



Longwick-cum-Ilmer  
Parish Council

## **GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Longwick Pre-School
<b>Name, Address and Position of Contact in Organisation</b>	Treasurer Longwick Village Hall Longwick
<b>Is the Organisation a Registered Charity? If yes, Charity Number</b>	Yes
<b>Amount of grant requested?</b>	
<b>For what purpose or project is the grant requested?</b>  <b>(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)</b>	<p>This application is to propose a second area for Longwick Pre-School to use in the village. We are proposing a “forest school” style outdoor area with an outbuilding which would allow for shelter in bad weather (including a composting toilet), suggested plan attached as annex A. For the past 30 years Longwick Pre-School has been based out of Longwick Village Hall. This has largely been both successful and affordable. In recent years the numbers of children attending the Pre-School have grown as have the needs of the cohorts of children. With large numbers of children (aged 2-5) there is a need for outdoor time, the Pre-School currently has access to some outdoor space at the Village Hall it is our understanding that this outdoor space will be reduced to allow for the expansion of hall storage. In order for the Pre-School to grow, meet the increasing demand for places, sessions and specialist provision we are seeking the Parish Council Support to develop a Forest School area dedicated to Longwick Pre-School</p>
<b>What will be the total cost? If applying for other grants/matched funds for the project please provide details.</b>	Outdoor learning building - £8000 Compostable toilet - £2000 Preparing the area/fence and labour - £16000 (see quotes attached Annex B). Total Cost £26,000
<b>When will the money be spent?</b>	We are proposing we utilise a currently under used area of the playing field (back right if you

	<p>look at the field from standing at the village hall), to accommodate a fenced off area which will become a forest school including an outbuilding and compostable toilet. The area would be max 25m x6m.</p> <p>There will need to be a fence around the forest school for safeguarding reasons. The purpose of the fence in operating hours will be to prevent children leaving the forest school and to prevent dogs entering the area. There is no defined specification as to the height or style of fence in the safeguarding regulations, therefore the Pre-School will work with the parish council to consider what is agreeable both aesthetically and practically. The current Pre-School garden has a low level picket style fence, this has not typically been problematic and there have been minimal issues with antisocial behaviour. However, due to the suggested location of the forest school area (slightly more secluded) we would suggest a higher mesh fence like that surrounding the school. This would provide more of a deterrent for anyone trying to enter the forest school without permission.</p> <p>The ground area in the forest school will be maintained with "play bark". Some logs for seats, planters for flowers and vegetables as well as raised flower beds for planting will be added in the outside space. There will be no need to plant large trees, forest school is an umbrella term for outdoor learning environments, it encompasses an outdoor curriculum promoting children learning about nature and their environment.</p> <p>The Pre-School are seeking funds to get this project up and running and understand the ongoing running costs and maintenance would need to be met by the Pre-School itself.</p>
<p><b>Who will benefit from the project? Give details of local groups that will benefit (if applicable)</b></p>	<p>This application is to propose a second area for Longwick Pre-School to use in the village. We are proposing a "forest school" style outdoor area with an outbuilding which would allow for shelter in bad weather.</p> <p>Over recent years with the development in the village we have seen an increase in the numbers of children attending the Pre-School. The new developments in the village have also seen an increase in social housing and families moving to the area from towns where more amenities and support had been available to them. As a Pre-School we have been trying to meet some of these needs by providing additional sessions, support for parents and outreach to specialist services to identify and</p>

support with special educational needs. We have seen a significant rise in children attending the Pre-School where Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) and social deprivation are impacting negatively on children's development.

The evidence base for Forest School approaches to SEND and children of have Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) is well documented and something which we have seen the benefit of in our own cohorts of children. We have been utilising the forest school area in the school, however this has limited availability and since the repurposing of the Scout Hut we no longer have access to toileting facilities while on sight. For many of our children being close to a toilet is essential as many are new to toilet training.

We have increased need and demand to offer our most vulnerable children sessions over school holidays, this facility would allow us to do this in an effective and planned way, while ensuring that overheads for the Pre-School are not unmanageable. Many of our children receive term time only funding therefore our most vulnerable children accessing a holiday provision would mean the Pre-School running this with little contribution from families and no contribution from the LA. We would be seeking external grant support to help with this from social enterprise and organisations such as "Children in Need".

We very much see the forest school as a community asset. We would be looking to run coffee mornings, opening up to organisations such as the WI and others for outdoor learning and planting sessions. As part of our continued partnership with the residential care home in Longwick, we also plan to extend open sessions to residents (in the summer months) to come and explore nature-based sessions with our children.

The Pre-School is a charity run organisation, as such we do not seek to make a profit from running the forest school, but to utilise the space for the benefit of our children and wider community.