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Investors in Children Award
Ofsted registration

8th July 2021

Dear Steyning Parish Council and the Steyning Centre Committee

I apologise for the timing of this letter, it has been sitting in my drafts box for several months. As you may be aware I am retiring at the end of this academic year on the 16th July 2021. I have been working with my staff and various potential new owners, with a wish to pass the pre-school facility on and maintain Early Years Childcare at the hub of Steyning in The Steyning Centre. I had hoped a smooth transition could be found for children, parents and my staff team.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the appointed new owner pulled out. Since then West Sussex, The Parish Clerks and myself have been working to secure a new owner and Management to hand over the pre-school to.

For those who are unaware, St Andrews pre-school has been running in the Steyning Community facilities for the past 50 years and I do hope a solution can be found for this to continue.

There was never going to be a perfect time to bow out, but with a major birthday approaching I have been working towards my retirement for many years. The pre-school has been a major part of my life for the past 28 years and the Steyning Centre my home! The joy of being with the children, caring for them and watching them flourish has always been the most rewarding part of working at pre-school. Working through so many different needs with the families together over the years has been very rewarding. Seeing these children grow into confident young adults some with children of their own, catching up on their journeys at stages in between gives me pride of being part of their journey. Now it is time for me to move on and spend time with my own family once again, something I am very much looking forward to.

The past 18 months have been extremely challenging for everyone. I would particularly like to thank Hazel and John who have always had an open door for me to air my views and talk things through with. In fact Hazel has patiently listened and supported me for over 20 years for which I am most grateful.

I am sure I will be entering The Steyning Centre to try out all the different activities held there once going to work no longer rules my days!

With very best wishes to you all.

Kind regards
Marion