

Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-School and Parent Baby and Toddler Group

Report submitted to Ashby St. Mary Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting 2008.

Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Pre-school has had a busy year. Numbers attending the setting have steadily grown through the year and we now have 22 registered children with 4 waiting to start as they become old enough. We are still running four sessions a week with a lunch club on Thursdays during the summer term and employ three members of staff.

Funds were very low in the summer term last year and we had to plan a full programme of fundraising events through July, August and September. Thanks to the hard work of the committee, parents and the staff and their families we managed to stop the group from closing. Ashby St. Mary Parish Council played a part in this and we are very grateful for the financial support you gave us. This year our bank balance is much healthier although we are still planning fundraising events similar to last year.

The children are enjoying both the indoor and outdoor environments as we use the garden everyday if we can. The new Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum comes into force in September and covers children from birth to five years old, it places much more emphasis on outdoor learning and the beneficial effects on the children being outside. We are busy at the moment planting and growing plants and seeds and learning about growth and spring.

We will be supporting village activities again this year including a stall at the St. Georges Day event on Saturday 26th April and at the Village Fete in June.

Thurton & Ashby St. Mary Parent, Baby & Toddler Group has been opening alternate weeks through the winter but we are hoping to encourage new families to join the group and open every week again soon, as we know this is a valuable group for new parents to meet and for their children to socialise.