

## Ascott Pre-school

# The Prime Minister opens the New Play Area

Who better to open your brand new play area than the Prime Minister? David Cameron was the 'mystery guest' who surprised around 60 children and 50 adults who were eagerly waiting at



Ascott Pre-School in the Tiddy Hall in April this year. After a short speech and cutting of a red ribbon the new look, outside play area was officially opened. The Prime Minister spent time chatting to all, both big and small, whilst children enjoyed a bouncy castle and play activities with refreshments flowing. It was a lovely relaxed atmosphere; he even found time for a coffee. We are very privileged that the Prime Minister took time out of his busy schedule to enjoy this occasion with us.



LOTTERY FUNDED



### It IS Rocket Science!

The change at Tiddy Hall is amazing, an all weather surface incorporating an eye-catching bright rocket hopscotch has transformed the outside space that Ascott Pre-school use every day as their garden. We are hugely appreciative that The Big Lottery Fund thought our project worthwhile and their grant of £10,000 helped us enormously in achieving our goal. A project of this scale would have been a very high mountain to climb without their generosity. We are so grateful to them and to the Tiddy Hall committee for their support throughout. The new area has also been kitted out with animal shape mirrors,

a magnetic board and a blackboard for the fences along with new equipment including a wooden pulley system to hoist buckets and real looking foam bricks which you

can actually 'cement' together using sand and water.

### Dads with Spades

Thanks have to go to the parents, teachers and committee at Pre-school who have helped not only by giving money to fundraising events but also giving up their

time to make this happen. Time given was not just a pleasurable couple of hours enjoying a film and supper on a fundraising evening but hard labour. On a chilly Saturday morning in

February, a group of Dads armed with spades spent the morning clearing the old surface and preparing the outside area to help save on the costs. Rewarded with bacon butties and lots of cups of tea from the staff, there was a real sense of community and achievement and there were other days like this, in the cold, painting, cleaning and tidying.

The new area looks fantastic. The children at Pre-school are using it every day and love it The wet pour has made a huge difference to Tiddy Hall. This all weather, easy to maintain surface is not only aesthetically pleasing but so easy to manage. We hope that it can be thoroughly enjoyed by the wider community when they hire out the hall.

**Andrea Bell**