

# **Manager's Report 2024**

## **Expansion**

2024 has been an extraordinary year for Crackerjacks with the opening of our new Nursery at the Jubilee Centre on 7<sup>th</sup> October. This has involved an enormous amount of work over the past three and a half years, but it's been an exciting time with an incredibly worthwhile result. The new provision has come at just the right time to not only support the need for additional childcare places in our expanding village but also to provide 2-year-old places to support the government's funding expansion schemes. The new building is purpose built to our own specifications and has been resourced with brand new furniture and equipment, thanks to grants received from Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk District Council and Cringleford Parish Council. The Parish Council have worked tirelessly alongside us to get the Nursery up and running and they are our landlords at the Jubilee Centre.

The new Nursery benefits from two activity rooms, an exclusive outdoor area and a dedicated laundry room as well as good storage provision both inside and out.

## **Our expanded offer**

As the result of our expansion, Crackerjacks is now offering the following provision

	Preschool (Dragonfly Lane)	Nursery (Jubilee Centre)
Opening hours	8.45 am – 3.30 pm	8.00 am – 6.00 pm
Number of weeks	Term time only (39 weeks)	48 weeks
Age range	2.5 to 4 years	2 to 4 years

## **Admissions**

The maximum number of places available at any one time is 30 in each setting. We currently have 50 on roll at the Preschool, 35 at the Nursery, plus 4 on roll at both making a total of 89 children across the two settings.

Crackerjacks Preschool was full for most of the 2023/24 academic year and is already close to capacity for the new academic year. We expect all places to be full by January with

parents taking up extra sessions and with children joining us either from our waiting list or moving into the area.

The Nursery currently has an average of 19 children in each morning session and 7 in the afternoons. More children are expected to start over the next few weeks as children on our waiting list turn 2 and become eligible for funding and also as word starts to spread.

## **Staff**

During last year, we were sad to say goodbye to:

- Jemma Clarke who left us to start a new role as a Family Time Supervisor with Norfolk County Council
- Kelly Fahy who is now working at Cringleford Primary School as a Teaching Assistant
- Galit Young who left us to return to her original career as an Occupational Therapist at NNUH

Diane Shore was absent on Maternity leave between January and September.

We welcomed Melanie Ottaway (Level 3) and Megan Turner (Level 6) to our Preschool team as Senior Early Years Practitioners.

As a result of our expansion, new management roles were created and appointed as follows:

Manager (both settings) – Karen Latoy

Setting Leader (Preschool) – Diane Shore

Setting Leader (Nursery) – Megan Sturman

Office Manager (both settings) – Cheryl Phillips

We also made the following new appointments for our Nursery:

Senior Early Years Practitioner – Emma Mann (Level 6)

Early Years Practitioner – Isla Fisher (Level 3)

Early Years Practitioner – Lucy Steuernagel (Level 6)

Early Years Practitioner – Jenna Bruce

Early Years Apprentice – Kiera Doggett (Level 2)

Bank Staff – Lisa Shalamanova

Bank Staff – Emma Ragan (Level 3)

In 2023/24, we were fortunate to host two students on placement from Norwich City College for two days a week. They were both a great help to us and the children really enjoyed having them around. This year, we have a new Level 2 student who started with us last month at the Preschool, another Level 2 student starting with us soon at both settings and a Level 3 student who was with us last year also working at both settings.

We have also recruited a Cleaner for the Nursery.

## **Training**

Kiera Doggett and Kanwal Qureshi both completed their Level 2 Early Years Diploma. Congratulations and well done to them both.

Megan Sturman and Diane Shore are currently enrolled on a Level 3 SENCO course.

In addition to these qualifications, staff continue to attend training either remotely or in person for Safeguarding, First Aid and for areas of identified need or development. We hold regular CPD sessions in our team meetings and supervision meetings and we attend training and briefing sessions offered by the Local Authority and external providers. In February, Megan Sturman and I were again able to attend the annual Nursery World Show in London. I also attended the Childcare & Education Expo at Olympia. Both events were really worthwhile, and we picked up lots of lovely ideas and resources. We hope our management team will be able to go again in 2025.

## **Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

At both settings we continue to support a number of children with SEN. Six at the Preschool, including three with EHCPs and four at the Nursery. Our staff teams at both settings are very skilled and experienced at delivering the interventions and support necessary to support these children to ensure their needs are met and they make good progress.

## **Trips and events**

We enjoyed several trips and events over the past year as well as coffee mornings and Stay&Play sessions.

At Christmas, we hosted our own Christmas Show, Noisy Nativity, for parents and grandparents. We also enjoyed a Christmas fayre hosted by our Committee.

Baby Ballet visited us a few times during the first half of the year to introduce the children to music and dance.

A highlight of the year was the arrival of duckling eggs just after the Easter holidays. It was fascinating for the children (and adults!) to watch them hatch and we enjoyed looking after them and watching them grow. The children all had the opportunity to handle the ducklings and we loved seeing them swim in our paddling pool.

Also, during the Summer Term, we went on an outing to Banham Zoo and enjoyed a visit by Ed from Minimonsters who brought some very interesting animals to Crackerjacks for us to touch and hold. We held a lovely Sports Day on the School field and we rounded the year off with a party and children's entertainer from Go Awesome. On the final day of term, we invited parents in for a 'Graduation' event and goodbyes.

We are grateful to the parents who visited us during the year either to talk about their jobs and cultures or as a Mystery Reader. A big thank you to them all.

## **CIO**

We finally completed the process of converting the legal structure of Crackerjacks from an Unincorporated Charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This enables us to maintain our charity status while limiting the liability of trustees and giving Crackerjacks its own legal entity. A new constitution also means that we are less reliant on parent volunteers to join the Committee which will give us more consistency and stability.

As a result of the change of charity status, we had to register not just the Nursery but also the Preschool as a new setting with Ofsted. Sadly this means we lost our Outstanding judgment and we are now classed as a setting awaiting first inspection.

## **Thank you to our Committee**

Once again, we owe huge thanks this year to our Committee who have worked so hard to support me and Crackerjacks, especially our Chair Richard who has supported us so well through the expansion project and change of charitable status. The Committee play a vital role in keeping Crackerjacks running and in raising much needed funds through fundraising events. It is thanks to the dedication and determination of our Committee that we are able to

keep operating and supporting families in Cringleford. I can't thank them enough for everything they do.

### **Thank you to our Staff**

I also want to say a huge thank you once again to our Staff, old and new, who work so hard to ensure that Crackerjacks is Outstanding and that Crackerjacks' children have the best possible early years experiences. It's not been an easy year for anyone with so much work going on behind the scenes on the restructuring and expansion, but they have all worked tirelessly to make sure that every child's individual needs are met.

Karen Latoy

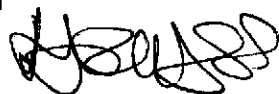
Manager, Cringleford Crackerjacks

**CRINGLEFORD CRACKERJACKS****INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT****YEAR ENDING 31 AUGUST 2024**

<b>Charitable Activities</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Fees	51,992	192,086
2 year old funding	6,224	
3&4 year old funding	132,485	
SEND/EHCP funding	20,646	
EYPP & other	3,713	
Milk Claims	-	
Fundraising	1,529	2,244
Outings	698	151
Interest	1,782	598
Grants	23,745	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>242,815</b>	<b>195,077</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Wages	168,437	152,129
Training	903	809
Rent	11,268	10,328
Equipment	3,301	3,901
Admin	956	4,522
Crafts	986	740
Food	3,275	2,564
Cleaning	353	334
Insurance	1,578	1,484
Subs and DBS checks	2,868	1,292
Marketing	473	106
Outings	1,955	1,600
Bank Charges	63	69
Other	26,660	2,387
Redundancy Reserve	1,860	
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>224,936</b>	<b>182,265</b>
<b>Surplus / (deficit)</b>	<b>17,878</b>	<b>12,812</b>

The Charity, being eligible, has elected to prepare the accounts under FRSSE.  
 I have compared the above income and expenditure account with the books and records presented to me and can confirm that they are in accordance therewith.

Signed

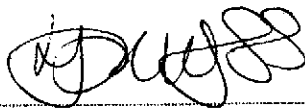

Name LACEY DOUGLASSDate 17/11/2024Designation INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

**CRINGLEFORD CRACKERJACKS****BALANCE SHEET****AT 31 AUGUST 2024**

<b><u>Social Investments</u></b>	<b><u>2023-24</u></b>	<b><u>2022-23</u></b>
<b>Cash</b>		
Current Account	14,840	5,101
Deposit Account	90,000	80,000
	<u>104,840</u>	<u>85,101</u>
<b>Other</b>		
Debtors	-	143
Creditors	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>143</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>104,840</u>	<u>85,244</u>
<b>Reserves</b>		
General Reserves	53,298	47,188
Redundancy Reserve	26,394	22,674
Fundraising reserve	148	381
Expansion	25,000	15,000
<b>Total reserves</b>	<u>104,840</u>	<u>85,244</u>

The Charity, being eligible, has elected to prepare the accounts under FRSSE.  
 I have compared the above balance sheet with the books and records presented  
 to me and can confirm that they are in accordance therewith.

Signed



Name LACEY DOUGLASS

Date 17/11/2024

Designation INDEPENDENT EXAMINOR.

# Lacey Douglass – Bookkeeping Services

96 Drayton Wood Road

Norwich

NR6 5BZ

01603 418188

07736 319987

[ljDoug23@hotmail.com](mailto:ljDoug23@hotmail.com)

Cringleford Crackerjacks

Dragonfly Lane

Norwich

NR4 7JR

## **Report of the examiner 2024**

I have examined the accounts, bank statements and records of Crackerjacks and find them to be in order and I am satisfied that they are a true and accurate view of the provision.

The records are being maintained correctly and strong financial controls are in place.

Lacey Douglass FIAB

Independent Examiner

17<sup>th</sup> November 2024