

Marhamchurch Preschool Report

Due to our staff, families and committee we've had a successful year in that we've been pretty full with a good mix of 2 and 3 year olds. Our children work well together and our older children are a brilliant role model for the younger ones. We will lose many of our children to Primary School in September and we are working closely to ensure a smooth transition to school. This means that there will be places free for new families to attend our lovely village preschool and we have an Open Day in early July for new and existing families.

We have kept up with the changes to Ofsted and statutory safeguarding requirements and continued to share the good practice and strengths within our setting with colleagues from the local authority and other settings.

Families have been invited to share their children's learning during Open Afternoons and great fun was had by all at our Christmas sing-a-long. Parents continue to have access to Tapestry enabling them to have an insight into the learning experiences the children are enjoying in the setting.

We appreciate our neighbouring school allowing use of their hall for PE and playground for balance bike sessions. Our working relationship is further strengthened by joint activities such as the Christmas craft afternoon.

External visits including a local farmer with his tractor and a nurse further support the children's learning. We've all enjoyed the ukulele band All@c who have joined us at forest school and our Christmas singalong this year. Recently we've had Bude Library visit with stories for the children.

Last summer we were able to provide some holiday club provision over the summer holidays and at the end of the summer term we took the decision to lengthen the opening times for the setting from September 2025 allowing families to use funded hours till 3:30. We found that after an initial period of lower numbers on a Friday this change has had a positive impact.

During April a Spring Spruce Up was held and with the help of many hands we were able to complete some external painting. We are hoping to do this again soon this year.

We have just started our Wednesday sessions at our Forest School which will continue throughout the summer term. We extend our thanks to the Grills family for continuing to allow us to use this piece of land.

Storms necessitated some remedial work to our roof. After inspection it was established that more serious repair was needed and we have just completed a major renovation of a large part of the roof. We would like to thank Marhamchurch Parish Council, Marhamchurch Community Shop and The Blanchminster Trust for providing grant funding to cover a large proportion of the cost. This funding crucially enabled us to remain open for the local community.

Fundraising remains an important income stream for us and we are all grateful to our committee member, Charlotte for coordinating many fundraising events over the last 12 months including a quiz at the Bullers Arms, wreath making workshop and Christmas raffle. Thank you to everyone who has supported any of these.

We are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated team of professionals to nurture and educate our children. We have had some changes to our committee and Lucy has taken over the role of Chair. We thank Lois for her dedication and commitment over the previous years. We also appreciate the commitment of our regular Forest School volunteer, Cilla, who has been a firm fixture in our setting for many years. Her commitment and time are highly valued by us all.

During every year we also welcome work experience students, allowing them an insight into a career in the early years.

We'd like to thank everyone for the support they've shown preschool over the year. We greatly appreciate everyone's involvement, whether it's attending events, supporting fundraisers, doing odd jobs, or thanking the staff for their hard work.