

Annual Report 2020-2021

This year has been a difficult year financially. COVID-19 meant that we had to close our setting shortly before the beginning of the financial year and were unable to open until government advice changed in June. During this time we continued to receive funding from SCC for the children with free childcare places and so we were able to keep our staff on and pay their wages, but we did miss out on the income from parents paying for their parents to attend.

One of the biggest impacts of COVID-19 was on our number of children starting in September. Because the pre-school had been closed we had not been able to advertise our services and encourage parents to come and look around. This led to lower numbers starting in September. However, SCC over paid our funding by £1580 in the first term, a sum that we will be paying back in instalments the following year which means that in effect we have made a loss of £817 this financial year.

There was a second lockdown in January – February. During this lockdown we were required to stay open. However, we had very low numbers of children because parents did not feel confident to send their children to pre-school at this time due to COVID-19. We received funding for the children already on our role but once again COVID-19 discouraged new children from enrolling. During this time we also furloughed one member of staff who had additional childcare responsibilities.

Unfortunately COVID-19 also prevented fundraising events from going ahead and so we were unable to raise funds this year. We were also prevented from applying for small business grants because, as a charity, we do not pay business rates.

Considering the circumstances of the pandemic the loss we have made this year is understandable and should not have too high an impact. Our aims for the coming years are to build back up our attendance at pre-school and become more active within the community both for fundraising and to raise our profile.