Smarties APCM report 2022-2023

As you know by now, smarties is more than chocolate! We are the church stay and play toddler group which meets every Thursday morning in  term time. [10-15](tel:1015) until [1145](tel:1145). Anyone who cares for children age 0-4 is welcome with their children.

As I reflect on the past year from [2022](tel:2022) to [2023](tel:2023), I am grateful for all God has done in us and through us. There is now very little worry about Covid and a sense of community, one where people enjoy being together and enjoy bringing their children to play together, snack together, Craft together, playdough together,  Cook plastic food together and have a good chat. Friendships are being made and community is being built. Children are being encouraged and parents supported. We want to see more of this!

We have up to 30 families attending every week, some from our church family and many from the wider community.  We are seeing a growing sense of community. Mum's, Dads and Grandparents bring their children and feel an increasing sense of belonging as we spend time together.

I'm thankful for the welcome table, which has also allowed many friendships from Smarties grow and develop, as smarties families visit the welcome table.  It has meant the church community can serve the families from Smarties and bring encouragement, friendship and share the love of Jesus in very practical ways. It has been a delight to see the way God has opened doors and opportunities have been taken in order to serve the Smarties families at Welcome table and messy church events.

This year, at Smarties, we have looked at growing together, the theme of "come and see" at Christmas, God loving the whole world and everything in it.  Look out for the lost sheep in the next few weeks!

A highlight last year was the tewksbury big weekend parade, where we all celebrated the Queen's jubilee. Many families joined in  enthusiastically and enjoyed being part of the Smarties community. This year, The tewsbury big weekend moves to the theme of nursery rhymes. We are going to look at little bo peep who lost her sheep and will be helped by the puppet team who will then tell the story of the lost sheep after the parade. Please pray for this event and how it works out, as it is a new venture that Andrea Duncan,  Kate Wyatt and the puppet team  are pioneering, in order to share the love of Jesus with  the community on the occasion of the Tewkesbury big weekend.

Once again I give thanks to God for everyone who helps me with the Smarties mornings. They are Andrea Duncan, Joy Thomas, Lucy Betts, Emma Hancox, Andy Beadle and Isla Gardiner. Sarah Banelli has been helping too, but has just stepped back to focus on other things.  Thanks so much Sarah for your enthusiasm and hard work.  We are delighted to have Kate Wyatt join the team and bring a wealth of creativity, expertise and enthusiasm. Thank you Smarties volunteers from the bottom of my heart and from all the families who get so much enjoyment from the group every Thursday. If anyone is interested in joining this fantastic group of helpers come and have a chat with me or email me at [smarties@trinitytewkesbury.org.uk](mailto:smarties@trinitytewkesbury.org.uk).

We have been given such a gift of hope from Jesus. Please pray for us as we encourage and support young families and share God's love with them.

Pray for   
Deepening of relationships and continuing building of community.   
Opportunities to share the hope we have in Jesus  
Opportunities to help families with their physical needs  
Help with general admin for Rach, we need a new registration system and to update some policies and procedures   
Each member of the team as they serve faithfully each week.   
Continuing of good links with Welcome table, messy church events and Smarties  
For the church  BBQ on 7/5/23 as we invite those attending Smarties and the Welcome table  
For the Tewkesbury big weekend and Smarties, the puppets and TJC as we join together.