



Catey Pre-School
COCKFIELD

Catey Pre-School, Church Lane, Cockfield, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP30 0LA

2023 Annual Report to the Parish Council

I apologise for not being able to give this report in person or being able to delegate to one of the CATEY committee members but unfortunately nobody is available.

The preschool, like many in the Early Years Sector, are suffering badly from the lack of government funding. Last year we made a loss of £3275 and this year our shortfall will be double that figure. We receive £4.60 per hour from SCC for 3-4 year-olds, when the government's own survey found that running costs are £7.48 per hour. 5400 preschools closed in England during 2022, and that figure will increase this year. The current situation is putting a severe strain on our reserves and potentially the level of service we will be able to offer the community in the future.

We strive to offer a high standard of early years education within the EYFS curriculum. We were inspected by OFSTED in April and they graded us as Good in all areas.

We have in the past year seen both of our two full-time staff leave, but we have been very fortunate to employ two excellent replacements who are highly dedicated, patient & skilled and form part of the team of 5, including 3 bank staff, enabling the children to explore & develop their skills in a well-equipped, friendly, safe & secure environment.

We are also fortunate to have a team of dedicated committee volunteers made up of parents & members of the community who fulfil their role enabling us to operate as a limited charity.

We currently have 23 children registered with us, but they don't all come at the same time! 75% of the children attend only for their 15 or 30 government funded hours.

Finally, may I offer our sincere thanks to everyone in the local community who have given donations & supported our fundraising, essential for us to maintain a good level of equipment and training aids for the children.

Our 100 Club is always glad to welcome new members!

Dick Bayes
Chairman

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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