



KINETON PLAYGROUP NEWSLETTER

02 October 2020

A WARM WELCOME!

I hope you and your families are all well - such uncertain and anxious times. I would like to give all our new and returning children a huge & warm welcome - hopefully you are all established in your new routines and ways of doing things? I understand that the children have adapted incredibly well. It really is lovely to see our new children settling into all the fun and our older children taking the lead - they all grow up so fast!!

We are so incredibly lucky at Helen's Place to be surrounded by so much outdoor and green space. Forest School continues to be an ever-loved and now necessary location!

I hope that you feel reassured with all the hard work and adapted ways of doing things. Please let us know if you have any concerns at all.

THE PLAYGROUP BOARD

As you may know, Kineton Playgroup Ltd is a charity, specifically a charitable company. As all charities it relies on volunteers taking on formal and informal roles to continue to operate. The more formal roles involve people forming a functioning Board of Directors and Trustees, to oversee elements such as Finance, Safeguarding, Curriculum, Publicity & Marketing and HR. We are always happy to welcome and are actively seeking people who already have, or would like to develop, the skills to fulfil these roles.

After nearly 5 years I will be stepping down from the Board at the end of October and be leaving everything in the safe hands of Nicky McCarthy who will take the reigns as Chair. I have many fond memories working closely with everyone at Helen's Place and am incredibly proud of everyone who works there and what they achieve every day!

TAKING PART - WHAT TO DO NEXT

Playgroup cannot run without a Board and we rely on people volunteering to ensure it can continue to provide such a vital and important service to the children in the local area. We all have different life experiences and skills and we would warmly welcome anyone who feels they would like to help us and join the team. It is a very friendly bunch and is an incredibly rewarding thing to be a part of so please get in touch!

If you are interested in being involved and ready to give a little back to the community, or you know someone who is, please speak to Sally, Carol, any of us on the Board or message us through our Facebook page.

Katie Castle, Chair

MEET THE BOARD



**Nicky
McCarthy**
Chair
October
2020

I have lived in and around Kineton for 20 years having moved to the area to go to Moreton Morrell college. I have two children, Oliver who is 5 and Jessie is 2. Oliver attended playgroup in 2018/2019 and absolutely loved his time there. He was quite an anxious, shy character and the staff did an amazing job of developing his confidence by allowing him to be himself and take things at his own pace. He is now thriving at school due to the foundation playgroup provided. Jessie is due to start in September 2021 and I have no doubt she will embrace everything playgroup has to offer.

I joined the board as I was so impressed with the level of care that is provided to the children and I wanted to, in a small way, give something back to the dedicated and talented staff.



**Sally
Seddon**

I've lived in Kineton now for almost 7 years. My eldest daughter attended Kineton Playgroup from 2017-2019 and my youngest daughter started in September. From the outset I was very impressed with the standards, friendliness and professionalism of the staff. It is clear they all work incredibly well together as a team to ensure every child that attends is given a wide variety of opportunities and experiences. This encourages them to reach their own potential in these crucial early years, laying a firm foundation to build upon as they progress through their school life.

I decided to join the Board to help support the staff to continue their efforts to provide outstanding nursery provision for the children in and around our village. I see it as my way of giving something back to a community who has always made me feel welcome and of which I am very proud to be a part of. I have learnt so much about the running of charities and nurseries since becoming part of the Board and it is an interesting and varied role. My professional background was in Healthcare within the NHS and I am currently the Safeguarding Lead for the Board.



**Anna
Butcher**

I started on the Playgroup board last September. Before chatting to Katie, I had no idea that Playgroup was actually a charity and requires a board to operate. I wanted to get involved as a way of meeting new people, having some involvement in the setting that my children attend and to learn about an area which I have never been involved in. There are lots of opportunities to contribute in many different ways. I am really enjoying getting to know how the setting works and the wonderful staff.

Before becoming a mum I worked for ten years for a chocolate manufacturer, so this is a bit different! I grew up on a farm in Wroxton and the amazing outdoor space and fabulous forest school is my favourite thing about playgroup. I have now lived in Kineton for three years and love this friendly community, being on the playgroup board to a great way to get involved.