



Catey Pre-School
COCKFIELD

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2018 Annual Report to the Parish Council

Once again it is a pleasure to address this gathering in my capacity of Chairman of CATEY Pre-School, a position I have had the privilege of holding for the past 6 years. The preschool continues to offer the excellent standard of early years education within the EYFS curriculum that enabled us to achieve our Outstanding OFSTED rating. We have highly dedicated patient & skilful staff, two full time level 5 qualified & three part time level 3 bank staff. This enables the children to explore & develop their skills in a well equipped, friendly, safe & secure environment. I must not neglect to mention our much appreciated committee of unpaid volunteers made up of parents & members of the community who fulfil the role enabling us to operate as a limited charity.

We currently have 30 children registered with us, but they don't all come at the same time! The maximum we currently have on any one session is 22, the average being 16. The majority of the children attend for their 15 funded hours only. The uptake on the government's additional 15 hours for qualifying parents has been poor, so we are currently advertising this service further afield to attract potential parents.

On the downside we loose 14 four year olds to primary schools in September & there are not that many replacements on the horizon at the moment. Our funding is proportional to the number of children registered, & this is why we operate with part time bank staff so that the level of support can be adjusted to meet the requirements. Since becoming chairman I have witnessed our staff costs rising by 30% along with Suffolk County Council passing over less & less of the government allocated money for Early Years Education. Last year alone SCC cut the monies to Early Years Education by 12%, enabling them to withhold £30m of our money to cover their own costs! Fortunately, the DofE have now stepped in & all councils will have to pass on all the allocated monies from next April. Unfortunately that will be too late for some Suffolk Pre-Schools. However I am confident that CATEY, with our strict monitory controls, will weather the storm & God willing I will be attending this meeting again next year!

Finally may I offer our sincere thanks to everyone in the local community who have given donations & supported our fund raising events which enable us to procure the latest learning aids to meet the children's needs, as well as the odd toy!

ANY QUESTIONS?

Dick Bayes

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CATEY Pre-School is committed to the welfare of it's children, staff & volunteers at all times.

Registered Charity Number: 1135211

