

Hermitage Pre School 2021

We have experienced many changes and uncertainties over the last 12 months and this has put considerable strains on staff, whether it be supporting our families and their children during each lockdown, helping children transition to school, providing a shoulder to cry on, helping those struggling with finances, dealing with loss, cleaning every surface, toy, child, item of clothing or just reassuring parents that we are doing our very best to keep their child safe whilst worrying about the safety of ourselves and our own families.

In an already struggling sector Early Years providers have had to adapt to ensure sustainability. In Autumn 2019 we took the decision to lower our admissions age to accept children from the age of two years old. Whilst this has secured us a number of new children, it has brought its own set of difficulties, primarily around resources and staffing.

Whilst we would normally have fundraised for the equipment, we need being placed into lock down just weeks before our popular Easter egg trail and remaining under restrictions for our Halloween disco put a large spanner in the works. Thanks to our creative committee, we were able to raise some funds transferring events online.

Although the year has been interrupted for 2 cohorts, we have endeavoured to keep as many things normal for the children this included a Graduation party in the Summer and a Nativity at Christmas.

And as is tradition for this report I asked the children "what do you want to be when you grow up?"

When I am bigger, I will be me but bigger!

Vet, Teacher, dinosaur A police dog like Chase and a cowboy!

In a year that has been extremely difficult for many we are very grateful for the support that the Parish Council has given us again

The money received from last year's grant was used to replace the fence that had previously been supplied by Tesco's community champions which sadly due to weather and vandalism was no longer appropriate.

This year's grant will be used to complete the fence at the top end of the garden and to provide a sleeping area inside for our younger children.

Thank you.