



## Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council Community Grant Fund Application Form

Please read the Council's Community Grant Fund Policy before completing this form. You may use the continuation sheets provided if necessary. The maximum amount for any application is £1,500.00.

Details of Organisation:		
1.	Name of organisation and any company/charity number	Mortimer Pre-School  Charity Number 287072
2.	Purpose of organisation	Our aim is to provide a safe, happy and stimulating environment that encourages learning through play for children aged 2-5 years.
3.	Contact name  Position in organisation	
4.	Address	Mortimer Pre-School 22 West End Road,
5.	Telephone number  Email	
6.	Bank account name, sort code & account number	
Details of Project		
7.	Name of project	Mortimer Pre-School Garden
8.	Brief overview – what are you looking to provide?  (max 100 words)	Our intention is for our outdoor space to be a truly inclusive and enriching learning environment for all the children at Pre-School. Some of our children don't have regular access to safe outdoor space, whilst others are at Pre-School five days a week, so creating a space which is versatile, sparks curiosity and learning is key to the development of the children in our community.
9.	Please describe in full your business case, including:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set-up costs</li> <li>• Revenue costs</li> </ul>	The total anticipated cost is

<p>10.</p> <p>Any supplementary evidence you feel is appropriate</p> <p>(max 500 words)</p>	<p>There is a wealth of research which details the benefits of outdoor play on children's well-being. Aside from the physical benefits of fresh air and exercise, playing outdoors supports mental health and allows children to develop self-confidence, independence and self-esteem.</p> <p>They become aware of limits, boundaries and challenge in their play. When children are used to playing outdoors, they are more likely to try new activities, engage with others, solve problems, explore the natural environment, make friends and show resilience. (ni.direct.gov.uk).</p> <p>As a Pre-School, last year we invested money last year into our garden area to make it more use-able, by removing outdated and space limiting equipment, setting up a shade-sail for the summer, repairing flooring, and improving storage and our planting space. What we weren't able to do (because of financial constraints) is to add the environmentally enriching resources to help the children truly reap the benefit of outdoor play and to create opportunity for them to play and have a go, to challenge themselves and to test ideas (these are all characteristics of effective learning which are key to the Early Years Foundation Stage and to help children achieve their life-long learning goals).</p> <p>We would like to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Add a music wall. Music supports our intellectual development and emotional health. For young children it is proven also to support language and literacy development.</li> <li>- Create a DIY area. We have started teaching our 3 and 4 year olds some of the basics of wood-work and they have taken to this with much enthusiasm and skill. We want to create a more bespoke area and resources to build on these skills, because the children are learning to think creatively, problem solve, use trial and error as well as handle themselves and tools with care and responsibility.</li> <li>- Install child-friendly planters. The children have planted many vegetables and flowers through the seasons, however many of our old planters now need replacing. We want to incorporate planters into our play areas so the children play alongside nature and are able to reach and to nurture their own garden.</li> </ul>
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		- Create a mark-making zone. Writing and reading should not be limited to an indoor activity. We would like to create a zone where the children can draw and practise writing outside in the fresh air, alongside the nature and the flowers which may provide inspiration for their work.
11.	Please describe the community benefit and levels of support for your proposal, with evidence.	<p>The children at Pre-School are those who were born in Covid or who have spent the majority of their life living through lock-downs and social isolating. Research shows the impact of this disruption on these children. Speech and language delays are widely reported across all age groups (and have been the focus for our recent investments) as children had fewer opportunities to develop their communication skills at home. Children also struggled to adapt to new situations and missed out on opportunities to socialise and develop self-regulation skills. And, as the children spent less time outdoors and more time in sedentary activities, their physical development, including their motor skills, were negatively affected.</p> <p>It is for these reasons that investment in our garden area is so important to us.</p>
12.	What is the anticipated start date?	On receipt of the investment (Easter 23 ideal)
<b>Grant Request</b>		
13.	What is the total cost of the project?	<p>£870</p> <p>2 x Planters £200 Music Wall £120 Equipment covers £180. Reading shed £125 Tool set £100 and work bench £170. H Crates £60</p>
14.	How much are you applying for in this application to the Community Grant Fund?	£870 Whilst we have an active Pre-School committee who run fundraising activities, eg the recent raffles, support for Loddon Valley Lions and book sales this money is to support the cost of PE lessons for the children.
15.	If the grant is for revenue costs, please give details of how these will be funded in the future.	N/A
16.	Please give details of the funds available from the organisation's own resources for this project	<p>Our forecast for Year Ending April 23 is -£13k. Our income is largely fixed by the funding rate we receive per hour from the government (on a termly basis), and 85% of our expenses go through salaries. Our salary information whilst confidential is mostly at national minimum wage.</p> <p>As we enter the new financial year we have to move our wages in line with the new NMW. The impact of this change is an additional</p>

		<p>£10k per year. We do not anticipate seeing increased funding rates from the government.</p> <p>The monies we have put aside over the last few years will help support our existence through the next 2-3 years and hopefully the current economic crisis. Our finances do not have the scope for the investment in the resources that the children in our community will so greatly benefit from. The children with us currently are those who may benefit the most, having seen such a percentage of their lives experienced through lock-downs.</p> <p>Please see attached our annual report as shared with the Charity Commission.</p>
17.	Please give details of funding available from other sources for this project, including match funding where the payment of any successful Community Grant needs to be made via a funding platform i.e The Good Exchange	See above.
18.	Please supply the additional information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The financial balance of your organisation (copy of latest bank statement).</li> <li>• A copy of the accounts for the last financial year, or if a newly formed organisation, then a copy of the budget and business plan.</li> <li>• Current constitution or rules as appropriate.</li> </ul>	
<b>Declaration:</b>		
<p>I confirm that I am making this application on behalf of the organisation named.</p> <p>I undertake on behalf of the organisation that any financial assistance offered will only be used for the purpose for which it has been granted, unless otherwise agreed and I agree to the Conditions of Funding.</p> <p>I understand that any false declaration or information may disqualify any further application.</p>		
Name of authorised personnel:		
Signed:		
Date:		3/2/2023
For and on behalf of (state organisation): Mortimer Pre-School		

Please return the completed Community Grant Fund Application Form and additional information to The Clerk, Parish Council Office, 27 Victoria Road, Mortimer, READING RG7 3SH or email scanned copies to [the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk](mailto:the.clerk@stratfield-mortimer.gov.uk).

Continuation Sheet 1

**Name of Organisation:**

Adopted 12/01/2023