



Report to Ashby St. Mary Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 23rd April, 2015

Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-school has had an exciting year, as we were successful in gaining a substantial grant to improve the quality and inclusion of our setting. During August we extended the garden and purchased a large shed to use as an outdoor playroom. We redesigned the outdoor space into learning areas and bought other equipment to use outside like wooden wheelbarrows, planks, den making items, bamboo gutters etc. for the children to move around and use in open ended play.

The whole project has enabled the children to spend more time outside as they have covered areas to play under and they can go into the playroom to be cosy on cooler days. We are also going to use the Quality and Inclusion Grant to pay for two members of staff to do Forest School Training in June to improve our knowledge and practical skills to make outdoor learning more challenging and fun for the children.

Our hard work paid off as just before Easter we had an unannounced Ofsted Inspection, and the inspector spent the morning outside with us. We gained a GOOD in all three areas and the inspector said, 'The well-resourced outdoor learning environment is a real strength of the setting.' She also said "Practitioners provide a variety of stimulating activities around children's interest.'

To celebrate the opening of the new playroom and our Ofsted Report we held an Outdoor Open Morning inviting existing and new families to join in activities like digging for dinosaur bones, making stick people and visiting the Three Bears House. The children named their playroom Foxes Den and friends and family were given the opportunity to see the work we do with the children.

Of course we have also held our fundraising events throughout the year as without this vital revenue we would not be able to run. We would like to thank the local community for supporting the Auto Jumble, Classic Cars and Craft Fayre held in May, which is growing each year and a huge success. And the Christmas Bazaar, which is a firm favourite with children and adults alike.

We look forward to offering children an early years experience, which is tailored to their needs, stimulating, interesting and fun and which helps them prepare for their next step into school.

Sandra Rennie
Playleader