

Witnesham Pre-school 2022-23 Report

The past twelve months have unfortunately been rather unsettled for Witnesham Pre-School.

Still finding our feet after an inadequate Ofsted inspection in 2021, which was made good in 2022 and still feeling the impact of Covid, numerous lockdowns and the inability to fundraisers during those times.

When our new manger Hannah took over in September the number of children attending the Pre-School was very low. Hannah immediately began an advertising campaign and held open days to try and boost numbers. She also changed our Ofsted registration from taking 2-5 year olds to 0-5 year olds.

By December there was no longer enough funds to continue to operate and we faced immediate closure. Very fortunately the Early Years team at Suffolk County Council were able to implement a financial plan to keep the Pre-School in operation until Easter this year, in the hope that the number of children would increase enough to make the setting financially sustainable going forwards.

Since January the advertising campaign has paid off and the number of children has considerably increased. We have also increased our fees and are now bringing in enough funds to cover our outgoings but only just and with the continuing rise in costs, such as energy, food and supplies we are certainly not out of the woods.

With regards to the rise in energy costs, another issue we face is the age and condition of the preschool building. There is absolutely no insulation, therefore costing us even more to heat it. This is something with the help of the Parish Council we are currently addressing with Suffolk County Council and we are looking at any potential grants that could help with this matter.

Since January we have also put together a number of fundraising initiatives, we held a very successful Quiz Night recently and this has helped to give us a small reserve in our account. We also have a number of other events planned throughout the year.