



Board Newsletter

March 2023

MEET THE BOARD

First of all, let us take this opportunity to say hello! It has been a long time since we sent out a Board newsletter, so we wanted to introduce ourselves. The Board currently consists of Cathy Thompson (Chair of Board & Curriculum), Lyndsay Buchanan (Special Educational Needs) and Harriet Phillips (Safeguarding) - you can read more about us at the end of the newsletter. We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing half term break and are looking forward to some warmer weather and some sunnier days. Have you spotted the crocuses popping up in the beds outside of Playgroup? Spring is on its way!

NO FEE INCREASE

We know it is an incredibly difficult time for lots of families, so we wanted to reassure you that here at playgroup we have made the decision not to increase fees this academic year. We have chosen to freeze fees at the current rate to do what we can to support people during these hard times.

FUNDRAISING

We are always working hard to come up with new ideas, if you would like to get involved in supporting our crucial fundraising activities, please let us know. Whether you want to volunteer to organise, donate or do something wild to help our cause, any contribution you can make, big or small, all helps.

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.

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. We're a very friendly bunch and it is an incredibly rewarding thing to be a part of.

If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch with Carol, Tor or Xianna, any of us on the Board or message us through our Facebook page.




Cathy Thompson
Chair of the Board & Curriculum

I moved to Kineton a few years ago and have fallen in love with this village, so being on the Playgroup Board is one way I feel I can give something back. My eldest went to Playgroup 2019-2020 before starting school and thoroughly enjoyed his time there; from my first meeting there I was impressed by the staff, and the level of care and support provided for the children in their charge. My daughter now attends Playgroup and, I'm sure, is giving them a run for their money! As for me, I am a teacher in a secondary school and have worked in schools for approximately 20 years, although learning about Early Years education has been something very new and interesting for me. I have just taken over as Chair of the Board and am enjoying the new challenges that it brings. It's a real privilege to work alongside the dedicated Playgroup staff and to have a small role in shaping the minds of the wonderful children in our community.



Lyndsay Buchanan
Special Educational Needs

Originally from Scotland, I moved to Kineton as a child and attended both the Primary School and the High School in the village. My younger sister even attended Kineton Playgroup when it used to take place in the Methodist Church! I loved my childhood in Kineton, and when my eldest son was born in 2013, we knew we wanted to move to the village. My son attended Playgroup from 2015-2018 and loved his time there so much, we knew we'd made the right choice. My daughter then joined in 2021 and it was so special to see her develop and come out of her shell after a year of social distancing and cancelled toddler groups. Although both my children are now at school, I decided to join the Board at Playgroup as it's such an important and valued part of the community. I am a

	<p>freelance wedding photographer which I absolutely love, and I'm so grateful I get to say that's my job, however it does get a bit lonely sitting on my own editing photos all day, so it's great I get to work as part of a team with the Board and Playgroup staff too!</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Harriet Phillips Safeguarding</p> <p>I have lived in Kineton for almost 4 years and joined the Playgroup board last September as I wanted to start taking a more active role in the community. My eldest daughter went to Playgroup in 2019/20 and my littlest still attends now, although she will be starting school in September. Both girls regularly attend Breakfast and After-School Club as my husband and I both work and I have always loved how the playgroup setting feels like a home away from home. I know that when my girls are there, their needs are well catered for, they are stimulated with activities they enjoy (always thankful for the numerous drawings that come home each day!) and most importantly, they are happy which certainly helps ease that mum guilt!</p> <p>I am an Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Lead in a primary school near Banbury. Having taught in a special needs school for 10 years I am a passionate advocate that all children should be entitled to equal opportunities regardless of their personal circumstances. The strong relationships that Playgroup staff have with the children who attend there, ensure that the children are encouraged to reach their full potential and I have always been impressed by the inclusive environment Playgroup has created.</p> <p>There are lots of ways that you can support Playgroup so if you are interested then please do chat to me to find out more!</p>