

Treasurer's Report on the Accounts for the Period 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021

Attached is the Summary Statement of Receipts and Payments for the financial year 1st January to 31st December 2021.

Overview

The Ark current and deposit accounts are held with HSBC. The balance in the current account as of the 31st December 2021 was £35,437.30 (compared with £23,493.40 at the end of 2020). The amount held in the deposit account was £24,903.10 (compared with £24,900.64 at the end of 2020).

Details

The summary of accounts shows payments of £50,519.90, an increase in spending of £5,334 and receipts of £62,466.26, an increase of £12,995. Overall there was surplus of £11,946.

Receipts

- Grant payments were comparable to previous years. There was a considerable increase in income from children paying fees. This was due to having a higher number of under 3s attending the setting. There were also a higher number of sessions attended in the Autumn Term than in previous years. The preschool remained open during the Covid-19 restrictions which meant the preschool did not lose income during 2021.
- The donations that the Ark received were higher than in previous years. Part of this was due to the fact that normal fundraising events were able to be held during the year whereas they were cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions in 2020.
- Receipts from events now include the cost of the Christmas party and photographs. The commission received was included in the donations.

Payments

- Staff costs were higher than previous years due to the preschool being fully open during 2021 and lunch clubs being offered. Also due to the higher children numbers an additional member of staff was required to maintain a good staff / child ratio. The staff also worked additional hours to relocate the preschool from Wellington College back to Crowthorne Baptist Church.
- Staff training was resumed in 2021 after being put on hold during the Covid – 19 restrictions in 2020. A part of the expense was a deposit for first aid training due in 2022.
- Membership Fees / subscriptions were lower due to not having to pay additional Ofsted fees because of operating from alternative premises.

The additional income generated during 2021, approximately £12,000, will be put towards installing a canopy over the outdoor space which will enable the children to utilise more of the outdoor area for more of the year and provide screening from flats that overlook the site. This is planned for 2022. This is subject to Crowthorne Baptist Church approval.*

In terms of our rental agreement with Crowthorne Baptist Church, when we became tenants we agreed that in recognition of the favourable rates of rent we pay them, we would consider an additional payment based on our financial status at the end of our financial year (December). An additional payment of £400 will be paid to the church in 2022.

Reserves

The reserves policy of the Ark Pre-School is that we should retain sufficient funds to cover staff costs for a term (approximately £17,500).

The preschool currently holds just over £60,000. Of this £17,500 is held in reserves, £12,000 is proposed for a new canopy, £6,000 was an advance of the Spring 2022 grant, a donation of £1000 will be made to church towards costs of improvements to the hall to reduce the noise and £400 in rent. This leaves £23,000 unallocated. This is higher than expected and is partly due to not having to pay rent for the 5 terms that the preschool was in a temporary building. At the end of the academic year, which is a year on from being back in our permanent premises, it is proposed to review the resources / equipment that the Ark has and assess what additional / new resources the Ark require.

These accounts have been assessed by Ian Burrow as designated independent assessor and signed off by him on the 16th April and are subject to approval at the AGM in 2022.

* It was decided in May 2022 that due to escalating costs of the installation of the canopy that this project is now cancelled.

Sarah Webb
Chairperson
The Ark Pre-school

Justine Wells
Treasurer
The Ark Pre-school