



The Ark Pre-School Chair's Report 2016/17

I am delighted to attach the Manager's report which gives a detailed review of the year. However, this year I wanted to write a separate report to summarise our two major issues of the year:

Staffing

Towards the end of the autumn term, Sumita Mohanty went on long term sick leave following diagnosis of a heart condition. We are delighted that her operation was successful and are looking forward to her return to work in September.

Fortunately, we were able to employ Anne Goodrum, an excellent and very experienced practitioner who stepped seamlessly into the team. In addition, we are very grateful to Claire Divall and Avril Doyle for their commitment to the Ark this year. Helen Hulatt also joined the team at the beginning of the summer term and we look forward to her becoming a permanent member of staff from September.

We are very grateful to our volunteers, Liz Skone and Gillian Stevens who help out on a regular basis and to all the staff for their flexibility, willingness and good cheer, without which the Ark would not function.

Ofsted

We were inspected by Ofsted right at the beginning of the year on 22 September 2016. I would like to highlight that in all four areas: effectiveness of leadership, quality of teaching, personal development and outcomes for children the provision was found to be outstanding. A few judgements stand out:

“an exceptional environment in which to learn. Children are extremely happy, highly engaged and motivated”

“Children flourish in [the staff's] care”

“Staff use excellent behaviour strategies...[and] provide highly effective support for children...This enhances children's emotional well-being exceptionally well”

“The inspirational manager continuously strives for excellence”

“Children are exceptionally confident and independent, and they develop a caring and respectful manner towards others.”

I would like to congratulate the entire staff team for this incredible inspection result. Very few pre-schools achieve this and it is entirely down to the professionalism, commitment and genuine care for the children which the staff demonstrate.

With my very best wishes for a happy summer holiday.

Phyllida Dewes
Chair