



Report to Ashby St. Mary Parish Council
Annual Meeting
Thursday 26th April, 2012

Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-school has had a very successful year both in terms of numbers of children attending and maintaining our sustainability. Most of the twenty-six children we have registered come the fifteen hours a week we offer but we also have younger children who may come for one session gradually increasing, as they get older.

Committee, parents and staff all worked very hard through the year to raise funds, including a very successful Auto Jumble in May, a great Christmas Bazaar complete with a Winter Wonderland in December, our ever popular Jumble Sales as well as smaller events. We would like to thank the community for their continued support at our fundraising events.

Thurton School invited us to join in the Royal Wedding celebrations in April, to see the Bishop of Norwich open their new outdoor garden and equipment and to join the reception children for a morning in June. Mrs. Pratt, in turn came to pre-school to have lunch with us as part of the children's transition process and we visited school again in December to see the new reception children in their Nativity play, which we all enjoyed.

We have offered the Early Years Foundation Stage outdoors as much as possible this year, as we recognise that being outside gives children opportunities for doing things in different ways. Some popular activities have been digging for treasure, connecting lengths of gutters to move water, looking closely at mini beasts as well as growing vegetables and enjoying the physical freedom to run and jump.

Looking ahead, the Early Years Foundation Stage has been revised on the recommendation of Dame Claire Tickell and this will come into effect in September. More importance has been given to three prime areas of learning and development and we will deliver this through purposeful play and make the most of learning possibilities linked to the children's interests.

Pre-school has a dedicated, well qualified staff team, backed up by supportive parents and committee members who will continue to give families in our community every opportunity to engage with early years education and make sure the children have fun and enjoy their learning experience.