

Chair's Report for the AGM 2023-2024

I am delighted to report that Sutton on the Forest Preschool has had another very successful year. The children continue to thrive in the caring and safe learning environment provided by our dedicated staff. Our commitment to fostering a nurturing atmosphere has resulted in remarkable growth and development for our students.

One of the highlights of the year has been the successful transition program for our September school starters. We organised a series of wonderful activities that provided our children with ample opportunities to prepare for their next steps into primary school. This program has been instrumental in ensuring that our students feel confident and ready for the exciting journey ahead. We were pleased to welcome visits from the teachers of Sutton, Crayke, Huby, and Haxby Primary Schools, which further enriched the transition experience for our children.

As we say goodbye to our older children who will start school in September, we wish them every success in their first year at school. It is always bittersweet to see our children move on, but we are confident that they are well-prepared for the challenges and adventures that lie ahead.

Staff

I would like to take this opportunity, both as a Trustee and a parent, to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the staff. Debbie has led the Preschool exceptionally well with the support of a fantastic team, including Yvonne as Deputy Supervisor, and Millie, Alice, and Lisa. The parents are full of praise for the Preschool and are aware of the lengths you all go to provide the children with such an outstanding setting to attend. Your hard work, care, and dedication are the cornerstones of our preschool's success. Without your enthusiasm and professionalism, Sutton on the Forest Preschool would not be the happy and prosperous setting that it is today. Your unwavering commitment to our children's well-being and development is deeply appreciated.

In April 2024, our staff received a well-deserved pay increase following changes to the staff pay structure, reflecting increases in the minimum wage. Additionally, a 40% discount for staff children's fees was introduced. We remain committed to reviewing wages next year to ensure our staff are fairly compensated for their invaluable contributions.

Committee

I would also like to extend my gratitude to the committee members who have played a crucial role in our successful year. Thank you to Jenny Bowling, our treasurer, Michelle Dawson, our secretary, and Joe Wilson, my co-chair. Not forgetting Helen Clarke, who continues to be our diligent wages clerk. We've had a successful year considering that we are all new to the role, and we've made a great team. Looking ahead, we aim to recruit more committee members this year to continue building on our success.

Events

We have also enjoyed several successful events this year. Our first year of hosting the Christmas Jingle was a great success, raising £350. We have had two wonderful trips, one to the pumpkin patch and our annual trip to Monk Park Farm. New this year, we introduced phonics sessions from Robot Reg and a visit from Circus Stu, where the students got to learn circus skills.

Our fundraising efforts, including the Bags 2 School initiative and the Tesco grant, have helped fund these activities. We are also planning to upgrade our outdoor equipment over the summer using the Tesco grant, which will further enhance our children's learning experiences.

Thank you all for a wonderful year, and we look forward to another year of growth, learning, and joy at Sutton on the Forest Preschool.

Finances

See Treasures' Report and Annual Accounts.

Elaine Grainger - Co Chair

Sutton on the Forest Playgroup and Toddlers (charity number 1027382)