

Parish Council Annual Assembly
Debden Pre-School Report –April 2013

Debden Pre-school continues to be a successful non-profitable charitable organisation, providing a quality learning environment for local children from the age of 2 ½. Our setting helps fulfil the need for local childcare, of which the government provide all 3 and 4 year olds with 15 hours of free early education for 38 weeks of the year.

The pre-school runs 4 mornings per week and from January we have offered a weekly 'rising fives' afternoon session to those children due to start school in September. This is aimed at preparing children to go on into full time education, helping them cope with longer days and encouraging them to become more independent. We have a growing reputation for speech and language and continue to receive referrals for families who require additional support in this area. Our numbers are extremely strong, operating at a capacity of 20 children per session, with a waiting list in operation. We employ 7 members of staff, all of whom live locally and many of which have been with us a significant number of years. Whilst the staff are responsible for the day-to-day running of the pre-school, we rely on a dedicated committee which are partly responsible for the pre-school's achievements.

The pre-school relies heavily on government funding. This has not increased year on year, despite the increase in running costs, hence the pre-school has a comprehensive fundraising schedule in place. We have had successful, well supported range of village fundraising events including the Yuva Quiz night and Bags2School collection. The Pre-school also pledges half of its fundraising to the New Village Hall Group.

We are awaiting an imminent Ofsted inspection as the pre-school was last inspected some time ago in 2009. A finding of that inspection was the quality of our premises, of which the staff and committee can do little about. This has deteriorated as you would have expected with an aging building. We as a group whole-heartedly support the work and current plans of the NVHG. The pre-school are in ever increasing need of new premises if we are to continue to provide a safe environment for children.

I am confident that will the continuation of support from the staff, committee and local community Debden Pre-school will thrive and remain a prominent asset to our village.

Laura Woodman
Deben Pre-School Chair