

This report covers the period from September 2022 to October 2023

Little Fishes began the new academic year 2022 with low numbers of children attending but this increased gradually over the year. Adjustments were made to staffing levels as and when required to manage this.

The finances of the pre-school at this time were good, with a surplus amount being transferred to the Deficit Reserve. The trustees were grateful to receive generous donations from both Brackley Beer Festival and the Round Table. An amount of £1000 was donated to Brackley Baptist Church in recognition of the use of the building and costs incurred.

In November 2022 we ran a stall at the town fireworks evening which generated a small amount of profit but enabled us to raise our profile in the town. Our participation in the Santa Run in December generated a further £400 in donations.

During November the setting's admin assistant Zanna Coles left for alternative employment and was replaced by Lucy Aldous, a parent with a child at the preschool. Lucy soon settled into the role and has become a valued member of the team.

During the year both formal and informal meetings with parents/carers have taken place. These are important opportunities for conversations to happen with staff and are appreciated by both parties. The preschool continues to receive much positive feedback for the love, care and support shown to families. Professional development for staff is continually ongoing as individuals complete a variety of courses such as first aid and safeguarding. An Early Years advisor from West Northants Council visited early in the summer term and was very positive about the setting. The staff and trustees were very encouraged by her feedback.

Seasonal celebrations such as Nativity plays, Easter Egg hunts and special events such as Coronation Day, an open afternoon and magician's visit were fun times which were enjoyed by all. The staff and trustees are also grateful to the adults who come to the setting to play music, sing or demonstrate martial arts with the children. These visits enhance the broad and rich curriculum and learning experiences for the children.

During the Summer break in 2023 the long awaited outdoor shelter was constructed and completed, with grateful thanks to church member John McCree who managed the project from start to finish. It looks great and will be a huge asset when the Autumn weather arrives.

The new academic year September 2023 has been a busy time with demand for places increasing. The trustees are delighted to welcome Karen Thomas back to the staff team and we appreciate the experience and enthusiasm she brings with her. Our very grateful thanks go also to Nicky, Vicky, Georgie and Kelly for their tireless hard work, flexibility and commitment to the ongoing success of Little Fishes pre-school.