



Little Milton Annual Parish Meeting 2016

Report from The Orchard Pre-school

The past year has been a busy and successful year for The Orchard. The focus of the year was to improve and sustain the surroundings and equipment at The Orchard and to maintain a stable, happy and supportive environment for the children amidst some changes within our staff team.

Ofsted

The Orchard was inspected by Ofsted in February 2015 and we were delighted to receive a standard of overall “Good”, with a grading of “Outstanding” in the area of contribution to the wellbeing of children. This result could not have been achieved without the constant hard work and support of our dedicated staff and committee.

Children

We currently have 30 children attending The Orchard each week. Topics that we have worked on this year have included transport, colours, the five senses and number rhymes. We have celebrated many festivals, including Diwali, Chinese New Year, Easter, Christmas and Mother’s day. On Tuesday afternoons we hold a dedicated session for 4 and 5 year olds to prepare the children for their transition to school.

Staffing

We currently have four professional, friendly and well-qualified members of staff to look after the children. In September 2014 we recruited Debra Short to our team in a maternity cover role and we are pleased that she will now be staying with us long term as she has proved to be a great asset to the pre-school with her friendly nature and approach to childcare. We are currently advertising to recruit a ‘Financial Administrator’ to work with us on a part-time basis. This role will be to mainly deal with the increasing financial workload that is currently being undertaken by our volunteer committee members.

Events and the community

We held a very successful fundraising event, ‘Orchard Fest’, in September 2015. The event was held at The Plough Inn, Wheatley and involved a band, hog Roast and auction, with over £2300 being raised for the pre-school. Other fundraising events have included the joint Christmas Fayre with the Church and Village Hall, a sponsored obstacle course undertaken by the children and our annual sports day, coffee mornings and nativity play.

We enjoy getting involved with village and community events such as the School Harvest Festival, the Christmas Fayre and the forthcoming Queen’s 90th Birthday celebration event. The children enjoy getting out in the local community and have enjoyed a visit to the reception class of Little Milton School and trips to Forest School in the nature reserve.

Victoria Nixey

Chairperson, The Orchard Pre-school