

Chair's Report – Little Cuckoos Pre-School AGM

Monday 7th October 2019

Welcome to Little Cuckoos AGM and thank you all for attending.

I took over the role of Chair at the AGM last year, and it has been a busy and successful year for the pre-school. Although numbers were unusually low at the start of the year, Hayley has done a wonderful job of increasing numbers on role across the year, ending the year with a virtually full pre-school and a wonderful intake to start the new academic year.

For the first time in many years, there was a change of staffing within Little Cuckoos last year, with Hilary leaving the pre-school to take on a new challenge at the end of the Autumn Term. After an unsuccessful recruitment process prior to the end of Term 2, Hayley and the team were able to manage the staff/child ratios for all of the sessions by covering any spaces within the team and each of them had to take on additional key children. This could have potentially been an unsettling time for the children and parents of the pre-school, but the team really did work fantastically to make sure that there were no issues for the children and that the pre-school continued to run smoothly, providing the great quality of care for children that it always does. I would like to personally thank all of the ladies for their hard work during that time.

In time for the start of the Summer Term, we were able to successfully recruit a new Key Worker to the team, and Sascha joined Little Cuckoos straight after the Easter holidays. Sascha settled into the team very quickly and has proved to be a great addition to the team, working well with the other ladies and with both the children and parents responding well to her. Sascha has completed her induction training and has also been sent on some training sessions outside of the setting.

In the Spring term, the staff completed their Paediatric First Aid training which took place over a number of weeks. Hayley has attended Ofsted training on the new framework which has come into place this year.

The staff have continued to work hard throughout the year, making the most of the wonderful outside space that we have at Little Cuckoos. After attending sessions at other settings, Andrea has taken the lead on the outside area, and with the help of donations from the parents, and the help of the children, created lovely areas for bees and butterflies in the summer term.

With raising funds for the pre-school an ongoing task, we have looked into several areas this year where we can raise additional funds other than from our key fundraising events. Both the Christmas Fair and the Easter Egg Hunt were well attended by the parents and outside community and I'd like to thank the committee for all of their hard work planning these events. We have also raised funds this year through smarties tubes, asking for donations programmes at the Nativity and again at the Leavers Graduation service in the summer term.

We have also registered our charity on Easyfundraising and this is already bringing additional funds into the pre-school and has the potential to be a great ongoing source of funds.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to say a huge thank you to Hayley and the rest of the team for all the hard work that they put in every day, doing such a wonderful job at caring for, nurturing and educating our children. The parent questionnaire which was completed at the end of the summer term showed an overwhelmingly positive response from parents about the quality of care and about Little Cuckoos in general and that is all down to what happens in Cuckoos on a daily basis.

I would also like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work and dedication to Little Cuckoos. We are really fortunate to have such wonderful parents who give up their time to help with the running of and fundraising for Little Cuckoos. Thank you so much to those who are continuing to work with the committee for the next academic year. We really look forward to recruiting new faces to the committee to help us make decisions for the future of Little Cuckoos and to support our fundraising efforts.

During the coming year we will be continuing to work hard on maintaining the curriculum and quality of learning that the children as well as moving forward with some key fundraising efforts to allow us to be able to gain additional space to be used by the staff and children, further developing the setting.