

## Chairs Annual Report 2011

### Children

- We have good numbers of children in attendance after our first year of running with the longer, 3 hour sessions
- The forest school is really enjoying the access to woodland in Alveston which was secured this year

### Sessions

- We are open 5 days of the week, with 2 sessions on Mondays, whilst also running lunch clubs on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays
- We decided to open the preschool on St Helen's school in-service training days and election days, meaning our closures are now only school and bank holidays.
- The Oct holiday is now 2 weeks long, so that the preschool grant covers all of our open days, and carers will no longer receive an invoice for an un-granted week in the autumn.

### Staff

- Thank you to all of the preschool staff who have worked hard to ensure another successful year and some very happy children! Watching the leavers going to school with such confidence and pleasure in each other's company, was a sure sign of how well they have been developed and nurtured together
- A Staff Record has been opened for each member of staff and are to be held by the committee Chair
- New Staff contracts have been designed for all staff, thanks to Zoe

### Curriculum Development

- This year has seen the continued success of the Forest school sessions on Mondays and Thursdays, thanks to the hard work of all the staff
- The garden area has also continued to develop, with the plants and tree becoming more established thanks to the children's attention
- Every Monday our visiting artist, Sam, has helped to nurture the children's creative talents
- We aim to provide an inclusive and welcoming environment at preschool for everyone involved. We continue to encourage visits from family members to share any interests/talents with the children

### Fundraising/Publicity

- A fun packed Halloween Party was held in the cricket club. Special thanks to Claire
- There was a Christmas Hamper raffle. Thank you Maxine and CLaire
- Helping Round Table with the Santa sleigh. Thank you Zoe for joining me!
- A great Carnival parade in a boat was enjoyed by children and parents and helped to raise our profile in the community
- We collected enough Tesco schools vouchers to buy a water butt and stand for the eco garden. Special thanks to Wendy.

- We had an auction, pop corn machine and bouncy castle at the Alveston show. Special thanks to Jack
- altogether we raised around £670 this year

### Website

- A bigger and better website is now a place where carers and staff can find all the latest information, read the preschool policies, print off forms and see our photo gallery. Thank you Paula

### Jubilee Hall

- We have moved our storage area to assist other hall users, given the loft a thorough sort out, seen the arrival of a new heating system and gained some very nice toilet seats!

### Finances

- Special thanks go to Mike and Natalie for taking up the treasurers posts and working hard all year on what can be a challenging role.
- Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, the preschool ran at a loss this year, which clearly cannot be sustained. I leave the following proposals for the new committee to discuss:
  - a. Find a competitive 'one-stop shop' for our everyday consumables
  - b. Speak to the Alveston allotment owners to make use of any unwanted seasonal produce for our cooking sessions
  - c. Sell any second hand uniform that is donated
  - d. Add a small amount to all new uniform prices, as we currently sell at cost
  - e. Fundraise and apply for all local grants available
  - f. Keep up the local advertising because the numbers of children we have are crucial to a successful financial year and we are competing with 2 local preschools who gained new premises' this year
  - g. The underutilised session has always been a Friday. Could this be closed and a session opened on a Wednesday afternoon instead?

### Committee

- A big thank you to all the members of the voluntary committee, the preschool literally could not exist without you and your dedication. The team has worked hard behind the scenes to keep the preschool running, allowing the staff to concentrate on looking after the children. Extra thanks go to Tricia for guiding us through the year.
- Goodbye to those members who are leaving the preschool for the last time, it is sadly the end of our preschool days. But to those who are staying on, or who will be back again in a few years with the next generation, I wish you many more successful years here.

Jo Glasgow