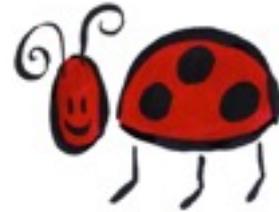


Debden Pre-School  
Debden Memorial Hall  
Debden  
Essex CB11 3LB



## Pre-school Village Assembly Report 25th April 2018

The Pre-school children very much enjoy their mornings at the setting and we can report that we have continued to provide an Outstanding environment in which they can play, grow and learn. Recently we have been awarded a Silver Award for being a Good Beginnings Autism Friendly setting, a step-up from the previous Bronze Award.

The children are so fortunate to be able to play in the park every day, no matter the weather, and, until recently, they chose books from the library bus when it visited the Village Hall car park each week.

In the spring and summer terms we run a 'School Ready' afternoon session on a Monday, for children who will attend Primary School in the following September.

We have been fortunate enough to raise a decent amount of funds throughout the year at various fundraising events. Last year we achieved our objective for fundraising to replace the Dark Den and update outdoor equipment. In the new year we decided our new objective was to provide experiences for our children and we are currently organising an exciting animal experience.

Unfortunately we can't spend fundraising money on Village Hall rental payments or staff costs - two things we so desperately have to cover!

We have raised the fees payable by "unfunded" children, in line with other settings and to help meet our running costs. However, in the main, the children attending Pre-school for any decent number of hours are over three years of age and therefore "funded" by the Government. Such funding is woefully low and has been for some considerable years. It has in no way kept in touch with wages or premises costs.

Couple that with the projected number of children attending the setting in September, currently in single figures. It is currently an extremely challenging time for Debden Pre-school.

The Committee, who voluntarily govern the Pre-school, are doing all they can to keep the Pre-school running smoothly and are enthusiastically pursuing all options available to save money and generate income. We hope to provide you with a much healthier report in 2019.