
Manager's Report for the AGM

Ovingham & District Under 5's Reporting Period: 2024–2025

Good evening everyone, and thank you for attending the AGM tonight. It's truly lovely to see you all here.

This past year has been one of growth, learning, and resilience for Ovingham & District Under 5s. We began the academic year with very low numbers, which led to some difficult but necessary changes due to financial shortfalls. Our dedicated staff team agreed to reduced working hours, and the increased workload became challenging to manage at times.

Despite these hurdles, our team remained committed to providing a nurturing and stimulating environment where our children continue to thrive. I want to extend a personal and heartfelt thank you to both Wendy Taylor and Sarah Milligan for their unwavering dedication and professionalism. Your continuity and care have been invaluable.

To better support working families, we adapted our operating hours. While our core hours remain 08:30–15:30 to align with school hours, we are now open for an additional hour, offering increased flexibility for working parents and carers.

Parent Partnerships & Communication

We continue to use our Tapestry portal as the main channel for communication with parents. It's a joy to share the magical moments and activities our children experience—both at nursery and at home.

A key Ofsted requirement is to demonstrate how we work in partnership with families. We do this in many ways—from daily greetings and shared observations, to welcoming parents into the nursery to read a book, play music, or share their careers. These connections significantly enhance children's outcomes and contribute to a rich, collaborative learning environment.

Fundraising & Community Involvement

We are incredibly proud of our fundraising efforts and the fantastic support we've received from our families and the local community. This year's events included:

- Christmas Wreath Making
- Bunny Bounce
- Goose Fair
- Family Photography Sessions
- Family Games Night (special thanks to Paul Innes for making it such a success!)

Fundraising has a huge impact on our charity-run nursery. It enables us to refresh toys and learning resources, invest in staff training, and ultimately improve the quality of care and education we provide. Your contributions directly benefit our children—and for that, we are deeply grateful.

Special Projects & Enrichment Activities

This year, we were proud to host one of the Illuminate Sheep, part of a free, county-wide visual arts trail created by artist Deepa Mann-Kler. The children named our sheep Viktor, and we had the pleasure of hosting him for a whole month before he rejoined his flock. This wonderful initiative brought positive exposure to the nursery, including mentions on various media platforms.

We also participated in a wide range of educational programmes and cultural celebrations, including:

- Nursery Rhyme Week
- Space Week
- STEM Week
- Numbers Week
- Lunar New Year, Diwali, Hanukkah
- Graduation Celebrations

This year, 11 children graduated and moved on to Reception Class. Their new teacher has already shared how well they are settling in, which affirms that we are achieving our key goal of getting children school-ready.

Thank You

- A big thank you to my incredible staff team, who continue to bring passion to Early Years education and share my vision for the future.
- Thank you to Rebecca Loughhead, who has now moved on—we wish you all the best in your new role.
- A heartfelt thank you to our amazing parents for your continued support, encouragement, and generous fundraising contributions. Everything raised goes straight back into improving the nursery for the benefit of all children.
- And finally, an enormous thank you to our wonderful trustees and committee. Your time, commitment, and support ensure the sustainability of our setting. Your support to me personally is always deeply appreciated.

Looking Ahead

Although the past year has been particularly challenging, we feel that we've emerged stronger and more united. We look forward to building on this strength in 2025/26, with continued focus on quality care, community engagement, and child-led learning.

Thank you again for your time tonight and for your ongoing support of Ovingham & District Under 5s.
