



**Chestnuts
Pre-School**

Regd. Charity 295756

(registered charity no 295756)

Annual report and accounts

Year ended 31 July 2024

Registered charity number	295756
Address	32 Chestnut Avenue Wokingham Berkshire RG41 3RS
Trustees	Helen Eastwood (Chair) Daniel Muller (Treasurer) Sarah Ramsdale (Secretary) Rachel Green (Trustee) Burcin Kuz (Trustee) Leigh Muller (Trustee)
Independent Examiner	Calculus Consultancy Services Limited Chartered Certified Accountants 2 Church Street Burnham Bucks SL17HZ

The Trustees are pleased to present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Activities

The Charity operates a pre-school care and education setting in Wokingham, Berkshire. It is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA).

Constitution

The Charity was founded in 1984 and is governed by a constitution closely aligned with the model constitution provided by the PLA. The most recently updated constitution was adopted by the members at an Annual General Meeting held on 13th October 2014.

Objectives

The key aim of the pre-school is to enhance the development and education of children primarily under statutory school age through the provision of high-quality Early Years care and education.

Additional important objectives include:

- encouraging parents to take responsibility for and to become involved in the activities of the group and ensuring that we offer opportunities for all children, regardless of race culture, religion or means.
- encouraging the study of the needs of children and their families and promoting public interest in and recognition of such needs in the local areas.
- encouraging parents to understand and provide for the needs of their children through community groups; and
- instigating and adhering to and furthering the aim of the Pre-school Learning Alliance (PLA).

Review of the year

The Pre-school management and staff are highly committed to providing the highest standard of Pre-school care and education, whilst endeavouring to operate the Pre-school in a financially sustainable way. The Trustees are satisfied with the overall performance of the Pre-school during the year given the challenges still faced with by the cost-of-living crisis.

Financial review

During the year ended 31 July 2024, the Charity made a gain of £27,958 (2023: loss of £38,220). The charity's reserves are £64,766 (2023: £36,808) as at 31 July 2024.

Since July 2023 the Committee and Chestnuts staff have continued working extremely hard to review every expenditure to reduce any unnecessary costs including reducing staff hours (whilst still maintaining the appropriate staff to children ratios) and ensuring that our funding and fundraising amounts received cover our out-goings making us more substantially viable. The head count has also been maintained at a good level to ensure the most from funded and non-funded sessions. The lunch club and consumables fee are continuing to help cover any additional costs spent. These steps have continued to help secure Chestnuts in the long term financially, and we will start to slowly build up further reserves. The Trustees consider this level of reserves to be adequate to ensure the short-term financial stability of the Charity with enough funds ring-fenced for redundancies should this be necessary. The building structure remains stable and is adequately insured.

Members

The members are the parents (or other appointed guardian) of the children attending the pre-school setting, from time to time.

Trustees

The Trustees of the Charity are the managing committee of the pre-school. Under the terms of the constitution, there must be no fewer than five Trustees and no more than twelve Trustees at any time and at least 60% of the Trustees must be members of the pre-school as defined above.

Trustees are elected by the members at each AGM and serve until the next AGM (where they may stand for re-election) unless they resign before that time. If necessary (for example if a number of Trustees resign part way through a year), the existing Trustees can co-opt up to three persons to stand as Trustees until the next AGM.

The Trustees serving the Pre-school as at the date of approval of this report are those named on page 1. Helen Eastwood and Daniel Muller were re-appointed by the Members of the Committee/Trustees at the AGM on 1st July 2024: Daniel took on the treasurer role. Zhaoran Lui, Camilla Agnaess, Rebecca Corfield and Jacqui Beagent all resigned on the 1st July 2024.

Approval of report

This report was approved on 16 May 2025 and signed on behalf of the Trustees by:



Helen Eastwood
Chair

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and independent 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 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed. I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a 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 the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiners' Statement

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

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act

have not been met; or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Calculus

Calculus Consultancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 Church Street
Burnham
Bucks
SL1 7HZ

Date: *16th May 2025*

Basis of preparation

The accounts are prepared on a historic cost, going concern basis in accordance with accounting standards and Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005). The principal accounting policies are unchanged from the previous year and are stated below.

Income and expenditure

Income and expenditure are accounted for in the year to which they relate, using the accruals basis.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is charged so as to write off the cost of an asset over its estimated useful life. The methods and rates applicable are as follows:

Leasehold buildings	-	5% per annum straight line
Equipment	-	25% reducing balance

**Chestnuts Pre-school
Income and expenditure
account**

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For the year ended 31 July 2024

	2024	£	2023	£
Operating income				
Grant funding	149,041		99,163	
Fees and charges	<u>57,953</u>	206,994	<u>55,737</u>	154,900
Other income				
Fundraising	2,326		3,654	
Donations	3,527		4,525	
Interest	23		200	
Indirect grant income	-		-	
Merchandise and other income	<u>108</u>	5,984	<u>143</u>	8,389
Direct costs				
Staff costs	156,543		159,645	
Teaching equipment and consumables	2,073		2,439	
Milk and refreshments	<u>1,480</u>	(160,096)	<u>1,989</u>	(164,073)
Overhead costs				
Rent, rates and insurance	4,526		5,045	
Electricity and water	5,117		7,543	
Repairs and maintenance	2,216		8,851	
Equipment, stationery and consumables	3,021		4,936	
Telephone	733		916	
Cleaning and refuse	1,558		2,149	
Depreciation	3,271		3,506	
Other	<u>4,481</u>	(24,924)	<u>4,490</u>	(37,436)
Net surplus/(loss)		<u>27,958</u>		<u>(38,220)</u>

	2024	£	2023	£
Fixed assets (note 1)				
Buildings		0		2,846
Equipment	<u>1,274</u>	1,274	<u>1,699</u>	4,545
Current assets				
Bank and cash balances	110,779		64,800	
Accounts receivable and Prepayments	<u>4,436</u>		<u>2,400</u>	
	115,215		67,200	
Current liabilities				
Creditors	400		2,155	
Accruals, deferred income and deposits	<u>51,344</u>		<u>32,782</u>	
	51,903		34,937	
Net current assets		63,492		32,263
Net assets		<u>64,766</u>		<u>36,808</u>
Represented by				
Accumulated funds brought forward		36,808		75,028
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		27,958		(38,220)
Total funds (note 2)		<u>64,766</u>		<u>36,808</u>

The annual accounts were approved by the Trustees on
signed
on their behalf by:

16 MAY 2025 and are


Helen Eastwood (Chairperson)


Daniel Muller (Treasurer)

Note 1 - Fixed assets

	Buildings £	Equipment £	Total £
<u>Cost</u>			
At 1 August 2023	58,797	17,523	76,320
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 July 2024	58,797	17,523	76,320
<u>Depreciation</u>			
At 1 August 2023	55,951	15,824	71,775
Charge for the year	2,846	425	3,271
At 31 July 2024	58,797	16,249	75,046
<u>Net book value</u>			
At 31 July 2023	2,846	1,699	4,545
At 31 July 2024	-	1,274	1,274

**Note 2 – Funds
(unrestricted)**

	£
At 1 August 2023	36,808
Net surplus / (deficit) for the year	27,958
At 31 July 2024	64,766