



Board Newsletter

July 2025

YEAR ROUND UP

As we are inching ever nearer to the end of the school year, now is a good opportunity to reflect on the past year at Kineton Playgroup. Children have had several exciting visits this year; to St Francis Catholic Church, to St Peter's Church as well as two trips to Compton Verney, all of which generated much excitement and were a great success! We were thrilled to be able to run a nativity play in the school hall again in December; thank you to everyone at Kineton Primary School for hosting us. This is the only time in the year when the whole Playgroup community comes together, and this year's performance was truly joyful.

Open days at Playgroup have been well attended this year, as have been our Easter Egg Hunt and Church services for Harvest, Christmas and Easter; it is always so lovely to welcome parents to join us for these events. We have also had lots of visits from a range of mystery readers this year; the children love seeing who is coming to read them a story so thank you to all the mummies, daddies and grandparents who have been able to join us.

We have recently held two Sport's Days which were enjoyed by everyone; I even heard parents chatting about it at the School Sport's Day, particularly commenting on the lovely cuddles the children got at the end of their races!

Events such as these take an incredible amount of planning, so a big thank you to all of the Playgroup staff for their excellent organisation, and to all of you parents who come along and offer support.

FEE INCREASE

From September 2025, there will be an increase of 6% to Kineton Playgroup and KASC fees. This is to cover rises to the National Living Wage as well as the increase in National Insurance contributions employers are required to make. To put this into the context of two real examples; a full day at Playgroup for a 3 year old will increase from £41.86 to £44.37 and a KASC session until 5pm for a school-aged child will increase from £14.02 to £14.86. Remember, prompt payment merits a 10% discount!

If you have not already done so, do check whether you are eligible to pay for Playgroup or KASC sessions through the government's tax-free childcare scheme:

www.childcarechoices.gov.uk

Full details of updated fees for 2025-26 can be found in the attached document.

THE ROLE OF THE PLAYGROUP BOARD

As you may know, Kineton Playgroup Ltd is 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.

Over the past year, there have been several changes to the Board of Directors. Please see below to learn more about us and our role at Kineton Playgroup.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Board of Directors and Trustees, you are welcome to email us on our new address: kpgboard@welearn365.com

Have a wonderful summer.



Harriet Phillips
Chair of the Board and Safeguarding

I have lived in Kineton for just over 6 years and joined the Playgroup Board in 2023 as a way of giving back to the community. Both my children attended Kineton Playgroup and continue to be regulars at Breakfast and After School Club. I have always been impressed by the dedication of all of the Playgroup staff to get the best out of every child and know that when my girls are there, their needs are well catered for and they are happy!

I have worked in education, in England and abroad, for around 20 years and am currently an Assistant Headteacher and SENCo at a school in Banbury. I am passionate about effective Early Years education and it is a privilege to work alongside Playgroup staff, who are so committed to the needs of the children in our community.



Lyndsay Buchanan
Marketing and Communications

I decided to join the Playgroup Board back in 2021, it's such an important and valued part of the community that I wanted to help out in any way I could, and in return I have learnt so much from the staff and other Board Members during my time here.

Originally from Scotland, I moved to Kineton as a child, my younger sister even attended Kineton Playgroup when it used to take place in the Methodist Church! My two children attended Playgroup and loved their time there - the staff have always created such a lovely, warm and enriching environment.

Along with raising my two children, I work five days a week at Kineton High School.



Clare McLelland
SEND and Curriculum

I moved to Kineton from Dorset with my husband and two boys in 2022 and found it to be a friendly, welcoming village. Playgroup is at the heart of the Kineton community and they have a long-standing history of providing strong early foundations for local children. My youngest son attended Playgroup and I felt compelled to give back by becoming a board member.

I have over ten years experience as a primary school teacher, working in London and abroad in both Peru and Thailand. I now work, just across the path from Playgroup, at Kineton Primary School. This experience in education enables me to support Playgroup as their board member responsible for SEND.



Michael Lawrence
Treasurer

I have lived in Kineton for over 30 years, during that time Playgroup has become an important part of the local community and now that I am retired I will be using my business experience to ensure it can continue to make a positive impact on future generations.

My two children attended Playgroup in the Methodist Hall in the 1990's and as a family we supported the fund raising for Helen's Place. I have seen over the years how Playgroup provides a solid foundation for school and future learning.

I worked in project management and product development for Jaguar for 26 years and then had a varied career in local government, government agencies and the space industry where I gained experience in commercial, governance and board roles. I have previous experience as a parent governor at King Edward VI school in Stratford and as a non-executive director at Orbit housing association.

As treasurer of Playgroup I work with the management team and our external accountant to ensure our financial practices are compliant with relevant regulations and procedure as well as supporting the team with strategy development and business planning.

I am also treasurer of St Peter's Church in Kineton, and I volunteer as a gallery assistant at Compton Verney.