000.00 | -£2,577.76 |
| Fundraising Merchadise | £14.00 | £0.00 | £14.00 |
| Donations | £253.32 | £375.00 | -£121.68 |
| Grants | £850.00 | £4,000.00 | -£3,150.00 |
| **Total Fundraising Income** | **£3,539.56** | **£9,375.00** | **-£5,835.44** |
| **Other Income** | | | |
| Other Income | £53.96 | £0.00 | £53.96 |
| Interest Received | £11.10 | £30.00 | -£18.90 |
| **Total Other Income** | **£65.06** | **£30.00** | **£35.06** |
| **Total Income** | **£52,915.98** | **£59,684.41** | **-£6,768.43** |
| **Expenses** | | | |
| **Charitable Purposes** | | | |
| Wages | £43,389.74 | £44,434.32 | -£1,044.58 |
| Paye | £1,745.09 | £0.00 | £1,745.09 |
| Nest | £446.39 | £0.00 | £446.39 |
| 1-1 Support | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Outside professional fees | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Milk | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Rent | £6,900.19 | £6,542.25 | £357.94 |
| Equipment | £6.25 | £0.00 | £6.25 |
| Training | £35.20 | £0.00 | £35.20 |
| Materials | £438.96 | £600.00 | -£161.04 |
| Snack | £332.32 | £706.50 | -£374.18 |
| Xmas Party/Outings etc | £230.39 | £300.00 | -£69.61 |
| Other (inc Petty Cash) | £179.50 | £0.00 | £179.50 |
| **Total Charitable Purposes** | **£53,704.03** | **£52,583.07** | **£1,120.96** |
| **Admin Costs** | | | |
| Admin | £712.41 | £750.00 | -£37.59 |
| Accountancy | £3,014.00 | £3,960.00 | -£946.00 |
| Advertising | £64.80 | £300.00 | -£235.20 |
| Insurance | £434.20 | £450.00 | -£15.80 |
| **Total Admin Costs** | **£4,225.41** | **£5,460.00** | **-£1,234.59** |
| **Fundraising Costs** | | | |
| Fundraing Events Costs | £1,086.79 | £1,900.00 | -£813.21 |
| Fundraising merchandise costs | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Other Fundraising costs | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| **Total Fundraising Costs** | **£1,086.79** | **£1,900.00** | **-£813.21** |
| **Total Expenses** | **£59,016.23** | **£59,943.07** | **-£926.84** |
| **Net Profit/ (Loss)** | **-£6,100.25** | **-£258.67** | **-£5,841.58** |

**Ashwell Playgroup**

**Unaudited accounts**

**For Year ended 31 August 2022**

## Reporting Accountants' report to the members on the unaudited accounts of Ashwell Playgroup

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

No audit has taken place.

The Wright Accounts Services Ltd

# Accounts

**Ashwell Playgroup AGM 29th September 2021**
**Treasurer's Report**
**Merry Smith**

This document serves to highlight some items within the attached pdf summary of our accounts to date (Sept 2020-Aug 2021), which are presented for approval at this meeting.

**Autumn term 2020:**
Playgroup opened on 7th September 2020, for five mornings a week with a full set of COVID protocols in place. We had a reduced intake of between 8-13 children over the term, attending between 2-3 sessions weekly as a result of the pandemic, but were pleased to be open throughout the term. with no closures suffered due to the pandemic, which is testimony to the care the staff and parents took in following the precautionary measures in place. I would like to personally thank the staff for this excellent care.
We employed 4 level 3 Early Years Educators and one unqualified carer, each with regular hours in place and in addition we employed an apprentice between November 2020 and March 2021.

We welcomed our new book keeper, Yvonne Wright over the summer holidays of 2020.

**Fundraising and Grants**

- The fundraising events we were able to hold this term consisted of a clothing collection for the charity Happy Bags which raised £451, which was match funded to a total of £902, and the beautiful Christmas Calendar, which was produced thanks to the further wonderful donations of work from the Ashwell Art club, and thanks to a donation of printing costs which were provided at a special rate also, and which raised a wonderful £2692.

Due to restrictions the Ashwell Show (where normally a Messy Play tent is manned alongside the Ashwell Baby and Toddler Group, raising approximately £1000 for PG) and all Autumn and Winter events in the village (Winter Wonderland) were of course cancelled.

**Spring term 2021:**
Playgroup opened for five mornings a week in January 2021, with again a reduced intake of children. We began to offer breakfast (early drop off from 8.15) and lunch clubs (12:15-13:15) which proved popular, and boosted our income. Again, a full term of sessions was offered, with no COVID related closures necessary.

**Fundraising and Grants**

- We were awarded a Tesco's grant of £1000 for our proposed garden refurbishment project.
- A virtual fun run was held in March 2021 with various distances available and medals as prizes, which raised £427.

**Summer term 2021:**
Playgroup opened on 13th April for a full term of five mornings a week, again with reduced intake, with 18 children on the books.

**Fundraising and Grants**

- The Village Treasure Hunt was a live event after over a year of missed opportunities and was much enjoyed, raising £600
- We were awarded a re-start up grant of £2750 post COVID, from the Government allocated NHDC COVID relief grants
- We were allocated a further £570 from Councillor Tom Tyson's budget, as part match funding of our summer fundraising to date, in recognition of the difficulties faced in holding events given the continued restrictions.
- The Henry Colborn Trust awarded us a total of £7500, which consisted of £2000 towards our village hall garden refurbishment project, £4157 match funding of in recognition of our fundraising total achieved throughout the pandemic (June 2020-May 2021), and £1404 as funding for our Family Support scheme place for one child to attend two sessions per week throughout the academic year.

All in all, we have finished the financial year with a **loss of £8,940.00**. Whilst this sum is daunting, it is clear from the accounts that one primary area from where this loss arises is from our sources of primary income - namely session fees, (excluding fundraising).

To try to address the reduced uptake of sessions which may continue during 2021 and 2022 in the face of an uncertain COVID climate, we have begun the Autumn tern 2021 with a four-day week in order to concentrate child ratios, thereby making better use of staff costs and to save hall rental, whilst adding on afternoon sessions for the July 2021 playgroup leavers whom are now attending the village school nursery class. We are hopeful that this will boost income over the Autumn term and reduce the loss of earnings over this forthcoming academic year. We remain committed to ensuring regular weekly staff hours, and so we have retained our four level 3 Early Years Educators, with additional back up from an unqualified carer.

Merry Pertwee

Treasurer, Ashwell Preschool Playgroup

# Ashwell Playgroup Profit & Loss 2020-2021

**From September 2020 to August 2021**

| Income | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Variance |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Voluntary Sources** | | | |
| Unfunded Fees | £13,722.38 | £10,719.50 | £3,002.88 |
| Lunch Club | £1,188.00 | £2,679.25 | -£1,491.25 |
| Breakfast Club | £305.50 | £734.25 | -£428.75 |
| 2 yr Funded Fees | £6,357.66 | £3,339.00 | £3,018.66 |
| 3 yr Funded Fees | £6,876.10 | £7,196.25 | -£320.15 |
| SENCO funding | £337.45 | £0.00 | £337.45 |
| IDACI | £22.94 | £0.00 | £22.94 |
| **Total Voluntary Sources** | **£28,810.03** | **£24,668.25** | **£4,141.78** |
| | | | |
| **Fundraising Income** | | | |
| Fundraising Events | £2,240.21 | £7,500.00 | -£5,259.79 |
| Fundraising Merchadise | £3,022.60 | £0.00 | £3,022.60 |
| Donations | £306.91 | £3,500.00 | -£3,193.09 |
| Grants | £14,084.00 | £3,500.00 | £10,584.00 |
| **Total Fundraising Income** | **£19,653.72** | **£14,500.00** | **£5,153.72** |
| | | | |
| **Other Income** | | | |
| Other Income | £387.89 | £230.80 | £157.09 |
| Interest Received | £5.30 | £30.00 | -£24.70 |
| **Total Other Income** | **£393.19** | **£260.80** | **£132.39** |
| | | | |
| **Total Income** | **£48,856.94** | **£39,429.05** | **£9,427.89** |
| | | | |
| **Expenses** | | | |
| | | | |
| **Charitable Purposes** | | | |
| Wages | £39,179.03 | £41,379.71 | -£2,200.68 |
| Paye | £2,087.85 | £0.00 | £2,087.85 |
| Nest | £4.31 | £0.00 | £4.31 |
| 1-1 Support | £119.40 | £0.00 | £119.40 |
| Outside professional fees | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Milk | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| Rent | £6,295.41 | £5,250.00 | £1,045.41 |
| Equipment | £28.10 | £900.00 | -£871.90 |
| Training | £387.00 | £252.00 | £135.00 |
| Materials | £570.26 | £600.00 | -£29.74 |
| Snack | £355.19 | £456.00 | -£100.81 |
| Xmas Party/Outings etc | £165.48 | £300.00 | -£134.52 |
| Other (inc Petty Cash) | £3,329.73 | £0.00 | £3,329.73 |
| **Total Charitable Purposes** | **£52,521.76** | **£49,137.71** | **£3,384.05** |
| | | | |
| **Admin Costs** | | | |
| Admin | £770.14 | £180.00 | £590.14 |
| Accountancy | £2,991.99 | £3,960.00 | -£968.01 |
| Advertising | £182.00 | £300.00 | -£118.00 |
| Insurance | £426.32 | £450.00 | -£23.68 |
| **Total Admin Costs** | **£4,370.45** | **£4,890.00** | **-£519.55** |
| | | | |
| **Fundraising Costs** | | | |
| Fundraing Events Costs | £3.45 | £2,500.00 | -£2,496.55 |
| Fundraising merchandise costs | £901.28 | £0.00 | £901.28 |
| Other Fundraising costs | £0.00 | £0.00 | £0.00 |
| **Total Fundraising Costs** | **£904.73** | **£2,500.00** | **-£1,595.27** |
| | | | |
| **Total Expenses** | **£57,796.94** | **£56,527.71** | **£1,269.23** |
| | | | |
| **Net Profit/ (Loss)** | **-£8,940.00** | **-£17,098.66** | **£8,158.66** |

**Ashwell Playgroup**

**Unaudited accounts**

**For Year ended 31 August 2020**

**Reporting Accountants' report to the members on the unaudited accounts of Ashwell Playgroup**

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2021. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

No audit has taken place.

The Wright Accounts Services Ltd

ASHWELL PLAYGROUP (HERTFORDSHIRE)

England & Wales - Charity number 1081830

# Accounts

# Ashwell Playgroup AGM 30th September 2020
# Treasurer's Report
# Merry Smith

This document serves to highlight some items within the attached pdf summary of our accounts to date (2019-2020), which are presented for approval at this meeting.

**Fundraising and Grants**
**Autumn term 2019:**

- The fundraising events this term consisted of a trial car boot sale (this proved to be a worthwhile pilot exercise, and we'll plan a larger one in the future) and our Winter Wonderland event; the latter did not raise as much money as in previous years, which we believe in part was due to the timing of the event being over a long weekend, with lots of families taking the opportunity to be away for the weekend, as schools were closed on the Friday before. Note the date of this event is not in our control, but depends on a date set by the Parish council, for the village Winter Market.
  The boot sale and WW events raised **£361**
- We applied for a grant from the NH county council for marketing purposes and were awarded **£700**
- As a result of our hard work over a very hot August bank holiday running a messy play and craft tent the Ashwell Show Committee awarded us a grant of **£1250**

**Spring term 2020:**

- Our main fundraising event this term was our annual Quiz, which raised a pleasing profit of approximately **£1300.** Huge thanks to Laura McKie and Holly Smith, whom led on this event.

**Summer term 2020:**
We were due to hold our annual Duck race at the end of March and had also planned to run a café during the Ashwell at Home day in mid May, but of course these events had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Similarly, we were unable to run our summer fund raising events which include a Ladies pamper evening and the running of the popular Messy play and craft tent at the Ashwell Show, which again was cancelled.
However, Andrea and the other settings staff brainstormed, and progressed and ran two very successful fundraising events during lockdown.

- The Village Art Auction raised a staggering **£1090**
- Hand washing for Playgroup raised **£246**

I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff for these efforts! In addition, our Happy Bag charity clothing collection progressed steadily over the summer months, generating 754Kg of used clothing, collected on 28th September, which converted into **£452.40**, which was then match funded, to make a total of **£904.80**, which will be received into our account in September/October 2020, and be reflected in the accounts 2020-2021.

Additional grants from the Preschool Alliance (unsuccessful), the Henry Colborn Trust (still to hear) and Tesco's (still to hear) have been applied for during this time.

We had a good intake of children during the Spring term, and a healthy uptake of our extended sessions which were run on all five working days per week. This income combined with management of a low but thankfully stable staff number as well as the grant above, and our fundraising efforts above meant that when we finished the Spring term two weeks early, we were in a stable financial position.

**COVID-19 actions**
We, in line with the village school closed for business on Friday 27th March 2020, until 7th September 2020.
We made the decision to pay our four staff their full usual weekly wage throughout the COVID-19 lockdown, and subsequently we furloughed all four members of staff. I am proud of the committee for unanimously making this decision to pay staff full wages, and feel that it reflects the ethos of Ashwell Playgroup. We applied for and received 80% of our staff wage bill through HMRC's furloughed workers scheme between 27th March and 31st August 2020 (See receipt item of £11999). We also made the decision to pay in full, our historic debt for hall hire costs in March 2020, leaving us with no outstanding debts at the time of our reopening date of 7th September 2020. NHDC continued to pay us for our funded 2 and 3-year-old children whom were on the register in April 2020, and this income has helped offset the deficit in the staff wages bill.

**In summary, for the first time in many years, we have ended the financial year 2019-2020 with a small surplus of £1729.**
I believe this positive bank balance is due to a combination of a rise in children attending (likely our opening for a full 5 day week from January 2020 was a positive change, and one which we should maintain), in the face of a critically low staff and therefore wage bill, which has been rebalanced during lock down with the hiring of two additional Level 3 Early Years Educators, both working for Playgroup in a part time capacity. Moving forward, operating with four level 3 members of staff and 1 additional unqualified but experienced member of staff should allow for sickness cover and other unforeseen absence cover during the working week, without any future need to call on committee members to cover shifts, which is simply not an option in the current climate, and with a Management Committee of four, all of whom work.

Looking forward, it will continue to cost us approximately £50,000 per annum to run playgroup, this breaking down as an anticipated wage bill of approximately £40,000 per annum, and expenses of book keeping and hall hire of approximately £10,000 combined per annum. We should assume we will continue to have a short fall of up to approximately £5000 per annum, subject to child attendance, and this amount should continue to be our fundraising goal each year.
Our ability to continue to fundraise in the face of the pandemic, using ingenuity and perseverance should not go unnoticed, and I personally would like to thank everyone very much, whom has helped with this essential fund raising over this past year.

M A Smith

# ASHWELL PLAYGROUP

**Draft Receipts and Payments A/C**
**for the period 1/9/2019 to 31/8/2020**

| | Year to Date | Adjustments c/f | Year to day with adjusted totals | Last Year 2018/19 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | £ | | | £ |
| **RECEIPTS** | | | | |
| **Voluntary Sources** | | | | |
| Fees | 28,980 | | 28,980 | 23,558 |
| Donations | 11,535 | -10,100 | 1,435 | 2,450 |
| Milk Grant | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Grants | 700 | | 700 | 0 |
| Fund-Raising | 4,002 | | 4,002 | 5,483 |
| SENCO funding | 360 | | 365 | -991 |
| **Total Voluntary Sources** | **45,577** | **-10,100** | **35,482** | **30,500** |
| **Trading Activities** | **0** | | 0 | **0** |
| **Other Income** | **11,999** | | 11,999 | **0** |
| **Income from Assets** | **0** | | 0 | **0** |
| Interest | 25 | 0 | 25 | 43 |
| **Total Income from Assets** | **25** | **0** | **12,024** | **43** |
| **TOTAL RECEIPTS** | **57,601** | **-10,100** | **47,506** | **30,543** |
| **PAYMENTS** | | | | |
| **Charitable Purposes** | | | | |
| Wages | 34,715 | | 34,715 | 28,982 |
| 1-1 Support | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Outside professional fees | 2,282 | | 2,282 | 10 |
| Milk | 0 | | 0 | 1,840 |
| Rent | 4,273 | | 4,273 | 4,644 |
| Equipment | 1,462 | | 1,462 | 972 |
| Training | 292 | | 292 | 117 |
| Materials | 12 | | 12 | 384 |
| Snack | 135 | | | 0 |
| Donation | 0 | | 0 | 50 |
| Xmas Party/Outings etc | 0 | | 0 | 0 |
| Other (inc Petty Cash) | 754 | | 754 | 628 |
| **Total Charitable Purposes** | **43,925** | **0** | **43,790** | **37,627** |
| **Publicity, Fundraising, Mgmt & Admin** | | | | |
| Fund-raising | 659 | 0 | 659 | 1,458 |
| Admin | 1,329 | 0 | 1,329 | 1,110 |
| **Total Publicity, Fundraising, Mgmt & Admin** | **1,988** | **0** | **1,988** | **2,568** |
| **Other Payments** | | | | |
| **TOTAL PAYMENTS** | **45,913** | **0** | **45,778** | **40,195** |
| **Net of Receipts/(Payments)** | **11,688** | **-10,100** | **1,729** | **-9,652** |
| **Money Raised through FR and Grants** | **15,578** | | **5,478** | **6,475** |
| **Current A/C funds and Cash b/f** | **15,685** | **0** | **15,685** | **25,126** |
| **Current A/C funds and Cash c/f** | **27,373** | | **17,414** | **15,473** |
| Check **Current A/C funds and Cash** | | | | |
| Deposit A/C | 22,983 | | 22,983 | 14,880 |
| Current A/C | 4,354 | | 4,354 | 805 |
| Interest received on long-term reserves | 0 | | | 0 |
| **Current A/C funds and Cash c/f** | **27,336** | **0** | **27,336** | **15,685** |
| Contras | 36 | | | |

**Ashwell Playgroup**

**Unaudited accounts**

**For Year ended 31 August 2020**

**Reporting Accountants' report to the members on the unaudited accounts of Ashwell Playgroup**

We report on the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2020. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard Applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.

No audit has taken place.

The Wright Accounts Services Ltd