

FEBRUARY 2018



We hope all the Preschool children have settled in to this new term and are enjoying themselves.

A big welcome to our new starters and families!

About Preschool

For any of our new parents/carers, Mickle Trafford Preschool is a registered charity and not-for-profit organisation. We are run by a volunteer Committee which is made up of parents and staff representatives. Jane Hughes and the Preschool team are responsible for the delivery of the day-to-day running and provision of childcare.

The Committee organises various fundraising and community events and we are always grateful for support whether it is financial or practical. Maybe your employer offers a matched funding scheme that we could utilise or perhaps you have a fundraising idea you'd like to share or organise?

We have a couple of vacancies on the Committee which meets monthly and is a great way to get to know other parents and understand/participate more in Preschool life.

If you are interested, please let Jane Hughes (01244 301711) or Kate Linford (07789 481445) know and come along to a meeting to see what we do.

Awards for All Grant – Resurfacing the Play Area



Just before the Christmas break, we commenced work on resurfacing the play area, thanks to the grant of £10,000 from Awards for All. We hope you agree that it's an amazing improvement in many ways. The overall appearance is brighter, more even underfoot and the best bit... no more blackened shoes and clothes!

Thanks to AGP who laid the surface in very cold and windy weather. From this:



To this:



We're working towards further outdoor improvements as and when finances allow and as ever, your support at events and with donations for fundraising is much appreciated.

Fundraising



The Christmas period is always one of our busiest with lots of events and fundraising activities. 2017 was no different with us participating in the Village School Fair with our soft toy tombola, the Village Hall Fair with our newly-discovered face-painting and glitter tattooing skills, the Nativity production, Christmas cards and other craft items and the Chameleon Fashion Show.

Overall, we raised more than £1,200 with great efforts from Committee members, staff and parents to make this happen.

Where Are the Funds Used?

Whilst we have been fundraising and applying for grants for some of the larger projects, the general fundraising provides free enhancement activities for all children including **A-Star Sports**, **Diddance** and **Multiskills** and to pay for certain resources. We also have **Zoolab coming to Preschool on the 16th February**.

On-Going Fundraising and Grant Applications

We are continuing our efforts to apply for grants and fundraise towards:

- Cladding and insulating the building
- Installing air conditioning/new heating
- Purchasing new, purpose built outdoor play equipment
- Installing new canopies/outdoor classroom

We were unsuccessful in winning a large grant from Aviva Community Awards towards playground equipment, but we were **awarded £300** from their funds towards our outdoor objectives.



easyfundraising is the simplest way to raise money for Mickle Trafford Preschool!

Shop with any of over 3,300 well-known retailers via the easyfundraising website and a percentage of what you spend is passed to Mickle Trafford Preschool at no additional cost to you.

Remember to go through easyfundraising when changing energy suppliers or insurance, these can earn lots of funds for one simple purchase. Retailers include Amazon, M&S, Vodafone, eBay, Tesco, Viking and many more. Please register to support us today

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/mickletrafpre/>

It really is incredibly easy!



2018 Future Fundraising Events:



Pre-Loved Clothes, Books and Toys Sale

Preview Sale from 3.15pm – 5pm, Friday 27th April
Main sale from 10am – 12.00pm Saturday, 28th April
Location: Village School Hall



You may have seen our plans to hold a pre-loved children's clothes, books and toys sale in 2018. To make it bigger and better, we have joined forces with the Village School PTA! This means we will now accept items for upto age 12 and we are particularly interested in good quality clothes.

We are accepting donations of items thanks to the kind folk at The Big Yellow Self Storage Company on Sealand Road who are providing us with a free storage unit.

We request that where possible, clothes are sorted into age groups to help us out when we come to set up the sale. **Please ensure everything is in good order and clean – as a guide, think whether you would buy it at a sale.**

Items can be dropped off at Preschool or with Kate Linford at 1 Regency Court, CH2 4QH. If Kate is not in, they can be left on the porch undercover but a text in advance would be appreciated (07789 481445).

HELP WANTED! – Please join us to help to set up on Friday afternoon from approx. 12.30pm and to man stalls from 3.15pm. All helpers will get 'first dibs' to purchase items (and we've some lovely stuff!). Please let Kate Linford know if you can help.

Charity Car Wash

We are planning a charity car wash to be held at the Preschool when the weather is a bit warmer. It's in the early planning stages but watch out for future communications - we'd be grateful for any helpers to wash cars, make refreshments and provide support.

Antique Pine Imports supporting Preschool

Antique Pine Imports (antiquepineimports.co.uk) who are based on Station Lane in Mickle Trafford, has offered to make a donation to Preschool for anyone ordering items from them who mentions Preschool when they order.

For purchases of £100-£499, they will donate £10 and for £500+, they will donate £25.



You can follow and like them on Facebook to see some of their amazing work (<https://www.facebook.com/AntiquePinelImports/>). They do some fabulous old and new pieces and can provide bespoke services and finishes to match your colourway.

Please support our local businesses.

Discounted Offer from The Big Yellow Self Storage Company

**50% off
storage for
up to 8 weeks**

plus an additional 10% off
for as long as you stay.

Quote: MTPS10

Big Yellow Chester
The Printworks, Sealand Road
Chester, Cheshire CH1 4RN
01244 399993



bigyellow.co.uk

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DID YOU KNOW....?

We can offer ad hoc extended hours!

Preschool operates 8am to 6pm with session times of:

8am - 9am (includes breakfast)

9am -11.30,12 or 12.30pm

11.30,12 or 12.30 – 3pm

3pm - 6pm (includes an evening meal)

If you need to add 8am-9am or 3pm-6pm on to your existing sessions on an ad hoc basis (e.g. a hospital appointment or work commitment) or would like to permanently extend your hours, please contact Jane Hughes (01244 301711).

Any additional hours that are ad hoc or outside the funding contract would be payable at £4.65 for 8am-9am and £13.95 for 3pm-6pm (or any part thereof).

Please note, usage of core hours (9am – 3pm) has increased, particularly the mornings. Whilst there may be some scope for ad hoc changes or added hours, we may not be able to accommodate requests but will do our best.

"If a child cannot
learn in the way we
teach, we must teach in a
way the child can learn."

- Unknown

