



Report to Ashby St. Mary Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 23rd May, 2013

Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-school has had a successful year although the number of children attending dropped in September, due to a large school intake and unfortunately remained low through the autumn and spring terms.

This term numbers have increased to 20 as new children join and others reaching three can access their 15 hours free entitlement and increase the number of sessions they attend.

Fundraising, therefore, has been more important this year and committee, parents and staff have worked very hard to ensure our events continue to be successful. The Auto Jumble and Craft Fayre, is proving to be our biggest fundraiser and we are very grateful to the small group of Dads and Friends of pre-school who run this for us, and to everyone who comes to support us.

We visited Thurton School in June and joined the reception class for a morning of fun. Mrs. Pratt came to lunch with us, giving the children a chance to talk to their new teacher and we visited again in December when we were invited to see Reception's Nativity Play, which we all enjoyed.

In October the children baked bread and took it to Thurton Church for Harvest Festival and while we were there we dusted the pews and enjoyed drawing pictures of the stained glass windows.

In March we held our Easter Bunny Hops event and asked Mrs. Leathers to pick the Easter Hat she liked best and in May we are looking forward to visiting Gorleston Fire Station to see the Fire Engines, a very popular trip.

This year we hope to apply for grant funding to improve our outdoor area and move towards a more natural learning environment, taking some ideas from forest school learning.

The Early Years Foundation Stage says 'Children learn best when they are healthy, safe and secure, when their individual needs are met, and when they have positive relationships with the adults caring for them'.

So Pre-school will continue to give young children the opportunity to play, explore and investigate, use their own ideas and 'have a go', within a safe, stimulating and caring environment.

Sandra Rennie
Playleader

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