



## **Chairperson's Report**

I hope I won't be prejudicing tonight's committee appointments by starting my report for this year with a reflection that none of my three years as Chair has been quiet and without something notable – staffing matters in my first year, Ofsted in my second and GDPR this year. However, I am so proud of where our Pre-school is now and how well we have handled each one of those potentially significant events.

It would be fair to say that in April/May of this year, I was ready never to mention data mapping, GDPR or privacy notices again but as I have said to many clients over the last six months, tedious and long-winded as the job may have seemed at times, I know that our data and administrative systems are in a much better place now than they were this time last year. I am hugely grateful for all the help Clare and various committee members have given and the patience they have shown as I have waved yet another version of my spreadsheet under their nose. That work done, I know that Pre-school and our new committee now have much more effective systems with which to go into this new era of data protection.

There have been other new initiatives this year too – we now have the committee's who's who board in the entrance area of the village hall, which I hope has been useful for new and existing parents and which I hope the new committee will continue; our use of Facebook continues to gather momentum and my thanks go to Sarah and to Rowan for their efforts in keeping that up to date and using it to make sure the wider community knows more about the life of Pre-school; and through Clare and Elaine, parents have had much greater access to information about day to day activities within setting.

Pre-school continues to be in a strong financial position, something which is hugely encouraging not just for those on the current committee but also for those joining the committee and our staff, to know that the future viability of Pre-school is currently very strong, and for the village as a whole, as we know that a thriving and successful Pre-school is hugely important to the village and our school.

We have continued to invest in equipment and in the fabric of the setting. Staff have been able to replace the role play equipment and buy a Beebot station and additional Beebots. The committee were particularly happy to support this second request as we are keen, within the natural limitations of the setting, to enhance ICT experiences for children where we can. We have recently extended the outside area of Pre-school so that greater use can be made of this space and a new mud kitchen will be arriving shortly. We have also maintained the external sessions offered through Rugby Tots, Music with Leah and East Devon Dance and have been very fortunate this year to have had parents and other supporters of Pre-school come into setting to run extra sessions with the children too. Thank you to all of them.

Clare, Elaine, Alex, Angela and Ruth remain a settled, effective and happy team and I have very much enjoyed, during my time on the committee and particularly as Chair, watching them develop a comradery and a real sense of being a team. I am sure I speak for all parents when I say that their clear enjoyment of their job and the excellent care they take of our children is a huge positive for our Pre-school. They are all central to the happy and successful setting we have in Plymtree and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them for their commitment and dedication.



Under Georgie's watchful eye and off the back of deciding to focus our fundraising efforts on two key events, we have had another successful fundraising year. The money we raise from fundraising is hugely important to Pre-school as it is only with these additional funds that we can offer the extra sessions and pay for trips and new equipment. Our Halloween party morphed into a Halloween disco this year, was very well attended and raised £335 itself. Despite having run Race Night for four successive years now, this year proved the most successful yet again and I for one am very much looking forward to being able to go and enjoy it in 2019 without having to work too! We also raised funds through our Bag2School collection, Rotary Community raffle and events in setting. As ever, my thanks go to everyone who has helped to organise and run our events and to those who have supported them, either through giving their time or by attending and contributing to the funds raised.

We finished the year yet again with excellent numbers of children within setting and those children who moved up from Pre-school are all settling into their new schools. We have welcomed a new cohort behind them and we start the new academic year with a full complement of children. There's no doubt that our staff will be busy in setting, particularly with the number of under threes this year!

My final thanks go to my committee members who have, yet again, all been integral to the smooth running of Pre-school. Pre-school couldn't exist without its committee and we are very fortunate to have a dedicated committee who have so much pride and put so much time into their work for Pre-school. I am hugely grateful to every member of the committee. This is my last report as Chair and my last year on the committee. After 'only' four years, I am a novice compared to some of the current committee but I am confident that we are passing onto a new committee with the Pre-school in the best possible position it could be.

Ellie Hibberd

September 2018