

## Report from Debenham Roundabout Pre-school

This has been an interesting and challenging year for our group. We have been encouraged once again by the support we have received from parents/carers and the wider community. We know that without that support we would not have had such a good year.

We had anticipated that the change in the admissions policy of Suffolk schools would have an impact on our service. In September 2012 reception class places were offered to the whole year group. Previously, children were admitted at three times throughout the year. The Autumn Term saw our numbers fall quite dramatically but I'm glad to say that they have been increasing steadily and all our a.m. sessions are full at present.

We have worked closely with the primary school to make sure that children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning. Joint activities have been arranged with the school nursery throughout the year. We got together to raise funds for Children in Need in November 2011 and also celebrated World Book Day together in March 2012. The older children have also been regularly joining in forest school activities with their future classmates.

We have planned lots of different activities for the children this year. The children are very much at the centre of our planning and we make sure we have close links with parents to make sure that every child has their needs addressed.

We began the year in the Autumn Term learning about colours, farms and animals and their babies. The children then took part in activities to help them to learn about shapes and patterns. We had a lovely Christmas Concert attended by lots of family and friends. We invited the Debenham Toddler Group to join us for our Christmas Party.

We started the new year learning about our five senses. The children had fun taking part in various activities including experimenting with musical instruments, feely boxes and cooking.

We talked about different types of homes and encouraged the children to post letters in our post box. In February we supported the Great Ormond Street

Hospital with a Peter Pan Day. The children had fun taking part in themed activities while raising money for a very worthwhile cause.

This Spring we have been out in the forest! We are so lucky to be able to share the resources on the school field and we have been putting them to good use. We have all enjoyed helping the children to learn about 'mini beasts' and plants growing on the field and in our own garden.

The Pre-school Committee have had a very busy year organising fund raising events. We began the year with a Family Barn Dance which was a great opportunity to meet up and enjoy an evening with other children and parents. The ever popular Duck Race was held in April. This was once again a challenge due to the lack of water in the River Deben. However, Jodie Burrows and the parent committee managed to run a very successful event which involved a catapult and flying ducks! There was also a well attended 'Pampered Chef' evening recently.

All of these events have helped to make sure the pre-school continues to thrive and provide the best possible early educational experiences for the children in our care. We look forward to another successful year with the confidence that we are being well supported by our local community.