



William Older Playgroup Autumn Term Newsletter 2016

A Big Welcome!



Welcome back to all our families and big hello to new starters: Eve Beattie, Nicci Bird, Lara Chivers, Ella Dennehy, Violet Eves, Isla Hickley, Ethan Kidd, Matilda Lancaster, Evie Latham, Ava Rose Louis, Poppy Merritt Birch, Noah Newling, Elsie Packer, Archie Porter Baker, Poppy Rees, Willow Saunders, Willow Smith, Henry Taylor and Stanley Terris

We hope you all had a great Summer—luckily the good weather appears to be spilling into the Autumn Term.

For new starters—all families should know who their key person is and also if a registration fee has been paid—should have received a t-shirt.

If you are unsure about either of these then please speak to Sue asap. Anyone that would like to purchase further t-shirts—they are available in an array of colour at £5. We also sell hooded William Older sweatshirts at £12 and reversible fleece/ shower proof jackets at £16. Please speak to staff if interested.

Environment Area

Over the summer holidays our new environment area has been moving on with the sensory path taking shape nicely. We do desperately need some help weeding the new flower beds before dressing the surfaces. If anyone has an hour or two to spare asap then please see Sue.

Other Help Needed

Last year two parents worked for companies that allow employees a day's charity work paid for by them and used this facility to help us repaint our play tower and work on our nature area. If this may apply to you or a spouse, please bear us in mind as many of our sheds, outdoor large equipment are due for maintenance and our outdoor nature area will have plenty of work needed.

Resources

If you ever have unused resources that you feel may be of use to us—paper and card especially then please let us know.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Term Starts

Monday 5th September
St Margaret's School Inset day—Monday 10th October (for information only)

Half Term

Monday 24th October to Friday
Friday 28th October

Term Finishes

Friday 16th December

Spring Term Starts

Tuesday 3rd January

Zoolab Visit

Friday 21st October (pm)

Spooky Day

Monday 31st October

Please like us on facebook. We do post reminders and general updates on facebook. All vital information however is communicated by our newsletters and on our information boards.



The facebook account and email address (williamolderplaygroup@gmail.com) are monitored most days but if your message is important please give us a ring on 01903 771025.

Autumn Display



We would like to create some seasonal displays in our foyer for your children and yourselves to enjoy. Some things may be made here but it would also be lovely to have natural objects found or made at home by the children. Examples could be colourful leaves, conkers (these will be on a higher shelf).

Book Companies



When you arrive with your child you may often see displays of books/products set out in the foyer. We have several companies that visit us and leave their wares for around a week at a time. Please feel free to look through these. If you would like to make a purchase then fill in an order form with your name and leave monies in the envelopes. When the company returns they will leave your order which we will pass to you. Most companies will give us a gift/product in return if we sell 10 or more. This help us secure future raffle prizes/books for the children.

Scholastic magazine books can also be ordered through us—please try and get your order in within a week or two of getting the catalogue.

Committee

We are a charity playgroup where all profit is reinvested for the benefit of the children. We are overseen by four Trustees who manage the business side of the group. Traditionally we also have a Committee of parents. This committee is made up of all of you so please help us in any way you feel you can. The Committee currently organize social/fundraising events to support us and also may help out when needed e.g. trips or events within the group. We will be soon thinking ahead to a Christmas shopping evening which we have held here for the past few years. The next meeting is **Thursday 13th October at 7.30pm**—please come along!

Zoolab—Friday 21st October (pm)



Zoolab pm visit (Meg and Mog Halloween Theme). Zoolab will be visiting this afternoon with a variety of interesting creatures for the children to look at and touch if they want.

Spooky Day—Monday 31st October (all day)

Spooky Day all day long! Children may dress up if they wish (not compulsory!) We do ask for no scary masks though as some of the younger children are frightened by these.

Illness



As you are aware very young children do not usually remember to cover their mouths when coughing or sneezing so, in the interests of other children, their families and the staff, we are asking that children who are unwell are not brought to playgroup. In our experience children who have had Calpol and/or are on anti-biotics are happier and more comfortable at home. We do open the doors every-day and will not stop children from playing outside if they deemed well enough to attend playgroup. We understand that some parents/carers work, and are sorry for the inconvenience this causes, but we will refuse admission to the playgroup if we feel that a child is not well enough to attend. We have had several occasions when staffing has been stretched to the limits when these bugs have swept through.

This is also an opportunity to remind all families of our policy stating all children should be kept off for 48 hours after the last bout of sickness and/or diarrhoea. This is to protect other children and staff alike. Thanks for your continued co-operation with this policy.

Achievement Sharing

There are many milestone or special achievements/moments that we may not see at playgroup due to many factors but none the less are moments that could be recorded in your Child's Individual Learning Journal. In the main foyer you will see a tree with foam leaves attached. We will leave some 'Post It' pads underneath. Please use these at any time. A good way to do them is date them at the top, write your child's special moments down and sign your name (parent) at the bottom. These may be stuck on the tree for keyworkers to retrieve weekly. Alternatively you could hand them to your keyworker on the post it or any paper that you may have used at home. These moments give us a clearer picture of your child and will enhance their journals.

Snack and Lunchboxes

The afternoon children are settling to their new routine well and enjoying socializing together with a light meal. **Due to allergies we would ask all families to avoid sending children in with any whole nut products (this will include peanut butter, nutella and cereal bars) for either snack or lunchtime.** We promote healthy style lunches (suggestions and information can be found in the foyer). We will always supply milk/water freely but if you child likes to use a drinks bottle with their lunchbox then this is fine but please could you label with their name as some children will return to drink later in the session and bottles can become muddled up. A cool pack is recommended for children attending all day. Many thanks for your cooperation.



We will continue to provide a healthy snack plus a choice of milk or water for our morning children. They do not need to bring in any food or drink anymore.

Social Media

We appreciate that we live in a small community where the paths of parents of William Older children often cross with those of the staff and their children. There are occasions however when the staff would prefer to keep their personal lives and professional lives separate and therefore please do not be offended if they choose not to accept your friend requests on facebook or other social medial platforms. Thank you for your understanding.

Please help us by naming all your child's belongings include snack pots, wellies, jumpers/ coats

Please remember that the car park does not belong to us and that parents without children at St Margarets should park on the road before 9am and at the end of the day

The last day of half term in Friday 21st October and we return on Monday 31st October. We hope you have all enjoyed the first few weeks of term and look forward to another exciting year.

Many thanks,

Sue and the Team