

Stoke Baby and Toddler Group



Annual report to the Parish Council 2023

We have had another successful year, with many new faces joining us, including 5 day old babies, new youngsters who have moved to the village and further friends of friends. Some of our children as ever, had moved on to school or pre-school of course and we were sad to see them go, but wish them the very best.....

Numbers vary weekly, with some very regular and other occasional visitors, but we are currently a little up on last year, with usually 15-20 little ones and their "oldies" per week. It is also nice that the children sometimes bring additional family members as well, to watch them play...

We provide a wide range of toys and crafts, including sand, water and mud (generally outside!) and our weekly crafts prove popular with the young ones – and their carers! We have made cards, Easter chicks, bird feeders, jellyfish and a wide variety of sculptures and beautiful paintings – using many different implements including bubble-wrap and toy cars. An Easter garden made by the Toddlers was proudly displayed in the Church.

It has been lovely to meet some new grown-ups as well as the children: it is important to remember that the group is for them too.

At Christmas we were very lucky to have a visit from Father Christmas and all the children were given a book and some treats. Our volunteers, Sue, Margaret and Rita continue to give fantastic support and spoil us by serving us with a range of healthy options for snacks.

Unfortunately, for the first time, we have had to increase weekly subs due to the increase in fruit prices. We still believe that £1.50 per family including coffee for 'biggies' and drink / snacks for the 'littles' represents good value and we make it clear that this is only payable if the family can afford it.

Once again, we remain extremely grateful to the PC, who have supported us by covering the Hall rental for the year, despite the significant increase. Without this support, we simply could not continue.

This year, we hope to purchase some additional "Toddler chairs" as the benches we have are not ideal for little ones. We also need to recruit more volunteers, especially to help with setting up and helping with craft activities.....

Many thanks for your support.