



AGM November 2020-2021

Middleton Cheney Pre-school Limited Manger and Directors End of Year Report

Please note: This report covers the last financial period September 20 to August 21 and is part of our submission requirements to the various governing bodies.

The year 2020-2021 was difficult on many levels, but I am pleased to report that, characteristically, we rose to the challenge and got through it.

Considering the Covid epidemic and heightened anxiety levels, our pupil figures remained good starting in September where we ran at 69% occupancy and welcomed 19 new starters. This rose to 93% occupancy by April 2021. In July, 38 children left for school with the majority still going to the village school, and others going to Hill View, Cropredy, Culworth, Carrdus and Chacombe Schools.

In September 2020 we welcomed 3 new members of staff to our team – Emilia, Pam and Heidi – they have all settled in well and, the decision to take on extra staff has proved to be invaluable during what has been a very difficult year. In October, we also welcomed back Kim after her maternity leave, and it was great to have her input and expertise back with us. It has been a very challenging year for staff not only at work but also on a personal level with worries about lockdown, self isolation, illness, bereavement, and various family crises, and it is true testimony to the strength of this new team that everyone has pulled together to support each other and deliver the very best care and education we can in very trying circumstances

Staff have continued to participate in online and in house training.

The year was inevitably dominated by the Covid epidemic and over the year we were lucky enough to have only experienced 3 isolated cases. The fact that these did not spread, can be attributed to the success of our infection control measures, particularly the ventilation of the building, and the rigorous cleaning of the setting which has taken place every day. The government devised 'bubble system' meant that on each occasion, we sadly had to send home both staff and children, which was hugely disruptive, and sometimes upsetting to everyone, and we were grateful for the understanding and patience of the vast majority of our parents/carers in these difficult circumstances.

Within the management team, Kate Bannister and Taiba Smith continue as Directors with John Taylor continuing on standby for the building sale which now has been on hold for nearly 2 years. Ali Collier and James Cromack continue on the management team with a main focus on the Christmas float fundraiser. We also gave Claire Pitt a warm welcome as she joined the management team, Claire's main focus has been on various fundraising activities.

We are very grateful to our directors, management and fundraising teams who again supported us throughout the year. The fundraising meant that we were able to purchase new book corner furniture and a craft cupboard as well as replace some of our much loved but worn toys such as tuff tray covers, and knights and fairies. Opportunities for fundraising were limited last year, and we are very grateful to James, Alli and the team for running the Christmas float, and to Claire who organised other events such as the Easter and Christmas raffles and is always busy looking into funding opportunities and fundraising events for the future. Thankyou from the bottom of our hearts. An overview of our fundraising activity can be found on page 2.

In spite of everything, the children all continued to thrive and made good progress through the year. There were some activities which we weren't able to offer due to infection control e.g mass communal time, playdough and some messy play, however, we became very inventive in being able to offer similar experiences in a covid safe way so the children didn't miss out too much. Many of the measures

we implemented as a result of Covid, are set to stay forever as they have proved successful e.g. the back garden entry system in the morning.

We are looking forward to this new academic year and the introduction of a revised curriculum with the new Early Years Foundation Stage document coming into force in September. The aim of this is to be much more child centred and less paperwork driven for staff. It will be a year of trial and error until we get it right but, as a team, I know we will meet this challenge and become the stronger for it.

Financially, we have continued to hold the Reserves amount required to assist us in cover for periods of loss making and lower income. As is the case for many charities currently, we have seen our income especially from fundraising drop within the year, this has been offset but reduced spending and enhancements to the setting. We are looking forward with hope the next year will see us back to pre Covid fundraising and have plans on where the additional funds raised could be spent.

It would be nice to think that the next academic year will be easier than 2020-2021, however, we are under no illusions, and think it will still be full of challenges but ones we know we can meet and overcome.

OVERVIEW FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY

Activity	Money in	Specified fundraising purchases
Cash in - money found from Easter egg raffle	30	
Tesco uniform sale commission	14.73	
Xmas Float	1,814.00	
Commission from christmas card order	82.89	
Shire Homes	500	
Howden's Joinery	250	
Parent donation - Renolds	20	
Sports and Social club	200	
Community play things - new toy storage unit		948
Amazon - disney CD's		15.19
T-shirt for new starters		108
Bonnets and Easter Raffle	622.5	
Banbury Lions	300	
Libray corner furniture		1882.8
Art cupboard		667.2
Water butt		45.99
Helmets and matts for tuff spots		112.03
Organza for summer tent building		25.43
Matched funding	500	
Tshirts for new starters		114
Commission for My name tags	23	
Kate Harley - parent donation	100	
Amazon commission	7.34	
	£4,464.46	£3,918.64