

Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-school's
Report to Ashby St. Mary Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 18th April 2019



Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-school has had a very successful year with children coming to us from surrounding villages including Loddon, Hales, Chedgrave, Hardley, Rockland as well as Thurton and of course Ashby St. Mary, which has helped us to keep our numbers stable.

We provide a varied and play based curriculum through which children can follow their interests, try out new activities and learn new skills. In the autumn term we offered Forest School activities for six sessions in the woodland area at the bottom of the village hall field. This was very successful and the children really enjoyed making a giant 'Stick Man', planting their own wooden poppies for someone they love, and finding hidden nativity figures then acting out the Christmas Story. They learn to tread lightly on the earth and to appreciate and look after what we have.

Of course fundraising has played a big part in our year. We have again benefited from a very successful Auto Jumble in May run by Keith and Julie. We are very grateful for all their hard work to make the event a huge success and the donation to pre-school. We would also like to thank all our friends who come back and help every year alongside our parents.

Father Christmas worked very hard for us in his workshop at the Christmas Bazaar greeting almost 50 children and their families through the afternoon. This year he had a sleigh and reindeer and a whole magical forest of trees and creatures all made by Janet and Carl. The Bazaar was very successful and enjoyed by all who came. We have also had two Jumble Sales, which still prove very popular and a Bingo Night.

This year the village hall has benefited from a lovely new kitchen and it is a pleasure for us to work in, we would like to thank the Village Hall Management Committee for all their hard work in improving the hall and its upkeep, often a thankless job. We would also like to thank the Playground Committee for achieving their goal this year in providing a wonderful new play area for children of all ages. They have also provided picnic benches for families to sit and enjoy the whole area; it will prove a great asset.

Pre-school will celebrate its 50th anniversary alongside the Village Hall's 50th year celebrations at a village fete in June. We are very proud of this achievement and look forward to providing care and education for our youngest children in the future.

Sandra Rennie
Playleader
Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-school