**OAKLEY PRE SCHOOL REPORT**

**FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Oakley Pre-school accepts children from age 2 – 5 years old. We are open every day during term time, from 7.30am – 3.30pm.

2022-23 sees a significant financial challenge for Oakley Pre-school – as it does for Early Years settings up and down the country. Government funding (provided to local authorities) does not cover the cost of delivering a place. Unless there is significant reform in the funding structure at a national level, this will only be exacerbated with the expansion of funded hours to 2-year-olds announced by the government. We currently wait to see how this will be implemented, before deciding what it means long term for Pre-school.

On a very local level, this means that this year, Oakley Pre-school is running at a financial loss as the majority of our children fall into the “government funded” age bracket. This is mitigated by our healthy financials from previous years and due to the Committee’s financial planning for the year.

Pre-school is currently full for this academic year. We are taking registrations for 2023-24 academic year – for children to join us in September and throughout the year as they turn 2.

We are fortunate to have a highly trained and experienced staff team – including for the first time an apprentice who we are supporting through their qualifications. The staff team do such amazing work enabling the development of pre-schoolers and supporting families from Oakley and surrounding villages. Just last week, the Pre-schoolers and the staff headed into the Playing Field and planted the last trees from the tree planting day as part of their outdoor learning. On behalf of the village, I would like to record our thanks to the staff.

The facilities we have developed in Pre-school, in conjunction with the school, are wonderful. Our children enjoy a wide range of learning and exploration opportunities (from craft, early phonics, maths, muddy and wet play & Forest School) at the start of their educational journey.

The future of small Pre-schools like ours is uncertain – we will have to see what the new government models dictate to us over the next 12 months.