



St Peters C of E Pre-School Playgroup
Thurstaston Road
Lower Heswall
Wirral
CH60 4SA

Telephone: 0151 342 9909

Established 1968
Registered Charity Number 1044406

16th April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

As many of you will be aware, the committee has been working closely with Penny Bell and the staff at preschool to improve learning opportunities, encourage child-centred learning and enhance assessment and detailed tracking systems of our children in order to further plan activities.

On 22nd March, we had our Ofsted inspection. The grades that can be awarded are Outstanding (1), Good (2), Requires improvement (3) or Inadequate (4). In recent years, the term 'Requires Improvement' has replaced the term 'satisfactory' in the new Ofsted inspections.

Many strengths were identified at our visit. The inspector noted that the "staff have a good understanding of how young children learn and use this knowledge successfully to enhance children's play and support their learning". She noted the children as being confident to lead their own learning through high quality play sessions, observing three children making donuts for a wedding and then writing wedding invitations independently. The inspector also noted "Children are motivated, eager to learn and make confident choices in their play. They make good progress and are well-prepared for their eventual move on to school". The inspector was impressed with the good social skills of the children, taking turns patiently at the sand pit, and the excellent relationships with staff. She also looked in detail at our assessments and tracking of children and felt they are accurate - she felt the staff knew the children well and knew where they were working. She also noted our strong partnership with school which aids transition of children to school.

Previously the Preschool was graded 'Good' in January 2014. However, in this recent inspection, the Preschool was graded overall 'Requires improvement'. Please read the full report attached.

The two areas causing this downgrading are, due to an administrative oversight, four committee members had not properly registered themselves with Ofsted. Those committee members are rectifying this oversight with immediate effect. Unfortunately, this requirement is obscure and the committee had continued over recent months in the belief that their registration was complete, as emails to Ofsted containing details of all committee members had not been challenged as being incorrect. The second area is that the staff used ticks, rather than times, to check children in and out of preschool. We have since made changes our register to accurately record the hours of each child's attendance. Both of these issues come under the umbrella of 'safety'.

Whilst the Ofsted rating has been reduced to 'requires improvement', we see that as a very short term issue. The two actions, which have been carried out, should result in the previous rating being reinstated once the follow-up inspection by Ofsted has taken place. Ofsted have indicated this will be within 6-12 months.

The committee and staff see the welfare, safety and learning opportunities given to our children as a key priority. We can assure you that we continue to take every possible measure to ensure the highest possible standards and we are constantly looking at ways to ensure our provision and governance is the best it can be. Please be assured that you should have no concerns regarding your child's happiness, safety, welfare or the learning opportunities given to them by our excellent staff team.

We would like to hold open meetings for parents to come and meet with committee and discuss any concerns you may have following this report. These meetings will be at 9.10am and 7.30pm on Tuesday 24th April at preschool. In the meantime, if you would like to speak directly to me about this please feel free to ring me on 07734591581, or speak to any member of the committee.

Yours faithfully,

Sophia Nelson

Chairperson