



SIMPLY THE BEST: Ide Hill pre-school celebrates an outstanding Ofsted report during sports day

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Ofsted praise pupils' exemplary behaviour

Outstanding pre-school with an 'inspirational' manager

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AN "exceptionally well led" pre-school has retained its "outstanding" status after Ofsted praised the "exemplary behaviour" of its pupils.

Ide Hill Pre-school was given the education watchdog's highest rating following an inspection which took place this month.

Based at the village hall, the pre-school's manager, Liz Money, who is described as "inspirational", said she was delighted with the latest report's findings.

"I'm thrilled that Ofsted has recognised all of our hard work," she said. "We are always looking at ways we can improve the pre-school and give children new opportunities to learn and

develop their skills.

"We've got a great team here, and every single member of staff puts so much effort into making the pre-school such a successful, fun, supportive environment for children."

On July 2, inspector Victoria Forbes carried out her visit and found the pre-school to be "outstanding" in all areas, echoing the previous report from 2009. Ms Forbes said an underpinning principle of "excellence through hard work" ensured "highly skilled, motivated and dedicated staff lead by example".

Care

"This significantly enhances children's learning experiences and ensures that staff provide them with nurturing care," she wrote. "Staff,

parents and other professionals work together particularly closely, which means that they rapidly identify children's needs and meet them exceptionally well.

"Staff know the children extremely well and value their contributions," she added. "They extend their learning through effective questioning and stimulating challenges - as a result, children make rapid progress from their starting points.

"In addition staff carry out home visits and work in full partnership with parents to make children's settling-in process as smooth as possible. As a result, children display a very high level of confidence and a sense of belonging."

The pre-school has been based at the village hall for around 25 years.

A registered charity, it aims to support and encourage the children it looks after to develop and grow in confidence in readiness for their transition to primary school.

Ian Manley, chair of the pre-school committee, said it was a "major achievement" to be classed "outstanding" in two successive reports.

"It is testament to all the hard work that Liz and her team put in to the setting," he said. "The children absolutely love coming to pre-school, and there's always something new and exciting for them to engage with every day. On behalf of all the children's parents and carers, I'd like to thank staff for making Ide Hill Pre-school such a success, and wish them all a well-deserved break over the summer holidays."