



## Crudwell Pre-School

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8<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Dear Parish Members,

I am sorry as I am unable to attend the meeting personally, I hope some of you may find interesting to know what we have been doing at our local pre-school in the past year, since September 2015 when I took the chair position for the Crudwell Pre-School.

The Crudwell Pre-school operates from the Village Hall, 3 days a week, from 9am to 3pm (for 2 to 5 years old). We currently employ 6 teachers for a total of 39 children and in 2015, the setting was graded Outstanding by Ofsted which is unprecedented for a pop-up setting such as ours, as indicated by our local Wiltshire child officer, Ella Coughlan.

We are running at our maximum capacity until September 2016 when we will see 20 of our children moving onto Crudwell, Malmesbury, St. Joseph, Minety and Lea Primary schools. In order to keep our excellent staff we must increase the number of children starting in September 2016. Will run an Open Day on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June for prospective parents as well as advertising locally prior to the end of this academic year. Interestingly, only 5 of our children are local to Crudwell, thus our need to advertise elsewhere whilst ensuring our visibility locally as well.

Following the government guidelines, in April, we increased our staff salaries as practised in North Wiltshire, ensuring equal and fair pay for all staff. Needless to say that the national living wage is likely to affect our setting financially in the near future.

The pre-school has just invested in the children's play area, built in 2013, a much loved area by all, where the children are motivated to develop physically, socially and creatively in a safe environment. With our community in mind, we always aim to work with local providers. We contracted Dirty Boots from Chedglow for the maintenance work in the outside area. We were also overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity from Phil Ward who donated nearly 850kg of gravel for the play area and Bernie Tidmarsh, the local farrier for providing us with the rectangular metal frame for free. Our intention is to replace our wooden A-Board for a much more cost effective signage, which is eco-friendly, long lasting and also moveable. We are also working closely with the Village Hall Sub Committee for improvements to the Village Hall and the Bike Ride Committee.

As a charity, we do not make profits, therefore we will have to tighten up our financial controls to ensure the sustainability of the setting and that sound financial and administrative governance is practised by our Committee members in line with the Charity Commission guidelines.

Please feel free to contact me via [chair@crudwellpreschool.co.uk](mailto:chair@crudwellpreschool.co.uk) should you wish to know more.

Yours sincerely,

Yae Wallis