

Thornborough Annual Meeting of the Parish - 18.05.15
Thornborough and Nash Pre-School report

Thornborough and Nash Pre-School operates on the site of the Infant School 28 hours each week during school term time. There are currently 15 two to four year olds, from Thornborough and the surrounds, with five more starting after the May half term holiday. About half of our children are from the parish with remainder coming in from nearby villages, Buckingham and Milton Keynes. In September nine of our children will move up to Thornborough Infant School.

In March we received our Ofsted inspection and were delighted to achieve a 'good' in all three areas. Due to the changes in the grading system this equates to the old 'outstanding' which is testament to the experience and expertise of our amazing staff Jennie, Nikki, Heidi and Danielle. This also allows us to continue taking those two year olds who receive funding for early years care.

This year we recruited a new member of staff taking us back up to one full and two part time positions. We also took on an apprentice, who has grown up in the village, who worked part time for us while she studied. This allowed us to expand our services to include a toddler activity group and after school care. We will lose our trainee in September when she moves to York to study for a degree.

The children have had a wonderful year taking the bus into Buckingham to visit the market, receiving a drum lesson from Mark Edwards, dressing up for World book day, digging for dinosaurs and more besides.

The financial picture is much improved on previous years. For the year 2013/14 we made a surplus of £1,850. This year we project to make a loss of £1,500, in part due to the retraction of £4k of funding from Buckinghamshire County Council due to us performing better than expected.

Unfortunately, the committee have spent much of the year negotiating with various departments in BCC over the lease of the Horsa building and the maintenance of the Horsa building. Our previous licence expired in January and we are still without a replacement. We have also been in talks with BCC over the potential to improve or replace this building, which is very close to the end of its life. Having made little progress, the committee took the decision to write to the various departments in BCC and other interested parties to inform them that if we had no movement on the issues above we would be forced to close.

The response from BCC was disappointing, however, we have had overwhelming support from the Parish Council, the Cricket Club and Parishioners and we are currently exploring a move to the Sports Pavilion over the summer holidays, ready to start afresh as Thornborough Pre-School in September.