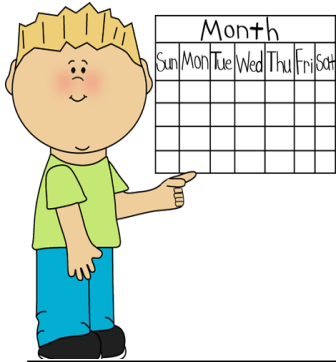
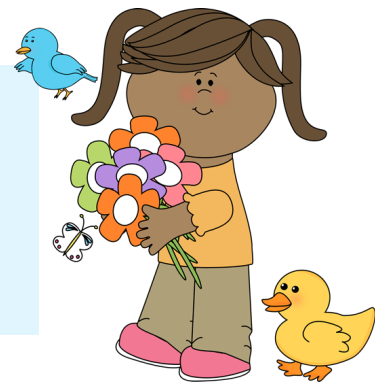


William Older

Newsletter Spring Term (2) 2026



Term Dates:

2nd half of Spring Term: Mon 23rd Feb - Fri 27th March 2026

EASTER BREAK: 28th March - 12th April 2026

Return for Summer Term: Mon 13th April 2026

Events for this Half Term

Monday 2nd March - WSCC Book Bus visit - pm

Mondays - Hartbeeps - pm

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day

Monday 2nd March - Friday 6th March - Book Week

Friday 20th March - Comic Relief (Red Nose Day)

Friday 20th March - Visit from Graham & his rescue hedgehogs - am

Friday 27th March - Easter Concert & Hat Parade - pm

Friday 27th March - Break-Up for Easter

We hope everyone had a great half term break! We are optimistically returning to better weather with lots more sunshine than we have seen so far this year. This half term is a short one at 5 weeks but with lots going on as usual.

Apart from regulars for our older children such as the Library Bus, Hartbeeps and cooking with Amanda, we also see World Book Day and Red Nose Day fall into this half term.

We know what a massive impact books and reading have on our young children and therefore like to celebrate over a whole week to make the most of opportunities. Each year, we liaise with St Margaret's and they send small groups of their year 6 children across during the week to read with our young ones. This is lovely for both parties and a large proportion of those year 6 children will have attended William Older themselves and are always keen to share memories as well as stories.

We also invite parents / grandparents / carers to come in at the end of sessions to read a child's favourite story. The children absolutely love this but we often find families reluctant to do this. We will definitely not be 'marking' you for storytelling but will just support you with the children. There is a slip at the bottom of this letter which you can fill in and return for a space. We sometimes run to a second week if we have a good response.

The morning (younger children) spot is for 11.30am. You can bring a book or choose one of ours but it should be simple story, preferably with pictures and a duration of around 5-10 minutes at most to hold the little ones' attention. If you have props such as puppets etc, you are more than welcome to use them. We also have a group of older children who are here all day and would have a slightly longer / more complex story, for example, a Julia Donaldson such as The Gruffalo, Scarecrow's Wedding etc. The 2 slots for our older children in the afternoon are at just after 2.30pm, before home time.

If you could sign up to this then please do, it's particularly exciting for the child with their adult participating but all the children enjoy visitors.



Friday 20th March - Comic Relief

We are supporting Comic Relief today and invite all children (and staff) to come in with wild, wacky or colourful hairstyles. We would suggest a voluntary minimum £1 donation for those families that would like to help us support this worthy cause and will collect donations on the door today.

Friday 20th March - Hedgehog Visit - a.m

Last year, we had Graham Bowring from Saint Francis Animal Care Charity, visit us with hedgehogs to talk to the children about the charity's rescue work and hear interesting facts about these cute creatures. Sadly for us, Graham is retiring this Spring but we managed to get one of his last bookings. His fee goes towards helping to pay for the care of rescued and distressed hedgehogs. We will try and involve as many of the interested children as possible this morning.



Friday 27th March - Easter Concert & Hat Parade - Older Children - p.m

(Separate letter to come) All afternoon children in their last year, should have brought a hat home. Please see Sue if they have not.

Toothbrushing

We have had a fantastic uptake of children who now participate in the government funded toothbrushing scheme (after lunch for those that have it here). The children have quickly got into this new routine of being called in groups about half an hour after lunch to brush their teeth. Of course, this does not replace them brushing their teeth in the morning and before bed but gives an extra layer of tooth protection and gives us lots of opportunity to talk about the benefits of healthy eating, drinking and looking after our teeth. We hope they all enjoyed the free toothbrush and toothpaste pack they also took home.

Lost Property

We have 3 boxes of unnamed clothing items and water bottles outside our front door (on dry days). These are all from this school year. Please could everyone look through as we will be donating any unclaimed items to the clothes bank at the end of term.

Children often empty their rucksacks when we're not looking or put clothing items on the floor instead of coat pegs. It really helps us reunite if clothes are named with a Sharpie or labelled.



Snack

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we like to keep costs for parents to an absolute minimum but buying in a healthy snack for each day comes at a cost. Thank you to those parents who regularly contribute a monetary donation either by BACS or snack pot outside the front doors. Unfortunately, many do not and we are reluctant to charge formally for consumables unless we really need to.

As seen in the press, childcare costs many families thousands of pounds per year. Although term-time only and school hours, we are excellent value and provide the children here with many extra curricular activities with no cost at all to families. Snack is the one thing we do ask for contributions towards. This can be done termly, weekly or whatever suits but helps us use our money for more resources for the children.

To contribute, use the snack pot outside the front door or by BACS using the reference SNACK to:

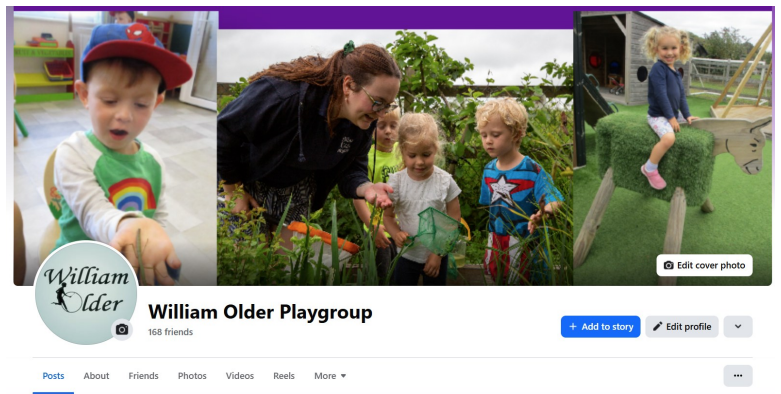
Sort Code: 30-95-09 Acc Number: 00626350 Acc Name: William Older Playgroup

Many Thanks

Social Media

We use our Facebook and Instagram pages to help keep you up to date with all the exciting activities your children are experiencing. We know it's not for everyone but if you change your preference and are happy to let your child be featured in our posts, then please let us know any time.

May we ask that as many families as possible request to follow us, as this is our main way of getting information out quickly, not just for posts and pics of the children having fun, for example, our recent phone line fault, outbreaks of illness, exceptional weather causing closure etc. You can request to follow us without giving permission for us to show your child on social media but please may we also ask that you like or love our posts so that we can see who we are engaging with and who might be missing info.



Car Park - The school car park is only for staff of St Margaret's and William Older Playgroup. There have been reported incidents of cars following in staff and those who have been permitted entry by the school via the intercom, whilst the secure gates have been open momentarily. Please park on the surrounding roads safely and with consideration to local residents. Thank you for your understanding.

Illness - It is our policy that 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. Children who are also on antibiotics or taking Calpol are also much more comfortable at home so please do keep them off when they are poorly so they can fully rest up. Please let us know by email or phone if your child will not be in due to holidays, illness etc. so that we can mark that onto the register. If we have periods of time when children are not accounted for, we have been advised to contact authorities so please help us by letting us know why they're not attending.

And finally...

Most children here are funded but if you are paying us and have not yet been invoiced or have a query, then please speak to Sue or Lucy. For those children funded, keep an eye out each term for West Sussex prompting you to renew your code. Failure to do this will result in loss of funding.

Looking forward to lots of families signing up to come in and read during Book Week or the following one.

Sue & the Team



I _____ Parent / Carer / Grandparent

of _____ (child's name)

Would like to book a slot to read during Book Week. ideally on (day & time) _____

Staff will get back to you asap to confirm your spot.