



Happy New Year

Happy New Year and we hope you all had a great Christmas break! Welcome back to pre-school for 2017!

We hope your children enjoyed the Christmas party although Santa made an early appearance as the little ones began to flag. Thank you to those of you who purchased a handprint T-towel. There are still a few remaining if you fancy another one for the kitchen or grandma!

New Committee Members

As you may recall the October Annual General Meeting was not well attended and insufficient volunteers came forward to join the Committee. Without volunteers to fill all the Committee roles the pre-school would not be able to continue. With a little nudging and an Extraordinary Committee Meeting a number of new Members have now joined the Committee to take over the great work undertaken by the outgoing Committee. We

thought it would be useful to introduce ourselves so that you know who we are. Photos are now on the board outside the pre-school.



Introduction to the Committee Members

Chairperson - Melanie

Hello, my name is Melanie and I am Mum to Holly (8) and Daniel (4). The pre-school has been invaluable to me in providing breakfast club and after school club without which my working life would be very difficult. I have spent the past 25 years in public sector external audit and inspection and hope to bring the skills and experience gained to my new role as Chairperson. My husband Andy is also a newly appointed parent governor at Norton Primary. We live in Hunston.

Deputy Chairperson - Fran

As a new resident of Norton I'm thrilled to be involved in the future of Norton Pre-School. Having moved from London it is refreshing to see the nurturing and welcoming environment of our pre-school. My son Edward (3) has thrived here and enjoys the relaxed but structured sessions as he is one

for routine! Coming from an arts and administrative career I hope that I can support the staff with their good work and put my creative touches to our website and pre-school.

Secretary - Alison

I am a Mum to Harry (4) who attended the pre-school for 2 years and has just moved up to Norton Primary School and Evie (2) who joined the pre-school in September and loves it just as much as her brother did. I am also a mortgage adviser and hope to bring my organisational and financial skills to my role as secretary.

Treasurer - Elyse

I'm Elyse and this year I have taken on the role of treasurer. This is my third year of being on the committee and I really enjoy it. Being on the committee has allowed me to get a better insight into the preschool and to meet other parents. I currently have one child using the preschool and one who has just left for primary school.

Staff Liaison - Kirsten

I'm Kirsten and this is my second year of being on the Committee. For the first time I am the pre-school's Staff Liaison Officer and I am really enjoying supporting the staff in their roles. In my spare time I enjoy going to the cinema and doing things with my family.

General Member - Lucy

My name is Lucy and I am mum to Anna (age 6), who attends Norton Primary School, and Emmie (age 3), who has been at Norton Pre-School since January 2016 and absolutely loves it! I am currently a full-time mum but up until Emmie was born I was a Primary School Teacher and have taught children from Year 1 right up to Year 6. I really appreciate all the hard work, and sometimes challenges, involved in working with children and am really pleased to be able to more actively support our lovely pre-school.

General Member – Tracey

I'm Tracey, this is my first time on the committee, and I hope to help in any way I can.

I am a mum to 2 boys, one who attended the preschool a few years back and one who attends now.

General Member – Natasha

I am a mum of two and my eldest attends the pre-school. Before I had my children I worked as a supervisor in the retail sector. Having joined the committee I hope to be able to help with the fundraising and to offer my advice from a Mum's point of view.



Helping Hands

We are always happy to welcome new members to the Committee but if you can't make a regular time commitment then perhaps you may like to be a 'Helping Hand' on an ad-hoc basis. If you would like to find out more then please e-mail us at nortonpreschoolevents@hotmail.com message us on our Facebook page Norton Pre-school events or have a chat with one of us. We really do appreciate any help you can offer.

New Staff Members

We are currently in the middle of the recruitment process for new members of staff. Watch this space for an update on the successful candidates.



Proposed Change to Childcare Funding

All children aged 3 and 4, are currently eligible for 15 hours of Free Early Education. This free childcare can be used in a range of different places, such as day care, pre-schools, schools and nursery classes and some childminders.

From September 2017, an additional free 15 hours of childcare will be available for eligible 3 and 4 year olds in Suffolk.

There will be basic eligibility criteria for the additional 15 hours:

- Both parents earning the equivalent of 16 hours per week of the minimum wage/national living wage
- Neither parent earning more than £100k each per year
- Lone parents will also be eligible subject to the above criteria.

In order for us to effectively plan our provision it would be useful for us to gauge how many children are likely to use their full 30 hours of childcare with us. A questionnaire will be sent out shortly so if you could return that to Anne that would be great.



Ofsted Visit

As you may know Ofsted undertook a full inspection on 17 November 2016. We are delighted that the pre-school received a 'good' outcome in all areas. This is a great reflection on the hard work that Anne and her team and the previous Committee put into strengthening

arrangements and ensuring that children receive high quality care.

Ofsted said we were good because:

- The committee, manager and staff team are committed to providing children with high quality care and education. Since the last inspection, they have implemented effective changes with support from the local authority. For example, staff carefully organise the indoor and outdoor environment so that children enjoy free access to a wide range of toys and resources.
- Staff get to know the children well through regular observations and accurate assessments of what they can do. They effectively use this information to provide activities that are tailored to children's individual interests. This contributes to the good progress children make.
- Staff support children to settle well. Children build secure emotional attachments with all staff. They happily play alongside staff who are responsive and show care. Children of all ages are happy and enjoy their time at the pre-school.
- Staff are vigilant and carry out daily checks on the premises to ensure that all areas used by the children are safe and suitable.

And to further improve the quality we should:

- Extend the performance management and monitoring systems further to continue to strengthen and improve on good practice, in order to raise the quality of teaching to the highest level
- Enhance opportunities for children to further develop their early reading skills
- Explore more ways to effectively engage all parents in their children's learning, as part of their continuing involvement in their children's developmental progress.

The full report can be found on Ofsted's website or if you would like a hard copy please ask a member of staff who will be happy to provide you with one.

As a new Committee we will continue to build on this report and do all we can to support the further development of the nursery with the aim of becoming 'outstanding' at our next inspection!!



Building Premises

The roof of the pre-school building was desperately in need of repair so it was agreed that the roof would be patched up so that it would last a good few more years. This was done over the Autumn half term break.

Looking longer term we continue to fundraise for a potential new building and will seek grant opportunities that might be able to help us.



Fundraising

We hold regular fundraising meetings where we brainstorm ideas and co-ordinate and plan events and activities.

Our meetings are usually held at the **The Norton Dog**. Keep your eyes peeled for the chalk board outside where we will advertise the time and date of the next meeting. All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you there. If you cannot make the meetings but have some ideas please let us know.



Tapestry

We are delighted to inform you that Tapestry, your children's on line learning journal, is now up and running. Tapestry is a simple and effective way to track learning and share special moments with parents. If you would like more information or are having difficulty logging on to your account then please speak to a member of staff to assist.

Thank You

We would like to thank you all for your constant support of the pre-school. We appreciate all the comments and feedback we receive. We particularly appreciated the lovely comments we received following our recent Ofsted success.

The pre-school is an important part of our children's lives and the village community and it is great to see it continue and thrive. Parents and carers are always welcome to visit the pre-school at any time and join in with your child's session to give you an insight into the pre-school day.

Key Dates

Keep up to date with our Norton Pre-School Facebook Page or our website
www.nortonpre-school.co.uk

- 13th February – 17th February – Half Term Holiday Club
- 18th March – Easter Bazaar
- 22nd April – Jumble Sale
(Helping Hands needed for set up 7pm - 10pm 21st April, 9am – 2pm 22nd April)
- 10th June – Graduation and Father's Day picnic