

Kimpton Pre School Update

It is with great sadness that the closure of Kimpton Preschool was announced on 9th November with the last day being December 20th 2023. The closure was due to the low numbers currently registered or registered with intent to join to enable the preschool to remain financially viable. The Trustees are obliged to ensure, on behalf of the Charity Commission, that the charity is solvent and so they have made the decision to wind up the charity that is associated with the management, due to lack of funds. A secondary issue was that, despite multiple requests and pleadings over the past three years, no one within the community was willing to take up the voluntary roles of Treasurer or Chair to allow the incumbent Trustees to stand down.

The redundancy process for the three members of staff has now begun. The Trustees have already approached Kimpton Primary School about their taking the preschool building on. The Primary School has already agreed to take on all the preschool 3-year-olds, and those turning 3 within the current term of joining. Thus, the loss of provision, except for the one or two very youngest in the setting, has been mitigated to a degree.

Conversations have taken place with Hertfordshire County Council, Early Learning Team, regarding the change of planning to allow for extended opening hours. This would be of benefit to any other party (private or otherwise) that could use the building as a safe space for both adults and young children in the future.

Carina Helmn

16/11/23