

LADYBIRDS PRE-SCHOOL AT ST BARNABAS

St Barnabas Church Hall
Stopford Road
Gillingham Kent ME7 4NQ

Report: 13th April 2015

Ladybirds Pre-School is a community based Pre-School that is run by a committee made up of parents/carers, and that supports its local community.

Since moving to our new premises at St Barnabas, Ladybirds Pre-School has begun to establish itself within the local community. The Pre-school has developed good contacts with the local pre-schools and is building contacts with local schools, and along with the Burnt Oak Children's Centre is supporting families within the community.

Since opening in September 2014, the numbers of children registering within the Pre-School has increased at a steady rate. Our name and reputation along with the church's name have supported this growth. Our open door policy, where parents can view the Pre-School at any time without an appointment has been welcomed by parents/carers.

The majority of the children attending the pre-school are residents of the immediate area to St Barnabas Church. The local area is a deprived area with a higher level of domestic violence and we have been able not only to support these families in need, but also families who need extra support on a personal level.

We are registered to take two year funded children, and have seen an increase in families applying for childcare places. We have actively signposted families to services and facilities within the community and local area.

The staffing team have supported the growth of the pre-school from the initial refurbishments to the continual expansion. They have embraced the new challenge and feel that they have been welcomed to the St Barnabas Church community. Through the increasing

numbers of children within the Pre-School we have employed a further two members of staff to the team.

The Pre-School has been invited to use the church for our own events, and at Christmas we held our first Nativity within the church which was well supported by parents and parishioners.

The Pre-School is continually building on its strengths and identifying areas of improvement. With the support of Medway Early Years Team, staff have received identified training to further aid their professional development. This benefits not only the individual but the setting as a whole to develop its all round care and education.

The Pre-School is currently full to new children in this new term, and has a waiting list for places in September.

The Pre-School's aspirations for the future:

- is to develop the outside area along Stopford Road, through planning permission, to further enhance and support the Pre-Schools development and children's learning.
- The Pre-School team is working hard to ensure that all the setting's safeguarding, planning, monitoring systems etc are embedded and adhered to in order that we can achieve a good to outstanding on our first Ofsted inspection which is due at anytime.
- To continue to support the local community by offering excellent care and education.

We hope that Ladybirds Pre-School will continue on its journey to build and develop an excellent Pre-School to support the local community. Through discussions with other professionals, it has been identified that the immediate community needs a welcoming Church and preschool to support its growing population and complex needs. All this would not have been possible without the support of St Barnabas church who identified a need to support its local community and invited us to move in, when we had nowhere to go.

Tracey O'Connell – Supervisor/Manager Sharon Hines - Chairperson