

## **The Old School House Nursery Parish Council report 2019**

Thank you for reading our report on my behalf, I apologise for my absence at the meeting.

We currently have 23 children registered to use our provision, aged between 19 months and 4 years old. This is a relatively good number for this time of year. We have noticed a significant rise in the requests for childcare for children under the age of 2 years old. We also offer a 'drop in' breakfast club which is open to the primary school and our nursery children.

We have children attend nursery from a wide area, Debenham, Ipswich, Coddensham, Grundisburgh, Witnesham, Earl Soham and other areas. This year, children who leave for 'big school' will feed into Henley, Stonham Aspal, Grundisburgh, Earl Soham and Helmingham Primary schools. We are proud of our close links with all of them.

We have seen changes to staffing over the last year with myself joining in September 2017, we sadly lost two staff in the early summer of 2018 due to restructuring and availability of hours and another retired in July 2018 but has remained with us as bank staff. We recruited a new member of staff in September 2018. These changes have helped to improve our provision and have brought many positive experiences.

We have a large focus on continuous professional development in our nursery and staff regularly attend courses run by suffolk county council. We have 3 members of staff that are currently training and developing their careers further. I am currently training to become an Early Years Teacher, one of the deputy managers is studying her BA degree in early years and another is training to become a qualified teaching assistant.

We have seen many changes to our provision at nursery, not just the staffing. We offer the children structured activities such as yoga, cooking, ballet and pride ourselves on our outdoor activities. We have recently renovated our indoor environment to include authentic resources such as typewriters, old phones, china tea sets to develop the children's understanding of the world around them past and present. We have also been developing our outdoor provision, using real tools for wood work and a new mud kitchen using recycled materials. We look forward to developing this further over the next year. Last year we won a competition, which a parent entered us in, for our outdoor environment. We were one of 15 winners with entries from all over the country. We received £500 and brought a new wooden house for our garden.

In July 2019 we will be closing our nursery as it stands, deregistering with Ofsted and opening as part of Helmingham Primary school in September 2019. Although this makes me sad to state that after many years the OSHN will no longer exist, we have chosen to do this due to many restraints on our nursery as it is currently being managed. With cuts to our government funding in the last year, the rise in the minimum wage, pension increases, ongoing maintenance costs and the availability of willing volunteers to run the nursery are amongst the many reasons we have had to look for alternative management for the nursery. Becoming part of the primary school with the Consortium Multi Academy Trust will relive many of these issues.

The staff and children are looking forward to exciting times ahead and hope that we can still provide an excellent level of education and childcare for our local community.

Thank you for your time.

Steph Cross  
Nursery Manager