

Chair's Review

The Preschool Year September 2020 – 31st August 2021

How the Preschool Met Its Charitable Aims

During the 2020–2021 year the Preschool continued to provide early years education and care in exceptionally challenging circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite national restrictions and uncertainty, the setting remained open to support the children of key workers and vulnerable families, ensuring continuity of care and education at a time when stability was crucial.

The Preschool's charitable aim — to advance the education and development of children in a safe, nurturing early years environment — remained at the heart of all decision making. Staff worked tirelessly to balance high-quality learning experiences with rigorous health and safety procedures.

The staff team consisted of Maxine, Annette, Chloe, Christine and Emily, who demonstrated dedication, flexibility and professionalism throughout the year. Their commitment ensured that children attending sessions continued to access a broad curriculum in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), while adapting practice to meet COVID safety guidance. This included enhanced hygiene routines, smaller group working, and adjustments to daily routines to minimise risk while maintaining emotional security for the children.

Children's emotional wellbeing was a particular focus. Many children experienced disruption, and staff prioritised secure attachments, routine, and opportunities for play-based learning to support confidence, communication and social development.

The Committee this year included Sarah and Charlotte, who continued to oversee the governance of the Preschool during a difficult period. The committee supported staff with decision-making around risk assessments, operational procedures and financial sustainability.

Impact of COVID-19

The pandemic significantly affected normal Preschool operations:

- Attendance numbers fluctuated due to national lockdowns and isolation requirements
- Fundraising opportunities were extremely limited
- Parent engagement events could not take place in the usual way
- Additional cleaning and hygiene measures were required

Despite these challenges, the Preschool remained committed to supporting families who needed provision most. Communication with parents was maintained through regular updates, and staff worked closely with families to provide reassurance and continuity.

Learning and Development

Children who attended continued to be supported across all areas of learning, with particular focus on:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development through active play

Staff adapted the environment and resources to ensure learning remained engaging while also being safe and manageable under COVID guidance.

Fundraising

Due to restrictions, fundraising activities were minimal during this year. The committee and staff focused instead on maintaining financial stability and ensuring essential resources were available. The Preschool remained grateful for any small donations and ongoing family support during this uncertain time.

Looking Forward

As restrictions began to ease toward the end of the reporting period, the Preschool looked ahead to rebuilding community events, strengthening parent partnerships, and continuing to provide a high-quality early years experience for all children.

The Trustees would like to thank the staff team for their resilience, care and commitment during one of the most challenging years the Preschool has faced. Their work ensured children remained safe, supported and able to continue learning.

Shipdham Playgroup
Income and expenditure account
For the year ended 31 August 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Playgroup fees	15,271		9,578	
Playgroup funding	62,669		68,061	
Fundraising	-		51	
Uniform	-		8	
Other	9	77,949	2,791	80,489
Expenditure				
Staff costs	62,247		56,225	
Training	576		497	
Building hire	720		720	
Heat and light etc	3,741		2,945	
Waste disposal	717		518	
Cleaning	779		1,137	
General expenditure	3,995		2,147	
Maintenance	3,699		622	
Advertising	-		-	
Licences & registrations	1,927		1,921	
Fund raising	-		-	
Educational materials	1,156		5,383	
Equipment	1,821		1,284	
Uniforms	231		277	
Parties and trips	-	(81,609)	376	(74,052)
Surplus/(Deficit) in year		(3,660)		6,437
Cash funds as at 1 September 2020		24,700		18,263
Cash funds as at 31 August 2021		<u>21,040</u>		<u>24,700</u>
Cash at bank:				
Lloyds Bank Treasurers account 23502068		-	23,336	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers account 33139160		-	1,364	
Lloyds Bank Treasurers account 74738368		21,040	-	
		<u>21,040</u>	<u>24,700</u>	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees	SHIPDHAM PLAYGROUP		
On accounts for the year ended	31 AUGUST 2021	Charity no (if any)	1019292
Set out on pages	3		

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31 August 2021**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, 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 all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: R/K Date: 9 APRIL 2022

Name: ROBERT KENDALL

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): FCCA

Address: 38 HIGH STREET
WATTON
IP25 6AE

Section B**Disclosure**

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material 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.

