

Report for Stowupland Parish Council Meeting – 22nd May 2026

It has been a busy start to 2026 with lots going on at the Pre-School. We have just had our children's bathroom refurbished; the bathroom now has appropriately sized toilet seats and a sunken trough sink. The last two terms we have been fundraising to purchase a greenhouse as part of our Climate action plan. We continue to get out and about in the local community, visiting the bottle bank, church and butchers. We held a show-round day for the new families starting in September 2026, everyone commented at how lovely the preschool looks, how it feels safe and secure within the community and about our reputation, which we are very proud.

We continue to operate at capacity, offering places to 55 two -four-year-olds over the course of a week. We are still operating a waiting list for the next two years, with contact constantly being made by parents in the local area for placements.

Within the setting itself, we continue to enhance the children's learning and development, especially ready for school at the end of the term. The children are exploring our outdoor area, playing with water, sand and ride on bikes. We have already planted potatoes and enhanced our already existing herb garden. We have created a construction area with a digger to build upon the interests of the children. We are thankful to the Men's shed for building us new storage shelves for the resources in the main room.

The setting had visits from the local police, a PE teacher and Science Teacher for our Science week experiments. We have also had a visit from Great Finborough's A level students who performed a Disney performance with acting, singing and dancing as part of their community project. We have booked visits with the local vets and an animal encounter due to attend this summer. We will also be looking at life cycles- watching caterpillars turn into butterflies.

We have had visits with Revd Andy Buttress, he has come into the setting to meet and see what we have to offer the community, he has hosted us at the Church for a Christmas visit and story to the children and parent community. Revd Andy Buttress was very warming and welcoming to us, he also brought laughter and joy to the service.

We continue to look at new ways to sparkle imagination in all the children who attend the setting.

As we approach the Summer Term, we are preparing for more outdoor fun and learning opportunities. We will be saying goodbye to 27 children who will be leaving to start their learning journey at school.

In October 2025, we welcomed a new Committee of parents to help oversee and run the Preschool, we are very grateful to these volunteers who have given up their time and expertise to continue supporting and developing the Preschool.

The setting continues to manage and plan financially for the next few years ahead, we have seen a cost increase in utilities, food, resources and staff wages. Following on from last years report we still have parking issues for staff in the local area. With no parking or access to the preschool we are forced to look to the local community but keen to not be a hazard or inconvenience to local residents.

We'd like to end by saying a big thank you to the local community and our parents for continuing to support us, through donations and fundraising. As a small charity, we really do appreciate every penny to enable us to continue to thrive, particularly when we have seen so many settings in Suffolk having to close.